



# Catholic Courier

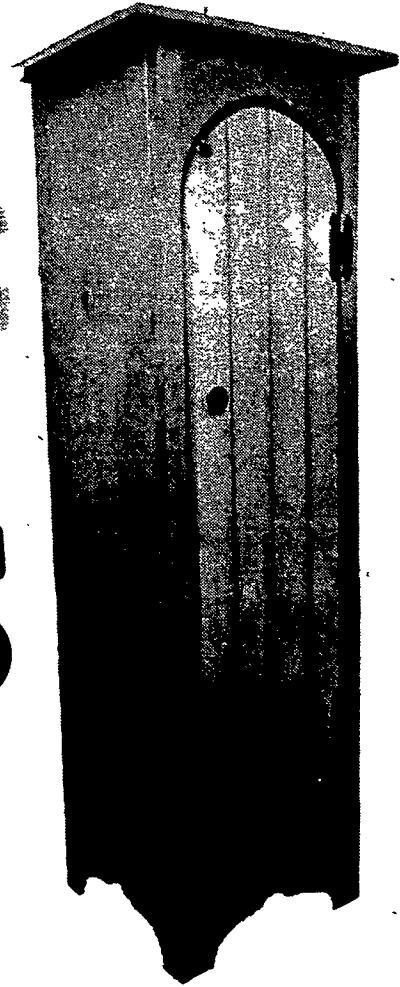
DIocese of Rochester, New York ■ VOL. 108 NO.10 ■ THURSDAY, December 5, 1996 ■ 75¢ ■ 16 PAGES

## Holiday Gifts

*'Tis not the weight of jewel or plate,  
Or the fondle of silk and fur;  
'Tis the spirit in which the gift is rich,  
As the gifts of the wise ones were,  
And we are not told whose gift was gold  
Or whose was the gift of myrrh.*

—Edmund Vance Cooke

Story by Kathleen Schwar  
Photographs by Matthew Scott



### Finds delight creator, presenter and receiver

Like it or not, 'tis the season to give ... and give ... and give.

While your "presence" at gatherings of family and friends is important during the holidays, noted Sister Anne Maloy, SSJ, director of the Mercy Center with the Aging, exchanging presents can help people get comfortable together. Giving and opening gifts, she said, can help "break a little of the barriers. ... It's part of the hospitality of being together."

But she noted that women religious — as well as many other people — are on limited budgets.

And the thought of picking out gifts sends some people into a panic. "It's terrible; I hate shopping," said Giovina Caroscio, executive director of the Finger Lakes Social Ministry.

Then there are people like Lori Leone.

"I'm like the elf who never made it as a grown-up," observed Leone, principal of Our Mother of Sorrows School, Greece. She had her shopping in the bag, literally, weeks ago.

At the beginning of the school year she presented her teachers with bags of little meditation books for teachers, rosaries and flowered pens.

She is now preparing bags for Christmas.

"For Christmas, I'm

going nuts," she said, describing creches from Jerusalem and teachers' meditation booklets she's packing into the bags. "I really believe in celebrating each other every day."

"It isn't the amount," she said. "I love giving."

And she loves the thought behind the stone a student gave her to rub when she's feeling down, and the banners displayed in her school for Catholic School Principal's Day last month.

"Just those big banners I saw really moved me, that they thought of me," she said.

People like Leone seem to have no problem coming up with gift ideas.

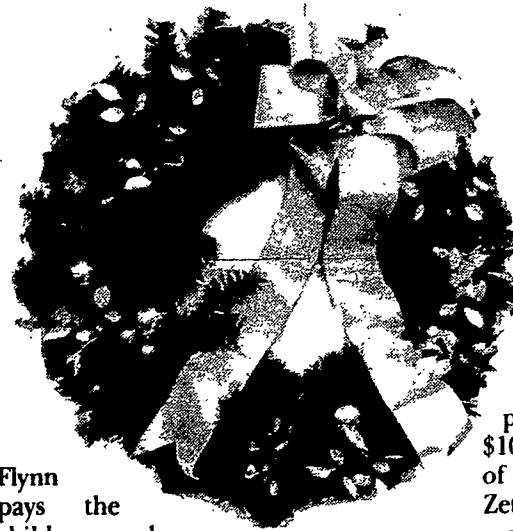
But others do have difficulty finding gifts, despite the fact that a variety of presents await wrapping and giving — and whose sale will also benefit assorted causes in the diocese.

Leone noted, for instance, that some people have donated in her name to the House of Mercy, a children's tuition fund and Melita House.

"It always touches the heck out of me," she said, adding, "You know you're on the right track when people think of you in that way."

Holiday gift suggestions from parishioners, religious and clergy around the diocese include:

★ Items from St. Michael's Woodshop, run by Sister Pat Flynn, RSM, at 691 St. Paul St., Rochester. Prices are \$2 and up for trivets, children's puzzles, cutting boards, picture frames and special orders such as bookcases. Proceeds go toward expenses and the \$5 a day Sister



Flynn pays the children she teaches after school at the shop. The phone number is 716/325-5370.

★ Wood and ceramic angels, nativity scenes, Christmas decorations, and weavings from School of the Holy Childhood, 100 Groton Parkway, Rochester. (Sorry, their pies for Christmas sold out long ago). Children and adults make these and other items, including shelves, clocks, chests and jelly cabinets, available at the school. Articles also will be available at Marketplace Mall Dec. 12-15 and at Eastview Mall Dec. 13-14; hours are 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m. for both special sales. Prices are \$2-80 and proceeds go back into the projects, which help train developmentally disabled people. 716/359-3710.

★ Ornaments from St. Joseph's Hospital

Foundation, Elmira. The white satin ornaments cost \$5 each, with proceeds benefiting the foundation. 607/737-7004.

★ Mugs from Finger Lakes Social Ministry. They are white with a blue logo and "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice ..." written on them. They also include a surprise and a card inside. The price is \$10, with proceeds going to support some of the office's ministries. Call Rhonda Zettlemoyer, 315/789-2686.

★ Bean soups from the Rochester Women's Bean Project of Catholic Family Center. Bags of 10-bean, chili, split pea or black bean soup are \$4.50-5. Proceeds benefit the project, which provides women in early recovery from drug addiction a work experience toward becoming independent. Soups are available at the Creator's Hands, 336 Arnett Blvd.; Creator's Hands Too, Brown's Race; Keep It Simple Shop, 103 East Ave.; and the Good Book Store, 935 East Ave., all in Rochester; and the Village Green Bookstore, 587 Moseley Road, Perinton. Or call 716/546-1271, ext. 202.

★ House pins to benefit either the Sisters of Mercy's McAuley Housing (affordable housing program for single mothers and children) or the Sisters of St. Joseph's St. Joseph Neighborhood Center that provides health care, counseling and tutoring in Rochester's South Wedge.

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### Appeal assists least fortunate

By Lee Strong  
Associate editor

Social-service providers have been warning that welfare changes enacted on the state and federal levels this year could increase the number of people needing extra help.

Cindy Smith is seeing the results firsthand.

"We have seen an increase in our services at the Samaritan Center," she said of the emergency services program she directs for Catholic Charities of the

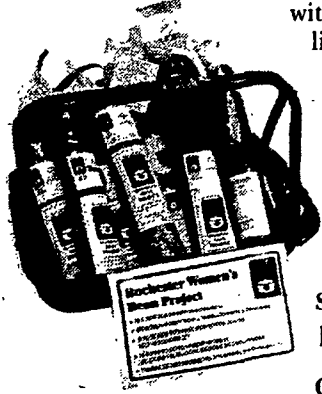
Southern Tier.

In fact, Smith estimated that the number of people coming to the center for food or material assistance had doubled since last year, thanks to changes in welfare rules and increased unemployment in the region.

Meanwhile, Dana Ciamprone, a case manager with Finger Lakes Social Ministry's single parents' group, has watched the demand for food increase in her region in recent months.

"It's unbelievable the number of

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Rochester Women's Bean Project