

Christmas Appeal Nears Close

The 1984 Courier-Journal/Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal is drawing to a close over the next six days, still \$34,314 short of its \$90,000 goal.

Readers of the Courier-Journal have always contributed generously to the appeal, particularly in times of great personal hardship for themselves and their fellows.

Should a shortage occur, the agencies distributing the funds will be unable to assist many people in need of help this season.

In connection with the appeal, the Courier-Journal

publishes true stories of the 100 "neediest cases" in the diocese.

The stories are provided by agencies of Catholic Charities.

The stories, however, are also representative of hundreds of other cases of great need.

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 and other organizations wishing to participate in the fund should contact Catholic Charities.

Contributions should be sent to:

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

The 100 Neediest Cases

76 J is the single parent of three young children. She is a loving and caring mother struggling to set up a household so she will be able to reunite her family.

77 G is the single mother of five children. She has been on public assistance because of her need to be home with her youngest, a one-year-old. The family is in great need of clothing for winter.

78 S has suffered from an abusive family situation and is now trying to get her life back together again. However, just as she was about to get her old job back, she had to have emergency surgery. She has three children and is trying to apply for welfare, but the finances of the next few months will be very low.

79 The Js have a son that has a chronic illness which keeps Mrs. J tending to her son at home. However, the finances are so low that she may be forced to look for part-time employment. J works but his wages are low and there is a garnishee on them, making matters worse. There is a danger their utilities will be cut off.

80 K recently moved to the area and had a baby. She is in the process of applying for public assistance. During the interim, however, she has very limited funds and has many needs for her infant.

81 R is a young mother working hard to have her two children returned to her from care home. She was abused as a child and now she is learning how to care for her children through counseling and supervised visits. She owns next to nothing.

82 C is a teenager who was abused by her step-father and subsequently had to live on her own. She gets depressed about the past abuse and lonely. She is trying to raise an infant child with supportive help of counseling.

83 G remembers her days in a forced labor camp. Her body is broken with terrible ailments and she has impossible medical bills. She cares for her grandson who suffers from serious kidney and high blood pressure problems.

84 D has cancer in the leg and is barely able to work. Mrs. D is depressed, trying to make ends meet

with their four children. The family is in desperate need of winter clothing.

85 V wonders if her troubles will ever end. Her grandson needs clothing, as do her children.

86 M is mentally depressed. She wants to give her daughter something of a Christmas, but is unable event to buy the child decent winter clothing.

87 The Ss are an Hispanic family, trying to get help but lost in the system. S gets day work when he can. His wife has just had major surgery and needs new clothing because she has become so thin.

88 K is a single parent of an infant whose family disowned her because she kept the baby. She is on public assistance for herself and her baby.

89 P is a teenaged pregnant girl who lives alone in a small apartment, isolated from her family and lonely. She will need to make many important decisions in the next few months about herself and her baby. She has few friends.

90 The Bs are Haitian refugees recently relocated in Rochester. They have been farmers following the migrant stream but are looking for a more stable life for themselves and their four young children. He will soon be employed at a minimum wage job, but the family finances now are very low.

91 T is a young Ethiopian refugee who escaped famine and political strife in her country. She wishes to continue her education and will do this at night while she works during the day. She needs a great deal of help as she begins her new life in this country.

92 The Ps are spending their first Christmas in the United States after fleeing Cambodia and spending three years in a refugee camp in Thailand. This family of 11 needs much material and moral support in their new country.

93 P is a young Romanian who fled communism by swimming to safety and spending three years in another country while waiting to be resettled in the U.S. His goal is now to work at any job he can find and to study art.

94 N is a Vietnamese mother of an Amerasian child. She left Vietnam in search of a better life for her son, free from the discrimination and poverty he suffered in the country of his birth. She was employed for several months, but because of medical problems has not been able to work lately and will need to look for a new job when she recovers.

95 A is a teenaged Amerasian who never knew her American father. Her Vietnamese mother helped her to come to the U.S. where she would have the opportunity for a good

COURIER-JOURNAL



Christmas Appeal
Give Generously

education and a better life. A misses her mother very much, but is sometimes angry at her for sending her to the U.S. alone. She is undergoing a very difficult adjustment period.

96 S has been widowed for the past 14 years. Alone, she raised three children. Social Security has been her sole income. There often is not enough money to buy food.

97 The Ms have been through very difficult times in the past three years. Much of their income has been spent paying medical bills for service rendered to their severely asthmatic son. The family often does not have enough to eat.

98 B, a working mother, supports a family of six. During the past five years she saved enough money to purchase a home for herself and her family. The strain on her to find the money and to pay all her bills was enormous. How-

ever, she recently suffered a serious setback. She was the victim of a theft and she is now short of funds to close the deal on the house.

99 V and her two sons arrived in Rochester from Cambodia this year. She is alone, without husband, relatives or American sponsor. She is tending to the many needs of her children while undergoing English training. She is in great material and moral need.

100 The Ms are Cambodian refugees who have recently arrived here. They have known great sorrow and death: M's first wife and four children died in Cambodia. His two remaining children and his son from his second marriage are with him. They are living here without an American sponsor or relatives in the area. They are in great need of financial and moral support.

No Publication

There will be no issue of the Courier-Journal next week. This is in accord with its description as a 50-issue-per-year publication. The Courier-Journal offices are located at 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

First Hand Report On African Famine:

By Terrance J. Brennan
"I will never forget the children with the faces of the elderly," said Carol O'Connor of the Red Cross at a press conference last Thursday upon her return from Africa where she witnessed the plight of the famine-stricken.

Mrs. O'Connor, assistant manager for marketing, planning and public relations for the Rochester-Monroe County Chapter, was

assigned by the American Red Cross to a group of five teams sent to examine first-hand the extent of the disaster and observe the relief efforts by the Red Cross in the hardest hit areas.

"Our team visited Mauritania and Senegal," said Mrs. O'Connor, "two African nations where there is still hope to stop the spread of starvation." Other teams visited Ethiopia and Mali.

"In Ethiopia, the teams

saw people so tired from walking that they die — some having walked over 240 miles to get where food is," she said. "They saw little children walking totally alone in the middle of nowhere... people appearing to be bundles of rags on the move... a mother breastfeeding two children, only one of which was hers."

Mrs. O'Connor reported that at a relief camp at Bati, some 16,000 are served. "But each night people die — sometimes as many as 100 — because they reached the food too late for it to do any good.

"Team members watched as Red Cross sacks which had held grain were used again — as shrouds for the dead."

In Mauritania, she said, the drought has expanded the Sahara Desert, causing herds to die. People are existing primarily through relief operations. The population has had to end its nomadic lifestyle and move to relief centers. "This is a people whose entire way of life is vanishing and whose lives are in danger," she said.

'A Mother Breastfeeding Two Children ... One Of Which Was Hers'

"Yet, I was left with a very warm feeling for these people who were so cordial wherever we went. People repeatedly told us that they wished they didn't have to ask for help."

With the assistance of interpreters, Mrs. O'Connor said their team was able to speak with some of the Mauritanian women of their hardships. "I'm convinced that a mother's love and a hungry child are no different in Africa than in the United States," she said.

The American Red Cross is coordinating its efforts with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which has been overseeing relief operations in Africa for 50 years.

According to Terry Newell, chairman of the local chapter, a multimillion dollar fund-raising campaign has been launched nationally and will culminate the week of Jan. 6. The goal of the Rochester-Monroe County Chapter is \$52,000. As of Dec. 13, \$24,277.40 has been received.

"We'd like to thank all those who have contributed for their generous support," said Newell. "Even a small contribution can mean so much."

According to Mrs. O'Connor, Red Cross contributions will be used to buy food, medical supplies, obtain truck and airlift services to transport goods, provide

trained medical and relief personnel, and install long-range food production programs.

COURIER-JOURNAL
Bishop Matthew H. Clark
President

Anthony J. Costello
Publisher &
General Manager

Carmen J. Vigiucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 96, No. 13 December 19, 1984

Courier-Journal (USPS 135-580)
Published weekly except week after July 4 and Christmas, by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 35¢. 1 year subscription in U.S. \$15. Canada and Foreign \$20. Offices: 114 South Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607, (716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.



Mrs. O'Connor with villagers in Mauritania.

Ethiopia Relief Fund Grows

As of last Friday, dioceses have contributed \$617,861 to the Ethiopia relief fund. Anyone wishing to contribute may send do-

nations to Catholic Relief Services-Ethiopi. in care of the Diocesan Missions Office, 123 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.