

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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COURIER-JOURNAL

## Christmas Fund

GIVE GENEROUSLY

## Fund Passes \$31,000 Mark

More than \$31,595 has been raised so far in the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund Appeal, Anthony J. Costello, publisher and general manager of the diocesan weekly, said this week.

The annual appeal, now in its 13th year, provides funds for Catholic Charities and like agencies in the diocese to

aid the poor, particularly at this time of year.

As part of the drive the Courier-Journal each year publishes the true stories of people in the diocese suffering great hardships. Each of the cases, however, is also representative of many, many more.

some contributors may be moved to contribute to a particular family or individual, and other cases may solicit less response.

Catholic Charities agencies, however, must use their expertise in distributing the funds so that as many people as possible may be helped.

organizations who wish to help are asked to contact Catholic Charities.

Persons who wish to donate to the Courier-Journal appeal are asked to send contributions to:

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

In reading those stories, Parishes and other

## The Neediest In Diocese

**61** M does odd jobs around his small hometown to supplement his monthly disability check. His wife had gotten a job earlier this year but found that she was scarcely earning enough to pay a baby-sitter to watch their three small children. The family would undoubtedly qualify for aid but the parents have resisted applying for financial assistance.

**62** T lives with her four children and two grandchildren. She receives SSI for herself and the children. Due to illness, however, T was unable to take care of her family and the children were placed in foster care. The family has now been reunited and Mrs. T is trying to provide for them on her limited income.

**63** M is alone, struggling to provide for her six-month-old baby who is in need of a crib and baby items.

**64** D is disabled, but she has taken in her two grandchildren. Her income barely covers the expenses of food and clothing.

**65** T supports his wife and two children by taking any job he can find in his small rural community. The couple is trying to work through marital problems as they struggle to keep the family together. They receive food stamps as a supplement to their marginal income.

**66** J is a middle-aged woman, recently separated from her husband, who has two children still living at home. She is in the process of applying for public assistance. The family is in need of money for clothes and furniture.

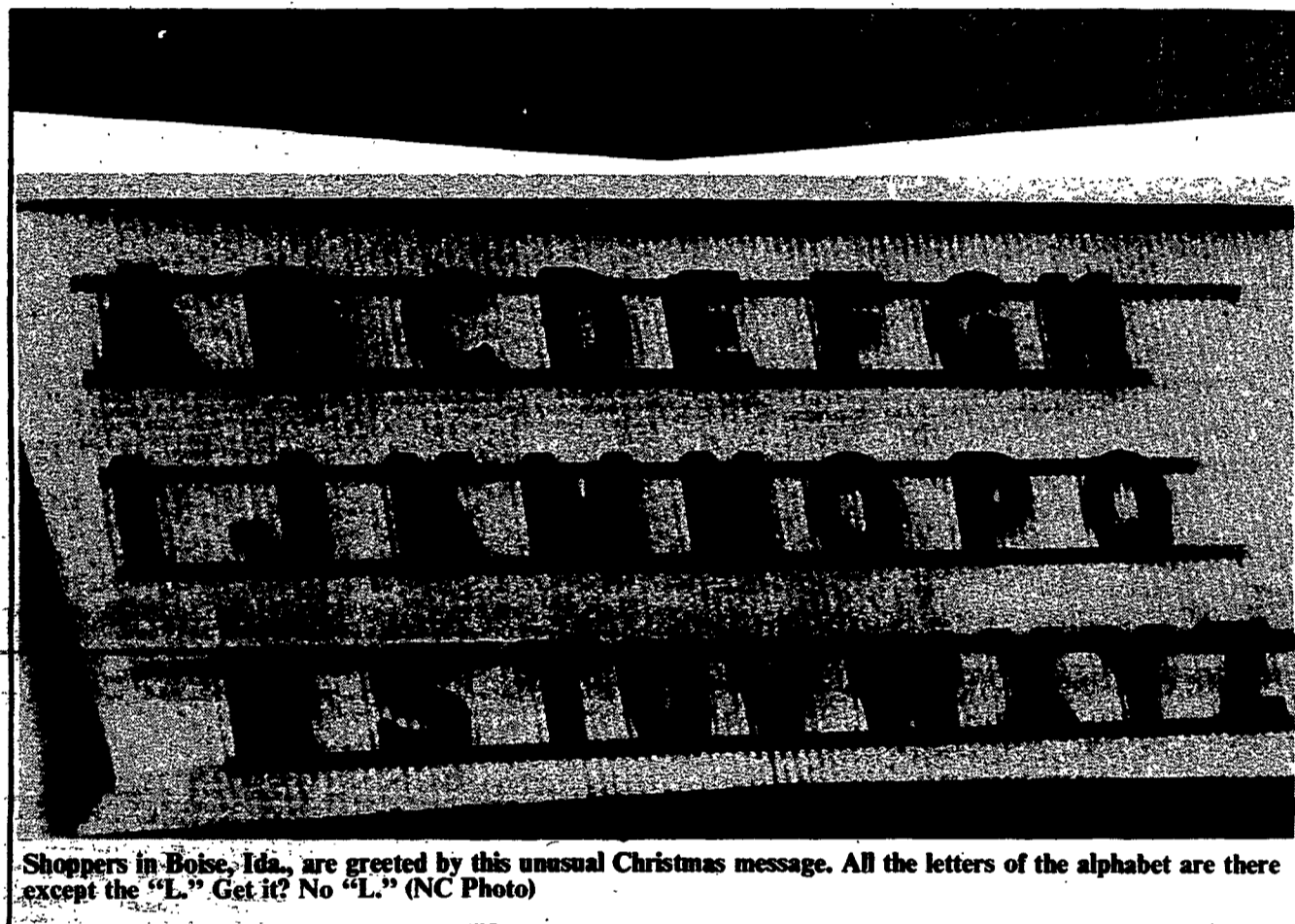
**67** S and her nine children live in very poor housing in a rural area. They are receiving public assistance, but to make ends meet is difficult if not impossible. Their house is greatly in need of repair.

**68** N is a very young single parent with a two-year-old son. She is unemployed but is seeking a job. The only source of income for the family is the public assistance check for her son.

**69** The Hs and their five children could be considered part of the working poor who continue to fall below the poverty level. H is mentally handicapped and is unable to hold a full-time job paying a decent wage. She has a clerical job paying just over the minimum wage.

**70** W is a young mother with three children, the youngest of whom is severely handicapped. Though W is employed, the expenses of the household as well as the additional expenses she must incur for her handicapped child

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## Pope Praises Prenatal Diagnosis

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II praised prenatal diagnosis and early surgical treatment of congenital defects at a special audience for some 700 doctors who were attending a conference on prenatal diagnosis in Rome.

He warned, however, that such diagnosis must not be used as a prelude to abortion.

The pope's talk was a highlight in a busy weekend which also saw him hold special audiences for several other groups, consult with

high-ranking churchmen at private audiences, deliver a Sunday Angelus message in St. Peter's Square, visit a Roman parish and lead a First Saturday recitation of the rosary on Vatican Radio.

In his speech to the doctors, the pope called the area of prenatal diagnosis and surgery "new and promising."

"The Christian," the pope said, "like every person of good will, can only be happy for the advances that science

makes on the open road toward therapies that are always quicker and more efficient, even in the most delicate and critical fields.

"In taking note with joy of the results so far attained," he added, "the Church is very happy to encourage those who use their talents and intelligence in this very important sector of medical research, which concerns the first months of existence of the human being."

But the pope said firmly

that prenatal research must not lead to abortion.

"I cannot but repeat the severe condemnation, rooted in natural law itself, of every direct attempt on the life of the innocent, the human being that develops in the maternal womb," he said.

"It is clear that the intra-uterine research that tends to spot defective embryos and fetuses very early in order to be able to eliminate them promptly by means of abortion is morally inadmissible."

## And for Christine, Some Prayers

Christmas will probably never be the same for the Richard Berl family of Irondequoit.

While most folks are fretting over hectic holiday preparations or attending to spiritual aspects, Christine Berl, 13, is facing a very serious operation.

She is suffering from severe aplastic anemia, a rare blood disease, and will need a bone marrow transplant to have any realistic chance of survival.

Her uncle, James C. Holihan, said that "the doctors decided Wednesday night (Dec. 8) to go ahead with the transplant

The transplant will take place at the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston, where Christine and her parents have been since Nov. 26. Daniel, her 15-year-old brother, accompanied them but has come home since. He is a key figure in the drama; he will be the donor for the bone marrow transplant.

"He's home now and back to school and trying to concentrate," Holihan reported. "But there's no way the parents can leave Christine. They are really keyed in to her plight."

Christine is going through preparation for the transplant, including a week of

chemotherapy scheduled around today (Dec. 15). That will put surgery very close to Christmas Day.

Holihan was unable to pinpoint the exact cost of the entire procedure but the figures he has heard "have been astronomical." Medical insurance, he said, will probably cover about 80 percent of the medical expenses but there is no way the family, "not even the whole family," can come up with the rest.

In addition, there are a "lot of other

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CHRIS BERL