

# CATHOLIC COURIER SOCIAL MINISTRY Christmas APPEAL

**21** Last September, Mrs. R. and her 2-month old baby returned home from visiting her sister to discover that someone had stolen everything she had from her apartment, including her appliances. The Catholic Family Center has been able to give her food through funding from the Christmas Appeal, but she needs more help to buy appliances and household items so she can move into another apartment. Mrs. R. needs to resume normal living without the fear of her home being violated again.

**22** Mr. K., an elderly man, was dealt a double hardship when his wife died last summer and then someone broke into his home, stealing a few hundred dollars from his Social Security check. He is also going through chemotherapy, which means additional cost of medicine. Money is needed in this case to help deal with financial losses and to make his Christmas a little easier.

**23** Mr. and Mrs. A. are living on her small Social Security check while waiting for Mr. A. to get his first check from Social Security. He lost his job due to a heart ailment, but both of them have extremely high medical bills and can barely afford their medication. Through the Christmas Appeal, CFC has been able to pay for some emergency medication and utility bills, but the A. family needs money for other necessary items.

**24** Mrs. T. and her four children — aged 10, 5, 4, and 2 months — are now living in a temporary shelter because they lost their home and all their personal belongings in a fire last October. This is especially sad for Mrs. T. because she lost family photographs and many items of sentimental value. Money could help this family replace furniture, linens and other household items, but toys also would make this Christmas much brighter for the children.

**25** Mr. R. is in his 40s but he is extremely incapacitated due to blindness, crippling arthritis and asthma. Money from last year's Christmas Appeal helped provide an emergency medical device for his use at night, but this client is so needy that Catholic Family Center constantly gets requests from nurses, doctors and agencies to provide more financial help to him. Money from the appeal will provide

continued assistance to this man.

**26** Mrs. C., a 30-year old mother of three children, is trying to get through nursing school so she can get off public assistance and work to provide a better living for her children. However, they don't have much right now and she has expressed her concern for providing a happy Christmas for the children — aged 10, 15, and 8.

**27** David is a 28-year-old Ethiopian refugee who has been resettled in Rochester since 1981. Although some refugees have successful and smooth transition in their adjustments, others, like David, have sad and unsuccessful adjustments.

Today, he is a mental-disorder patient. He is an extremely shy and passive person. Through the assistance of our agency, he is now residing in a group home, taking medical treatment.

It is really sad to see a man who escaped political persecution now suffering from mental problems. Even though David is not a danger to society, his condition has gotten worse.

**28** Mr. and Mrs. B. have eight children, ranging in age from 1-19 years, all of whom are living at home. Mr. B. works full time and also has a part-time job on weekends, working for the minimum wage. Mrs. B. started to work full time shortly after the birth of their baby. She leaves for work when the older children come home from school, so they can watch the younger children. They don't have the money for day care. They receive public assistance, but this — together with Mr. and Mrs. B.'s income — is not nearly enough to keep their heads above water. The B. family needs some special help especially during this holiday season.

**29** Barb and Peter have three children. They are both unemployed and had to leave the apartment to find a new one. After locating a flat without a refrigerator, they found a used refrigerator but didn't have enough funds to buy it. Peter is trying to enroll in a training program, and Barb remains home with the children.

**30** A call for financial assistance came from a hospital to help a penniless patient who was in need of a prescription to fight off an infection. Transportation of

this ill patient to the pharmacy and his home was needed.

**31** Bob has been seeking employment for several weeks. He was unable to attend an out-of-town interview because he didn't have the money or the help of family. Transportation to the interview is the difference between continued unemployment and a chance to become self-supporting again.

**32** An elderly man is unable to leave the hospital because he has no money to buy fuel for his basement apartment. His spouse is staying with friends until he can return home. Their income is overtaxed due to expensive medical needs.

**33** Tom is 84 years old, lives alone and was recently hospitalized. His expenses piled up, and he was threatened with the loss of certain essential needs. Because of his heart condition, he nearly exhausted himself trying to find help in maintaining services and utilities. His monthly income meets only his basic needs.

**34** Beth, a mother of five children ranging in ages from 1 to 7, and her husband are a young couple who have had a run of bad luck with illness and other expenses. They are not yet eligible for public assistance because of their income level. They are struggling every month to meet rent and utility costs. They need help just to get a little bit ahead.

**35** Mr. Flick became the sole caretaker of his four children after his wife deserted him. He is partially disabled and has just recently returned to work. His wife left with the family car, leaving only a motorcycle behind for Mr. Flick to use for work. He is a self-employed carpenter, and this makes it very difficult for him to transport his tools and materials. The youngest child is disabled and requires special schooling. The family needs some special help for Christmas.

**36** J. is a young, undocumented migrant farmworker. He was recently told to leave his work camp and present himself to the immigration authorities. He

is now working conditionally as a farmworker, but may be forced to return to his country where he is on a death squad hit list. He hopes to stay in this country under new federal work permits.

**37** Mary is a former migrant farmworker now settled in New York. She retired from her work after she lost part of her left hand while working in a food-processing plant. She is now helping the migrant farmworker population in her area, but she needs volunteers and funds to make her more effective.

**38** Jeaneen is the mother of seven children. She is expecting another child in December. The father — a day laborer — works infrequently, providing little toward the support of the children. The family receives public assistance, but housing for a family of this size exceeds the rental allotment, so some of the cash grant must be used for rent each month. Jeaneen often finds it necessary to rely on the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry's Emergency Assistance Program for laundry supplies, soap and food near the end of the month.

These children will not have Christmas this year unless they get help.

**39** The B. family — a husband, wife and 13-year-old son — was recently devastated by its situation. Their home underwent bank foreclosure due to the loss of all income. The husband is primarily disabled, but he is not receiving social security or disability payments at this time. The wife delivered a two-pound baby that will soon be released from the hospital. This family has lost everything in the last six months. They need to know that someone cares this Christmas.

**40** Mr. B. is divorced. A good relationship still exists with his family, which consists of four children (aged 15-22) who live with his ex-wife. He has held two different jobs in the past year and is now unemployed. He needs help this Christmas. Perhaps a return of self-esteem or a job — as a result of people caring — would help Mr. B.

## Advent day of recollection set for monastery in Elmira

ELMIRA — Father Augustine DiNoia, O.P., a priest of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., will lead an Advent day of recollection at the Monastery of Mary the Queen, 1310 Water St., on Saturday, Dec. 9.

The day will begin with a Mass at 10 a.m., and conclude with Benediction at 3

p.m.

Those attending should bring lunch. Refreshments will be available. A registration fee of \$5 is requested. All are welcome.

Call 607/734-9506 for information.

And like those before us,  
we pause to give thanks.  
Happy Thanksgiving.



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