

RG&E, Red Cross To Provide Emergency Heating Aid to Needy

The Community Heating Fund, a joint venture of Rochester Gas and Electric and the American Red Cross, has been established to provide emergency aid to people in financial distress, unable to pay home heating bills and ineligible for any type of heating assistance.

The program was established with a grant from RG&E from shareholder earnings and will be administered by the American Red Cross.

The program is patterned after similar plans operational in other parts of the country.

"For years, RG&E has been searching for some type of program to help those who need assistance but do not fall within the guidelines of existing government programs," said Paul W. Briggs, RG&E chief executive officer.

He added, "Thanks to the cooperation of the Red Cross, we believe we have a

workable program to help the genuinely needy."

The program will be administered throughout the RG&E service area which includes all or parts of Monroe, Allegany, Cayuga, Genesee, Ontario, Orleans, Wayne and Wyoming counties.

Prime candidates for assistance are "elderly people on minimal Social Security benefits, families experiencing prolonged unemployment or a severe health crisis and people existing at survival levels of earned and unearned income," said John W. McDivitt, manager of the Rochester-Monroe County Chapter, American Red Cross.

He said that "no one is more hard-pressed by rising costs than the elderly and disabled. Many of them live on fixed incomes that do not keep pace with inflation. When confronted by a heating emergency, they often have nowhere to turn."

The fund will assist any eligible person residing in the RG&E service territory regardless of whether the applicant is an RG&E customer.

Applications should be made to the Rochester-Monroe County Chapter, American Red Cross for heating fund grants of \$100 to \$300 beginning Feb. 1, 1984.

The grants will be made on an emergency, one-time per 12-month period, and will be paid directly by the Red Cross to suppliers of home-heating fuels. Any type of energy qualifies — oil, coal, propane, wood, not just gas and electricity supplied by RG&E.

RG&E will offer all of its residential customers an opportunity to participate in the Community Heating Fund program. Customers who wish to help can do so by including a separate check payable to the fund in their RG&E payment envelopes. The fund will be supported entirely by voluntary, tax-deductible contributions, with no government involvement.

None of the money contributed will be used for administration or fund-raising because the program has been established with a grant underwritten by RG&E.

RG&E also has pledged to contribute from shareholder earnings, 50 cents for each dollar contributed by customers and others, up to an annual limit of \$200,000.

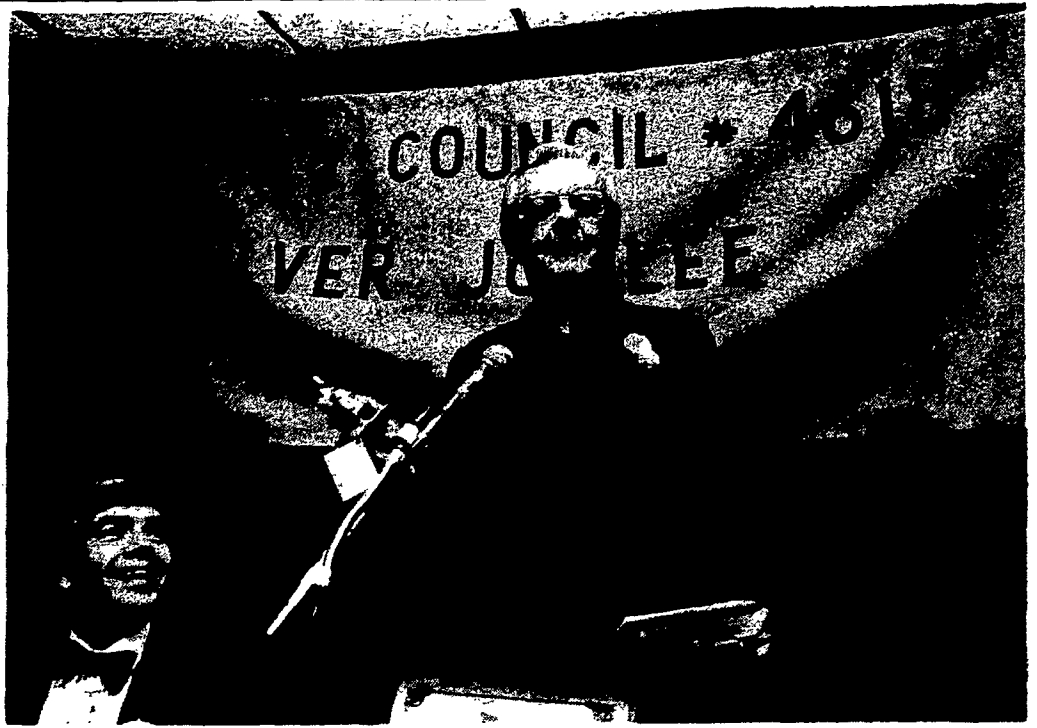
Bazaar to Benefit Talbot Foundation

With the intention of furthering its work among chemically dependent persons, the Matt Talbot Foundation is sponsoring a Christmas bazaar from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, at the rear of St. Augustine's School, 410 Chili Ave.

The foundation, a nonprofit organization, helps

Immaculate Heart

Painted Post — A service of Prayer for Peace will be 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 15 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. The public has been invited to attend and participate in the prayer.



Jubilee Address

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, retired Bishop of Rochester, addresses the assembly at the Trinity Council Knights of Columbus charity dinner/dance. The Webster council this year celebrates its 25th anniversary. The annual dinner dance this year honored the memory of Cardinal Terence Cooke, and raised funds for the Lukemia Society. At left is Thomas Sweeney, master of ceremonies.

Perinton Group Offers 'Messiah'

The Perinton Community Chorus and Orchestra will present Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah," 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11 at the Church of the Resurrection, Mason Road, Fairport.

The concert, under the direction of Sister Virginia Hogan, SSJ, will feature arias by Sister Barbara Staropoli, SSJ, soprano; Myrta Knox, contralto; Milford Fargo, tenor; and Jay Pierson, bass soloist.

The program is free.

'Abuelos' Feted

"Buenos Dias, Abuelos," a Christmas party for Hispanic senior citizens will be 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 17 at Mount Carmel Hall, 55 Ontario St. The day's program includes breakfast, Mass, lunch, music and gifts. The program is sponsored by the diocesan Spanish Apostolate. All Hispanic abuelos have been invited.

OBM Forum

A forum on "Child Abuse: Causes and Cures," sponsored by the diocesan Office of Black Ministries, will be 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 7 at the Phyllis Wheatley Library.

Bake Sale

A Christmas baked food sale, sponsored by the Dr. Sorrentino Group of the Park Ridge Auxiliary will be from 10-4 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16 at Park Ridge Hospital, second floor. All proceeds will benefit the hospital and its nursing home.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Making Christmas Holier

I wish I had written this a month ago, but maybe better late than never. Here are a few suggestions to keep Christmas holy, and to save wear and tear on the nervous system.

Christmas Greetings: preferably religious, unless one sends a picture of the family, which is a form of incarnationalism. While a personal note is appreciated, do not expect one from people who are as much an institution as persons. For example, the president, bishops, heads of institutions and the like can hardly send a personal note. And even if a card is not very personal it is nice to be remembered.

With cards and stamps so expensive, Christmas greetings can be a problem. A friend who was young fighter pilot with me in France 40 years ago phones me every Christmas just to keep contact and give greetings. Phone calls, especially out of state and during after-hours, are not so expensive. I always think that it's a good substitute for a visit in person.

Christmas Stamps: Do use the religious stamps exclusively. If the Post Office is out of them, refuse the secular stamps and use regular stamps, or commemorative. Several friends of mine have been sending me letters with the fine picture of Martin Luther stamp, thinking to raise my blood pressure.

While I think Luther will never be canonized, my indignation has always been greater toward churchmen, including Pope Leo X and many bishops who were such bad shepherds of Christ's Church, that their scandals prepared the way for the divisions among Christians. How blessed we are in our wonderful Pope John Paul II and so many faithful bishops.

A funny thing happened some years ago. I was urging the use of the Madonna stamp at Christmas. A young matron from Addison stopped me at Mercy Hospital in Hornell and said: "Father, I usually agree with your column,

but I could not agree with you about using the religious Christmas stamps." I was stunned. "Good heavens! Why not? They commemorate the birth of Our Lord!" She answered: "I simply couldn't endure having those beautiful religious pictures all marked up by the black post office ink."

Return Addresses: Each year I am puzzled by people who do not put return addresses. With people moving about so, and address books so easily lost, friends lose track of one another. I have almost never gotten a letter from Europe with a return address on the envelope. And sometimes, there is not one on the letterhead.

Gifts: One of the best, and easiest gifts is a good book; or a subscription to a magazine or a weekly paper. I have 23 nieces and nephews who have a total of over 80 children. I could never be able to buy gifts for all, so I send the Catholic Digest and Our Sunday Visitor to each family. Most of them find the reading interesting, since these are geared to family reading. Some who teach CCD use material they find helpful.

Also I subscribe to the Courier-Journal for several friends who have left the diocese. One wrote: "I look forward to it each week. It is my only contact with home excepting mail from the family." Especially recommended: Catholic Digest, Our Sunday Visitor, Liguorian, Courier-Journal.

Spirit of Christmas: When "God gave His only Begotten Son to us" (John 1), He could not have given a greater Gift. In that spirit may we be sensitive to those who need to be remembered: the sick and aged and bereaved; those in the armed forces; people in nursing homes, prisons, hospitals, rooming houses.

The highlight of Christmas for us, of course, is our Christmas confession and Mass with Holy Communion. The bacon and eggs of Christmas morning will be tastier if we have made Christmas a holy birthday.

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