

# CATHOLIC COURIER SOCIAL MINISTRY Christmas APPEAL

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This week, we present the fourth installment of our annual "100 Neediest Cases" as part of the Catholic Courier-Social Ministry Christmas Appeal.

The stories of these 100 families and individuals are representative of the thousands of people who receive assistance through Christmas Appeal funds not only at Christmastime, but throughout the year.

Send donations for the appeal to: Catholic Courier-Social Ministry Christmas Fund, c/o Social Ministry, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y., 14624.

**61** Katherine came to her church rectory for help. She has two children, and is a diabetic. Her pride prevents her from applying for public assistance until she has exhausted all other avenues. She can't see a happy Christmas without help.

**62** Lizzie, who is 32 years old, has six children ranging in age from 2 to 12. She is mentally disabled and is sole support of her children. She receives public assistance, but because of high rent and utilities, she often runs short of food. Without help she will have no Christmas.

**63** L.M. is married with three children. Her husband works at a job that pays minimum wage. She worked at a nursing home until she hurt her back. Now she is receiving minimal compensation and is awaiting a hearing. They have fallen behind in mortgage payments and face a very bleak holiday. L.M. is unable to work even after two operations to remedy her back injury.

Their immediate need is to have a Christmas for their family — food, toys and clothing to help them retain their dignity and self-respect until they get back on their feet.

**64** P. and L. have been faithful members of St. Monica's Parish for well over 20 years. Both are handicapped; the wife operates from a wheel chair, and the husband is recovering from a brain tumor which was surgically operated on this summer.

This operation left him with slurred speech, some impaired memory and poor motor skills. P. and L. are now receiving limited aid from social services, after periods of extreme frustration with the system's red tape.

This couple has outlived two of their three children, with only a son now living in California. Both are determined to live at home and with the help of friends and neighbors have managed fairly well. They are people of faith who have been a source of inspiration to those who attend to their needs.

**65** An extended family in need of having the family's 1979 station wagon repaired. Six adults live together with three children ranging in age from age 4 to 15. Two of the adults are mentally retarded. The parents are older, retired on a fixed income, and are providing a home for two adult daughters recently divorced, with four grandchildren (one is retarded), and their single son.

Three of the adults rely on the station wagon for rides to work. Since it broke down, one of the adults had to quit his job recently because he could not find transportation, and he works far from any

bus line. Two of the daughters also have obtained jobs, but transportation is difficult for them as well. About \$200-\$300 of repairs would ease transportation difficulties for the family, perhaps get the son back to work, and cut down the family's debts.

**66** Mary, who has five children, was abandoned by her husband. His whereabouts are unknown. In desperation, she turned to the church and the welfare system for support. She is constantly in need of food and clothing, and barely meeting other expenses.

**67** Mrs. L. is a young parent with three small children. She is trying to become self-sufficient and is working very hard to raise her children by herself. She has no furniture and many times needs assistance for food. She also doesn't get much in cash assistance from social services, so she has little for clothing and other necessities for her children and herself.

**68** A few months ago Mrs. H. sought assistance for food and clothes for herself and her nine-month-old. She had lost all her belongings in a fire this summer and needed virtually everything. Now with the coming of cold weather, warm clothing is a necessity.

**69** S. and C. are an elderly couple living in the center city. They are in poor health, and their sole source of income is Social Security. Their children seldom communicate with them or share Christmas with them. As a result, Christmas for S. and C. has become bland, lonely days. They could use a festive dinner to renew their Christmas spirit.

**70** Steve is a recovering alcoholic. After six months of sobriety, he is

again hopeful that he can cope with life's problems in a positive way. Having no supportive family to help him he has been reaching out to develop friendships through various volunteer efforts. As he approaches the new year, Steve's major goal is to get a job and his high school equivalency diploma.

This first Christmas with no alcohol will be very difficult. Steve could use help to buy some new clothes as he faces the challenge of a new way of living.

**71** Mr. and Mrs. J. have been self-employed home remodelers. Public awareness of their good work has been spreading, and they are optimistic that they will be successful in providing for their three children and Mr. J.'s other child, who lives with them.

But being self-employed, they could not afford the high cost of private health insurance. Now they have been told that their youngest daughter needs surgery to remedy the cause of the chronic sinus infections that severely hamper the child's ability to attend school regularly. They could use help this Christmas to get over this emergency.

**72** Lisa is a single parent of a two-year-old. Having grown up in a troubled family, Lisa is determined to make her daughter's childhood better than her own. The stresses of parenting, attending community college and working part time are very difficult. Lisa could use some hope this Christmas as she struggles to escape from the poverty that ensnares so many single mothers today.

**73** Mr. and Mrs. B. live in a modest home in the rural outskirts. They

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## Advent offers us the light, hope as we prepare for our salvation

### Advent Reflections



By Joan M. Joslyn  
Guest contributor

You must have noticed by now that the days are shorter, colder and more gloomy. Into this cold, gray world, the second Sunday of Advent offers the light and hope of our promised salvation.

In the opening prayer this Sunday, we ask God to open our hearts in welcome so that we may receive Christ in joy. The alternative opening prayer speaks strongly of light in darkness. "The day draws near when the glory of your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world."

In the subsequent words we pray that the "darkness not blind us to the vision" of Christ's wisdom. This opening prayer is filled with powerful images of light in darkness, joy in a material world, and hope in the vision of salvation.

As we move into the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the Preface to the Eucharistic

Prayer continues the invitation of hope in Salvation. In a few, short lines, this prayer reflects the message of the Advent Season: to wait, prepare and welcome our Lord, Jesus Christ, both now and when he comes again in glory.

By coming among us as a human being, Christ has opened the way for our salvation. The words of the preface are a reminder that we are not only remembering Christ's coming as a human being, but we look forward in hope to the day when He returns again in glory.

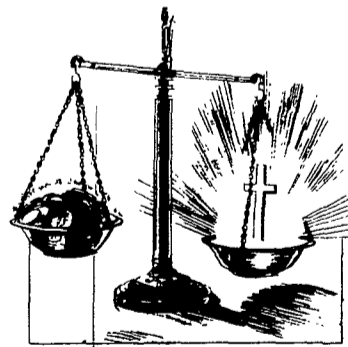
During Advent, a solemn blessing may be used to focus on the images already such a part of the other prayers for this Sunday. In an increasingly busy world, this solemn blessing allows the community gathered an opportunity to reflect on Christ's coming into the world, and to await in hope the coming of our Redeemer, bringing the light of holiness.

As winter deepens — and the darkness increases — so does the hope of the Christian community increase as we gather to await the coming of Christ. We remember this coming as a person like ourselves, we celebrate His presence in our world, and look forward with longing to the day he comes in glory. Maranatha — come Lord Jesus.

## BILLY GRAHAM TV SPECIAL

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THURSDAY 9:00P.M. CH 13

**ROCHESTER ORATORIO SOCIETY**  
1989-1990 (45TH) SEASON  
Candlelight Performance of  
**HANDEL'S**  
**MESSIAH**  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1989 & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1989  
8:30 P.M.  
The audience is invited to meet the soloists and partake of refreshments after the performance.  
**Asbury First United Methodist Church**  
1050 East Ave., Rochester, NY.  
SECTION A - \$15.00 SECTION B - \$10.00  
For information or tickets, Call 377-5234 or 872-4497

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS  
BURKE JEWELERS (Midtown), HEDGEDORN'S (Webster), HOUSE OF GUITARS, MUSIC LOVERS SHOPPE  
PARKLEIGH, RECORDED CLASSICS (Village Gate), WENDELL HARRISON MUSIC

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