

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## Needy Not Forgotten At Christmastime

Since the Courier-Journal 12 years ago began its annual Christmas Fund appeal for the neediest persons in the diocese, almost a half-million dollars have been contributed by concerned diocesans.

The paper began the appeal with its annual publishing of the 100 neediest cases, as provided by Catholic Charities, in 1969.

The first such appeal

sponsored by the Courier raised \$8,566. "It was the best drive ever," commented the then director of Catholic Charities, Father William Charbonneau, in comparing the results with previous efforts by the Charities office. Previously, he said, \$2,000 would have been a "bumper crop."

The 12 annual appeals to date have raised a total of \$410,118 to assist the indigent, the lonely, the

forgotten during the Christmas season.

"That total is witness to the generosity and care of Rochester diocesans," said Anthony J. Costello, publisher and general manager of the Courier-Journal. "But it's not only the total that is impressive, it is the thousands of contributors who participate, from the small donations of those who cannot afford very much themselves to the larger contributions."

From that first year's total of \$8,566 the fund grew until it passed \$50,000 for the first time in 1979. Last year, it collected \$52,000.

The 100 cases, however, are only representative of the many more existing in the diocese. They are all true but while many contributors may respond to the plights of some of the more dramatic cases and not many to others, the agencies of Catholic Charities must use their expertise to assist as many different cases as possible.

The cases cited come from across the diocese, from urban and rural areas. Any parishes or organizations wishing to participate in the fund should contact Catholic Charities.

Contributions should be sent to:

Courier-Journal/  
Catholic Charities  
Christmas Fund  
50 Chestnut St.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

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Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

## Quite an Effort

Lynn Walsh, 11, a fifth grader at School #9, strains to manipulate a wheelchair up a small ramp during a workshop at the Strasenburgh Planetarium last week. The program was titled "Disability Awareness Week" and included hundreds of city school children participating in a "hands-on" experience to realize what being handicapped is really like. More stories on disabled on page 6.

## Neediest Cases

**51** The Vs are a Cambodian refugee family recently resettled in Rochester under the sponsorship of Catholic Family Center. The adult members of the family are two women whose husbands died before the rest of the family escaped from Cambodia. The three children in the family are 13,

8 and 7. Other children also died in Cambodia.

**52** Mrs. N escaped from Cambodia with her teenage son and nephew. Now they are occupying a very modest apartment here with very few furnishings. The boys are attending school to learn English and

## Human Development Appeal Slated for This Weekend

This weekend the Campaign for Human Development will take up its annual collection in parishes across the diocese. The campaign last year drew more than \$120,000 in contributions and delivered more than \$140,000 in grants to self-help groups in the area.

According to Francine Patella, director of the local effort, "Seventy-five percent of our annual CHD collection is sent to the national CHD office where it is combined with contributions from dioceses across the country to fund national justice programs. The remaining 25 percent of the diocesan collection stays in the diocese for local justice oriented efforts."

The diocese was the recipient this year of two national grants: \$64,000 to the Coalition for Safe Power and \$50,000 to Cephas-Attica, Inc. In addition, more than \$27,000 was given in

local grants: \$8,240 for the Inner City Parent Support Group in Monroe County; \$1,000 for the Auburn Child Care Center and \$1,850 for the Coalition for Safe Power in Seneca and Cayuga counties; \$3,000 for Literacy Volunteers in Steuben County; \$1,486 for the Displaced Homemaker Committee in Tompkins and Tioga counties (and the same group received \$5,150 in "Wild Card Funds," monies generated through interest, special contributions and a formula which draws on local and national monies); \$844 for Legal Assistance of the Finger Lakes and \$6,111 for the Geneva Women's Resource Center in the Yates, Ontario and Wayne counties area.

"The federal government," Miss Patella said, "has in recent months set its policy in determining economic priorities and meeting human needs. Its philosophy is one of increased military spending and

a decrease in spending for social programs. As federal spending in social programs diminishes, the private, voluntary sector is being asked to take up the slack. As the budget cuts take effect, it is certain that there will be additional increases in the poverty level.

"One way in which we can respond to meeting basic needs is through the Church's anti-poverty program, the Campaign for Human Development. The campaign has a two-fold purpose: to educate and sensitize people to the reality of injustice and poverty in the United States, and to fund self-help organizations seeking to break out of the cycle of poverty. The aim of the campaign is to foster social change by eliminating the root causes of poverty."

Ordinarily the campaign would have been conducted this year in November. It was delayed, however, in deference to the first annual Thanks Giving Appeal.

## Bishop Clark Gives Nod To Plan for New Office

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has formally approved the idea of and the process used in establishing a Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry.

Meeting Nov. 30 with a 13-member steering committee of representatives from Yates, Ontario, Wayne, Seneca and Cayuga counties, Bishop Clark pledged his support for the continuation of the process over the next several months.

The steering committee was set up by the Rural Office of Human Development and Catholic Charities.

The meeting with the bishop was the latest in a series of activities and hearings with clergy and laity in Geneva, Auburn, Penn Yan and Newark.

Edward Nowak, president of the board of directors of Catholic Charities, reviewed a 1978 Charities statement which called for a decen-

tralization of services. Part of that decentralization was the opening of the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry in July 1979. Since that time, Charities has developed and opened group homes for the mentally retarded in Penn Yan and Lyons and has implemented a Family Life Enrichment Program in Wayne County.

A summary of the steering committee's recommendations, given to Bishop Clark by John Malach, a parishioner from St. Michael's in Newark and a spokesman for the committee, included charging a Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry with the responsibility for justice and peace and human care project development.

The office will function as a subsidiary of Catholic Charities and will be organized under a board of directors. At least three persons from each of the five counties involved, two diocesan regional coordinators, and three con-

sumers of services will sit on the board. In addition, there will be at-large positions representing social services, labor, legal services, financial management, organizational planning, clergy and religious.

Father William Spilly and Sister Anne Urquhart, staffers from the Office of Human Development in the area, and William Privett, associate director of Charities, have been working with the steering committee for a year, planning and developing the recommendations given to Bishop Clark.

In addition to Malach, other steering committee members are Father Ronald Stacy, Dr. E.G. McCarthy, Father Edward Zimmer, Father Robert Werth, Mrs. Stasia Sage, Mrs. Frieda Lyon, Charles King, John Burns, Gerard Spiegel, Shirley Thibault, Rachel Plano, and Father Michael Bausch. The meeting was held at St. Francis DeSales in Geneva.