

## Neediest Cases

Continued from Page 1

**33** L is a young mother with an 8-month-old daughter. She was recently widowed and is struggling to find decent housing. She has had to go on public assistance.

**34** The As are older and disabled. They are house-bound and on their meager allotment unable to purchase clothing for themselves.

**35** M is starting life over again after her marriage break-up. She is the mother of a young child, and is returning to school for training so she will be more employable.

**36** The Bs have four children. This is Mrs. B's second marriage. She and her children were beaten and abused by her first husband. Her eldest child had a burst appendix and is very sickly. Her second child has third degree burns on her hands and may have to have plastic surgery. Her nine-year-old son was born prematurely, has lung disease and is also going blind and deaf. Last month, Mrs. B was told she has lung cancer, but is refusing treatment until after Christmas so as not to spoil the children's holiday.

**37** A is a young mother of two. She and the children were beaten by her husband and she had to seek shelter at a safe house. She is in great need even though she works.

**38** The Rs are a young couple living in the country on welfare. She is a sickly woman, the mother of three small children. The couple is finding it extremely difficult to make ends meet. They are embarrassed to ask for food assistance, so they ask only when they are in dire need.

**39** The Ds are a couple on public assistance and in great financial difficulty. They have two children. One of the children is sick and must be brought to the hospital for treatments, a two-and-a-half hour trek.

**40** The Js are a handicapped couple in a pathetic situation. He is blind and is epileptic. She is diabetic. The couple has had no income for the past three months. They have gone days without food. He

has borrowed money from a friend to pay a utility bill, but, nevertheless, the utility turned off its service.

**41** M has run away from her abusive husband. She has three small children. She lives in constant fear he will find her and the children. She has absolutely nothing — no furniture, no clothing, no food.

**42** The Ss are a young couple with five children all under six, including triplets. They are also in serious legal trouble. S was convicted of a forgery charge and served a year in a minimum correctional facility claiming he was innocent. He had been employed at the time, lost his job; and his wife and children had to seek public assistance. He is now on parole and his lawyer is trying to have the conviction cleared with evidence unavailable at the time of the trial. He has been unable to obtain a job since returning home. If his record is cleared, S has been told a job is available to him.

**43** The Ks and their five children live in a trailer in a rural area. He is employed in a low-paying job and supplements his income by doing yard work and odd jobs. His parents, also living on a small income, and physically incapacitated, live next door. The couple tries to care for the elders' needs. The financial situation is very difficult.

**44** The Cs are a young married couple with four children. Mrs. C is pregnant. They have absolutely nothing. He recently returned to the family from another state where he was seeking employment. The income for the family is

very limited, even though both are hard-working, thrifty people.

**45** The Fs are a farm family of nine. The three older boys help the father out on the farm as does Mrs. F. However, due to economic conditions of the country, the family is barely making ends meet. Mrs. F, when she asks for food always offers to trade ground beef or some other food in exchange.

**46** The Bs reside in a very rural area. He is a veteran incapacitated by emphysema and a heart condition. He is often a patient in a veteran's facility. She works and raises vegetables, chickens and sometimes goats to eke out the family food supply.

**47** J, her daughter and her grandchild live together in a trailer in a rural area. She was abandoned by her husband a few years back. She is sickly and unable to work. Social workers learned that the family had lived a week on fried dough because that was all the food they had in the house.

**48** M has two school-age children. She lives on welfare and food stamps. She is trying to make a better life for herself and her children by going to school. She is finding it impossible to both feed and clothe her family without assistance.

**49** Y is young. He is working part-time and due to the constant stress of his low income has begun to strike his wife.

**50** M has four children. Her husband deserted her and the family about a month ago. They are very low on food.

## Pastoral

Continued from Page 1  
right to private property but what is says is we have to take care of the poor."

"The formulation of the pastoral is "an appropriate, logical and necessary endeavor," Archbishop Bernard F. Law of Boston said in a statement, because economic considerations "are inextricably involved in approaching effectively the global human struggle for that God-given dignity too often obscured by poverty."

Bishop George Speltz of St. Cloud, Minn., a member of the committee that wrote the first draft, said the pastoral may get more attention than the bishops' 1983 pastoral letter on war and peace because "it affects people's pocketbooks and many people will feel competent about making a judgment on what we've said."

The bishop said there are "no ungrounded positions" in the first draft and the committee "did not speak beyond our knowledge."

Bishop Frank J. Rodimer of Paterson, N.J., called

human dignity and solidarity the motivating factors in the bishops' efforts.

The document, he told The Beacon, newspaper of the Paterson diocese, is not radical, but "when you take on a prophetic role, you're vulnerable to being called a dreamer. If a person isn't a prophet, a dreamer, that individual isn't going to be provocative; he's not going to get anybody else dreaming and we're just going to live in a very mechanical and cold world. I would accept the criticism as long as it recognizes the fact that we're supposed to be prophetic."

The pastoral should help Catholics form their consciences and "reach others who are not members of our church with the hope and expectations that someday we will be able to change...policies in our nation and in the world," Bishop Rodimer said.

According to Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala., economic life "must respond to rules of what is right or wrong, good

or bad, that go beyond the marketplace."

The present inquiry concerning economics applies moral analysis to poverty at home and starvation abroad, the archbishop said in the The Catholic Week, the newspaper of the Mobile Archdiocese. "Do we have responsibilities? If so, what are they?"

And, he said, "the church's continuing stand against the evil of abortion as part of the fabric of our national life is by no means lessened in the midst of these other key concerns."

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### Social Club

Christmas celebrations are slated by the Over 30-Over 60 Social Club organized by Lee Williams 2-4 p.m. Sundays at the Church of the Ascension on Riverside Drive. Live music and dancing are featured each Sunday, but those attending will receive Christmas gifts on Dec. 9; and a dish-to-pass Christmas buffet will be the highlight of the event Dec. 16. Admission is \$2 per person. Further information is available from Mrs. Williams, 467-4950.

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## AT YOUR PARISH

### St. Charles

Father Regis Rhodda OFM Conv, will be the celebrant for the First Friday mass for the Charismatic Renewal community, 8 p.m., Dec. 7 at St. Charles Borromeo Church. Stationed in the Diocese of Syracuse, Father Regis has been involved in the renewal movement since the mid-70s and has been associated with healing ministry. The public is invited, priests are invited to concelebrate.

### St. Helen

The interested public has been invited to join parishioners at St. Helen's Church to a parish mission, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 10-13. The mission will be preached by Father Simeon Gallagher OFM Cap, of Denver, Colo. He will also be available for counseling and private confessions.

### Holy Family

The Rosary Society of Holy Family Parish will hold a Christmas Party 7 p.m., Dec. 12 in the Pine Room. There will be a catered buffet dinner. Mrs. Charles Noto is chairperson. Reservations are made before Dec. 5 by calling Mrs. Robert Spahn, 235-3136; or Mrs. Anthony Mastrella, 235-2761. Participants are asked to bring canned or non-perishable foods for Southwest Ecumenical Ministry.

### St. Joseph

**Woodsport** — Dr. Dennis Boike will present a program on self-esteem, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 10 at St. Joseph's Church. Boike is a marital and family therapist who maintains offices in Penfield.

### St. Thomas Apostle

The Home School Association of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish is sponsoring a Christmas arts and crafts sale, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 8 in the school hall. Handcrafted items, baked goods and refreshments are featured. Babysitting will be provided.

### St. Francis Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi Church will hold a candy, cards and crafts sale following all Masses Dec. 9 in the parish hall. Many items will be handcrafted by parishioners.

### Fr. Holzmeister, Capuchin, Dies

New York (NC) -- Capuchin Father Adrian Holzmeister, 81, the first minister provincial of his order's New York-New England province, died Nov. 20, a few days after suffering a severe stroke.

Father Holzmeister was appointed minister provincial in 1952 and served until 1955. He was elected to two additional terms, serving from 1964 to 1970.

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