

COURIER-JOURNAL

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Christmas Hard on Needy

Since 1969 when the first Courier-Journal Christmas Fund took place, diocesans have donated more than \$468,000 to help the neediest folks in our diocese at this special time of the year.

Last year, the total was \$53,438 and in each of the last three years more than \$50,000 has been donated. Thus, it is likely that this year's fund will push the total past the half-million mark.

The Christmas fund is run in conjunction with Catholic Charities which uses the money to help the poorest of the poor in our own diocese. Poverty exists in every corner of the diocese, from its urban centers to rural settlements.

As part of the annual drive, the Courier-Journal prints the 100 "neediest cases" in the diocese, as provided by the agencies of Catholic Charities. All the cases are true and documented but they are only representative of many more.

While some contributors may be moved by a particular case to contribute to that particular family or individual and other cases may solicit less response, the agencies of Catholic Charities must use their expertise in distributing the funds so that as many as possible may be helped.

Parishes or organizations who wish to participate in the fund should contact Catholic Charities.

The cases run the gamut of human misfortune, from illness to physical infirmity to joblessness to poverty to loneliness. Need is democratic — both the old and the young are afflicted. No matter whether it is a bright-eyed child about to be disappointed at Christmas or an elderly person left with no more than memories, the need for concern and assistance is obvious.

In recent years, the Courier-Journal has begun the drive the day before Thanksgiving to give readers more time to participate. But time seems to move more quickly at this time of the year and often the Postal Service gets backed up, so those wishing to help should do so as quickly as possible.

Contributions should be sent to:

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

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Christmas Fund

GIVE GENEROUSLY



Neediest Cases In the Diocese

1 The Bs are a young couple with a six-month-old child who have no place to live. They recently were with Mrs. B's mother who had to relocate and her new quarters cannot accommodate the young family. B doesn't have enough money for a security deposit, so until they save it (he works at night), Mrs. B and the baby are living in a women's emergency shelter, and B is living at a mission.

2 The Js are an elderly couple in a shack in a rural area. Since the shack is theirs, they won't move. Electricity and heating costs are very high. While she receives \$125 a month from Social Security, he is unable to provide papers needed by welfare because he spent most of his years deep in the rural South.

3 M is a working mother with five children, ranging in age from infancy to pre-teen. Her husband is in prison, and on her small income she is trying to support her family. Since she is not involved with Social Services, she has to pay her own day care and supply all household needs.

4 The Hs are an older, disabled couple in poor health. Paying bills and meeting everyday living expenses have become increasingly more difficult because of their small fixed income and the high cost of food, heat and taxes. Many months there simply isn't enough money to go around and so they are often hungry and cold.

5 The Fs, an elderly couple (93 and 81), speak little English. Mrs. F recently had an operation and therefore is feeling lonely and depressed. Once a very independent couple, they are now experiencing many difficulties due to limited income and declining health.

6 M is 77, receives limited Social Security and is not eligible for Supplemental Security

Income because he owns a small piece of property. His mental impairment makes community living very difficult. He lives in a single room without kitchen privileges and his limited income does not provide enough for better housing, food and clothing.

7 To protect herself and her four young children, Mrs. B had to leave her alcoholic husband and move out of the county to an area where she knows no one. Her eldest daughter has asthma and requires constant medication and frequent trips to the hospital for emergency treatment. Mrs. B worries continuously about not having enough food to last until the end of the month.

8 The Os and their six children live in a rural area. O is self-employed and is trying to support his family with his business, but business is bad. They struggle to make ends meet, but are often without food.

9 The Ts and their three children live in a remote rural area in a home which requires a great deal of heat. They have put plastic on the windows to help save fuel. Mrs. T has been very ill and the medical bills are high because insurance did not cover all the hospital or medicine costs. T has been laid off from work; there has been no income in the home, and they recently received a notice their home would be sold for back taxes. Since then, Mrs. T has obtained a part-time job and T has been hired as a bus driver.

10 The Rs are a young couple with three children. He is an unskilled laborer and is unable to find work except for occasional odd jobs. They have no means of transportation and live in an old farmhouse which they rent, and which only has partial plumbing and is in deplorable condition. Mrs. R is knitting small blankets with donated

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Bishop Clark: Arms Race Thwarts Quest for Peace

By Carmen J. Viglucchi

According to National Catholic News Service reports, the U.S. bishops' pastoral on nuclear weapons may be even stronger by the time its third draft is considered next May in Chicago.

NC reports that a large majority of the bishops "support the basic thrust of the pastoral, couching criticism of certain points in terms of a desire to strengthen the total document and give it greater impact and credibility."

And Bishop Matthew H. Clark of Rochester who took part in the discussion of the second draft of the letter in Washington last week said, "I am totally in support of the direction of the letter."

But his commitment does not mean that he is not aware of some of its difficulties.

"One of the questions I brought to the conference, arising from prior local discussions, was the issue of the morality of nuclear deterrence."

The letter states that the possession of nuclear weapons can be "morally acceptable" as a stage in achieving disarmament.

"I am willing to support the document as it now stands," Bishop Clark said, "emphasizing that nuclear deterrence is only something that is tolerable—it must lead to concrete steps to a reduction of arms. If it does not, then it is not tolerable. It would only be part of the continuing escalation."

Between now and May, the letter will be the center of further study and revision. Considered will be responses to some of the suggestions and

criticisms voiced by the bishops last week, further testimony from expert witnesses, and more input from bishops who will have the opportunity to meet with local groups for added discussion.

"I want to emphasize," Bishop Clark said, "that there has already been considerable and impressive testimony from many government

officials, both past and present, and from scientists as well.

During the meeting, 24 present and former government officials defended the right of the bishops to discuss the issue. In fact, they wrote, "silence on their part would be unforgivable" if a nuclear holocaust were to occur.

Among the signatories were

William E. Colby, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Glenn T. Seaborg, former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Bishop Clark pointed out that the present document does not call for unilateral disarmament.

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Archbishop Joseph Bernardin, chairman of the U.S. bishops ad hoc committee on war and peace, addresses the conference last week. Among those responding to the proposed letter are Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen of Seattle, center, who favored the document, and Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans, who opposed it. (NC Photos)

Bishops Hope to Make Letter Even Stronger

Washington (NC) — The U.S. bishops voted almost unanimously to hold a special meeting in Chicago next May 2-3 to debate their planned pastoral letter on nuclear weapons.

In more than two hours of discussion about the letter on the last day of their Nov. 15-18 annual meeting a large majority of the 31 bishops who addressed the issue supported the basic thrust of the pastoral, couching their criticisms of specific points in

terms of a desire to strengthen the total document and give it greater impact and credibility.

(Bishop Clark reported Saturday to the Diocesan Pastoral Council on a straw poll of the bishops which gives credence to support of the document. Of the bishops present following discussions, 195 said they were in basic agreement, 12 said they were in basic disagreement, and 71 reported reservations.)

Among the major points

they made about the 110-page second draft, which is their current working document, were the following:

• The document's controversial section on the morality of nuclear deterrence needs to be developed. It continued to be a major source of disagreement among the bishops, as some stood up to call for a more positive view of the value and acceptability of deterrence while others urged the drafting committee

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