

# Christmas APPEAL

CATHOLIC COURIER SOCIAL MINISTRY

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This week, we present the final 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.

**81** Richard is about 64. He and his wife live on Social Security. His wife needs treatment from a hospital about 20 miles away. Their car broke down and needs brakes. He can only come up with about half of the \$170 for repairs.

**82** Rick is 62, and has a wife and three children. He works at about minimum wage and is never able to pay all the bills. He has a six-year-old handicapped daughter. They have no yard, and they are afraid for the children to go outside much because the neighborhood is rough. A main source of family activity is public TV and movies on cable, but Rick needs assistance in paying an overdue cable bill.

**83** John was injured on the job and is waiting for compensation to start. His employer is fighting the claim. Meanwhile, John is out of bathroom tissue, toothpaste and other non-food items. He can get emergency food assistance, but needs cash to buy non-food items and a bus pass for transportation.

**84** Bill lives in substandard housing, and public assistance pays about 60 percent of his \$350 rent. Bill, his pregnant wife and two-year-old old son live on a monthly budget of \$571. The only decent and safe apartment he could find costs \$460. When Bill got a part-time job at minimum wage, he and his family lost their food stamps and rental assistance. Then Bill was laid off and couldn't find another job. If he could pay a security deposit, his rent would be \$420 per month. Without a security deposit, his rent is \$460.

**85** Mrs. S.J. is a disabled widow who supports herself on Social Security. She recently learned that her only sister is dying in Virginia. She hoped to be able to visit this sister for Christmas, but the expense of getting there is beyond her means.

**86** The M.P. family consists of a grandmother, her daughter and grandson. They live in a trailer in rural Steuben

county. Both women suffer from serious physical problems and are supported by Social Security and some public assistance. Recent hospitalization and uncovered medical costs have caused much hardship.

**87** The C.W. family consists of two parents, and a son and daughter, both 2. Both parents have disabilities. They struggle to be independent, trying to care for their family to the best of their abilities. Because of a cut-back in supplemental funds, they are experiencing financial problems.

**88** The B.C. family consists of a mother and three children, ranging in age from 2 to 6. The mother is a battered wife trying to start over and establish a stable home for her children. This has been complicated by her recent hospitalization after being beaten by her husband.

**89** The B.W. family consists of two parents and five children ranging in age from 3 months to 9 years. Because of

circumstances beyond their control, they were evicted and moved into a small trailer with her mother. They are trying to find different living quarters.

**90** The B.G. family consists of a mother and her mildly retarded son. The mother is in poor health, suffering from high blood pressure and seizures. The son is conscientious in caring for his mother. He is a hard worker and accepts any odd job offered. They need assistance because of the mother's poor health and limited income.

**91** John was 16 and Amy was 18 when they were married. After the birth of their second child, John left the home. Amy, who also came from a dysfunctional family, and her children have enrolled in a program to help them make a secure home.

**92** Paul and Betty are among the working poor. They have four small children and have had to move to a trailer

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## Season should focus on family instead of gifts

By Father David J. Faraone  
Guest contributor

"Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ, experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving."

It's Christmas night. The living room floor is speckled with pieces of tape, torn wrapping paper and the dried eggnog Aunt Mildred spilled. The sink is filled with dishes, pots and pans that wouldn't fit in the dishwasher — even on its third run. Everyone is cranky, hot-tempered and burned out.

"Mommy, the 7-11 is open ... they'll have batteries."

It's Christmas night. Your niece just

dropped you off at your apartment complex for senior citizens. You turn up the heat, watch a little TV, and turn in for the night. You drift off to sleep with visions of sugar-plums, and you never knew how loved those grandnieces and nephews could be.

It's Christmas night. The "easy-listening" station begins to play more contemporary music as the Christmas compact discs are wrapped and stacked and packed away. Can I freeze some of this leftover food for my New Year's Eve party?

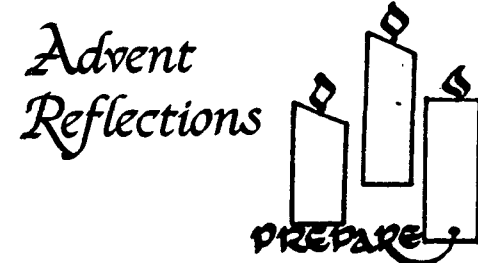
"Lord, may the gift we offer in faith and love be a continual sacrifice in your honor."

When did Christmas night become the last day of Christmas instead of the first of

12? Why has *anticipating* the season of Christmas ultimately *replaced* the season of Christmas? Why is the only reminder of Christmas in January the bill from MasterCard or Visa?

Madison Avenue's advertising firms have done an impeccable job of transfer-

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## Funeral Directors of the Rochester Diocese

### ROCHESTER

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| <p><b>NULTON FUNERAL HOME</b><br/>Penfield, New York 14526<br/>(716) 381 - 3900</p>  <p>(716) 381 - 3900<br/>Malcolm M. Nulton<br/><b>ASHTON-SMITH FUNERAL HOME</b><br/>Rochester, New York 14609<br/>(716) 482 - 6260</p> |  <p>Set your mind at ease...<br/>Make your Funeral Arrangements with our Funeral Specialists</p> | <p><b>MATTLE FUNERAL HOME</b><br/>Rochester, New York 14609<br/>(716) 482 - 2440</p>  <p>(716) 381 - 3900<br/>James R. Gray<br/><b>PAYNE-NULTON FUNERAL HOME</b><br/>Macedon, New York 14502<br/>(315) 986 - 7781</p> |
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Those who wish to have arrangements carried out in accordance with the ideals of their faith, contact the funeral directors listed for pre-need or at-need services and counseling.

### IRONDEQUOIT

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| <p><b>Paul W. Harris Funeral Home Inc.</b><br/>Richard P. Harris Charles E. Davis<br/>570 Kings Highway S.<br/>(corner Titus)<br/>(716) 544-2041</p> | <p><b>May Funeral Home</b><br/>George L. May Jr., Raymond L. Welch<br/>2793 Culver Rd.<br/>Rochester, N.Y. 14622<br/>(716) 467-7957</p> | <p><b>Michael R. Yackiw Funeral Home</b><br/>1270 Norton Street<br/>Rochester, N.Y. 14621<br/>(716) 544-5000<br/>If no answer 342-9300</p> | <p><b>McLaughlin Funeral Home Inc.</b><br/>John J. McLaughlin<br/>871 Culver Road<br/>Rochester, NY 14609<br/>(716) 482-1847</p> | <p><b>Schauman-Sulewski Funeral Home Inc.</b><br/>Edwin Sulewski<br/>2100 St. Paul Street<br/>Rochester, N.Y. 14621<br/>(716) 342-3400</p> |
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### GREECE

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| <p><b>Vay-Schleich and Meeson Funeral Home Inc.</b><br/>"Greece's Largest and Most Complete Facilities"<br/>2692 Dewey Avenue<br/>1075 Long Pond Rd.<br/>(716) 663-2100</p> | <p><b>Arndt Funeral Home</b><br/>1118 Long Pond Rd.<br/>(south of Maiden Lane)<br/>Parking for over 100 cars<br/>Greece, N.Y. 14626<br/>Ronald John Arndt<br/>(716) 225-6350</p> | <p><b>Hedges Memorial Chapel, Inc.</b><br/>Serving Rochester and it's Suburbs<br/>Rufus H. Hedges • Robert W. Shawer<br/>James A. Aiello<br/>770 East Main St. 454-7070</p> | <p><b>Schauman-Sulewski Funeral Home Inc.</b><br/>Edwin Sulewski<br/>2100 St. Paul Street<br/>Rochester, N.Y. 14621<br/>(716) 342-3400</p> |
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**Crawford Funeral Home, Inc.**  
"Serving the Greater Rochester Area"  
Located at 495 N. Winton Rd.  
(Between Atlantic & Humboldt)  
(716) 482-0400

### GATES

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Alvah Halloran and Son, Inc. Funeral Home</b><br/>H. Daniel Halloran<br/>2125 Chili Avenue<br/>(716) 247-7590</p> | <p><b>DiPonzio Funeral Home, Inc.</b><br/>(Across from St. Theodore's Church)<br/>219 Spencerport Road<br/>Rochester, N.Y. 14606<br/>254-6672</p> | <p><b>REICHAERT MONUMENT CO.</b><br/>348 Crestwood Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. 14624<br/>(off Buffalo Rd. one block east of Howard)<br/>(716) 235-4490</p> |
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**BRIGHTON**  
**Anthony Funeral Chapel, Inc.**  
Scott B. Anthony • Mark K. Anthony • Kenneth H. Eck  
2305 Monroe Avenue  
(716) 244-0770

**HART MONUMENT CO.**  
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Opposite Holy Sepulchre Cemetery  
Since 1856  
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