The Archbishop of Sydney's Winter Appeal: Pastoral letter

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Brethren in the Lord,

The arrival of winter always adds acuteness to the sufferings of those who are in distress in our midst. In a corresponding measure it increases greatly the labour and anxiety of the clergy upon whom the calls for emergency relief invariably fall. Workers in the field of Christian charity are constantly being confronted with pathetic cases of need which are beyond the range of the wide Government relief provisions. Some of these cases cannot be legitimately attended to by the ordinary registered philanthropic organisations, and they provide a special opportunity for the members of the Church to give expression to the love of Christ that is in them by ministering to the necessities of their poorer brethren.

While the needs of the present situation are many and pressing, I am emboldened to hope that by marshalling the forces of Christian charity within the Church we shall be able to exceed this year the very fine efforts made in connection with previous Winter Appeals.

I have carefully examined the reports which were sent to me in 1937 showing how the money had been spent by the various rectors to whom grants from this Fund had been made. I am thoroughly satisfied that a careful examination has been made and careful judgment exercised in the providing of grants of money or relief in kind. The grateful letters I have received from those who have been assisted make me realise afresh how necessary was this help; and also how much greater was the distress which we were not able to meet through lack of funds.

I have noted from the reports that the principal directions in which help has been given to the poor include: food, clothing, fuel, bedding and bed clothes, and medicine. I noticed in particular the following classes of relief:—

1. Nourishing food for tuberculosis cases.
2. Help to deserted women who have young children to provide for.
3. Assistance to aged people needing extra comforts.
4. Assistance to families of men who are chronically ill and unable to work.
5. Decent clothing outfits for those seeking work or going to work after long periods of unemployment.
6. Assistance to the unfortunate wives and children of inebriates.
7. Provision of fares for those seeking work, or to enable them to go to work until their first week’s wages are received.
8. Redemption of clothing and tools of trade pledged for money through lack of work.

All our Church agencies are making heroic and successful efforts, but they stand in need of more and more financial support. On their behalf and on behalf of our poorer parishes, whose Rectors will be making the distribution, I shall be most grateful to receive gifts of money, earmarked for any special Church undertaking or otherwise, addressed to me personally at the Diocesan Church House, George Street, Sydney.

As the matter is urgent, I hope all such contributions may be sent to me as early as possible, not later than June 30. They will be acknowledged in the usual way, and also in the Diocesan Magazine.

Your Archbishop and Friend,

HOWARD SYDNEY.