

**DONATE**  
your car, boat, appliances,  
motorcycle, real estate, etc.  
to  
**Christian Enterprises**  
• Receive an IRS form  
for your contribution  
342-6187

**J.B. TRAVEL**  
3220 Chili Avenue  
(716) 889-9090  
Marlyn Pozarska Yeager

**GIFT CERTIFICATES...  
SENIOR COUPON BOOKS**  
Great for Xmas!! STOP in TODAY!!

**DON'T BE LEFT IN THE COLD!!**  
Feb. 19, 1995 "Winter Break '95"  
7-nite cruise itinerary on Carnival's  
new SENSATION cruise ship...  
CALL NOW!

**GREEK CRUISE August, 1995**  
...Great for Honeymooners!!  
CALL NOW!

**FULLY ESCORTED MOTORCOACH TOURS...**  
Toronto Phantom Feb. 22, \$125pp  
Atlantic City March 24-26 \$189 pp  
Toronto Joseph And The Amazing  
Technicolor Dreamcoat June 3 \$115pp  
Toronto Sunset Blvd. Nov. 4 \$135pp  
CALL TODAY FOR DETAILS!!!  
...new extended hours...  
Mon. & Thurs. Evenings until 8PM!!

**REVEREND MOTHER  
MAKES HOUSE CALLS!**



Phyl Contestable of  
"Nunsense" fame will deliver  
Reverend Mother to your door  
(or someone else's)  
She'll roast your boss or surprise Granny!  
It will be memorable, that's for sure!  
Special Events, Birthdays,  
Anniversaries, Bar Mitzvahs, etc.  
Call 716-248-3034  
Ask for "Reverend Mother"

**THE  
TAX MAN  
COMETH!!!**

And many of our 51,000  
subscribers may be looking  
for the expert services  
offered by tax preparers and  
accountants.

Advertise your service in our  
special classified tax  
preparation section, running  
January 12th-April 6th, 1995.

Special pricing available.

Call Michela or Kathy in the  
classified advertising  
department for information:  
**Catholic Courier**  
(716) 328-4340

Catholic Courier + Catholic Charities

*Our Christmas Appeal series of Advent  
reflections continues ...*

**Week II  
Heeding the  
Prophetic Voice**

**Christmas  
Appeal**



There are several Advent messengers and messages noted this week in the church calendar of readings. Of course, we find John the Baptist. He is somewhat of a mascot for Advent. He calls us today, as he did long ago, to repent and reform our lives in preparation for the coming of Our Savior.

Prepare the way of the Lord! We are to think, pray, and plan for changes in our lives that will help bring about God's promise of justice for all people.

Popular myth connects St. Nicholas (Dec. 6 feast day) with the delivery of anonymous gifts rather than with prophetic messages. But the fourth century bishop of Myra (Turkey) is also known to have challenged injustice by consistently raising his voice for those who were powerless: the poor, the prisoners, the widows and the orphans.

To mark the feast of Mary's conception in the womb (Dec. 8), we praise God who kept her sinless from the first moment of her life and we celebrate the message that God's mercy has freed us from sin in our baptism.

*Diocesan Catholic Charities agencies are there to help when individuals and families find themselves lacking even the basic necessities.*

This week, we also remember Blessed Juan Diego. This native Mexican is now honored as more than just the one to whom Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared. Recognition of his own holiness has led to his recent beatification. Juan Diego was a courageous messenger. He literally carried on his cloak the good news that all humanity will know the liberation made possible by God.

Are there prophetic voices calling us today? Perhaps there is an internal voice urging us to challenge the consumer culture of this Advent season, and to value the things that really matter.

**A family Advent activity:**

Bread is one of the basics in our daily diets. Making special breads for Christmas is a custom of most cultures. If the baking is done as a family activity, and the loaves are shared with isolated friends or poor neighbors, the effect can be a delicious lesson in generosity.

**Help needed for 'widows' this Christmas**

**Widows**

*When you pick your grapes, you shall not go over the vineyard a second time; let what remains be for the stranger, the orphan or the widow. For remember that you were once slaves in Egypt." (Deut. 24: 21-22)*

Throughout the Old Testament themes remind us of the community's obligation to support those unable to support themselves. Today's "widow" is not only one who has lost her spouse to death, but also the poor single parent, the elderly, and others alone and vulnerable due to circumstances beyond their control.

♦ A car accident left Verelle with a back injury that resulted in the loss of her factory job. As a young widow, she relied on public assistance to provide the basics for her three children. Her only way to get off of welfare was a college degree to help her earn a self-supporting income. She could not af-

ford the \$25 college application fee, however, because the system wouldn't provide for such expenses. Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier was able to draw from Christmas Appeal funds to make a world of difference for Verelle and her children.

♦ At St. Boniface, a special parish committee keeps year-round contact with elderly neighbors. Cards, letters, and personal items go to those who might otherwise be overlooked or forgotten in nursing facilities, or those who are confined to their homes. Christmas Appeal funds bolster parish donations to make sure no one is missed.

♦ Mrs. Locero faced a long battle against cancer. Remaining independent in her own home is very important to her. But her frail condition and medical expenses had left that home in great disrepair with plumbing and roof problems. The Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation used

\$100 of Christmas Appeal funds to start critical repairs. An additional \$300 more brought matching funds from a government grant to finish the work. Mrs. Locero can now focus on her own healing.

♦ Chrys is an 18-year-old woman living on her own. A Catholic Family Center support group is trying to help Chrys improve her relationship with her parents. She supports herself through minimum-wage jobs, leaving her with little income. Chrys is often forced to skimp on food when unexpected expenses come up. This has taken a toll on her health and stamina. In September, a persistent bladder infection required a series of increasingly expensive prescriptions. Her caseworker was able to obtain emergency funds through the Christmas Appeal to help Chrys avoid using food, rent, and utility money to pay for the medicine.

**What is the Christmas Appeal?**

It is a cooperative effort of the *Catholic Courier* and diocesan Catholic Charities to raise funds that will help people in desperate financial crises.

For 24 years, the appeal has enabled the Catholic community to help thousands of people in 12 counties to meet life's basic needs. Christmas Appeal funds have been there for them when no other sources of aid were available.

**Who benefits from it?**

Funding from the Christmas Appeal helps individuals and families in short-term financial crises. These are people

who have no financial resources and are either awaiting or ineligible for assistance through other sources.

**How does it work?**

The appeal consists of a series of articles in the *Catholic Courier* and a direct-mail solicitation of past and potential donors. Appeal proceeds are allocated to the emergency funds of the following diocesan agencies: Catholic Family Center; Finger Lakes Social Ministry; Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier; Catholic Charities Livingston County outreach; Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation; and diocesan Urban Services.

Please use my donation to help a neighbor in need.  This gift is in honor/memory of (circle one):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check (payable to "Christmas Appeal") and this coupon to: Christmas Appeal, c/o Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624