



Holiday Giving

Sister Mary Ruth Gilligan, RSM, offers for inspection handcrafted candles for Advent wreaths. The Sister of Mercy's crafts will be featured at the congregation's booth in the Advent Festival 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Dec. 3; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the East Rochester Mall. The event is sponsored by the East Rochester Association of Churches and will have at least 50 booths. Proceeds from the Sisters' booth will be given to the poor and will be used for the upkeep of the congregation's retreat and meeting place at High Acres, Geneva.

Neediest

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yarn for the children for Christmas.

11 L left her husband's house because he was physically abusive to her. She feels her household pressures wouldn't be so intense if she could help support the household. She is trying to gain the confidence for a fresh start.

12 He and her four children left her spouse of 14 years because of emotional and physical abuse. The children had been doing poorly in school in reaction to their father's explosive temper and the uncertainty at home. They have moved to an apartment furnished with secondhand items.

13 M is living alone with two young children. Her husband is in prison on a long sentence for a violent crime. She is now in a job-training program but it will be some time before she can complete the program and become satisfactorily employed.

14 C depends on public assistance to raise her family of 7 children. During the past few years she has had serious housing problems due to the high

cost of housing. She now faces a rent increase which she cannot afford and will have to relocate by early December.

15 J, in her 80s, is a friendly, independent, single woman whose life work has been nursing. She has no family and has lived on a minimum income in a tiny, furnished second floor apartment. Because of arthritis and other complications of increased age, she can no longer navigate the stairs without a great deal of effort. As a result, the stairway has completely prevented her from participating in any "outside" activities. She does not have the money needed to make a move.

16 W is a young woman of limited abilities who has five children, two of whom are retarded. She is being evicted from her apartment. She has no place to go, and very little money.

17 The Ws are a handicapped couple with an infant child. He is employed at a minimum wage job, and therefore has a limited income. They are still trying to pay the medical expenses (not covered by insurance) from the birth of their daughter.

U.S. Bishops

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to move further in the direction of condemning even the possession of nuclear weapons.

• The scriptural and theological basis of the document should be made more precise and refined.

• Several bishops wanted clearer distinctions between Christian pacifism and the just war position. Some bishops placed greater emphasis on the right to self-defense while others stressed the question of whether nuclear weapons do not always go beyond the limits of a just war.

• A number of bishops

wanted the document to state more clearly the degree to which various judgments made in the pastoral are morally binding on Catholics.

• Several bishops called for greater emphasis on pastoral followup and education to peace. Two called for establishment of an international peace academy under Catholic auspices.

A hand vote on whether to have a special meeting in May on the revised draft passed

almost unanimously, with only four hands visible in opposition. The two-day meeting will be in Chicago, see city of Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin, chairman of the five-bishop committee responsible for drafting the letter. Bishop William McManus of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., urged that the bishops meet for a day of prayer and fasting at a retreat center in or near Chicago to prepare for the meeting.

Archbishop John R. Roach

of St. Paul-Minneapolis, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said he interpreted the overwhelming vote to meet in May as "a general endorsement of the direction the pastoral is taking" and "a vote of hope for final passage" of the document.

Archbishop Bernardin asked bishops who had been unable to speak at the meeting because of time limitations to submit their concerns to him in writing before Dec. 15.

Bishop Clark

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"There is no call for it at all," he said. "It is within the spirit of the letter to hope for total abolition. But there is no call for unilateral disarmament."

The bishop is concerned over some of the other doubts and worries some feel about such a letter.

"It is important to allay fears of people that this document is unilateral or that we are total pacifists or that we are ignoring protection of the helpless.

"We have a sense of realism and also a commitment to

Gospel values. I have a firm belief that peace is possible — but under the current policy of escalation, peace is not possible. We must reverse that trend because it will inevitably lead to disaster. Our vast resources would be better directed to helping the underprivileged."

How morally binding is such a letter on Catholics?

"That is to be included in the letter itself," the bishop said. "The main intent is to help Catholics form their consciences and to be part of the public debate on the issue."

18 The Ks are new parents living on public assistance. He is an unemployed auto mechanic. They have no baby furniture.

19 B is a widow with five children. Her 18-month-old son suffers a slowly progressive fatal disease that requires a series of doctor visits and frequent hospitalizations.

20 K was transferred to a new county by his company about a year ago, then recently he was laid off due to work shortages. His search for another job took several weeks, during which time he was unable to pay his rent and utility bills. Now that he has found work, the pile of bills still makes it very difficult for him, his wife and two children.

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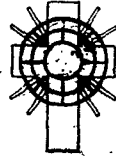
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