

# MANNA

*in The wilderness*

Winter 1992

The Newsletter of the Las Vegas Catholic Worker

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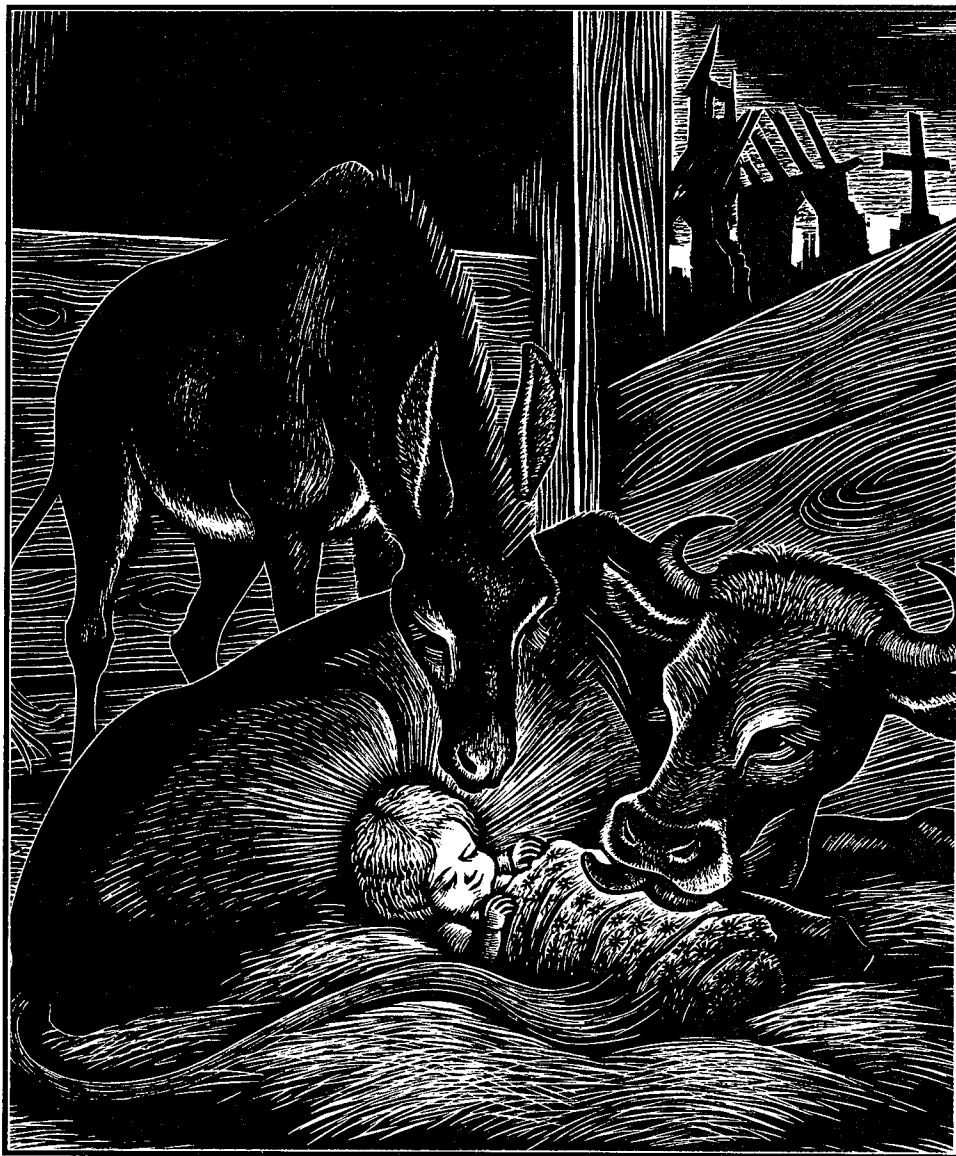
## CHRISTMAS APPEAL, WE NEED YOUR HELP

# God's Light Born into the World

Dear friends;

"C'mon, I have somethin' to show you!", he pleads. Daniel is an energetic nine year old who lives in our neighborhood. We first met him two years ago when he attended our children's summer program. Today he holds my hand and insists on pulling me out the front door to the street on the side of our house. Hopping on his oversized bike, he begins; "Watch this!". Speeding past me he hollers; "See, no hands!". I stand on the curb and give enthusiastic applause. Daniel smiles deeply with the satisfaction of simply being affirmed.

Like Daniel, many of the adult persons we serve also yearn for affirmation, attention and love. Five mornings a week we drive our van to a park in our neighborhood to find a line of people



THE BABE IN THE MANGER BY FRITZ EICHENBERG, 1938

stretching around the block waiting to be fed. It makes me shudder to anticipate the increasing numbers. It is only November, and already our line is almost twice as long as last year's line. It is difficult to be faithful to the daily call of feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless. It is harder still to find Christ, his divine presence in each of the many who come to us. Indeed, in a time when society grows more inclined to reduce their experience of the poor to surveys and statistics, the Catholic Worker wants to

witness to an alternative humane encounter of our impoverished world. In the face of growing dehumanization of the poor, the Catholic Worker offers a vision of Christian personalism. This spirit of personalism embraces a commitment to proclaim the primacy of the person. In a world of slick technologies and fast-food services our approach often seems inefficient and precarious. Yet, in the end, it is

this approach that is capable of entering the human places of loneliness, neglect and despair that keep us in bondage. It is the gift of God's grace working through simple human encounters that birth into the world the healing light of compassion and hope.

On behalf of Daniel and the many like him who are nourished by and give nourishment to our witness, we ask for your support. As we enter our seventh year in Las Vegas, we (Gary, Eric and I) come to you for financial help. We are a full-time volunteer community and need your financial assistance to fund our serving programs. We thank you for your generosity.

Christmas blessings,  
the Las Vegas Catholic Worker Community,

*Gary Cavalier*  
Gary Cavalier

*Eric Smith*  
Eric Smith

*Julia Occhiogrosso*  
Julia Occhiogrosso

# Voice of a Catholic Worker Volunteer

by Mike O'Callaghan

I want to write about some people who you may not know. Knowing them in a face-to-face relationship several mornings every week is a pleasure in my life. I look forward to seeing them and when one is missing three or four days, I become concerned. Right now, I'm wondering where Geno has been for the past week. Does he have a job? Is he alive? Has he returned to his hometown?

Who are these people, you are wondering?

Some of them can't find steady work.

Some of them have jobs paying minimum wages four or five hours a day.

None of them dress fancy, and

usually old clothes cover their bodies. Many of them slept outside last night and haven't had a shower. Some are shaved and neat, and others are bearded.

Some of them drink when they have a bottle.

Some of them smoke when they have cigarettes.

Some of them have mental health problems.

Some have hope, and others have given up on life.

Some of them are college graduates.

Some of them can't read or write.

Some of them have been leaders, both in business and government.

Some of them have never tasted success.

Some of them are elderly and ill.

Some of them haven't seen a doctor or

dentist for years.

Most of them have religious beliefs.

Most are men, but some are women and little children.

Some are black and some are white.

Some speak English as a second language.

Almost all are gentlemen and ladies.

All of them hurt, feel pain and hunger like other human beings.

All of them were children at one time and, even today, belong to somebody.

They, like you and me, are all God's children.

They are people who have many of the same human strengths and weaknesses as the rest of us.

There's only one major difference between them and us—they don't have a home.

## Room for Christ

by Dorothy Day, 1945

In Christ's human life, there were always a few who made up for the neglect of the crowd. The shepherds did it; their hurrying to the crib atoned for the people who would flee from Christ. The wise men did it; their journey across the world made up for those who refused to stir one hand's breadth from the routine of their lives to go to Christ. Even the gifts the wise men brought have in themselves an obscure recompense and atonement for what would follow later in this Child's life. For they brought gold, the king's emblem, to make up for the crown of thorns that He would wear; they offered incense, the symbol of praise, to make up for the mockery and spitting; they gave him myrrh, to heal and soothe, and

He was wounded from head to foot and no one bathed His wounds. The women at the Cross did it too, making up for the crowd who stood by and sneered.

We can do it too, exactly as they did. We are not born too late. We do it by seeing Christ and serving Christ in friends and strangers, in everyone we come in contact with.

*Dorothy Day founded the Catholic Worker movement with Peter Maurin in New York in 1933. Today there are over 100 Catholic Worker houses across the country.*

## CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

We'll be serving close to 400 meals Christmas morning, we need boneless cooked hams by December 22.

*Dear friends;  
Thank you for your support  
and the special blessings you  
bring us during the holidays  
and throughout the year.*

*Mike O'Callaghan is a regular volunteer and former two-term governor of Nevada, he is currently Executive Editor of The Sun.*

## A RADICAL GIFT



Catholic Worker movement co-founder Peter Maurin models our 100% cotton multi-colored shirt, hand silk-screened in our basement by community member Eric Smith. \$7 plus \$2 shipping. Please state size (s,m,l,xl).

## WE ARE NOT TAX EXEMPT

All gifts to the Catholic Worker go to a common fund which is used to meet the daily expenses of our work.

As a community, we have never sought tax-exempt status since we are convinced that justice and the works of mercy should be acts of conscience which come at a personal sacrifice, without governmental approval, regulation or reward. We believe it would be a misuse of our limited resources of time and personnel (as well as a violation of our understanding of the meaning of community) to create the paperwork necessary for obtaining tax-deductible status. Also, since much of what we do might be considered "political," in the sense that we strive to question, challenge and confront our present society and many of its structures and values, some would deem us technically ineligible for tax-deductible, charitable status.

## PLEASE JOIN US:

Tuesday-Saturday, 6:00 a.m.

Morning Prayer at the house.

Tuesday- Saturday, 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.

Serve breakfast at E and Washington St. to 200+ homeless persons.

Wednesday 5:30 p.m.

Mass or Liturgy at Catholic Worker house, potluck following.

Thursday, 4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

End Nuclear Testing Vigil in front of downtown Federal Building.

Friday, 7:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Hospitality Day. We bring up to 6 or 7 people home from the soup line for showers, lunch, conversation.

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