

# Christmas APPEAL

## Fund helps families tackle emergencies

Noah, Abraham, Sarah and other Old Testament figures waited thousands of years for the Messiah.

Consider the stories of those people who wait today for some sign of deliverance — from violence, prejudice, poverty, injustice, hopelessness — in their lives.

Pray that those who seek assistance from the agencies and parishes of the Catholic community will find the saving love of Christ in our compassionate generosity.

Give what you can to assure that no one who turns to us in desperation will be turned away.

Below are names of prominent members in Jesus' "family tree," with Scripture references and suggested symbols that can be made into ornaments.

Adam & Eve (Gn 3:1-24) — man,

**A Jesse Tree Blessing**  
**God of Abraham and Sarah, bless us whenever we look upon our Jesse Tree. May it remind us of our ancestors who kept hope alive, believing in God's faithfulness. In this Advent season, fill our hearts with hope, and move us to be good news to the poor. Amen.**

woman, apple, serpent  
 Noah (Gn 6:11-9:17) — ark, rainbow, pairs of animals  
 Abraham (Gn 12: 1-13:18) — camel, staff

Sarah (Gn 12:1-13:18) — baby, tent  
 Rebecca (Gn 25:19-34:27) — well  
 Jacob (Gn 28:10-22) — ladder  
 Rachel & Leah (Gn 29:15-30) — veil  
 Joseph (Gn 39:48) — coat of many colors  
 Moses (Ex 20:1-21) — stone tablets  
 Miriam (Ex 15:20-21) — tambourine  
 Joshua (Jos 6:1-15) — trumpet  
 Ruth (Ru) — sheaf of wheat  
 Deborah (Jgs 4) — tent peg and mallet  
 Samuel (1 Sm 3:1-18) — oil flask  
 David (1 Sm 16:1-16) — harp  
 Solomon (1 Kgs 3:4-15) — crown, temple  
 Isaiah (Is 11:1-9) — lion and lamb  
 Daniel (Dn 6:17-24) — lion  
 Elizabeth (Lk 1:39-55) — small house  
 Zechariah (Lk 1:5-25) — altar  
 John the Baptist (Lk 3:1-20) — water  
 Mary (Lk 1:26-38) — lily  
 Joseph (Mt 1:18-25) — hammer, saw  
 Jesus (Lk 2:1-20) — chi ro



### 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.

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

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

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

This gift is in honor/memory (circle one) of:

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

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

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

Marie is a single mother dependent on public assistance. She usually manages to meet her needs and those of her two children with her allowance. Her daughter has just reached puberty and Marie is unable to squeeze enough cash out of her budget to afford the extra expense of sanitary napkins.

Al has raised his four children since their mother abandoned them. He works a full-time job at night and a part-time job on weekends. The two teens also work to help pay for the family's needs. Even with all their incomes combined they cannot afford a rent increase. They have located less expensive, more spacious housing, but need help to rent a moving truck.

Virginia is being treated for a psychological disorder that developed due to pain from many physical maladies. She has attempted suicide repeatedly. She is widowed with two sons. The family can't afford "Christmas cheer" on public assistance.

J.B. dropped out of school at 13 to help support her family by working on an assembly line. She married at 16 hoping to be rescued, but was instead abandoned with a baby on the way. She finished school and is now training for employment. Her toddler needs shoes, and J.B. will need clothes suitable for job interviews.

Josie got herself off public assistance and has carefully managed to support herself, her mother and three children. Occasional setbacks have used up her cash reserves. She is grateful for the food and transportation vouchers that help her to get by during hard times.

Margaret is working hard to support herself and keep her four daughters out of an abusive situation. Her meager income limits her housing choices. Lead toxicity problems have uprooted the family several times. They are in healthier surroundings now, but the last move was costly, and she has no way to replace the second-hand stove that finally quit working.

Mildred, 67, is a recent widow. Her husband has very little in Social Security benefits. Mildred needs help with daily expenses if she is to be able to pay her property taxes.

Bianca has temporary custody of her three grandchildren. Their mother is in and out of jail due to prostitution to support her drug habit. One of the children is a toddler who needs his first pair of shoes. A food voucher would en-

able Bianca to afford the purchase.

Bill is a 70-year-old widower. His wife was the family bookkeeper; he was unaware of the ins and outs of their financial life. After his wife's death, Bill began receiving letters and bills from hospitals and labs demanding payment for his wife's care. Bill did not know how to work with the insurance companies or with billing departments. He tried to pay all the bills in full, and nearly bankrupted himself in the process. Two years later, he needs help to meet some of his basic needs and is still facing some major bills.

Mr. C. has a limited education and consequently has a limited capacity to earn a living. He is often without work and usually has a difficult time with all the paperwork involved with public assistance. He is frequently sanctioned by social services because of missing documents or incorrectly filed forms. Christmas Appeal funding is often his only resource when the red tape is tangled.

Mr. T. underwent a colostomy and has been unable to resume his self-employment as a repairman. His wife has a handicap that prevents her from taking over. They live simply within their means but do not have a way to make Christmas brighter for their two young sons.

Mr. C. is in his 40s, recently disabled, and must use a walker. Tie-ups with his public assistance have made it necessary for him to seek help with housing and food. He still has some unmet basic needs. He has no way to purchase grooming items or underwear.

Liz is a single parent who receives less than \$50 per month from the father of her five children, who are all under 12 years old. Liz speaks very little English and one of the children requires special care. These two circumstances limit her earnings. Her growing family needs winter boots.

Sally is trying to raise four teenagers on her own. That is a difficult task in itself, and her challenge is magnified because of emotional trauma that hit the family when her children witnessed the murder of a young friend. Counseling is helping, but just the additional expense of transportation to and from the sessions has overstretched her limited means.

Agnes has no family in the area. She recently had a hip replacement and is managing with temporary help from a home health aide. Her doctor has suggested a "lift chair" for when the aide is no longer with Agnes. The chair is expensive and Agnes' fixed income can't absorb the Medicare co-pay expense.

### Pre-need Counseling Available.

*De Nancy Bennett*  
**Funeral Home**  
 Since 1897  
 181 N. Main Street • Geneva  
 315-789-2224

MEMBER BY INVITATION NATIONAL SELECTED MORTICIANS



## A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

To Our Friends In The Rochester Catholic Diocese from



**WHITE HAVEN**  
 MEMORIAL PARK

210 Marsh Road  
 in Pittsford  
 (716) 586-5250



### Did You Know?

When a death occurs out of town, many additional details arise that must be dealt with.

Upon notification of a death, the staff at Bartolomeo Funeral Home Inc., regardless of the distance will arrange for all necessary details in the most professional manner.

You can be confident that all of your concerns will be met with the same dignity and respect that have become our benchmark since 1922.

Presented by  
**Bartolomeo Funeral Home Inc.**



1425 Lexington Avenue,  
 Rochester, NY 14606  
 conveniently located near 390

(716) 254-5400