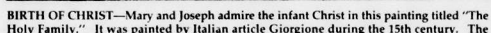


Vol. XXXIV, No. 12

Indianapolis, Indiana

50c

December 23, 1994



painting is part of the Samuel H. Kress Collection from the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. (CNS photo from The National Gallery of Art)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

How do we help people believe that something truly decisive happened at Bethlehem in Judea almost 2,000 years ago? How do we help each other believe that the birth of Jesus Christ was the most important human event of all time?

Seeking the Face of the Lord: Jesus brought peace through forgiveness of sins. Pg. 2.

Editorial: The top religious stories of 1994. Pg. 2.

From the Editor: A visit to the Church of the Nativity. Pg. 4.

Parish profile: Brownstown parish serves small but active group. Pg. 8.

Vatican and Jesuits: Back to normal

Faith Alive!: Making the connection with Christmas. Pg. 11.

World Day of Peace message: Pope asks women to become teachers of peace. Pg. 33.

Yearend roundup: Broken papal leg, catechism among top stories. Pg. 36.

From the beginning almost everyone has believed there is something special about the birth in Bethlehem. Through the centuries the birth of Christ has touched the human imagination. Great works of art picture the nativity with a spirit of joy and wonder.

Even in our own times, which some folks call post-Christian, Christmas touches us in ways that no other yearly observance does. Christmas trees and twinkling lights and nativity scenes signal peace and joy and a spirit of giving. We even have special gift wraps and music, traditional carols which we hear only in this season. We who are people of faith experience a special grace, a special gift from God, this season.

All this is true. Yet, like some of our children's toys, too often Christmas peace and joy lose their magic quickly. How do we keep Christmas peace and joy from being only surface *feelings* that are fleeting, already gone the day after? How do we help each other believe that something truly decisive happened at Bethlehem? How do we strengthen our belief that Christ's birth makes a difference?

The answer has something to do with the spirit of peace and joy. Nothing is more convincing than contagious joy. Nothing will convince people that Christmas is decisive more than a spirit of Christian joy that lasts.

Someone said "we can follow a stream back to its source." Joyful Christians lead people to Christ. Authentic Christian joy is a powerful, profound and attractive sermon. Inner peace wins people's confidence more than thousands of words. And so our Christmas question is this: What is the secret to lasting Christian peace and joy?

The answer may be wrapped in the mystique of Christmas, yet it is familiar. The path to interior peace and joy is forgetting oneself enough to live for others. The greatest enemy of inner peace is conceding to the instinctive "me-first" mentality. St. Paul gives us the antidote to selfish living and gnawing unhappiness when he says: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal 6:2). The secret to generous giving is to seek the face of Christ in each other. And to seek forgiveness when we fail.

The fantastic wonder of Christmas is that after centuries of our human family's searching for true happiness, God came looking for us in the person of Jesus Christ. God humbled himself to become one of us and he showed us the path to peace and joy. God's magic and grace of Christmas points the way. The gift of Jesus Christ, redemption from sin, the generous life he taught us, has already

been given. It is our challenge to accept the gift and to live it. We unwrap the gift in faithful prayer. Joy and peace are found in unwrapping the gift in prayer.

My Christmas wish for one and all is that we remember to unwrap the greatest gift of all! Peace and joy for a blessed Christmas and New Year!

THE CRITERION

Serving the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

08840-1223 TF
IMAGE DATA SERVICE
ATTN: S4702 CONCEL
3451 DUNCREL ROAD #100
LAUSING MI 49311-4216

SEEKING THE FACE OF THE LORD

Jesus brought peace through forgiveness

by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.

When I remember Christmas as a child all kinds of images come to mind. I remember my dad, my brother and I walking around Grandpa Buechlein's farm looking for the right cedar Christmas tree. I remember making tree ornaments out of red foil milk bottle caps while mom made great fudge and sea foam candy. I remember seeing my dad sneak a bicycle for my brother into our house in the dark of night just before Christmas. I remember singing in the boys' choir at Midnight Mass at St. Joe's Church and I remember the harp, the violins, the cello. I remember singing "Gesù Bambino" and "Silent Night" (in German). I still remember the aroma of the Christmas ham served after Midnight Mass.



Christmas memories are wonderful and they are lasting. I am so grateful that even in those young years we knew that Christmas was something more than special music and exchanging gifts and all the Christmas trappings. Mom and dad made a point of teaching us to understand the meaning of Christmas, in the way they emphasized Christmas Eve. Once we went to church, Midnight Mass was the highlight. I especially remember that going to confession before Christmas was not a matter of discussion. We did it

as a family the Saturday afternoon before Christmas and it made Midnight Mass all the more joyful.

As a matter of fact, our family went to monthly confession on Saturday afternoons year round. We weren't thinking that only mortal sins needed confessing. My folks figured that if we were dealing with the lesser sins and faults in our lives it might help us cope with the bigger challenges.

I don't think my brother and I felt oppressed or inordinately compelled to put our faith first. I think God that my parents taught me the discipline to try to live the faith they had handed on to me. My generation of parents may have lost some of that determination about exacting the discipline of living the faith. I guess we began to worry about being too strict and oppressive with our youth. With hindsight, most folks I know have begun to believe permissiveness hasn't worked too well. It's great to see that a new generation of parents wants their children to learn the practice of the faith and the discipline that fidelity requires.

I mention the discipline of spiritual practice this time of year because I am convinced that if we want to fully appreciate and enjoy the true meaning of Christmas, we have to live the faith throughout the year. Great celebrations like Christmas and Easter mean a lot more if we keep the faith in Ordinary Time. It is great that our churches are filled with extra crowds at Christmas Masses, but we should be crowded every Sunday and holy day.

God doesn't need our prayer and worship. We need to worship. God doesn't need our repentance from sin. We do. In order to worship with peaceful and joyful hearts, we need

to be freed of the burden of our sins. One of the great wonders of the Christmas mystery is the fact that Jesus came to bring us through the forgiveness of sins. Christ gave us the church and the sacraments of the church to carry on his mission of reconciliation.

So much heaviness of spirit can be traced to the burden of sin. We know from experience that Christmas, which celebrates joy and peace, can cause anxiety and depression for some folks. Some such sufferings are due to emotional pathology and we need to give special love and support to people who are so burdened at this time of year. But some anxiety and depression can be caused by the burden of sin and there is an easier cure for that.

If we find that we have not been as faithful to God and the church and to family and friends as we would like, now is the time to come back home. Thanks to Christ born among us, the church has everything we need for a happy return. Parishes offer special penance services with opportunity for sacramental forgiveness of sins during Advent and our priests are available for personal confession and reconciliation at regularly scheduled times and at any time by appointment. No sin is too great or too small to be forgiven by our merciful God. Nothing is more freeing than the knowledge that our sins are forgiven by God through the ministry of the sacrament of penance and reconciliation.

Christmas is a celebration of the gift of the gift of penance and reconciliation. It occurs to me that all of the gifts my parents gave me, that faithful practice has been one of the most lasting!

EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

What were the top religious stories of 1994?

by John F. Fink
Editor, The Criterion

Early in December every year, Catholic News Service (CNS) sends ballots to editors of Catholic newspapers so they can pick the top religious news stories of the year. It's always interesting to see the diversity of opinions among editors.

That diversity of opinions begins here at *The Criterion*. When the ballot arrives, I make copies and give them to the other four members of the editorial department so they can make their choices and then, when the results arrive from CNS, compare their opinions with those of editors around the country. The selections here in our office are as diverse as they are among the other editors.

This year I thought it was easy to select the top religious story of the year—the publication of "The Catechism of the Catholic Church." Two others on the staff agreed with me and that story proved to be the runaway choice of other editors of Catholic newspapers.

After that, though, selections for the next nine spots were widely scattered. The U.N. conference on population and development in Cairo, Egypt, came in second, probably

because it was on everyone's list somewhere. I ranked it fifth.

Here are the stories the editors placed in the next 10 spots: third, the debate over health care; fourth, Rwanda; fifth, Bosnia; sixth, Haiti; seventh, refugees; eighth, the debate over the ordination of women; nine, the U.S. elections; 10th, stories about abortion; 11th, euthanasia stories; and 12th, the pope's health.

I included the Middle East peace process and euthanasia in my top 10 instead of the U.S. elections and health care, and I had stories about abortion in second place. My reasoning was that the campaign to keep abortion out of health care reform was more of an abortion story than a health care story.

When it came to the top newsmakers of the year in stories about religion, how could it be anyone but Pope John Paul II? He is even *Time* magazine's Man of the Year. He made news throughout the year

including his broken leg and health speculation, appointment of new cardinals, the African synod, the world synod on religious life, the population conference campaign, his new book on hope, the letter rejecting women priests, his letter on planning for the next millennium, his canceled trips to the United States and three other countries, and his successful trips to Italy and Croatia. He was named first by 26 of the 45 editors who submitted ballots. I have no idea what the other 19 editors were thinking.

The next four top newsmakers selected by the editors were: second, Haiti's President Jean-Bertrand Aristide; third, Catholic women in general; fourth, President Clinton; and fifth, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger. Those were my selections, too, except that I had Cardinal Ratzinger ahead of Clinton.

The ballots to editors included a list of 27 stories and 11 newsmakers from which to choose. Some of the stories that were on the

original list and were undoubtedly important but didn't make the top 12 included: concerns about violence; developments in Northern Ireland, South Africa, Cuba and Mexico; the Vatican's restatement of the ban on Communion for divorced Catholics in unsanctioned second marriages; hearings about embryo research; Vatican actions rejecting inclusive language in the catechism and Scripture readings in the liturgy; and the approval of altar girls at Mass (thank goodness that one didn't make the top 10).

What stories would you pick?

OFFICIAL
APPOINTMENTS

Effective December 5, 1994

REV. KENNETH GERLING, OFM Conv., from chapelain at Regional and Union Hospitals, Terre Haute, appointed administrator, St. Joseph, Corydon, Most Precious Blood, New Middletown and St. Peter, Harrison.

REV. PAUL FAROH, OFM Conv., appointed part time associate administrator, St. Joseph, Corydon, Most Precious Blood, New Middletown and St. Peter, Harrison.

The above appointments are from the office of the Most Reverend Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., Archbishop of Indianapolis.

Christmas supplement

The *Criterion's* annual Christmas supplement begins on page 13 of this issue. The 16-page section includes 13 pages of Christmas memories and poems submitted by our readers.

THE
CRITERION
Official Weekly Newspaper of the
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Publisher: Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein
Associate Publisher: Daniel Conway

Editorial Department

John F. Fink, Editor-in-chief
Margaret Nelson, Senior Editor
Peter Agostini, Assistant Editor
Elizabeth Quinn, Assistant Editor
Mary Ann Wyard, Assistant Editor

Advertising Department

Rebecca Bowman, Administrative Assistant
Don Bramlage, Acct. Executive
John Lindgren, Acct. Executive
Deborah Quinn, Acct. Executive
Loretta Hahn Williams, Dir. of Church Accts.

Production Department

Jane Lee, Director
Lara Back, Graphic Assistant
Louise Stumpf, Graphic Assistant

Business Office

Phyllis Huffman, Accounts Receivable
Ann Petro, Office Manager
Jo Ann Schramm, Controller/Cir. Manager

No issue next week

In accordance with our usual practice, *The Criterion* will not be published next week, Dec. 30. The next issue will be dated Jan. 6, 1995.

All offices in the Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center will be closed after Christmas until Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1995.

12/23/94

MOVING?
We'll be there
waiting if
you give us
2 weeks

Advance Notice!

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

New Parish _____

Effective Date _____

NOTE: If you are receiving duplicate copies please send both labels.

THE
CRITERION
P.O. BOX 1717
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206

Letter to state officials
addresses deficiencies
in three areas

by William R. Bruns

The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), the public policy arm of the Roman Catholic Church in the state, has urged that a higher priority be given to providing better assistance to the state's poor.

In a 13-page statement sent to top state government officials, and all members of the General Assembly, the ICC pointed out that more than a half-million Hoosiers—many of them children—live in poverty. The statement also noted that other citizens of the state live reasonably well. The average per capita income in Indiana in 1992 was \$18,043.

The statement was released by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, general chairman of the ICC. The conference represents the more than 700,000 Catholics in the state.

"In our statement," Archbishop Buechlein said, "the conference addresses what it believes are deficiencies in welfare, Medicaid, and especially in the assistance given by township trustees."

"We are concerned," he continued, "that Indiana is one of the lowest of the 50 states in eligibility for assistance and in the amount of critical-need assistance. We are concerned that, while some 600,000 people in our state

do not have medical insurance, plans are being formulated to cut the Medicaid budget. And we are especially concerned that the township trustee assistance system, which dates from the 1700s, is outdated, inefficient, wasteful, and often demeaning and inequitable. We are calling on the state at least to provide standards that will determine eligibility and uniform benefits to the poor who are seeking help under the trustee's General Assistance Program.

"Our insistence for a higher priority for the poor," Archbishop Buechlein continued, "flows directly from the Scriptures and church teachings that demand that we speak for those who have no voice and that we act for those who do not have the resources to act for themselves."

The statement included three pages titled "Theological Underpinnings: Scripture and the Social Teaching of the Church." It included quotations from both the Old and New Testaments about the necessity of caring for the poor, as well as from four popes and various Catholic Church documents.

The statement noted, "In the Christian community at the time of the apostles (Acts 4:32-35), members were accorded great respect and the more fortunate shared with the less fortunate. In today's impersonal society fueled by a global economy, Catholic leaders continue to uphold the moral and Christian obligation to see to it that public policy places a priority on the critical needs of the poor."

ICC sets priority issues for 1995 legislature

Welfare reform, Medicaid, informed consent, school choice and child abuse among issues selected

by John F. Fink

The board of directors of the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) met Saturday, Dec. 10, to select its priority issues for the 1995 session of the Indiana legislature that will convene on Jan. 4.

The issues selected are Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and welfare reform; cuts in Indiana's Medicaid program; informed consent on the issue of abortion; advanced placement testing funding; school choice; and child abuse and neglect.

The ICC is the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. Its board of directors includes the active bishops in the five dioceses in the state plus one lay person from each diocese. Archbishop Daniel M. Buehlein is chairman. The lay representative for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is James Loughery.

The ICC's priority issues this week in its regular newsletter.

Welfare reform: The newsletter says that, in past sessions of the legislature, "the ICC has supported (welfare) reform that seeks to help people leave behind the welfare roles and the tragic conditions of poverty; offers AFDC recipients education and job training that lead to real jobs; includes strong child support enforcement; and affirms and rewards the values of strong, intact families and basic morality for all people."

The newsletter went on to say that "the ICC does not accept proposals that aim at the behavior of parents, but hit defenseless children. Reform should not make it more difficult for poor families to live with dignity."

The ICC will consider the various reform plans with three main concerns:

- 1) It will support welfare-to-work pro-



CONFERENCE—At the Dec. 10 meeting of the Indiana Catholic Conference, board member-participants are (from left) Lafayette Bishop William L. Higl, Gary Bishop Dale J. Melczek, Evansville Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger, Diane Bender, Thomas Broden

C. Jerome Smith, Indianapolis Archbishop Daniel M. Buehlein, ICC executive director M. Desmond Ryan, Coleen Williams, Jim Loughery, William Whalen, and Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John Michael D'Arcy. (Photo by Margaret Nelson)

posals which would enable recipients to maintain their wages and continue to receive benefits until they reach poverty level.

2) It will oppose provisions to exclude benefits for an additional child born to a welfare recipient because of the implications to the mother who becomes pregnant and punishment of the child for the mother's actions.

3) It will oppose the automatic 24-month cutoff dates that would not adequately safeguard recipients who may not yet be at a level of self-sufficiency or face circumstances that force them back into poverty.

Medicaid: The ICC will oppose additional cuts in Medicaid services that would place further burdens on low-income and poor Hoosiers and hinder medical providers' ability to care for the uninsured and underserved.

ICC is also concerned about the effects on those hospitals that bear the greatest burden in caring for the poor and medically indigent.

Informed consent: ICC will once again work with other pro-life groups to try to pass a bill which would make sure a woman who seeks an abortion is provided with information about abortion procedures, risks, fetal development, and alternatives to abortion at least 24 hours before the time it is performed (except in a medical emergency).

Called the "Woman's Right to Know Bill," the legislation would protect a woman's right to be provided the information to assure that her consent to the procedure, if given, is truly informed.

Advance placement testing: The ICC will support legislation initiated by the Indiana Non-Public Education Association to make advanced student testing, funded by the State of Indiana, available to all students, regardless of the school attended.

School choice: ICC will support a bill to establish full parental choice pilot programs in Indiana. This would allow for parents to direct to the schools of their choice a portion of the educational resources set aside for their children. ICC believes that special attention should be given to the unique needs of urban families and their children.

With the composition of the new legislature, the ICC believes that a school choice bill has a good chance of progress this session. The ICC's newsletter notes that the Indiana Republican Party's platform included this statement: "We support the implementation of educational choice for all

Hoosiers as an important reform, injecting competitive market forces into the educational process to enhance accountability and improve student performance."

Child abuse and neglect: The ICC will join with child advocate groups to try to pass a bill to improve caseload standards through the hiring of additional caseworkers.

The newsletter says that the Indiana Coalition for Children and the Indiana Chapter for the Prevention of Child Abuse have in the past called for standards not to exceed a maximum of 25 families per month for child protection workers and 35 children for child welfare caseworkers.

The ICC will also join efforts to seek through legislation Child Fatality Review Teams at both state and local levels. The teams were established to study deaths of children under 18 to determine and reduce the number of preventable child fatalities.

Indiana Catholics give the pope and their parishes good grades

(This is the second in a series of articles about the results of a new study of Indiana Catholics directed by Purdue University sociologist James D. Davidson.)

A recent study shows that Catholics in Indiana approve of Pope John Paul II's leadership.

When asked to grade the pope's leadership, 39 percent gave the pontiff an A and another 39 percent gave him a B. Seventeen percent graded him C, five percent gave him a D, and one percent gave him an F.

When asked to grade their parishes in terms of "meeting your spiritual needs," Indiana Catholics also seemed satisfied. Twenty-eight percent gave their parishes As; 42 percent gave them Bs; 21 percent, Cs; six percent, Ds, and three percent Fs.

Catholics also were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the statement "The homilies (sermons) at my parish are very well done." Seventy-six percent agreed; 15 percent disagreed; and 10 percent were uncertain.

Purdue sociologist James D. Davidson and a team of researchers from Indiana's five Catholic dioceses sent questionnaires to a random sample of 4,662 Indiana Catholics between May and September. Fifty-seven percent returned their questionnaires, according to Davidson. "The findings reflect

the views of people who tend to be active in their parishes and, as a result, are a little more aware of what is going on in the church generally."

When asked to comment on these positive evaluations, Davidson stressed the importance of asking the people in the pews what they think, and not relying on experts for their opinions. "Lots of so-called experts disagree with recent papal pronouncements and are very critical of the pope," Davidson said. "Some of these same people have been highly critical of Catholic homilies. If we listened only to these critics, we'd think the people in the pews are very unhappy. But the people are far more satisfied than the critics would lead us to believe. There is always room for some improvement, but these results indicate that Indiana Catholics are quite satisfied with the church."

Some Catholics are more satisfied than others. According to Andrea Williams, a member of the research team, "People who are older, less educated, believe the Catholic Church is the one true church, and attend Mass most regularly are most satisfied. Catholics who are younger, more highly educated, not as sure that the Catholic Church is the one true church, and less frequent in their attendance at Mass are least satisfied."

Orthodox/Catholic forum highlights monastic life

by Margaret Nelson

The Catholic priests who participated in the Central Indiana Orthodox/Roman Catholic Forum Dec. 6 found it to be a positive experience.

Participants discussed the role of monasticism as a source of spiritual renewal and direction for modern-day Christians. Priests monks gave presentations on the contemplative life of their monastic traditions and their role in their respective churches.

Fathers Nathaniel Smyth and Nicholas Hughes, of St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in Hayesville, Ohio, are affiliated with the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Benedictine Father Aelred Cody of St. Meinrad spoke of the monasticism of the West. Father Thomas Murphy, pastor of St. John and archdiocesan director of the Office of Ecumenism, was on the planning committee. He emphasized the historic nature of the forum and expressed hope for future reconciliation.

"I think this is an exciting opportunity for Christians of both traditions here in Indiana to come together and experience the commonalities of our faith in Jesus Christ. Monastic life, and its focused life of prayer and work, has been a source of renewal within the church for centuries. It is an appropriate topic for this second annual forum," said Father Murphy.

Father Anastasios Gounaris, pastor of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and president of the Central Indiana Council of Orthodox Christian Churches, stressed the importance of demonstrating that Orthodox and Catholic Christians can live together in a spirit of love and mutual respect.

"Living the Gospel is difficult in a world of change. The dramatic political changes that have occurred in Eastern and Southern Europe in recent years have allowed ancient rivalries to be reassessed, leading to the

scandal of Orthodox and Catholics battling for churches and land in the former Yugoslavia and Ukraine. Dialogue is critical to understanding and resolving the complex issues that divide the churches today," said Father Gounaris.

Father Albert Ajamie, who furnished some icons, called the forum "a beautiful experience. I thought the vespers were deeply spiritual. It helped me enter into the deeper eastern experience of the Presence. The talks were very good. It was interesting to meet two monks in full beard."

"It gave me an insight into monasticism. Both sides gained from it. Sometimes it's hard to talk about it, you need to experience it. . . . It is not a show; you are a part of it. It's worth experience," said Father Ajamie.

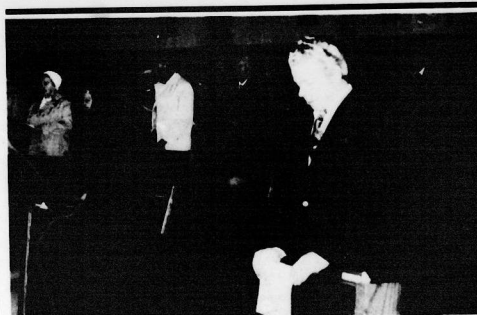
Held at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, the gathering began with the Orthodox Vespers service, and its Great Litany, and the evening concluded with the praying of the Roman Catholic Compline for Dec. 6, the feast of St. Nicholas of Myra.

Participants were asked to pray "that the Holy Spirit guide and nurture Orthodox-Catholic relations at all levels so that we may once again share the unity and love for each other commanded by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Refreshments were served following the forum. Father Murphy said the social gathering was a continuation of the interaction, while those in attendance also enjoyed Greek pastries.

The event was sponsored by the Central Indiana Council of Orthodox Christian Churches and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis Office of Ecumenism.

The forum began last year with a discussion of icons and art at Holy Trinity and a bus trip to the Art Institute of Chicago to view an exhibit of icons. "We're proud of the cooperative spirit," said Father Murphy.



LATVIAN MASS—Janis Sveteckis, president of the Latvian Catholic Association, stands in the foreground among other Latvian Catholics during Mass in Latvian at Christ the King Church in Indianapolis Sunday. Suzanne Magnan, chancellor and coordinator for Urban and Multicultural Ministry, spoke to the group at the end of the Mass. (Photo by Margaret Nelson)

FROM THE EDITOR

A visit to the Church of the Nativity

by John F. Fink

Many people are not aware that Jesus was born in a cave. We are so accustomed to our modern type of stables that we tend to think that he was born in a small barn of some type. But Jesus was born in a cave.

The people of Bethlehem at the time of Christ took advantage of the limestone hills of Judea to carve out caves in which they kept their animals. Their homes, usually single rooms, were then built in front of, or over, those caves.

Today the cave in which Jesus was born is located under the main altar of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. I've visited it each of the seven times I've been to the Holy Land, the most recent on Nov. 17 during this year's *Criterion*-sponsored tour of the Holy Land.



THIS YEAR I GOT to the church ahead of the rest of the group. This year I had a morning meeting in Jerusalem with the head of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine while the group was visiting shrines on Mount Zion. I took a cab to Bethlehem and had about 45 minutes to explore the church at my leisure before the rest of the group arrived.

The Church of the Nativity is one of the oldest churches in the world, originally built by Constantine's mother Helena from 332 to 339. It was renovated and enlarged by Emperor Justinian in 530. When the Persians destroyed all the other Christian churches in the Holy Land in 614, this church was spared because the invaders found in mosaic the three magi wearing what appeared to be Persian robes.

The church was empty, though, for centuries, until the time of the crusades. In 1101, the crusaders repaired it and today's church looks much as it did at that time.

It's a fortress church, with a very small entrance—only 48 inches high and wide enough for only one person—to prevent invaders from riding into the church on horseback. It is called the "gate of humility" since one has to stoop in order to enter.

The church is rectangular, with four rows of 10 columns. The present stone floor has cutouts revealing a mosaic floor underneath. The front of the church is ornately decorated, as Greek Orthodox churches are. The church is shared by the Greek Orthodox, the Armenians and the Catholics.

WHEN OUR GROUP arrived, we visited the cave where Jesus was born, a rectangular cave 35 feet long by 10 feet wide. In the cave are three shrines: the Greek Orthodox altar of the crib, where a 14-point star marks where Jesus was born; the Roman Catholic altar of the crib, where the newborn infant was laid; and the Armenian altar of the magi, where the magi found the Holy Family.

This cave is connected to a series of other caves, but pilgrims don't visit them right away. Instead, they go up steps to the church's main level and walk to St. Catherine's church, the Catholic church that's connected to the Church of the Nativity. This is where the Christmas Midnight Mass is celebrated by the Latin Patriarch, Michel Sabbah. From this church they go down other steps that lead to the chapel of St. Joseph, the Innocents, St. Eusebius of Cremona, SS. Paul and Eustochium, and St. Jerome.

The chapel of St. Jerome is located in the cave where the great saint lived for many years as he translated the Bible into Latin—the Vulgate. This is also where he died in the year 420 and was originally buried; later he was reburied in the Church of St. Mary Major in Rome. During previous years the groups we led had our Mass in Jerome's cave, but this year we had our Mass in the Chapel of St. Helena.

The Church of the Nativity has been involved in some strange episodes of history. One of those revolved around the church's roof which, through centuries of neglect, needed repair. That was done in 1482 when King Edward IV of England convinced the Mameluke kings who ruled the

Holy Land then to accept several tons of lead to be melted down and used to seal the ancient timbers.

This solved the problem for 200 years. In 1683, though, the Ottoman Turks were threatening to conquer all of Eastern Europe. They had overrun what is now Albania, Greece, the former Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania, and part of Austria. They had the city of Vienna surrounded when they ran out of ammunition. They needed lead to make bullets.

Remembering the lead in the roof of the Church of the Nativity, the Turks had it stripped and rushed to the troops in Austria. However, it arrived too late and the Turks were forced to retreat by the troops of King John Sobieski of Poland. This was the turning point of the war and eventually the Turks were pushed out of Europe.

Of course, the damage to the roof had already been done. For the next 300 years there were puddles all over the church's floor whenever it rained, including some of the times I've visited it. It was finally fixed in 1983 and, although it was raining this year when we were there, there were no puddles.

ANOTHER EPISODE INVOLVED that 14-point star that marks the site where Jesus was born. The star was affixed to the spot by Catholics in 1717 even though the site is controlled by Greek Orthodox. In 1847, there was intense rivalry between the two religions, with France supporting the Catholics and Russia supporting the Greek Orthodox.

King Napoleon III of France demanded that the Catholics be given greater authority in the Holy Land, and the Turks obeyed, even taking the keys to the church away from the Orthodox and giving them to the Catholics. The Orthodox responded by removing the brass star and hiding it.

The Russian czar, Nicholas I, demanded that the keys be returned to the Orthodox. When the Turks refused, Russia attacked the Ottoman Turkish Empire. With that, the French, British and Austria's joined to help the Turks and the result was the Crimean War. After the Western European victory, the Turks insisted that the Orthodox replace the brass star. They did and it's there today.

A VIEW FROM THE CENTER

'A Christmas Carol': story of stewardship

by Dan Conway

(This column was published in this space last year and is reprinted this year.)

We all remember the scene from old movies and TV specials. Two "portly gentlemen," as Charles Dickens calls them, enter the office of Scrooge and Marley hoping to raise money "for the poor and destitute who suffer greatly at the present time of year."

They make their case, pointing out that "hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts," but Scrooge is not impressed. "Are there no prisons?" the old miser asks. "Aren't the workhouses still in operation?"

"Yes," one of the gentlemen replies. "I wish I could say they were not." Undaunted, the two gentlemen continue. "What shall we put you down for?"

"Nothing," says Scrooge. "You wish to be anonymous?" the gentlemen ask.



"I wish to be left alone!" says Scrooge.

The gentlemen leave with hearts full of sadness. They grieve for the poor and the homeless "who would rather die" than suffer the humiliation of a 19th-century English workhouse; but they also grieve for Old Ebenezer Scrooge whose self-centered misery has blinded him to the simple joys of Christmas.

How many times have we heard similar versions of this same old story? How many times have we found ourselves playing the part of Scrooge—saying to those who ask for our time or our money, "Please don't bother me. I wish to be left alone?"

Although he never uses the word, Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" is about stewardship. It is about learning to care for (and be responsible for) all of God's creation. And, as Mr. Dickens makes very clear, "A Christmas Carol" is about more than just the sentimental (or commercial) "Christmas spirit" which comes and goes each holiday season.

Scrooge is not a good steward. He hoards what he has been given (time, talent and treasure) and he buries his gifts deep within himself. He cannot give or share, and the

result is a twisted, self-absorbed misery. Along with his gifts and talents, Scrooge accumulates and hides all the hurts, resentments and disappointments of a lonely lifetime. Nothing makes him happy. Nothing gives him peace.

There is only one thing that can save this miserable man from the hell he has made for himself. Giving. Open, generous, unrestricted giving is the only cure for the likes of Ebenezer Scrooge. As long as he holds back—asking, "What's in it for me?"—Scrooge is condemned to live the life that he has fashioned for himself through years of lonely self-centeredness.

Fortunately, Mr. Dickens believed in a God who is generous and forgiving. Old Scrooge is given one last chance to experience life as it was truly meant to be lived. The spirits who visit Scrooge (including Jacob Marley, a former business partner now condemned to haunt the spirit world in chains of his own making) help Scrooge to face painful truths about himself. And by caring enough to confront him with his selfishness, the spirits give Scrooge something far more valuable than all his gold; they

give him a glimpse of who he was, who he is now, and who he could become—if only he would let go of his bitter resentment and embrace the joy of giving.

Recall that following this change of heart, as he hurries to join his nephew's family for Christmas dinner, Scrooge encounters one of the two "portly gentlemen" who had asked him for a contribution the day before. After greeting the gentleman so warmly that the man barely recognizes the old miser, Scrooge whispers in his ear the amount of his pledge to help the poor and destitute.

"My dear Mr. Scrooge, are you serious?" cries the gentleman.

"Not a farthing less," says Scrooge. "A great many back-payments are included in it, I assure you. Will you do me that favor?" he pleads.

And then the most amazing thing happens. As the astounded solicitor tries to express his gratitude, stammering from both appreciation and disbelief, old Scrooge says it for him. "Thank you," says Scrooge. "I am much obliged to you. I thank you 50 times. Bless you!"

In "A Christmas Carol," Dickens wants each of us to discover what old Scrooge had to learn the hard way: The only way to hold onto something is to give it away. This is the paradox of giving. The one who gives a gift from substance and without counting the cost is the one who is most grateful. Besides being a donor, the generous person is also a beneficiary.

Ever afterwards, Mr. Dickens says, it was said of Scrooge "that he knew how to keep Christmas well." Like any good steward, Scrooge kept it well by giving it away. And so, as Mr. Dickens observes at the conclusion of his story, "May that be truly said of us . . . every one!"

EVERYDAY FAITH

Pop had a better way to celebrate Christmas

by Lou Jacquet

I don't know about you, but I have often wondered about what kind of holiday they must have had in those houses where the Christmas tree is tossed out into the garbage on the morning of Dec. 26. It's as if they cannot wait to get back to the business of everyday life.

My late father, I think, had a better way to celebrate the season. Christmas was his favorite time of the year. He became noticeably interested about three months beforehand, poring over Sears & Roebuck catalogues and jotting down orders for the kinds of toys that would make Christmas morning dreams come true for tough-bombers of 7 or 8. He celebrated the day itself with suitable merriment and a good meal, then dragged



the celebration into January past Epiphany and well beyond.

Family historians might dispute this, but I am certain that there were several years in which we still had our Christmas tree up, with ornaments and lights, well into March. Since we always gave the tree the back-slash sunroof "Pop liked to put up eight-foot blue spruce trees that would get people talking about us—the neighbors could see him light up that tree every evening after supper and sit before it, lost in thought, eyes as bright as a child's.

Sometimes he and my mother talked as they sat there. Sometimes they laughed. And sometimes, as they aged, they simply sat and stared into those lights and let memory take them back across the years to other trees, other lights, other gifts, and remembered the family members who had shared those distant times with them.

Christmas, after all, is mostly about remembering. It is about remembering what occurred nearly 2,000 years ago on a cold

night in Bethlehem. It is about recapturing, for one day, the anticipation for everything that we had every day as a child. It is about recalling the special moments of intense joy that this holy day always seems to provide us in a cynical, weary world.

Pop knew that. Sometimes he articulated it to his wife and sons; mostly he knew it in his bones. So, as another Christmas season comes upon us, I drift back in memory to the ghosts of Christmas past, recalling my father in his sweater and engineer's cap, softened by the colorful lights and holiday music, staring into that room filled with light and color and possibility.

I suppose our neighbors laughed at what they saw. It was amusing, in a way. What I saw, though—what I still see now, when I close my eyes and get in touch with my deepest feelings—was an idealistic man who loved what Christmas meant and who wished, in a world that so often disappointed him, to capture its essence and never let go.

THE CRITERION

Official Weekly Newspaper of the
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Price: \$20.00 per year
\$6 per copy

Second-Class Postage Paid at
Indianapolis, IN ISSN 0574-4350

Published weekly except last week in July
and December.

1400 North Meridian Street
P.O. Box 1717
Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-236-1570

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Criterion
P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206



To the Editor

Monks' chant is not Christmas music

Some months ago, the Benedictine monks of Santo Domingo de Silos came out with some beautiful recorded music of Gregorian Chant that was very popular and that sold very well to the public. They should be commended for this product that undoubtedly added much joy to the lives of those who listened to this music.

However, this Christmas season, these same monks have come out with a new work called *Chant Noel*. By the title, anyone would be led to believe they were buying a recording of Christmas music performed in the same beautiful Gregorian Chant. Most people would likely think they were buying traditional Christmas music—songs they have known all of their lives.

If this is what the purchaser is seeking, he or she will be sadly let down. The quality of the music and the sounds that are heard are beautiful. But be warned: If you want Christmas music, you will not find it here. The Benedictine monks of Santo Domingo de Silos should try some truth in advertising.

Rev. Stephen D. Donahue

Charlestown

Writer had wrong commandment

Thanks for printing my letter on Father Catoir's column in the Dec. 9th issue of *The Criterion*. A correction is necessary. I did not proofread carefully because I should have caught the mistake in reference to the commandment cited. I meant to have the sentence read, "... the teaching of the Sixth Commandment about the duty, etc."

If I am going to complain about lack of proof, I should focus better on the word processor myself! Thanks for printing the correction.

John W. Blodford

Terre Haute

Withdrawal of the editorial cartoon

I have noticed that there has been no cartoon on *The Criterion's* op-ed page since the Nov. 25 issue. I suppose this has nothing to do with a letter to the editor Nov. 25 by Bill Bradbury blasting the cartoons for being too "divisive" and requesting their removal.

Mr. Bradbury objected to the cartoons' negative depiction of those opposed to God's laws on issues such as abortion. He commended the cartoonist, Knudsen, portrays those who have "wrong" attitudes such as picketing for abortion as mean-spirited and those with "right" attitudes such as a pro-life worker as nice and demure. This does not aid "healing and reconciliation," according to Mr. Bradbury.

It does not surprise me that someone has the opinions Mr. Bradbury has or that he takes offense at the cartoons. Many people believe there is no absolute right and wrong and that no one should be made to feel guilty if they choose to ignore the truths God has revealed to us through his church.

What does surprise me, however, is the immediate withdrawal of the cartoon by *The Criterion*. Have you no more conviction to truth than that? Of course the cartoonist portrays the idea of promoting the slaughter of unborn children as "ugly and mean-spirited." How else would you portray it? Besides the guidance of the Catholic Church conveying the message that abortion is morally wrong, common sense tells us that one who promotes the chipping and suctioning of a live human being can be portrayed as nothing but mean-spirited."

Does *The Criterion* not believe this or the other truths the Catholic Church teaches? Are you afraid to proclaim right and wrong in the form of a cartoon against cries of promoting divisiveness? The church is a

herald of truth, and if the truth divides us because some are open to it and others are not, should we stop proclaiming it? I don't think this is the message Christ brought.

It doesn't make much difference to me whether the cartoon is in the paper or not. What does matter is the attitude of political correctness which prompted its removal from your editorial page.

Mary Casabella

Corydon

(Actually, the cartoon has not been on the op-ed page since the Nov. 11 issue, two weeks before Mr. Bradbury's letter. It is one of a number of features that appear on page 5, but none of them is there every week. Other features include letters to the editor, "Viewpoints," which appears once a month; the "Point of View" column; and Father Catoir's "Light One Candle" column. The cartoon appears whenever there's room for it. We intend to continue to use the cartoon, but not every week.—Editor)

Just be who you really are

I recently saw the musical play "Jesus Christ Superstar," starring Ted Neeley as Jesus and Carl Anderson as Judas, at the Murat Shrine Temple. The show was filled with a beautiful array of colors and outstanding singing performances. I was pleasantly surprised at the range of style and artistic impression the cast brought forth to this audience.

I grew up listening to the original album and I saw Neeley and Anderson a few years ago at a much larger show. This recent one was better—a disappointingly small audience but it didn't seem to alter the show's quality. In fact, I was impressed by the performances because they were so different than I've heard before. The singing and the acting seemed personal. It was as if a smaller crowd encouraged the cast to be themselves.

Do all of us have to wait until we are alone to be ourselves? If we were to meet Jesus today wouldn't he expect no less or no more of us than to just be who we are? I am suggesting to everyone the next time you are with a family member, or better yet a co-worker, to just be who you are and permit yourself to be known.

It can be a horrifying experience to let your guard down and to allow someone to penetrate the wall we create to protect ourselves. We go to exaggerated lengths to hide our real selves so that all others see is the personality we have carefully designed for them to see. When we trust others and finally open up our true selves it is then that the real beauty inside our hearts and souls will immerge like a volcano and you won't be able to stop it. You'll never want to go back to the way you were. I challenge all of you to extend yourselves... to be you.

Lara R. Haley

Indianapolis

God imposed the death penalty

Having read the Dec. 22 issue and the several statements concerning the death penalty, I am astounded that statements of opposition to this penalty prevail.

By my understanding of the Sacred Scriptures, our Creator did in fact impose the death penalty. Anyone who has the ability to read the Bible can certainly find the many and varied examples.

Has anyone heard of Passover, the destroyed city of Sodom, and other examples where the Lord aided the believers in slaying their enemies such as the parting of the Red Sea and its closing to drown the pursuing enemy? History even indicates that popes have led soldiers in battle as they imposed the death penalty.

However, the most significant imposition of the death penalty was that Jesus Christ our Savior freed us from eternal damnation by giving his life on the cross. Even when he entertained the thought of having his Father remove the cross that he had to bear, his

words to the Father were, "Thy will be done." It sure appears to me that the good Lord imposed the death penalty.

If anyone is to spend the rest of time with the Creator, he must first live appropriately, in Christ, and then pass from this life through death! The Bible, obviously, provides adequate precedence for imposing the death penalty when necessary.

In conclusion, the death penalty is society's last bulwark against the most heinous of crimes. It is reserved for those very few persecutors of their fellow human beings who can only be held accountable to society by imposition of the ultimate penalty. It is true that God will be the final judge, but he has provided mankind with guidance through the Scriptures on how to deal with this issue. All we have to do is listen.

Carl J. Hand

Martinsville

There is justice under God's law

Recently you had on your front page about the Indiana bishops who are against the death penalty.

According to the word of God in Deuteronomy, chapter 19, verses 11-13, a murderer someone who is put to death.

Did not Jesus Christ say that he came not to destroy one jot or tittle of the law?

What authority do these bishops have to say that the death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment? Are they not also saying that Jesus was cruel and unusual?

Verily so, Jesus Christ was unusual and because he was they hung him on the cross. Jesus Christ was trying to set up his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven but the local government officials, priests, bishops, media, or other anti-Christians could not allow an honest loving person to take over their positions.

I fully understand the Word of God when he says that many would come in his name but bear them not for they are nothing but ravenous wolves. Is it any wonder that America has the highest crime rate in the world and more prisoners than anyone else in the world. It's because the churches of America are not practicing God's laws. There is justice under God's law. We can see what kind of justice there is under man's law.

Alan Breitenstein

Brookville

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

God became man out of love

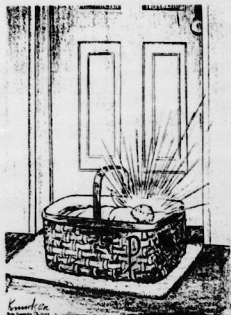
by Fr. John Catoir
Director, The Christophers

Imagine a beam of light traveling at the rate of 186,000 miles per second. In less than two seconds it passes the moon; in eight days it reaches the sun; in 21 days, it leaves our solar system; in four light-years it touches the nearest star; in 32,000 light-years it breaks free of this galaxy; in 170,000 light-years it arrives at the nearest galaxy. In view of the fact that there are millions and millions of galaxies, one can rightly say that the Creator of the universe is indescribably awesome.

Anthony Bloom, the Russian Orthodox Archbishop of London once remarked, "Theology is knowing God, not knowing about God, much less knowing what other people know about God." A person may have knowledge about God, and be theologically competent, but this is not the same as knowing God. To know God is to experience divine love. I can't explain it any further, either you have the faith or you don't.

God loves us so much he wanted to be one with us. In an act of love, God assumed a human nature more than 2,000 years ago. He took his flesh and blood from a Jewish maiden and entered the human race at a particular moment in time, and in a particular place called Bethlehem. God's silence was broken by the sweet sound of a baby's cry. Almighty God chose to become a human child, sucking at his mother's breast. The mind boggles.

As Jesus grew in wisdom, age and grace,



Distinction between innocent and guilty

In regard to your Dec. 2nd article "Indiana Bishops Review: Opposition to Death Penalty," and the column in that issue by Antoinette Bosco, I beg to disagree with their views as written.

I am enclosing an article written by Father Richard P. Hire that explores the question in more detail and gives more background on the subject, "making a distinction between the innocent and the guilty."

I quote from the article: "Pope Innocent III (1210) said the state may resort to capital punishment for just reason under the due process of law."

Didn't God the Father allow his Son, Jesus Christ, an innocent victim, to be put to death on the cross?

I feel we are too soft on crime and we definitely need a deterrent. I am in favor of capital punishment.

Doris L. Sheehan

Shelbyville

(The Indiana Bishops, the U.S. bishops and recent popes have been consistent in teaching that the death penalty, although permitted by Catholic doctrine, violates the sacredness and dignity of human life and adds to the cycle of violence in our society. There is no evidence that capital punishment deters crime.—Editor)

he became a man and spoke with authority. He taught us to love one another. He denounced all forms of hypocrisy. His enemies resented his criticism and eventually plotted his death.

The crucified Christ forgave his enemies and even made excuses for them: "Forgive them, Father, they know not what they do." In dying, he taught us that God loves us to the point of the folly of the cross.

As we reflect upon God's life among us, our hearts are filled with gratitude and wonder. Theology is the science which tries to explain the unexplainable. Jesus lives! The story of God's incarnation is ongoing. The risen Christ is forming us into his own Mystical Body. Intellectually we know that God's being permeates the universe, pervading and penetrating every atom, and we say with St. Paul, "In God we live and breathe and have our being." Our Creator is truly distinct from all creation, and yet he is closer to us than our own heartbeat.

How can we comprehend this mystery? At some point we must turn to the poets to explain the imponderable truths of revelation. Poets tell us that God is fire. God is a furnace of love and holiness. He burns to twin our hearts, and yet he always leaves us free. There are no love slaves in heaven.

This Christmas let us try to remember that the God who made the universe dwells among us. We are a wounded, sinful people, but God's Spirit renews and restores us every day. More and more we become living carriers of his divine love.

(For a free copy of the *Christophers* News Note "The Words of Jesus," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to *The Christophers*, 12 E. 48th St., New York, NY 10017.)

CORNUCOPIA

Learning to back off

by Cynthia Dewes

According to the old song, "Breaking up is so hard to do." But I say, "Backing off is what's really hard to do."

In this era of aggression, confrontation and general self-promotion, the common tendency is to bull ahead relentlessly. The idea is to think, say, do, whatever it is that we feel like thinking, saying or doing at any given moment. The heck with prudence, appropriateness or the other guy's feelings.

We publicly scold children who trample on other kids' sand castles, or who talk back to Grandpa, or who forget to feed the dog,



when it's not convenient. If they feel humiliated, so be it.

We scold strangers as well by casting dirty looks at those who offend us at the shopping malls and on the highways. If we're really feeling frisky we may add gestures to our communications.

We cluck over what the world is coming to every time we read the newspaper or watch TV or listen to the radio. Those politicians, those entertainment celebrities, those Others, are wrong and we are right. Our righteousness knows no bounds.

At the same time, never missing a beat, we whisk around the slow old lady in the salad bar line or snap at the grocery cashier who mislays one of our coupons. We offer unsolicited criticism to our grandkids' babysitter, snub teenage boys wearing earrings, or neglect to tip the waiter when we eat with a crowd of friends.

We give unwanted, unnecessary and often dubious advice to relative, friend and co-worker alike. We make sure we get ours before others can get theirs, and we are in constant close guardianship of our rights.

Some of us, being Christians, find it necessary to base our behavior on moral precepts because other Christians may be watching. And, since God is *always* watching, there's Official Guilt to consider.

So we do some heavy-duty rationalization before forging ahead.

If we tell Father after Mass that his sermon was too long or too cerebral, it's because we all have a duty to help improve liturgy. If we play dodgem in traffic, it's because everyone knows that Super Moms must pick up the kids, shop for dinner, and get home, all in time for the evening news.

We tie our grown children to us with invisible ropes of dependency, supervising their job performances, friends, life-style, marriages or parenting skills. Out loud. Up close and personal.

We rationalize by claiming that they need our experience and advice in order to succeed. Or because we want to spare them the failures we know they're making. Or because we are old and ill and they owe us.

At work, we badmouth the boss behind his back, denigrate fellow workers with a glance here or a rolling of the eyes there, maybe cudge a few pens or spend work time talking to friends on the telephone. We take long coffee or cigarette breaks when we neither smoke nor drink coffee.

Of course this is all done in the interests of constructive criticism or recreating ourselves so that we are relaxed, fit and ready to work.

The New Year is always a time for resolutions, weird or stale or unrealistic as they may be. But backing off is a resolution many of us should make and keep. It doesn't even require money, time or equipment!

check it out...

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 1045 W. 146th St., Carmel, will present "The Living Will—A Christian Perspective," on Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m. Jim Smyth, a graduate of Notre Dame University and currently the president of OLMC parish council, will be the main speaker for the evening. He is employed at a law firm that primarily handles estate planning and elder law issues as they affect family relationships and protection in each generation. For more information, call Denise at 317-846-3475.

The Adult Catechetical Team of Christ the King Church in conjunction with its RCIA series will present Father Joseph Rautenberg, medical ethicist at St. Vincent Hospital, speaking on Jan. 4 at Christ the King School conference room, 5858 N. Crittenden. Father Rautenberg's lecture will address the Catholic position on the

ethics of current reproductive techniques, genetic research, and life-sustaining measures for the terminally ill. All are welcome. For more information, call 317-251-4448.

The Young Actors Theatre, sponsored by The Turners Free University, will begin its spring semester on Feb. 4. The group will meet every Saturday until the mid-May production. First through third graders meet from 9-10 a.m., fourth graders through high schoolers meet from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Rehearsal time for all is 12:45-2 p.m. Speech, pantomime, improvisations, acting technique and production are included in the training. The tuition for full program is \$95 for first-third graders; and \$175 for older students. Classes meet at the Metropolitan Center, 1505 N. Delaware. For further information, call Charlotte Kaufman at 317-253-2455 or 317-635-7477.

The Sisters of St. Benedict will hold a Benedictine Life Gathering, January 6-8, at the Monastery, Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Ind. This gathering is for women ages 20-45 who are interested in finding out more about religious life. The focus of the weekend will be the role of community in the Benedictine lifestyle. To register or obtain additional information, contact Benedictine Sister Rose Mary Rexing by calling 800-738-9999.

Cathedral High School will offer the high school placement test for admissions consideration into the class of 1999 on Jan. 14 from 8:30-11:45 a.m. There is no registration or fee for the test.

The Information and Referral Network needs volunteers to handle calls on Helpline. If you are available anytime Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and would like to help others, call Marcia at 317-921-1307 about the January training class.

Natural family planning classes will be taught by the Couple to Couple League as a series of four classes beginning Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. The classes will be held at St. Roch Church, 3600 S. Pennsylvania St. For information or registration, call David or Jan Catto at 317-862-3848.



HELPER—Fifth graders Shawn Kelly, Tim Vail and Calen Wise stand by the canned goods Holy Spirit School students and staff collected for the St. Philip Neri Food Pantry. (Photo by Joan Gutzwiller)



MEETING THE POPE—Father Lawrence Moran, pastor of St. Patrick Church in Terre Haute, met Pope John Paul II in November. Father Moran recently returned from a three-month sabbatical in Rome. He was among a group of 40 priests who were able to study at North American College in Vatican City. (Photo by L'Osservatore Romano)

St. Vincent de Paul Society



SPECIAL APPEAL

to help pay the cost of
Holiday Food being distributed
FREE to the NEEDY

EVERY DOLLAR DONATED WILL BE USED FOR FOOD

Funds are made available to any parish
in the Archdiocese having a need.

☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ My Food Donation

is

NAME

ADDRESS

Your Donation is a
Charitable Contribution
for Tax Purposes

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

St. Vincent de Paul Society
P.O. Box 19133 • Indianapolis, Indiana 46219



Be An Angel
FOREVER

Send a Christmas gift to the Catholic Community Foundation and you will provide perpetual support to one of our 126 endowed schools, parishes and agencies. Tell us which endowment you want to receive your gift . . . a gift that will never stop giving!! Merry Christmas!

Send your gift to: Sandra M. Behringer
Director of Endowment Development
The Catholic Community Foundation
1400 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367
317-236-1427 or 800-382-9836

Volunteers provide health services for homeless

625 people served by
150 volunteers at 12
Indianapolis shelters

by Mary Ann Wyand

"The greatest gift one can give is the gift of oneself" was the volunteerism theme for the 1994 Shelter Health Fair for homeless and indigent people in Indianapolis.

About 150 volunteers staffed 12 health fair sites at city shelters on Dec. 5 and served 625 homeless or indigent men, women and children by providing free screenings for a variety of health problems. St. Francis Hospital Center sponsored the annual Shelter Health Fair again this year.

Dr. James Trippi, the founder and president of the Genesaret Free Clinic, said 100 Genesaret volunteers and 50 staff members from the Marion County Health Department, American Lung Association, American Red Cross, Wishard Memorial Hospital, Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis, People's Homeless Initiative, and other medical associations or providers offered preventive health care services during this comprehensive screening effort.

Volunteers assisted some of the city's homeless and poor at health fairs set up at



FREE CHECK-UP—Registered nurse Diane Stout checks a homeless man's blood pressure on Dec. 5 at the Good News Mission in Indianapolis during the 1995 Shelter Health Fair coordinated by the Genesaret Free Clinic and sponsored by St. Francis Hospital Center. The annual fair offers preventive health care for homeless and indigent people. Stout works at Community Hospital East and is a Genesaret volunteer. (Photo by Mary Ann Wyand)

the Holy Family Shelter, the Horizon House, DaySpring Shelter, the Care Center, the Good News Mission, the Wheeler Mission, the Lighthouse Mission, the Indianapolis

Day Center, the Louise Love Daycare Center, and the Salvation Army's Family Center, Harbor Light Center, and Adult Rehab Center.

"Genesaret volunteers offer crisis health care at shelter clinics throughout the year," Trippi said. "This fair is the one coordinated event for preventive health care each year. We hope that by screening for tuberculosis immunization, doing blood pressure checks, providing eyeglasses, doing HIV testing and sexually transmitted disease education, and offering dental screening that we may be able to make an impact in preventing illness."

Last year's Shelter Health Fair served 550 people, he said, and this year's volunteer effort was able to reach significantly more of the city's homeless population.

"I think the Shelter Health Fair has finally been accepted by the city's homeless," Trippi said. "It's hard to offer preventive health care when it means needles. We offer free hats, gloves and mittens as incentives, and also free eyeglasses and dental care which are a real help to people in need."

Medical volunteers found no active cases of tuberculosis among the homeless and poor tested this year, he said, which is "very good news" and is a reflection of the success of the free year-round health care services provided by Genesaret volunteers at city shelters.

Holy Family Shelter marks 10 years service to homeless

On Nov. 19, the Holy Family Shelter marked 10 years of service to homeless families in the Indianapolis area.

Sponsored by Catholic Social Services of Central Indiana, the home has served 4,144 families. The 12,814 people who have stayed there include 7,400 children.

Daughters of Charity Sister Nancy Crowder said that the shelter was founded because homeless parents and their children were found sleeping in cars and eating out of garbage cans.

The former convent at Sacred Heart Parish was renovated to provide shelter for the families. Other shelters at that time would not allow family members to remain together. Since then the shelter has been refurbished to make it more suitable for its occupants. Last year, the kitchen was remodeled, the dining room fitted with round, family-style tables, and the entry way improved.

"The value of the family is important to the mission of our agency," said Sister Nancy.

"As the program grew, it was decided that it was imperative to provide more than shelter and food," said Sister Nancy. "Services such as parenting classes, medical and dental care were initiated. Then legal services, educational assistance for adults, counseling, mental health and child care followed."

Families are expected to help and follow certain rules around the shelter. While they are there, they are required to seek education and employment. Couples staying in the shelter with their children must have proof of marriage.

Case management became and remains the key to coordination of all of these services

that are offered to our families, Sister Nancy said.

Sister Nancy is one of the candidates for *The Indianapolis Star's* reader selection of the Indianapolis Woman of the Year. Archbishop Daniel M. Puchlein is among the 11 candidates for Man of the Year.



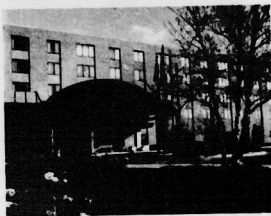
GUADALUPE—Jose Correa, posing as Juan Diego, talks with Franciscan Father Tom Fox, who portrays the bishop, in the 1531 meeting that is part of the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The drama was part of a Mass at St. Patrick on the feast day, Dec. 12. (Photo by Margaret Nelson)



CHRISTMAS PREP—On Dec. 11, St. Jude confirmation students sort the 1,000 Christmas presents parishioners purchased and wrapped for 31 needy families. They delivered them after the noon Mass on Sunday. (Photo by Donna Ahlbrand)

Marquette Manor. Unquestionably the highest quality in retirement services in Indianapolis.

At Marquette Manor, preserving our reputation for providing quality retirement living is dear to us. Our residents tell us they enjoy the most comfortable, secure and satisfying lifestyle. Our residents feel at home here, and we take great pride in that.



If you believe you should not have to settle for anything less than the highest quality in services during your retirement, you should visit Marquette Manor. You will find Marquette Manor is truly the retirement lifestyle you have earned.

You will find the highest quality social opportunities, Medicare-approved on-site health care, and 24-hour emergency response service. We also offer financial security with our Return of Capital® Plan which refunds up to 90% of your entrance fee, and an Endowment Plan which prorates your 90% refund over 48 months.

If this sounds like Marquette Manor has the quality services you have been looking for in a retirement community, return the coupon today for more information, or call us at appointment for a private tour.



The Marquette of Quality Retirement
MARQUETTE MANOR

Please send me more information about quality retirement at Marquette Manor, at no obligation

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/ZIP _____
Telephone _____ Married _____ Age _____
Single _____

Mail to: Marquette Manor, 8140 Township Line Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260

Or call: (317) 875-9700

Retirement Living Inc. (owner. A not for profit organization)

Managed by Life Care Services Corporation



SPOTLIGHT ON SEYMOUR DEANERY

Brownstown parish serves small but active group of Catholics

*Parishioners have worked
to develop parish life*

by Peter Agostinelli

At least one parishioner of Our Lady of Providence Parish in Brownstown thinks the past year has been one of growth and hope for the rural Jackson County parish.

Father Joseph Sheets, administrator of Our Lady of Providence and pastor of St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour, talks about a continued resurgence of parish life and activity.

Our Lady of Providence was founded in 1934 as a mission of St. Ambrose. The present church, built in 1948, is an intimate sandstone structure located on State Road 50 near the small downtown.

The parish has been administered by a St. Ambrose pastor since its inception. The exception was a pastoral team based in Scottsburg during the 1970s.

Father Sheets said although Our Lady of Providence always has been connected in

some way to other parishes, there's never really been a close relationship. But the pastor said the Brownstown Catholics have enjoyed a better parish life since it was reconnected to Seymour in 1983.

One connection that has existed for parishioners is the proximity to Seymour. Father Sheets said they sometimes come to St. Ambrose for Mass. They also come to St. Ambrose for other events, such as confirmation ceremonies.

But the big thing in Brownstown these days is the renewal the people have brought to the parish. Parishioner Maureen Pesta said a development plan initiated several years ago provided a much-needed breath of fresh air.

This plan helped establish direction. At the time, Pesta said, the parish didn't have certain things like a parish council.

The plan also got people thinking. It's a small parish, but considering the area's rural qualities and the diverse backgrounds of the people, Pesta said the congregation realized it needed to grow closer and get to know each other better.

The effort has produced significant growth. Currently parishioners are thinking

about renewing the planning effort. There's a bigger group of people to consider these days, a group with different needs.

Father Sheets said it helped when he changed the Mass time from Saturday night to 12 p.m. on Sundays. Records list the number of member households at about 15, but Pesta said more than 100 people attend Mass every week.

Work on the church and grounds has been among the biggest projects since the development plan. Parishioners like Carl Pulse and Joe Gromes have spent considerable time landscaping the grounds. Other additions include a new roof to the church, as well as new doors, a new furnace and an air conditioning system.

The parish recently purchased and remodeled a house behind the church. Parishioners use it for meetings, religious education classes and also for social gatherings.

Pesta thinks the house will be a vehicle for the continued growth of parish life. The church lacks both a basement and a lobby area, so parishioners never really had a common place to meet, whether it was for coffee after Mass, meetings or religious education classes.



OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE—This parish in Brownstown serves about 15 Catholic families. Our Lady of Providence is a mission of St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour. (Criterion file photo)

Parishioners contributed to the remodeling work on the house. They knocked out some walls, refinished the kitchen and added things like a videocassette recorder. The old home now is a vital part of activity at Our Lady of Providence.

"It's just a new world for us," Pesta said.

"This has been a mission since it started. We're becoming more and more like our own parish."

Pesta also hopes the facility will help in the welcoming of local non-Catholics to services and different activities.

All the involvement has shown the hard work to keep the parish open and important. Several years ago the threat of a possible closing plagued planning and work. But parishioners have been assured that Our Lady of Providence will remain open. This adversity makes the recent accomplishments seem especially significant.

(Continued on page 9)



Fr. Sheets

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season to You and Yours From The Criterion.

John F. Frink

Margaret Nelson

Ann Petros

Jo Ann Schuman

Thyllio Huffman

Mary Ann Leland

Elizabeth L. Burns

Pete Agostinelli

Marie Frink

Betha Bannan

Dora Bromberg

John A. Lindgren

Deborah Quinn

Louisa Williams

Jane Lee

Louis Stempel

Lara Pack

Elsa Rodriguez



Man lands Christmas cartoon on FOX network

by Peter Agostinelli

"In the valley of Hidden Hollow, where the Christmas trees grow fine, stood Christopher the Christmas tree in a shaggy coat of pine.

"He was the lonliest Christmas tree anyone had ever known, because every year at Christmas time no one would take him home."

So begins the opening theme to "Christopher the Christmas Tree," an animated film created by George Bowers, a Salem resident and member of St. Patrick Parish. It will air nationally at 8 a.m. Christmas Eve morning on the FOX network.

FOX affiliates serving areas in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis include:

- WXIN-TV (Ch.59), Indianapolis;
- WDRB-TV (Ch.41), Cincinnati;
- WXIX-TV (Ch.19), Cincinnati;
- and WEVV (Ch. 44), Evansville.

"Christopher the Christmas Tree" is the story of a stunted pine that grew up into a towering White House Christmas Tree. Bigger trees dwarf Christopher until they're cut down, which gives the small tree room to grow. Eventually he grows so tall--too tall for anyone's home--that he's cut and trucked away to Washington, D.C., to be the official White House tree.

Bowers, who's in the process of joining St. Patrick through the RCIA program, attends the Salem parish with his wife, Betty, and sons Tom and Adam. He wrote the story that inspired the video project 26 years ago.

A Washington County native, Bowers worked at the Christmas tree farm started there by his father in 1949. He later told the story through the song, which he pitched to Nashville record producer Chuck Glasier.

He got the idea after he returned from touring with a country group.

"That year I came back to the Christmas tree farm to shear the trees," Bowers said. "There had been two big, beautiful trees that had a little tree growing up between them, and I remembered thinking, 'I hope those

two trees sell this year. We'll probably have to cut that little one down."

Those two trees did sell. That gave the little one room to grow and Bowers the idea for his story.

"I remember exactly where I was on the farm when I thought, 'Why can't the ugliest tree on the farm grow up to be everybody's Christmas tree? It just grew from there,'" Bowers later used the concept to write a story, screenplay and children's book. In 1982 he wrote additional songs to complete a record. After attempts to shop the record to several labels, he started Hidden Hollow Records and pressed 5,000 copies, but it didn't sell well.


Project development failed with ABC/Paramount, but eventually "Christopher" landed in the hands of Chris Delaney, a Canadian animation student who fell in love with it. He eventually created most of the film's 22,000 hand-drawn frames.

The project had finally reached the right hands. The persistence didn't hurt--Bowers insisted on keeping certain parts in the film, such as the three references to a tree's star as the light that guided the wise men to Christ. But Bowers said he saw providence at work too. He feels like he was used to convey this story, especially to children.

The videotape has been in stores for several months. In addition to its broadcast in the United States, "Christopher" will air on the British Broadcasting Corporation's network and on stations in 25 other countries. Future plans call for release of the soundtrack on compact disc as well as a line of toys. Bowers also is considering developing a theme park called Christopher Land at the farm in Salem, operated these days by his oldest son, Greg.

But right now Bowers is happy "Christopher" is out. And this Christmas, he'll celebrate his growing Catholic faith.

"It's important that children get this message," Bowers said. "My life is full and rewarding. It doesn't matter what this does now."



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY MASS 10:30 A.M.
WEDNESDAY MASS 7:00 P.M.
HOLY DAYS - VARIABLE - CALL 1-782-3883
CCD CLASSES: SUN. 9:15 A.M. - 10:15 A.M. SEPT.-JUNE

REV. THOMAS SCHLIESSMANN, PASTOR

LOCAL CELEBRITY--Salem's George Bowers gets more handshakes and smiles since releasing his animated film, "Christopher the Christmas Tree." (Photo by Peter Agostinelli)

ARE YOU LOSING INTEREST IN YOUR CD?



We have the Solution from GE Capital Assurance Company

8.00%	Tax-Deferred
7.00%	Guaranteed return of principal.
	3% minimum rate guarantee.
	5% - 5 year surrender schedule.

Rates are subject to change without notice.

The Solution Annuities are issued by GE Capital Assurance, a subsidiary of GE Capital Corporation, one of the strongest and largest financial services companies in the world with assets over \$118 billion.

Ask for Jim Sorg or Diana Phelps ... 317-359-9621



GE Capital Assurance
Our Business is Helping You

Serving and assisting the community for 37 years

Our Lady of Providence

(Continued from page 8)

Pesta thinks the ordeal contributed to the growth. She said it actually helped make the parish stronger.

One other factor Pesta noted is the presence of Father Sheets, who has a lot of responsibilities with St. Ambrose Parish and School. Pesta said the priest has been diligent in working with Our Lady of Providence parishioners and encouraging them in their growth and development.

The parish has a well-attended religious education program for youth. Religious education for adults may be one future area of development.

Active organizations include a St. Vincent de Paul chapter and an altar society. A group meets monthly to pray the rosary. Parishioners like John Disque Jr. contribute by chairing the parish council. His father, John Disque Sr., contributes his financial talents by managing the parish books.

Millie Dill, vice chair of the parish council and longtime parishioner, is "a rock of the parish," according to Pesta. And Elma McMillan has been a parishioner even longer. She was there during the parish's inception in the 1930s.

A parish history says a pastor from St. Ambrose brought the Catholic faith to the area in 1889. The priest reportedly celebrated Mass there until 1900.

Our Lady of Providence

Year Founded: 1934
Address: State Road 50, Brownstown, IN (extended from St. Ambrose Parish, Seymour)
Pastor: Father Joseph Sheets
Administrator of religious education: John F. Disque
Number of households: 15
Church capacity: 125
Masses: Sunday-12 p.m.; Holy Day anticipation-6 p.m.

Years later Msgr. Augustine Rawlinson, then pastor of St. Ambrose, bought a building in Brownstown and remodeled it for a chapel. It was dedicated in 1934. Father Arthur Mooney, celebrant of the Mass, would later become administrator of Our Lady of Providence.

Mass was celebrated every Sunday, and Lenten services were held there. Two Benedictine sisters from Seymour formed and taught the first communion class.

At different times Our Lady of Providence was under the care of other parishes beside St. Ambrose. Among those were St. Joseph Parish in Jennings County, American Martyrs Parish in Scottsburg and St. Vincent Parish in Bedford.

The pastoral team from American Martyrs was formed in 1977 to care for four missions, including Our Lady of Providence. Fathers Carmen Petrone and Gerald Renn handled this responsibility, for some time with help from Benedictine Sisters Elvira Dethy and Mary Sylvester Will. Father Carlton Beever later became part of that team.

But in 1983 pastoral care returned to St. Ambrose Parish. Father Sheets, pastor of the Seymour parish since then, has taken care of Our Lady of Providence as well.

Parishioners, with help from Father Sheets, have laid the groundwork for future success. The people have shown that a small rural parish can work.


"We've just got to be thankful for the many good things that have happened here in the past year," Pesta said.

Weekly profiles will include all parishes

The Criterion publishes an ongoing series of parish profiles. Every week a different parish is featured. Several parishes from a deanery are featured every month.

After coverage of every deanery, the series starts over again with the Seymour Deanery. The process will repeat until every parish has been featured.

REMEMBER HOW HE LOVED YOU!!!




YOU CAN SAY "THANK YOU, GOD" IN YOUR WILL FOR ALL THAT HE HAS GIVEN YOU -- YOUR LIFE, YOUR FAITH, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FRIENDS -- BY SHARING YOUR BLESSINGS WITH THOSE LESS FORTUNATE.

REMEMBER THE POOR THROUGH THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH. JUST SAY

I hereby will to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, Indiana, the sum of \$ _____ to be used for the poor in the missions.

WHAT GREATER LOVE CAN YOU HAVE THAN TO LET YOUR FAITH CONTINUE IN OTHERS?



REVEREND JAMES D. BARTON, PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH DIRECTOR

Vatican and Jesuits: back to normal relations

The Society of Jesus will open its general congregation Jan. 5 without the scrutiny that marked the last one

by Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY—What a difference a dozen years can make.

The arms of the colonnade in St. Peter's Square reach toward the nearby headquarters of the Jesuits, but the Vatican's grip on the world's largest religious order of men is not what it was 12 years ago.

The Society of Jesus is preparing to open its 34th general congregation Jan. 5—without the intense media scrutiny and the unusual Vatican intervention that marked the last congregation, held in 1983.

"The lack of drama" is the biggest difference between the two meetings, which bring together 233 delegates representing the society's 23,500 members, said Jesuit Father Jose de Vera, director of the Jesuit press office.

The last congregation, the society's highest form of government, was called to elect a new superior general.

While a Jesuit election in itself can attract attention, the 1983 election of Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach was given wide-spread media coverage because it marked the end of a two-year period in which a papal delegate led the society.

Pope John Paul II celebrated the

opening Mass for the congregation, which was prepared under the leadership of his delegate, Jesuit Father Paolo Dezza, now a cardinal.

The pope bypassed the Jesuits' normal governing structure when he named Father Dezza interim head of the society after Father Pedro Arrupe, then-superior general of the Jesuits, suffered a stroke.

Pope John Paul's action troubled many Jesuits, who saw it as a lack of papal trust in the order and its members' ability to govern themselves.

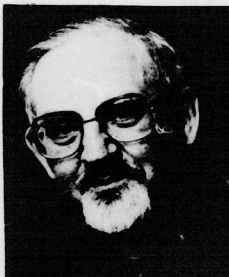
But the two years under Father Dezza "proved that the society would obey faithfully, Father de Vera said.

That proof and the strong, but relatively low-key, leadership of Father Kolvenbach have brought normalcy back to Vatican-Jesuit relations.

"Once Father Kolvenbach became general, he made a great effort to calm things, put them into context," Father de Vera said. "Now on both sides there is more understanding."

Father Kolvenbach, at a Dec. 15 press conference, said the reason he convoked the congregation was to examine how the Society of Jesus can respond to Pope John Paul's call for a new evangelization.

"The society was born out of a burning desire on the part of Ignatius and



Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach

his first companions to help others in their search for God, in obedience and close relationship with the vicar of Christ," Father Kolvenbach said.

That close relationship continues, he said. The 34th general congregation "was prepared in consultation with the Holy Father and his collaborators."

"I believe that at this moment we have a very harmonious relationship with the Holy See," he said. "But it is always possible to improve this. We have to seek more and more what the Holy Father wants for the whole church, particularly for the jubilee year, and what we can contribute to that."

For the '95 congregation, Pope John Paul has asked Cardinal Eduardo Martinez Somalo, head of the Vatican congregation for religious, to represent him at the opening Mass.

The congregation delegates will then walk to the Vatican for a papal audience, which is expected to include a speech from the pope.

Pope John Paul has not named, and is not expected to name, a delegate or personal

observer to attend the sessions of the Jesuits' meeting, said Father de Vera.

But some people saw a subtle papal message to the congregation in Pope John Paul's Dec. 7 weekly audience talk on the religious vow of obedience.

The Jesuit founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola, "in order to better serve Christ and his church, gave the Society of Jesus the famous 'fourth vow' of special obedience to the pope concerning the missions," he said.

"This vow states explicitly a norm that was and is implicit in any religious profession," the pope said. Religious orders and their individual members are "bound to obey the supreme pontiff by reason of the sacred bond of obedience," he said, quoting canon law.

The normal state of relations between the Vatican and the Jesuits also is reflected in the agenda for the 1995 congregation: the vast majority of the 835 proposals submitted by Jesuits throughout the world focus on the internal workings of the society and the ministries offered by its members.

The proposals fall into the categories of: vocations and formation, community life, the role of Jesuit brothers, justice, ecology, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, education, cooperation with the laity, collaboration among Jesuit provinces, and changes in Jesuit laws and regulations needed to conform with the new Code of Canon Law.

The calm sea being sailed by the Jesuits in their relationship with the Vatican is also seen in the quiet, but definitive, death of romans popular five years ago.

Among the wilder rumors were that Opus Dei, the lay movement that enjoys strong papal support, would be buying the Jesuit curia building near the Vatican and that its members would take over operation of the Jesuit-run Vatican Radio.

People in the know shook their heads in wonder at such strange rumors in the late 1980s; they don't have to bother today.

LIFE

The Altenheim Community

Christian Caregivers since 1910



Laughing, Caring, Sharing



Faith, Trust, Love



Skill, Strength, Healing



Fun, Friends, Family

Providing Independent Living,
Assisted Living and Nursing Care.

3525 E. Hanna Avenue ■ Indianapolis, Indiana 46237
(317) 788-4261

For information on availability, contact the Admissions Coordinator by calling the number above or completing the coupon below.

☐ Information: I'm interested in more information regarding The Altenheim Community. Please send me a brochure.

☐ Lunch: I would be glad to join you for a complimentary, no-obligation lunch and tour of The Altenheim.

Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Medicare/Medicaid Certified

An Equal Opportunity Employer & Housing Provider CRI 1294

CLIP
& MAIL
TODAY!

Pope John Paul named *Time's* Man of the Year for 1994

Pope John XXIII was Man of the Year in 1962, the year he opened the Second Vatican Council

by Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS)—In naming Pope John Paul II its Man of the Year for 1994, *Time* magazine called him "a moral compass for believers and nonbelievers alike," forcefully reasserting a moral vision in a world where many see values declining.

"For such rectitude—or recklessness as his detractors would have it—he is *Time's* Man of the Year," the magazine said in its Dec. 26-Jan. 2 issue, out on newsstands Dec. 19.

Pope John Paul is only the second pope to make *Time's* end-of-the-year cover. Pope John XXIII was Man of the Year in 1962, the year he opened the Second Vatican Council. Time said Pope John Paul, as head of nearly a billion Catholics worldwide, has "the world's bully-est pulpit. Few of his predecessors over the past 2,000 years have spoken from it as often and as forcefully as he."

"His power rests in the word, not the sword.... He is an army of one, and his empire is both as ethereal and as ubiquitous as the soul," it said.

"John Paul sees it as his duty to trouble the living stream of modernity. He stands solidly against much that the secular world deems progressive, the notion, for example, that humans share with God the right to determine who will and will not be born," the magazine said.

It cited his successful opposition to language supporting abortion at this summer's U.N. International Conference on Population and Development as a "formidable and controversial example" of his influence on world affairs.

The papal conflict with prevailing secular policy and belief at the population conference exemplified the pivotal role he is playing in a global conflict over

"different paths of reason and standards of truth," *Time* said.

"His major goals have been to clarify church doctrine—believers may experience doubt but should be spared confusion—and to reach out to the world, seek contacts with other faiths and proclaim to all the sanctity of the individual, body and soul," the magazine said.

Among other signs of the pope's influence it cited the popularity of his compact-disc recordings of the rosary and his best-selling book, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope."

Time devoted 16 pages to portraying the life, thought and world role of the 74-year-old pontiff. Apart from Pope John Paul and Pope John XXIII, in *Time's* 68-year tradition of Man of the Year only three other distinctively religious figures have been given the title—each because he was a charismatic leader of a major social movement in the world.

In 1930, pacifist Mahandas K. Gandhi, then in jail for leading India in peaceful civil disobedience defying British colonial rule, was named.

In 1963, it was the American black Baptist preacher who had become the nation's voice of conscience on civil rights, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. In 1979, the Man of the Year was a 79-year-old Shiite Muslim imam, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who sparked a worldwide Muslim revival when he returned from exile to lead a revolution in Iran and form an Islamic state.

Time said it spoke to the pope two weeks earlier about his philosophy, the controversy it has provoked and his role as a moral force in the world. It quoted his response: "It always goes back to the sanctity of the human being. The pope MUST be a moral force."

Faith Alive!

A Supplement to Catholic newspapers published by Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. All contents are copyrighted ©1994 by Catholic News Service.



IMAGES OF GOD—What would the world be like had God not become just like us? What would the world be like without the image of a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger? At Christmas, God is Emmanuel, "God-with-us," in the person of a homeless child. Pain, hunger, thirst and cold are all part of the human condition which God took on in becoming flesh. (CNS illustration by Joan Hynes)

At Christmas, God is Emmanuel

by Fr. Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. . . (Luke 2:1).

With those words, a hush settles over the whole church. The words touch some of the deepest memories we have, recalling Christmases in our early childhood when we first heard the Christmas Gospel.

For most of us, the idea we have of God lies nestled deep in these personal images and memories of Christmas.

There are times when God may seem remote, even abstract. Not at Christmas! Christmas brings us back to reality.

At Christmas, God is Emmanuel, "God-with-us," in the person of a homeless child. In that child we see God as the shepherds saw God, not in a powerful adult, the likes of a Caesar Augustus, but in a helpless infant dependent on Mary and Joseph.

Our Christmas image of God says a lot about God. It says that, for all God's glory and grandeur, God comes close to us in the person of Jesus. More than that, in Jesus, God becomes human like all of us, subject to joy, grief, illness, hunger and thirst, heat and cold.

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). The image actually shapes the way we view ourselves as human beings.

If God can take on our human condition, becoming just like us in Jesus, that gives all of us someone we can look up to, regardless of our race, ethnic background, or sex.

Our Christmas image of Jesus as a homeless child tells us that pain, hunger, thirst and cold are part of the human condition God took on in becoming flesh.

What would it be like for us had God not become just like us? What would the world be like without Christmas?

(Blessed Sacrament Father Eugene LaVerdiere is a Scripture scholar and senior editor of Emmanuel magazine.)

God's abundant love is the greatest gift

by Br. Cyprian L. Rowe, FMS

I recall one of my childhood Christmases that was a magical time in a world ablaze with lights of joy.

My cousin Ernestine and I sat on the subway replacing our lists of gifts already received and wondering aloud what more our relatives in Brooklyn would give to fill our bags.

Suddenly a young woman on the seat across the subway aisle started crying. Her sobs were loud. Her body shook.

Everyone else was silent. They seemed frightened and perhaps some felt violated to be reminded of such great pain on Christmas.

Ernestine and I stared, frightened, silent, unable in our childhood of plenty to understand how Christmas would, could, ever have allowed such tears.

But now, so many years later, I believe I understand.

- The greater the outer exclamation of fulfillment, the greater the violence of being alone.

- The stronger the insistence on gifts to be given and received, on longing, on being a part of something, the stronger the sense of being totally disconnected from what is going on in the world.

Everything becomes a piercing contradiction. The holidays become times of a nation for many.

In fact, God's Son—God's abundant love—is given to all.

That is the message of Christmas. And the meaning of Christmas enables everyone.

But on that long-ago subway train, something important was revealed—not just about a woman who was suffering, but about myself and so many others.

You might say that as the years unfolded in my life, the image of that woman caused me to meditate on how disconnected many of us are from the meaning of Christmas. We find it difficult to "get" the message of Christmas and what it says about us.

To the extent that we do not understand that God has lifted each of us and all of us to greatness, we human beings are in danger.

What is "inner poverty" in a time of plenty? It is the result of understanding oneself only in terms of images from the outside. It is the belief in images of wealth, fame, value, worth, goodness, achievement—all the things the world demands.

Whenever the acceptance of self depends on having all the things the world admires, a person is in great danger. That person is empty.

The person who has a poor image of himself or herself invariably gets a clouded image of God and God's love for him or her. It is hard for such a person to truly believe

that he or she is lovable. "Therefore, how can God truly love me?"

How awful the contradiction at this season when God's love incarnates itself in the gift of Christ who ennobles all humanity and challenges all creation to understand not only its purpose but also the overarching love of the Creator.

My work as a psychotherapist is to help people discover "the inside of the inside." We must use our eyes and ears to understand God: the messages of the Lord must be decoded through the heart and mind.

To really be connected with others, whether in marriage, in the church, or in society at large, people need a sense of their own necessity.

A few years ago, I began a special group therapy program aimed at a change in people's sense of self.

These were the principles or ground rules of the sessions:

- All human beings are sacred.
- A person's psychiatric diagnosis is not a definition of that person's humanity.

- And, in God's creation there is no waste! Everyone is here for a mission that only he or she can accomplish.

In this program, the participants and I started with prayer and ended with prayer. All prayer talked about genius—the call by God to creativity—to "increase and multiply," as I like to put it.

During meetings, we would not talk about illness—only about what the participants were doing and what each was planning to do so that their lives could be a contribution to themselves and to all others.

But I want to make clear that this was not the sort of "feel good" self-esteem meeting that had nothing to do but put people on the back no matter what they did or did not do, or that never challenged the participants to live up to their specific gifts.

I write about this therapy program at Christmas because Christmas is a time when inner poverty can be exchanged for plenty. It is a time when broken lives can be reclaimed and remodeled.

This is a time to insist that Jesus' coming ends our search for an image.

The Almighty has spoken! Love has incarnated itself in the gift of Christmas!

The person of faith knows that Christ's humanity ennobles all humanity and connects us to all others.

This is sanity. And this is a time for joy.

(Marist Brother Cyprian Rowe is a research associate in the Department of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and a dean of students at the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.)

DISCUSSION POINT

God is loving and forgiving

This Week's Question

What is your principal image or idea of God?

"As a loving, forgiving God. The one who understands me as no one else can." (Marguerite Reid, Baker, Ore.)

"For the first 40 years of my life, I saw God as judge. But I find it much more helpful and less limiting to see God as spirit or 'nah,' the Hebrew word for breath. This image of me does not put God in a box." (Anne Seelinger, South Bend, Ind.)

"As I moved through life and smacked head on into the inevitable struggles and heartaches . . . suddenly I found God everywhere—in the eyes of a beautiful grandchild . . . in the strong support given me by my children." (Bernice Bunny Cameron, Crofton, Neb.)

"The first image that comes to me is a welcoming

embrace, but also sometimes a challenging shove. And it's not one image over the other but both at the same time." (Sister Theresa Torres, Kansas City, Mo.)

"I picture God as someone up there watching what you do. If you do good, he rewards you, and if you do bad, he punishes you." (Debby Phillips, Barnesville, Ohio)

"God as Savior because I conceive of God as being pre-eminently merciful." (Richard Davies, Culver, Ind.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Why is it sometimes difficult to think before you act? If you would like to respond for possible publication, write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.



Catholic Kids™

By Jill Gibbons

Layout & Design by Susan McIlloin

You Did What?

How would you like to have to explain to God how you had lost his Son? That's what Mary and Joseph had to do when Jesus was 12.

They had taken him with them on their once-a-year trip to the temple, a very special church in Jerusalem. There were big crowds of people praying there.

Mary and Joseph stayed for the prayers. Then they headed home. Mary walked with the other women from her town. Joseph walked with the men. Mary thought Jesus was with Joseph. Joseph thought he was with Mary.

When they camped that night, they were amazed that Jesus was missing.

They began to pray to God for help. They also tried to explain how they had lost Jesus. Of course, God already knew all about it. But it's important for people to tell the Lord what's on their minds.

"I trusted you with my Son, Mary."

"I know you did, Lord. I was sure he was traveling with Joseph. Where could he be? He knew he was supposed to stay with the group. Could someone have taken him?"

"Think, Mary. If he's not with you, where would he be?"

"With you, Lord? Already? He's so young!"

"Just follow your heart, Mary."

Mary and Joseph hurried back to Jerusalem. Can you imagine how worried they were? They looked for three whole days before they found Jesus in the temple. He was talking to the priests and other learned men. These people thought they knew everything about God. They couldn't believe that a boy was able to explain God to them.

These men didn't know Jesus was the Son of God. To them, he was just a boy with an awesome mind. They came day after day to try to trick him. But he could answer any question, better than all of them put together!

When Mary and Joseph found Jesus, they were very happy. After



they got used to being happy, they were really hurt. It wasn't like Jesus to make them worry. So why, without warning, had he stayed behind without permission?

He had scared them to death!

"How could you do this to us?" Mary asked with a tear running down her cheek.

Very politely - Jesus was always polite - he said, "Why were you worried? Didn't you know that I had to do some work for my Father?"

Jesus wasn't talking about Joseph, his wonderful foster father. He was talking about his real Father in heaven. God had performed a miracle, a kind of magic that only he can do, to give Mary the baby Jesus. Now it was Jesus' job to tell everyone about his Father in heaven.

After those few days in the temple, Jesus lived in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph for years. Everybody in town knew he was a good son.

SECRET WORD

ASLEJUMER

THRAEF

CALMERI

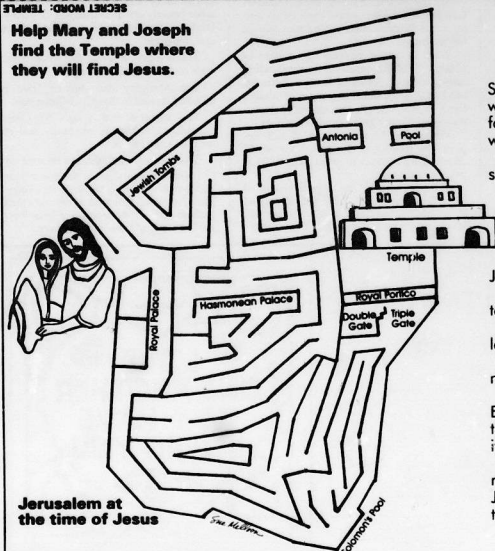
SRYPAR

Unscramble the words from the story and use the letters in the boxes to form the secret word below:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
----	----	----	----	----	----

SECRET WORD

Help Mary and Joseph find the Temple where they will find Jesus.



Jerusalem at the time of Jesus

TO THINK ABOUT

Mary and Joseph had good reason to worry about Jesus. Someone had tried to kill him when he was just a baby. When three wise men told King Herod about a bright star they had been following for **two years**, he was afraid that it was a sign someone would replace him as king.

Herod knew about the promise. God was going to send someone very important to help the people of Israel.

Herod didn't care about his people. He only cared about being king. He told his soldiers to kill all the babies in Bethlehem, where the savior was supposed to be born.

But an angel warned Joseph in a dream. He said, "Take Mary and baby Jesus to Egypt where Herod can't get them." Joseph followed the angel's orders.

They stayed in Egypt, away from all their friends, until the angel told them Herod was dead. It was safe to go home.

Mary and Joseph were **fantastic** parents. They weren't careless or grouchy.

Jesus was **the** most important person in their lives. Yet they did make one mistake that caused them days of worry.

There have been bad people on earth since the Garden of Eden. They make it unsafe for little children to wander away from their parents. Don't **ever** scare your mom and dad by getting lost if you can help it.

Jesus had a very good reason for staying in the temple. He knew nothing bad was going to happen to him there. You don't have Jesus' "magic mind." Stay close to your parents whenever they take you anywhere.

Stay safe; stay good; stay happy!

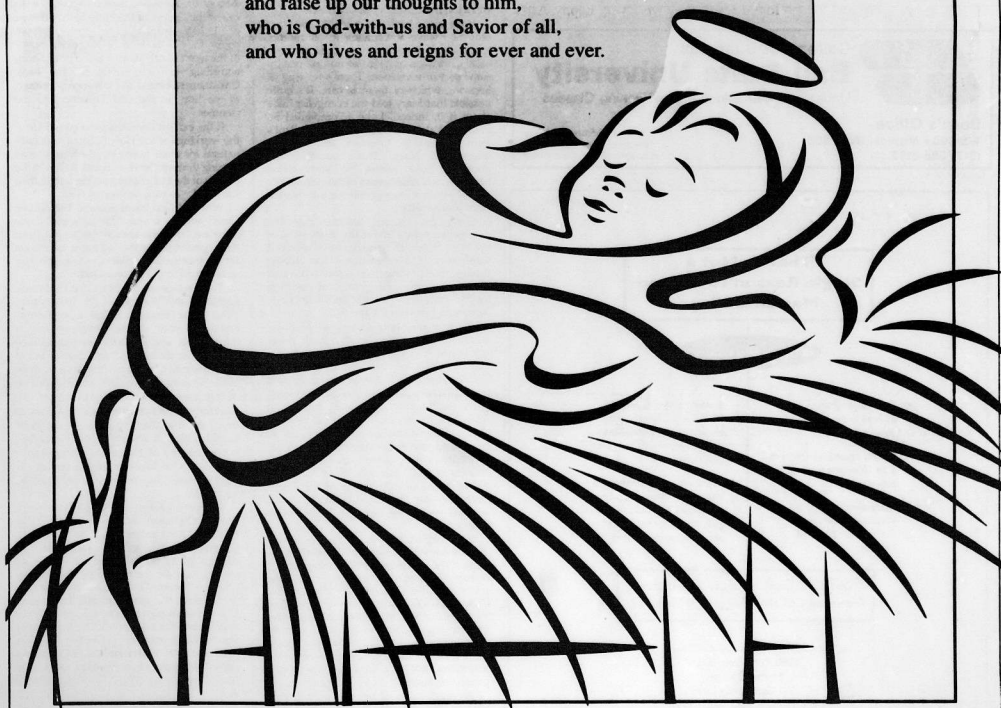
Blessed Christmas

A Christmas Blessing

Manger Blessing

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love;
when our need for a Savior was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love.

Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise up our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.



The wonder of the fact that God humbled himself to become human

It took the church a long time to sort out exactly who Jesus was. How could he be both God and man?

by John F. Fink

On Christmas we Christians celebrate a wondrous fact: that the Almighty God humbled himself to become human like us in order to redeem us.

Each Sunday, as we pray the Nicene Creed at Mass, we recite that we believe that "for us and for our salvation (God) came down from heaven by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man." We recite the Creed from memory so sometimes lose sight of the wonder of what we say we believe. If so, perhaps we can meditate on these words of St. Gregory Nazianzen as he explained the Incarnation:

"The very Son of God, older than the ages, the invisible, the incomprehensible, the incorporeal, the beginning of beginning, the light of light, the fountain of life and immortality, the image of the archetype, the unmovable seal, the perfect likeness, the definition and word of the Father: he it is who comes to his own image and takes our nature for the good of our nature, and united himself to an intelligent soul for the good of my soul, to purify like by like.

"He takes to himself all that is human, except for sin. He was conceived by the Virgin Mary, who had been first prepared in soul and body by the Spirit; his coming to birth had to be treated with honor, virginity had to receive new honor. He comes forth as God, in the human nature he has taken, one being, made of two contrary elements, flesh and spirit. Spirit gave divinity, flesh received it."

This is a hard doctrine to grasp, to say nothing about accepting it. Indeed, it took

the Christian church a long time to sort out exactly who Jesus Christ was. How could he be both God and human? Did he have one nature or two? Was he one person or two? Was he created by God the Father? These questions and many more were faced by the early church.

Growing up as a Catholic and possessing the faith that was a free gift to me from God, I couldn't understand how some of the early heresies could have had so many followers. Arianism in particular, which taught that Jesus was created by God the Father and therefore was not equal to him, for a long time had more adherents than did what we now consider orthodox Christianity. I now realize that most of those who call heretics were actually sincere people who were honestly trying to come to terms with their belief in Jesus.

If I did not have John's Gospel we would not know from the Gospels that Jesus was the Word of God who "came down from heaven" and "was made flesh." The synoptic Gospel writers were intent on making the point that Jesus was the long-awaited messiah and the Son of God but his pre-existence as God is only in the fourth Gospel.

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke tell us about the birth of Jesus. In those Gospels Mary is told by the angel Gabriel that Jesus will be called "Son of the Most High" (Lk 1:32) and "holy, the Son of God" (Lk 1:35). But only John tells us that "in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (Jn 1:1).

But we do have John's Gospel and the

church's teachings about Jesus are all consistent with that Gospel. Thus, as St. Pope Leo the Great wrote, "In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind" (from a reading in the *breviary for Christmas*).

Our Creed tells us more about this child whose birth we celebrate on Christmas: He is "the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father." He is "begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father." This was meant to refute the Arians who taught that the Father made the Son and was superior to him.

Our Creed says that "through him all things were made" just as John's Gospel tells us that "all things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be" (Jn 1:3). The purpose here is to emphasize that the Word was the Creator. Even today we sometimes hear the Trinity referred to as the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sanctifier instead of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. But the Creed and John's Gospel tell us that the Second Person of the Trinity was the Creator as well as the Redeemer.

We also say that we believe that "by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man." This, of course, is the doctrine of the virgin birth (not to be confused with the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception which is that Mary was conceived in her mother's womb without original sin). Are we, in this modern age, really supposed to believe that Jesus was born of a virgin? Yes.

The great Protestant theologian, Karl Barth, who died in 1968, once said about the dogma of the virgin birth: "The church knew what she was doing when she placed this dogma like a guard, as it were, at the entrance to the mystery of Christmas."

If the virgin birth was a reality, there are only two ways of knowing it: his mother spoke about it to the evangelists or other early Christians, or it was communicated by some sort of revelation. There's no way of knowing which of these is true. It's quite possible that Mary told the evangelist Luke about it, if indeed, Luke accompanied St. Paul to Palestine at the time of Paul's imprisonment in Caesarea and actually interviewed Mary. That's possible, but doubtful. Luke makes no such claim. Matthew, who also speaks of the virgin birth, would also not have gotten the information from Jesus' mother.

Since the church teaches that the evangelists wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they might have received some sort of a revelation. More likely, though, both evangelists wrote what had already become part of an oral tradition by the time they wrote their Gospels—sometime between 70 and 90.

It's true that only Luke and Matthew speak of the virgin birth. Paul never mentioned it in any of his letters, nor did Mark or John or any of the other New Testament writers. But there is no doubt that second-century Christians were convinced of the reality of the doctrine. St. Ignatius of Antioch, who was martyred in the year 107 after serving as bishop of Antioch for 40 years, said that there were "three eloquent mysteries which were wrought in the stillness of God: the virginity of Mary, her giving birth, and the death of the Lord" (letter to the church at Ephesus while Ignatius was being taken to Rome for his martyrdom).

If the virgin birth was not a reality, where did the early church get this belief? In his book "The Mystery of the Incarnation," Bishop Christopher Schonborn (the chief editor of "The Catechism of the Catholic Church") wrote: "Anyone who puts forward the view that the primitive church invented this 'theologoumenon' in order to underline the significance of Jesus must also be able to explain why the church thus invented something that only gave her Jewish and pagan neighbors an occasion for mockery."

As an example of this mockery, Bishop Schonborn mentions St. Justin's "Dialogues" with the Jewish Rabbi Trypho in the year 155. Trypho accused Christians of telling myths like those of the Greeks, e.g., the myth

of Perseus who was born of the virgin Danae. "You should be ashamed of telling such stories," Trypho told Justin. "It would be better for you to assert that this Jesus had been born as a man among men."

Another example of this mockery given by Bishop Schonborn is the pagan writer Celsus in 178. He wrote ironically about God's love affair with an insignificant Jewish girl. And as early as the end of the first century stories circulated which changed Jesus' virgin birth into an indiscretion with a Roman soldier on the part of Mary.

Bishop Schonborn concludes: "In spite of all these attacks the teaching concerning the virgin birth was held fast; this shows that it cannot be explained in terms of what was found plausible at the time. This is even clearer if we take into account the disputes that were going on in the church. In second-century gnosticism the virgin birth was partly rejected and partly accepted, but in a way which denied the real Incarnation: it was said that the Logos went through Mary as through a channel or tube."

It seems, therefore, that the fact of the virgin birth was a solid belief from the earliest Christians and the starting point of attempts to understand, interpret, and finally to proclaim this fact.

The church has consistently taught not only that Mary was a virgin when she conceived Jesus, but also through and after the birth of Christ (*ante partum, in partu, et post partum*, according to an ancient formula). This means that Mary did not undergo labor and birth as we know it but that the Christ child passed through her body while leaving Mary physically intact.

How was Jesus conceived? The Nicene Creed says, "By the power of the Holy Spirit." The Apostles' Creed says more explicitly, "He was conceived by the Holy Spirit." This doctrine comes directly from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Matthew: "It is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her" (1:20). Luke: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (1:35).

Luke wrote much about the Holy Spirit, not only in his Gospel but even more in his Acts of the Apostles. Indeed, Acts has been called the Gospel of the Holy Spirit because of Luke's emphasis on the Christian community as the Holy Spirit-guided bearer of the word of salvation. It is the Holy Spirit, Christians to extend the salvation promised to the Jews in the Old Testament to the Gentiles.

If the earliest church was so conscious of the workings of the Holy Spirit, it was only natural for them to see Jesus' conception as coming through the Holy Spirit. If God in the person of the Holy Spirit was the father, then this child was truly the Son of God.

Why did God become man? The Nicene Creed tells us it was "for us and for our salvation," but the church has taught from the beginning of its theology that the reason for the Incarnation is that "God became man so that man might become God."

The Preface of the Mass for Christmas speaks of this purpose of the Incarnation: "You have brought about a wondrous exchange; your divine Word became a mortal man, and in Christ we mortal men receive your divine life." And the Collect of the Christmas Mass says, "Grant us to share in the divinity of your Son, who has put on our human nature." Indeed, one of the Offertory prayers for every Mass asks God to let us share in the divinity of Christ as he humbled himself to become man.

St. Gregory of Nyssa once expressed it this way: "God takes on the poverty of my flesh so that I may receive the riches of his godhead."

Let me return to Bishop Schonborn as a fitting conclusion to this essay. In "The Mystery of the Incarnation," he says, "The Christmas theme of the 'wondrous exchange' gives the direction in which we should look for the Christian idea of how man can become God. Paul shows the way: 'You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich' (2 Cor 8:9). Thus the Christian path of divinization can only be a path which makes man like God, like him in his 'self-emptying' (Phil 2:7) which makes us rich."

"The goal of God's Incarnation is man's divinization. And as for the path to this goal, it can be none other than the path taken by the Son of God in becoming man for us."



College of Business Ball State University

Undergraduate/Graduate Day/Evening Classes

Dean's Office
WB 100 - Muncie, IN 47306
(317) 285-6192

Ball State University
practices equal opportunity
in education and employment

There's Not a Single Reason to Attend Marian College

There are many!

- Degree programs are offered in more than 65 subject areas
- Faculty-to-student ratio of 1 to 13 means personalized attention
- Attractive financial aid and scholarship packages available for qualified students
- Student activities ranging from nationally recognized musicians and comedians to student-produced concerts and showcases
- Wide variety of varsity and intramural sports including basketball, baseball, softball, golf, tennis, track, soccer, and competitive cycling.

And this is only part of the story of this Franciscan Catholic "College that Mentors."

To find out more about Marian College, call:
Office of Admissions
Marian College
3200 Cold Spring Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46222-1997
1-800-772-7264

Awards encourage Christians to live joyfully

Fellowship of Merry Christians recognizes positive and negative responses to the Christian message

by Cal Santra

The ecumenical Fellowship of Merry Christians has given its first annual Scrooge Award to the Jesus Seminar, a collection of 150 religion scholars, for their timing in publishing—at Christmas in 1993—a book casting deadly serious doubts about who Jesus is and what he said.

The interdenominational fellowship also has given its first annual True Spirit of Christmas Present Award to 82-year-old Sherwood Eliot Wirt of Poway, Calif., for his newly published book entitled "The Book of Joy," published by McCracken Press in New York.

The consensus of the Jesus Seminar scholars, published in a book titled "The Five Gospels: The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus," was that no more than 18 percent of the sayings attributed to Jesus in the New Testament were actually spoken by him, and that Jesus never regarded himself as the Messiah and the Son of God.

This year the Fellowship of Merry Christians decided to give the new Scrooge Award annually "to the organization or group whose humbug most insistently dampens the Spirit of Christmas at Christmas time."

In announcing the award, the fellow-

ship's newsletter, *The Joyful Noiseletter*, quoted P.T. Barnum of circus fame.

"More people, on the whole, are humbugged," Barnum said, "by believing in nothing than by believing in too much."

The fellowship's True Spirit of Christmas Present Award also will be given annually "to the person or organization who best exemplifies the True Spirit of Christmas Present."

Dr. Wirt's "The Book of Joy" focuses on the merry men and women of God through the centuries, including St. Francis of Assisi, Brother Lawrence, Billy Bray, Pecos Higgins, Corrie ten Boom, Grady Wilson, and Billy Graham.

"The Bible," Dr. Wirt writes, "is a book of joy. When the Holy Spirit brings revival to our generation, it will not come with black clouds and premonitions of doom. Revival will come when the churches of the 90s begin laughing and singing and loving each other (and) are filled with the joy of his salvation."

In announcing Dr. Wirt's award, *The*

joyful Noiseletter cited author G.K. Chesterton's observation that, "Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly."

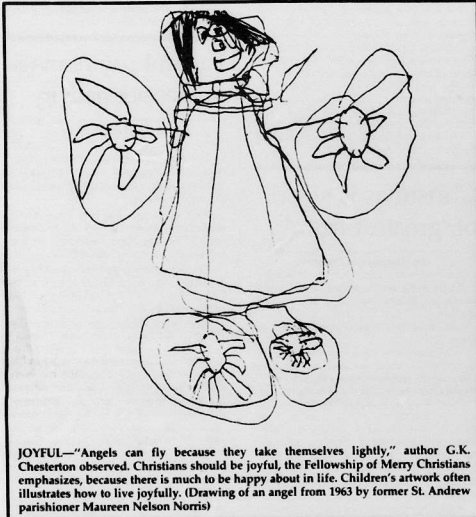
And the fellowship said, "Dr. Wirt's book will help readers grow wings and fly with the joy that our joyful Savior intended his followers to have at Christmas and year-round."

Dr. Wirt, who is a member of the Fellowship of Merry Christians, is the former editor of "Decision" magazine, which he founded with Billy Graham.

Winners of both fellowship awards were given complimentary subscriptions to *The Joyful Noiseletter*.

Nominations for the 1995 awards may be sent to the Fellowship of Merry Christians, P.O. Box 895, Portage, Mich. 49081-0895. Information about the fellowship is also available by writing to that address.

Cal Santra is the founder of the Fellowship of Merry Christians and the editor of the fellowship newsletter.



JOYFUL—"Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly," author G.K. Chesterton observed. Christians should be joyful, the Fellowship of Merry Christians emphasizes, because there is much to be happy about in life. Children's artwork often illustrates how to live joyfully. (Drawing of an angel from 1963 by former St. Andrew parishioner Maureen Nelson Norris)

St. Bridget kindergartners thank God for many gifts

Children recognize blessings from God

God gives people many gifts. St. Bridget kindergartners from Indianapolis said earlier this year, as they contemplated life in first grade and the blessings that the Lord has given them.

A sampling of their comments was gathered with help from Emily Warren, director of St. Bridget's Nursery & Kindergarten.

God helps you learn how to read and spell and run fast. He helps you feel happy.

He helps you learn and think, and he helps you by loving you. He takes care of you.

He listens to my prayers. He helps me get ready for church. He helps me smile and stop being sad. He helps me have friends.

He helps you when you talk to him. He helps you learn to ride your bike. He helps you get a knot out of your shoestring.

He helps me when I am sick. He helps me stay out of the cold in the winter. He helped me get out of kindergarten.

He made everything. He helps me not to be bad.

He puts food on my table. He gave me a house to live in and clothes and shoes and socks.

He helps you make friends and have fun. He helps me do my lessons.

He helps you do nice things for other people.

He helps you pray. You can pray anywhere. You've got to pray to him every day. Every time I go to bed I always say my prayers. He wants you to love him. He loves us very much.

He hears our prayers. He helps you think and be smart, and get a job and mind your own business and do good stuff. We're supposed to share with others.

I pray for God and he prays for me.

He gives you food, a home, a church, a school, trees and grass, and people. He gives you the world.

He helps you go to school. He helps you have clothes on your back and food on your table when you were hungry. He helps you when you are sick. He helped my mother get well. I love him.

ATLAS
RESTAURANT SUPPLY

FOOD SERVICE EQUIPMENT
AND SUPPLIES

One of THE LARGEST SHOWROOMS
IN THE MIDWEST . . . with a fully-stocked inventory

- RESTAURANTS
- CHURCHES
- HOTELS
- MOTELS
- SCHOOLS

- INSTITUTIONS
- NURSING HOMES
- PAPER SUPPLIES
- CLUBS
- CHINA • GLASS

- HOSPITALS
- UTENSILS
- TAVERNS
- ICE MACHINES
- KITCHEN EQUIP.
- HOBART FOOD EQUIP.
- SOUTH BEND
- RANGES

\$\$\$ SAVE \$\$\$
LOW, LOW
CASH & CARRY PRICES

SHOWROOM OPEN TO PUBLIC

HOURS: MON.-FRI. 8:30 AM-5 PM
SAT. 8:30 AM-NOON

3329 N. Shadeland Ave.
34th & Shadeland Ave., Indpls.

541-1111

1-800-333-2001

St. Francis Hospital Center

We believe there's more to good care than good medicine.

St. Francis Hospital Center has been serving Indianapolis and central Indiana since 1914. From humble beginnings we've grown to become a leading Midwest medical institution.

St. Francis Hospital Center continues to offer professional medical care and works with the latest techniques and technologies available. Whether it's our sixty-bed psychiatric unit or our special services for Seniors, St. Francis has the health concerns of business too, with occupational health and back to work programs tailored to each company or individual.

Our women's health program is among the most complete and unique in Indianapolis, offering comprehensive services, from obstetrics and breast cancer screening, to education; we really understand women and their special needs.

But what makes our professional care so special is our compassionate caring. It's a unique spirit within St. Francis that touches every patient every day. Talk to your physician, or call us about the many programs and services available here. We really do believe there's more to good care than good medicine.

ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL & HEALTH CENTERS
Our Specialty is Life

1600 Albany Street
Beech Grove, IN 46107

We can help you find the right physician for you and your family.
Call us at 782-6699.

Readers share Christmas memories

Miracle on 30th St. makes up for loss

by Fr. Joseph Schaezel

It was about the most horrible crime you could think of. It was also the year of the Cabbage Patch Doll. By Christmas Eve, the toy stores had been depleted of the cute little hot item of that holiday season.

The crime took place in the parking lot adjacent to St. Michael Church on West 30th Street in Indianapolis, the scene of my first priestly assignment. During the Children's Liturgy on the evening of Dec. 24, thieves had broken into several cars parked near the church.

The pastor, the late Father Pat Harpenau, knew one of the victims well. The parents had been his students at Bishop Chatard High School. And with four little girls, they barely made ends meet.

The proud family had watched one of the girls carry the figure of the Baby Jesus to the manger as part of the liturgy that evening.

Before Mass, she had nervously confided to me that she had asked the Baby Jesus to let Santa bring her a Cabbage Patch Doll. That's it, just that popular little doll.

Her folks were beaming from the front pew while she processed with us down the aisle. Little did they know that thieves were busy stealing their entire meager, but lovingly wrapped, stash of Christmas gifts left in the car during Mass. One of those packages contained the coveted Cabbage Patch Doll, purchased at great sacrifice.

Not only the parents and children, but Father Pat and I were devastated when we learned about the thefts. How could someone be so cruel on Christmas Eve?

Harsh thoughts gave way to consoling the girls and deciding how best to help the crushed parents. Between the two of us, we had little trouble reimbursing them for their loss. They did not have

much money to spend on gifts anyway. But the Cabbage Patch Doll, long extinct from toy store shelves, would be impossible to replace.

Father Pat, because he was pastor, somehow felt responsible. He was so sensitive, and it all I could do to console him.

It seemed so out of place, but vindictive thoughts about the robbers plagued my thoughts, even during the rest of the Christmas Masses. More than once, I was tempted to ask the porcelain Child how he could have let this happen!

Without details, we added this victimized family to our list of petitions during each liturgy.

After the last Mass, the telephone rang. It was the priest-chaplain of a nearby hospital, just calling to wish the residents of St. Michael rectory a "Merry Christmas."

He also had a strange question to ask! "People give me all kinds of gifts," he explained. "One of the nurses even gave me a Cabbage Patch Doll! Can you imagine? Why would she give me a doll? Do you guys know of anyone who could use it?"

The film "Miracle on 34th Street" is a wonderful fantasy. Even more wonderful is the "Miracle on West 30th Street" that occurred that memorable Christmas.

(Father Joseph Schaezel is the vicar general of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.)

Christmas is story of 'greatest truth'

by Sharon O'Connor

There really isn't just one Christmas that stands out in my mind as being so very special.

Oh, sure, the childhood memories are there:

- the year I was 5 and was determined to stay up and wait for Santa when a rumbling "Ho ho ho" sent me scurrying off to bed, kicking my shoes aside and hopping in to bury my head beneath the covers;

- the Christmas morning a few years later when I awoke to a blanket of new snow and discovered sleigh tracks and tiny hoof prints leading from the front porch and around the house to suddenly vanish like magical reindeer taking off into the night;

- the Christmas my two younger brothers and I spent almost the entire day watching three little metal wind-up cars go 'round and 'round a metal track, lost in a children's world of make-believe;

- the bubble lights twinkling among the needles of a cedar tree;

- eating homemade chocolate pie;
- the crackling of logs in the fireplace as shadows danced around a golden room.

But these events happened a lifetime ago and, while pleasant to recall, do not clearly illumine the specialness of Christmas.

And there are the seasonal experiences here and now:

- lighting the Advent candles;
- reminding my own children that Jesus received three gifts and so shall they;

- the cookie baking;
- sharing Christmas stories and poems;

- watching all the traditional movies;
- the smell of church at Midnight Mass;
- all the special times spent together.

These experiences don't completely exemplify what Christmas is to me. Instead, perhaps Christmas becomes special not in all of my "doing," but just in my "being," during those quiet interludes when I take time to touch the person deep within myself.

In those times, Christmas becomes a kaleidoscope of all the colors, sights, sounds, smells, voices and smiling faces from Christmases past swirling about in my brain, making me aware of, and reaffirming my belief in, the greatest religious truth of them all—that Jesus was born to die just for me.

And the revelation of that joy is why Christmas may come on the hottest day in July when I pop a tape of Christmas songs into the tape player and contemplate that most miracle of miracles while wiping the tears from my eyes.

A special Christmas? Every Christmas! Thank you, God, for loving me!

(Sharon O'Connor is a member of St. Rose Parish in Knightstown.)

Faithful pay homage at Hoosier nativity

by Shirley Hentrup

Our family's favorite Christmas story is ongoing. It happens every year on the Sunday after Thanksgiving and lasts through Epiphany.

Four years ago, our son, Paul, and his wife, Betty, decided to set up a life-sized nativity in their barn, which sits beside a rural highway in southern Indiana.

The whole family gathers to build figures made of 2 x 4s, padding, hot glue, wire, and "what have you." A favorite doll was sacrificed to be Baby Jesus.

Each year something new is added. First, three kings were added, then a camel (which even the grandchildren helped construct of paper mache), and this year two lambs are in the plans. The figures are getting new wardrobes which are being sewn by Betty and two of our daughters.

Two years ago, something special happened that touched us all. On Christmas Eve it snowed, and early on Christmas morning Betty went out to take pictures of the nativity before there were tracks in the snow. She decided to step into the scene to take a photograph of the crib with snow on it, and there, in the crib, were three huge red roses. We each had our own thoughts about who and why.

Last year, a few days before Christmas, three red and three yellow roses were placed in the crib. I thought, "The person who was moved to place the roses there last year changed their plans a little."

But, lo, on Christmas morning, three huge red roses were there again.

Many people make a pilgrimage to our nativity. I choose to call it a pilgrimage because it is out of the way for many. Our family tradition has become a tradition for many others. As the young daughter of a friend of my sister says, "We have to go see the nativity. That's our tradition!"

(Shirley Hentrup is a member of St. Mary Parish in New Albany.)

Westside Retirement Village

Wishes You and Yours
A Blessed Holiday Season and a
Happy and Healthy New Year

Westside Retirement Village

8616 West 10th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46234
317-271-1020



Odds of Winning

You can't experience the thrill of winning if you're not on the team.

That's why Park Tudor's athletic programs are designed for maximum student participation. Eight out of ten students participate in their choice of 12 sports at Park Tudor. There are 33 teams for Park Tudor's nearly 400 boys and girls in the middle school and high school athletic programs. And Park Tudor coaches are skilled leaders who stimulate competitive interaction while fostering the valuable lessons to be learned through athletic involvement.

Participation. It teaches the lifelong values of camaraderie and cooperation; leadership and discipline; commitment and victory; and even defeat. The odds of winning are higher at Park Tudor.



PARK TUDOR SCHOOL, 7200 North College Avenue, P.O. Box 40488, Indianapolis, IN 46240-0488
317/254-2700

Park Tudor School admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.



CHRISTMAS ROSES—Each year roses appear in the life-sized nativity scene at a farm near New Albany. Visiting the handmade nativity scene alongside this rural route in Indiana road has become a holiday tradition for many people. (Photo by Shirley Hentrup)

Family finds perfect tree in Germany

by Phyllis Burkholder

We lived in Germany from 1974 until 1978. My husband was stationed at two different Air Force military bases there. Sembach Air Base was located in the southern part of Germany and Hesselbach-Oldendorf Air Base had been established in northern Germany.

We had wonderful experiences living with a German family, the Barkers, near Sembach, and while living there became acquainted with our wonderful German priest friend, Father Rinnert, who later came north to baptize our child at his first English Mass.

We loved the Sembach area and had no desire to transfer elsewhere, but orders came for us to move to northern Germany. It was the first time Americans had moved into the area, and there were lots of homes needed for renting as the base was too small to accommodate all of the families moving in.

My husband preceded us to Hesselbach-Oldendorf and through the Large family found out that Frau Blume was renting her second floor. We moved in at 21 Damm Strasse in Fischbeck. The Polesia and Freitag families were among our new friends.

Frau Blume had only one married son, who lived in another village. Her husband had died just six months earlier, so she took us under her wing. She always smiled, but didn't know a word of English! We knew some German phrases, and our conversations with her in German really improved our speaking skills. Our children loved her, and she loved them.

Frau Blume would let the children come into her home on the first floor. She cooked at a *Gasthaus* and whatever she catered to them she would always give a small portion to us to try. Everything she prepared—*salat, tongue rague, kuchen, goulash, rot kraut, fletsch*—was delicious.

Oma (grandma) Blebaum was her good friend, as was Frau Stolle, who lived across the street. The wonderful thing about all these women was that they really loved our children.

Frau Blume and her friends were a wonderful set of grandmothers for our children! Sometimes we'd ask Frau Blume to babysit—and she usually did—but if she was already busy she wouldn't tell us. She would simply ask Oma Blebaum or Frau Stolle to help with the children instead.

It was a few days before Christmas in 1977. Frau Blume asked us to go out with her and Oma to get a Christmas tree. We loaded the children, both ladies, blankets, the ax and saw, everything we would need to get our tree, into our Volkswagen van.

It was so cold and snowy, but so much fun! Off we went up away from the village to the forest. This was a real highlight, as when I was growing up my family always went out to cut our Christmas tree. I was pleased that our children would be able to experience the same delight, only in the country of Germany where the people originated the tradition of the Christmas tree.

Finally we got to a place in the forest where there were a lot of young pines. Frau Blume owned this part of the forest. We all got out of the van and went in different

directions in search of the perfect tree. These trees were all so nicely shaped, so each searcher found just the right one.

While we were busy searching for our Christmas tree, we discovered the most beautiful and perfect tree in all the world. This tree had been decorated with tinsel, ornaments, chocolate candy, glittery gold, candy canes, and ribbons, and was the most dazzling tree our eyes could behold. The children were enthralled! Only in a German forest could you find this!

Even Frau Blume and Oma Blebaum were smiling as they saw the children's delighted faces. What pleasure these two German women got out of seeing the wonderment on our children's faces. God bless them.

(Phyllis Burkholder is a member of St. Joseph Hill Parish in Sellersburg.)

Cat takes liking to ill-fated tree

by Rita Phillips

This is a story about a cat named Sylvester and an ill-fated Christmas tree.

Sylvester was a very large black and white cat. He came to our house when he was just a kitten. He was left on our doorstep, half starved and very scared.

I have a child who loves cats and always took in any stray animal. Somehow they were always left at our house.

Sylvester grew up to be a lovable but quite clumsy cat. I tried to insist that he stay outside, yet at night he managed to be inside and asleep on my child's bed.

Christmas was coming, and we had put up a fir tree decorated with pretty red and green ornaments.

One night we were awakened by a strange noise. Sylvester was batting the balls off the tree, and he already had torn the ribbons off the presents.

When we confronted him, he just stood there with his goofy look, as if to say, "I didn't do it."

Sylvester was put outside after being told he had to stay out until after Christmas. He was gone for two days. My child was afraid something had happened to him, especially after a winter storm.

That evening we heard a cry from the porch. It was Sylvester. He jumped into the house, his paws covered with ice and snow. As he was doing a tap dance on the kitchen floor, trying to free himself of the ice, he must have spied the Christmas tree. He made a wild dash for it.


Before we could blink, he had climbed up into the tree and tipped it over. It crashed to the floor, with Sylvester in the middle of all the broken pieces of ornaments. He looked at us as if to say, "I didn't do it. Please don't put me out."

That year we tied the tree to the wall. There weren't many ornaments left on it. It seemed to me that Sylvester turned into a more arrogant and sophisticated cat that Christmas. He seemed content in the knowledge that—regardless of whether he had damaged the decorated tree—he got to stay inside the house after that.


(Rita Phillips is a member of St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad.)




LET IT SNOW—When it snows, children grab coats and hats and mittens—sometimes—then hurry outside to challenge friends in a snowball fight, build snowmen or snowwomen, and go sledding on the closest hill. The fluffy white stuff also helps put people in the mood for Christmas caroling and other seasonal outdoor activities. (Photo by Mary Ann Wyand)



PORTER-OLIGER-PEARSON
FUNERAL HOME
THOMAS and MICHAEL PORTER, Directors
302 N. FRANKLIN GREENSBURG





Jerry Waldron
2412 W. 16th St.
Bedford, Indiana
— PHONE —
275-3383

WM. R. MAISH
COMPANY
Custom
Commercial Cabinet
and Mill Work
631-4884
1906 W. 16th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

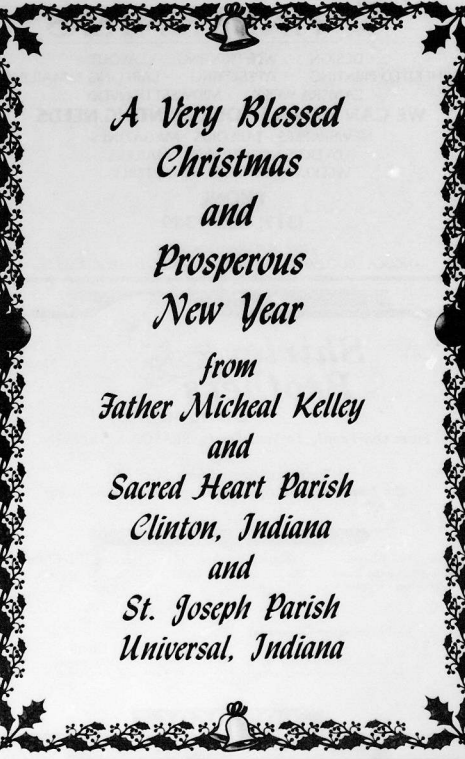
GREETINGS!
N.E. Sappenfield
Agency
"The Insurance Store"
60 Churchman Avenue
Beech Grove, IN 46107
788-9931



FROSTY—These members of the Sigma Chi fraternity at Butler University in Indianapolis stand back to admire their handiwork after completing an eight-foot-tall snowman in front of their fraternity house recently. Instead of the traditional black hat which made Frosty the Snowman famous, they opted for a red Sigma Chi derby. (Photo by Mary Ann Wyand)

*A Very Blessed
Christmas
and
Prosperous
New Year*

*from
Father Micheal Kelley
and
Sacred Heart Parish
Clinton, Indiana
and
St. Joseph Parish
Universal, Indiana*



Readers recall Christmas

Grandpa plans special surprise

by Joan M. Gutzwiller

My most memorable Christmas was in 1975. At the time, we had one son who was 3 years old. He was also the only grandchild. Needless to say, all attention was focused on him at Christmas.

Our family tradition was to spend Christmas Eve at my in-laws' house, so we were enjoying the night's festivities when the doorbell rang. It was late, and we weren't expecting any other visitors.

As my son and I hurried to look out the window, we thought we heard sleigh bells. Then we saw a figure running from the front porch across the lawn. It was dark, but I thought I saw a red suit.

We ran straight to the front door and opened it to find a yellow convertible

push-pedal toy car on the front porch. Of course it was just the right size for my son. His eyes were as big as saucers, and we couldn't get the pedal car inside the house quickly enough.

Suddenly all the family members gathered around and listened excitedly to what had just happened outside. My son kept saying, "Santa here! Santa here!"

As I looked around the room, Grandpa—or Paw Paw, as we called him—had the rosiest cheeks and seemed a little out of breath.

I also noticed that the sleigh bells which always hung on the fireplace were missing from the mantel.

This was a very special Christmas because Paw Paw passed away the following May.

My son, who is 22 now, still remembers that wonderful night, probably because we retell the story every year to keep this beautiful memory alive in our hearts.

(Joan Gutzwiller is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.)



FIRST CHRISTMAS—Dressed in a little Santa suit, 2-month-old Matthew English of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis gets his first look at Santa Claus during a special Breakfast With Santa program on Dec. 10 at the Indianapolis East Deane parish. He is the son of Holy Spirit parishioners Jeff and Trish English of Indianapolis. (Photo by Mary Ann Wyand)

Grandpa Claus helps Santa Claus

by Lois A. Claus Gutzwiller

The Christmas season always brought so much happiness around our home.

My mother, Martha Claus, would always create undergarment aromas by baking both German and American goodies, and I can still hear my husband, Paul, singing "O Tannenbaum" in German.

My father's name was Emil Claus. Each Christmas new children would find his name in the telephone book and call him, thinking he surely was the real Santa Claus.

News traveled fast among the children who called him. He had an authentic accent since he was from the Alsace region of France, so he sounded like what children thought the real Santa Claus sounded like.

He always made a point to include several "Ho! Ho! Ho!" in every chat with the young callers, as well as asking if they had been good. Of course, they always were! He would end each call by saying, "Be sure to say your prayers and obey your mommy and daddy." Each child would always respond, "I will, Santa!"

I remember one time a little boy asked for a firetruck, so my father asked me to purchase one and mail it to the child.

Later my father received a thank you letter from the child's mother, who said her son truly must have spoken to the real Santa as she was not able to afford such a wonderful present.

Oh, if only those days could return! I cherish the happy memories.

(Lois A. Claus Gutzwiller is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.)

Contest cancels Christmas cookies

by Alice Dailey

A contest for boys and girls promised "five dollars to the winner just in time for Christmas. You must memorize 'Webster says, to repair is to make as good as new.' Be here at 8 a.m."

With eyes on the prize, my sister and I nagged Mom into taking us even though she had planned to do Christmas baking.

Promptly at 8 o'clock, hordes of eager youngsters and parents showed up. The judges were not so prompt. They strolled around and made telephone calls, so it was 9 o'clock before proceedings began.

Any entrant who flubbed a word or started over was eliminated. Those who had triumphantly sailed through "Webster says" fidgeted and sweated and watched the clock as it inched toward the deadline. The judges watched the door.

Minutes before the time ran out, an

encourage of VIF's burst in, carrying something wrapped in furs, which when unwrapped proved to be a plump little girl in red velvet. She started pouting and hamming it up.

"This is Sarah," Judge One announced. "Ready to start, honey?"

Finger in mouth, Sarah shook plump curls.

"She's a little nervous. Let's give her time. Begin when you're ready, Sarah."

Twisting about, she said, "Webster sayze . . ."

"What's the rest, dear?"

Grinding patent leather Mary Janes into the floor and rolling her eyes, she began again, "Webster sayze . . ."

Repeating the scenario a few more times brought mutterings from the crowd.

Judge Two whispered in Sarah's ear. Sizing up the unsmiling audience, she cut her act short and belted out, "Webster sayze to repair is to make as good as new."

The judges clapped. "We declare Sarah to be the winner. Agreed?"

"Boo!" the departing crowd roared.

Mom grumbled. "I could have baked five batches of cookies in the time we wasted here."

(Alice Dailey is a member of Little Flower Parish in Indianapolis.)

Santa's helper assists poor man

by Therese Dailey

About a year or so ago, I heard this homily during the Midnight Mass at my parish.

The person who told the story during the Christmas Eve liturgy was an eyewitness to it.

A woman and her young son were shopping at a department store. When they finished selecting their items and went to pay for them, they noticed a man who was shabbily dressed standing in front of them in the check-out line.

The woman heard the cashier tell the man how much he owed for his purchase, and she noticed that the man didn't have enough money to pay for his gift.

Without hesitating, the woman said to him, "Tardon me, sir. I think you dropped this on the floor."

In her hand was the rest of the money that the man needed to pay for his purchase.

Of course he hadn't dropped the money. But by the quiet way the woman addressed him and said what she did, she saved the poor man's dignity and he was able to accept her generous offer of assistance.

He probably felt that God surely does work in mysterious ways.

This, for me, is a wonderful Christmas memory.

(Therese Dailey is a member of Little Flower Parish in Indianapolis.)

Holiday Greetings From
COLUMBUS OPTICAL
CHARLES OLIVER, CERTIFIED OPTICIAN
2475 Cottage, Columbus (812) 372-4117

Season's Greetings from
HNE PRINTERS
• DESIGN • WEB PRINTING • LAYOUT
• SHEETED PRINTING • TYPESETTING • LABELING & MAILING
• CAMERA WORK • MIDWEST DELIVERY
WE CAN HANDLE YOUR PRINTING NEEDS
NEWSPAPERS • TABLOIDS • MAGAZINES
ADVERTISING PREPRINTS • MAILERS
WEEKLY • MONTHLY • QUARTERLY
PHONE (317) 865-1349
• FIVE INDIANA LOCATIONS •
ANGOLA • COLUMBUS • FRANKLIN • GREENFIELD • MONTICELLO

Shirley Brothers
MORTUARIES
From Our Family To Your Family SEASON'S GREETINGS
A Tradition of Family Service Since 1898
The family to turn to when Your Family Needs Help
5 INDIANAPOLIS LOCATIONS
Castleton Chapel 9900 Allisonville Road **Shirley Brothers** 3333 E. Thompson Road **Irving Hill Chapel** 5377 E. Washington Street
Where Ellis Road meets Allisonville New Location In the Heart of Irvington
Washington Memorial Chapel 9606 E. Washington Street
Between Washington Park of Memorial Park Center
Drexel Chapel 4565 E. 10th Street
In the Lakewood Neighborhood
897-9606

Longtime friends share a nutty gift

by Charles A. Withem

This Christmas tradition began in 1944 when a very good friend, Bob, also a teen-ager with little spending money, looked for a gift to express his friendship.

He found it in a vacation souvenir, a simple box labeled "From One Nut to Another."

I cherished it, but as I could not find a way to top it the next year, I returned it as my best expression of friendship. So began the perpetual exchange of our Christmas tradition.

Our friendship began in grade school, when we were altar boys. From that beginning, Bob was always helpful. He introduced me to the Boy Scouts, athletics, a paper route, and dinners at his home.

Even after he entered St. Meinrad Seminary, we kept in contact. It was at this time that the "Nut Box" (containing a silver dollar and a peanut) exchange began.

Time passed. Bob departed the seminary and we joined the military during the unending Korean War; he in the Army, I in the Navy. Even that didn't stop the Nut Box exchange; it went more than halfway around the world. After our years in the military, we served as each other's best man.

For 50 years this box—still holding the by now gold-plated silver dollar and a peanut—has been passed back and forth, sometimes concealed in a Christmas gift of fruitcake, in a stuffed angel, and even sealed in a bottle of wine.

This friendship and custom has brought joy and affection for five decades. My friend and brother in Christ, Robert A. Simon, and his wife, Jeanne, now live in Phoenix. My wife, Pat, and I love them and cherish this 50-year tradition.

(Charles Withem is a member of Little Flower Parish in Indianapolis.)

Stray dog unites city at holidays

by Cynthia Schultz

Our river town was spinning in turmoil last Christmas season.

The riverboat gambling issue had come to town and was a hotbed of discussion. Letters to the editor flooded the local newspaper office as citizens—pro and con—took a stand. We were caught in a web of discontent as Christ's birthday approached.

Then all eyes shifted to Scribner Drive, and hearts began to melt. A straggly, stray mutt the color of an apricot sat for days near a bus sign watching cars pass as if he were waiting for someone. But no one came. At night, his pitiful howl alerted nearby neighbors to his loneliness.

He might have been pretty if it weren't for the grease that stained his matted fur as a result of sleeping under cars. The Benji look-alike had been on the run for weeks, evading capture by the dog warden and

claiming the spot with the bus sign as his home.

I began feeding the dog some of the neighbors called Doc, and so did about 30 others. Still, his distrust prevented us from getting close to him. With each visit, I would discover evidence of caring people. Many left bowls of dog food, water, blankets, bones and toys. I took Doc a cardboard box to sleep in, and the next day saw that someone had flanked it with bales of straw to break the wind.

Strangers, worried about the cold, called and offered money if I would purchase a doghouse for Doc. I did, and placed it by the bus sign.

Newspaper reporters wrote stories about Doc and a crew from a television station followed his plight. A national network even showed an interest in his dilemma.

After six weeks, Doc was captured and taken to the dog pound. People in the New Albany community held their breath, hoping the little dog wasn't put on Death Row. He wasn't. Instead, he was put up for adoption. Numerous people offered to take him. One man, who fed Doc regularly during his residence at the bus stop, was selected as his owner.

I went to the pound to say goodbye to Doc. When I squatted down to his level, he licked my face. Choked with emotion, I thought about how the misfortune of this little dog had touched so many lives. Strangers who came to feed him became friends, and people are still talking about the little dog.

I'm wondering if God didn't send Doc to us to heal a town and sprinkle a little Christmas magic. I think he did.

(Cynthia Schultz is a member of St. Mary Parish in New Albany.)

Santa surprises newspaper reporter

by Mary Ann Wyand

My job as an assistant editor for The Criterion offers lots of interesting experiences throughout the year.

Each Christmas I have an opportunity to photograph Santa Claus, and I always enjoy focusing the camera lens on the jolly old man as he talks with boys and girls about their Christmas wishes.

This year Santa Claus caught me by surprise! I was taking pictures at Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis on Dec. 10 during their Breakfast With Santa program.

Santa looked up and scrutinized me.

"Hello, Santa," I said. "Could I take a few pictures for The Criterion?"

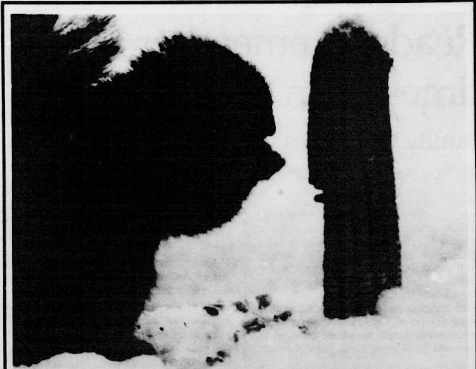
"Why, sure, Mary Ann," he replied.

I was stunned to be recognized after all these years, but not half as shocked as the 3-year-old girl who was next in line to talk with Santa. She looked up at me with wide eyes and open mouth, curious about how Santa knew my name.

"Why, Santa!" I replied. "How nice of you to remember me after all these years!"

Then I leaned over to the surprised child and assured her that, "Santa remembers all the good little boys and girls!"

(Mary Ann Wyand is a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis.)



CORNY GIFT—Sure it's a corny gift, but who's complaining when it tastes so good? This squirrel lives on the scenic grounds of Our Lady of Grace Monastery at Beech Grove. And with snow covering the ground, the squirrel certainly isn't going to turn down a tasty snack from the Benedictine sisters to help survive the rigors of a Hoosier winter. Perhaps the groundhog will predict an early spring. (Photo by Benedictine Sister Mary Luke Jones)

Deremiah Frye Mortuary
Greene & Harrell Chapel

700 GOURLEY PIKE • BLOOMINGTON

RON DEREMIAH
28 Years Service

KELAN P. CISSSELL
15 Years Service

JELL O. CAMPBELL
8 Years Service

WILLIAM G. LANE
5 Years Service

DON FRYE
30 Years Service

Complete Preplanning Service

812-332-9376

May the
many blessings
of providence
shine upon you
this holiday season.

Best wishes from the Sisters of Providence
of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana
—ministering among the people of Indiana since 1840.



HOLIDAY PALS—Snow White makes friends with Donald Duck and Daisy Duck before a holiday performance on Dec. 10 presented by Danc'n'time at Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis. These cartoon characters are really Stephanie Lee, a student at Mount Comfort Elementary School, as Snow White, Our Lady of Lourdes eighth-grader Jennifer Walker as Donald Duck, and Ashley Chandler, also from Mount Comfort, as Daisy Duck. (Photo by Mary Ann Wyand)

Wishes for a
Blessed
Christmas
from
Holy Family Society of U.S.A.
Joliet, Illinois • 1-800-435-0089

Readers remember family times from years past

Family Christmas includes surprise

by Ginny Baumgart

Our sister, Rean, wanted to make a surprise Christmas visit. Distance and obligations had prevented her family from participating in five years of the traditional family gatherings at mom and dad's house on Christmas Eve.

In anticipation of her surprise visit, I wrote this poem. On Christmas Eve, as 16 unsuspecting family members gathered in mom and dad's living room, I read it aloud:

It's Christmas Eve. Love draws us near to laugh and have some fun,
With mom and dad, the girls and boys,
Aunt Joey and Dot, the nun.

We'll eat good treats and drink a toast to good times that we've had.
We'll tell past Christmas stories of magic made by mom and dad.

We'll open gifts from 'neath the tree, from boxes small and large.
We'll all be glad for what we have, and most of all for dad and "Sarge."

You've taught a truth since we were small,
that Yuletide has no price
Unless we open hearts and minds to Our Little Savior Christ.

The Little Child was far from home the night he came to save.
And surely this evening you're thinking of Rean, Amanda, Steve and Dave.

So practice now what you have shared.
Think special thoughts this day.
Dry your tears and close your eyes,
your wish will come your way.

Tears, hugs and kisses were plentiful as the sound of the front door opening brought a wish come true—Christmas with the entire family.
God gave us a beautiful family to enjoy, and we realize his hand was very present in this celebration.

What we didn't know when this great surprise was planned was that God was going to call dad to his eternal rest in May of this year. We will forever look back to this special Christmas of togetherness as a special gift from God to all of us.

(Ginny Baumgart is a member of St. Mary Parish in Lanesville.)

Family enjoys holiday games

by Betty Moebis

Some years ago, the restaurant where my son worked during the holidays closed on Christmas, so for once we could have a leisurely dinner and open presents one at a time.

After grandma and grandpa left, we looked for something to do as a family. Television was not an option.

The game "Hide and Go Seek" got the most votes, and off went all seven of us in different directions.



NASHVILLE CHRISTMAS—Snow blankets St. Agnes Church near Nashville and gives the scenic log cabin style structure a rustic look in winter. (Photo by Benedictine Sister Mildred Wannemuehler, the pastoral associate at the Nashville parish and a member of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove)

I remember the family cat gave away the perfect hiding place in the back of a closet by meowing in front of us.

Our 8-year-old daughter remained hidden the longest, scrunched in a cedar chest underneath sweaters!

My fondest memory, however, involved my hiding place in an attic nook. I squeezed behind boxes along the back of a long closet wall and held my breath each time someone opened the closet door.

Even using a flashlight, the person who was "it" did not find me. When my teeth started chattering, I began to toy with the idea of making enough noise to be discovered.

Then it came to me! Perhaps, just perhaps, this was a kind of Advent for Jesus.

How long did he—and does he—wait to be discovered?

Does he want to explode with his presence, but instead waits patiently for us to discover him once more in a little manger or in the arms of Mary in a creche?

Does he delight in knowing that our finding him is pure joy?

I was finally found and eventually got warm, but the questions stayed with me for days.

There's still magic in the memory of our spirits being reborn in the fun of playing together.

Since that day, each year during Advent I recall that evening long ago when, in the quiet and cold, I found Jesus on the barren wood floor of an upstairs hideaway.

(Betty Moebis is a member of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis.)

Blue & Co.

Certified Public Accountants A Limited Liability Company

Integrity • Teamwork • Commitment

Indianapolis
11460 N. Meridian
P.O. Box 80009
Indianapolis, Indiana 46280-0069
(317) 846-8920
Jim Aldering, CPA
Mike Aldering, CPA

Columbus
627 Washington Street, P.O. Box 964
Columbus, Indiana 47202
(812) 379-9045
Seymour
100 N. Walnut Street, P.O. Box 627
Seymour, Indiana 47274
(812) 522-8416

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School

Principal - Mrs. Barbara Reece

19 North Alabama St.
Brazil, Indiana
47834

Christmas Blessings

BLOOMINGTON - SEYMOUR
DEANERY SCHOOLS

St. Charles Elementary School

2224 E. Third Street • Bloomington, Indiana • (812) 336-5853
Principal — Mrs. Virginia Suttner

St. Vincent de Paul School

1723 S. "T" Street • Bloomington, Indiana • (812) 279-2540
Principal — Mrs. Katherine Sieva

All Saints Catholic School

1306 27th Street • Columbus, Indiana • (812) 372-6830
Principal — Ms. Colleen Coleman

St. Joseph School

125 E. Broadway • Shelbyville, Indiana • (812) 398-4202
Principal — Mrs. Joan Livingston

St. Mary School

209 Washington Street • North Vernon, Indiana • (812) 346-3445
Principal — Mrs. Mary Ann Sullivan

St. Ambrose School

301 S. Chestnut Street • Seymour, Indiana • (812) 522-3522
Principal — Sr. Josita O'Donnell, CSJ

Shaw Memorial Jr. & Sr. High School

201 W. State Street • Madison, Indiana • (812) 273-2150
Principal — Ms. Rita King

Pope John XXIII School

221 State Street • Madison, Indiana • (812) 273-3957
Principal — Ms. Tami Kruer

If you think
the cost of
prep school
is too high,
divide it
by the next
70 years.

Marian Heights' college-preparatory program offers a superior Christian-based education dedicated to developing the whole person. To find out more, call Kathy Knitlic at 812-367-1431 or 1-800-467-4MHA.



MARIAN HEIGHTS ACADEMY
FERDINAND, INDIANA

BLESSED HOLIDAY WISHES FROM Seccina Memorial High School Larry Neidlinger, Principal

5000 Nowland Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana - 356-6377

Holiday Greetings From Louis Buddy Yosha Attorney at Law

Yosha, Landendorff,
Todd, Krahulic,
& Weddle
Attorneys at Law

317-925-9200
2220 N. Meridian, Indpls., 46208

Christmas Greetings
from



**FOLEY
HARDWOODS
INC.**

- sellers of kiln dried Indiana hardwood
- S&S finished hardwoods and different species of hardwood mouldings also available
- buyers of standing lumber

P.O. Box 293, Bargersville, Indiana 46106

Baby makes holiday even more special

by Sharon Mickel

It was bedtime. I tucked our baby, Anna, in her dark room for a while and she snuggled in, ready to nurse and "go night-night."

A soft glow caught my eye, and through Anna's window I saw that our neighbors had put up Christmas decorations. As I looked at the pretty white lights, I was filled with a warm, familiar feeling. Ahhh, yes! The Christmas lights in front of the hospital had glowed outside my window and illuminated my room after I gave birth to Anna last December. I had never been in a hospital before and was so nervous about it, but those lights helped calm me and gave me a peaceful feeling.

In the dark stillness of Anna's bedroom, I let my mind wander and suddenly I was back in the hospital, being wheeled into my room after my unexpected cesarean section. I was groggy and exhausted after the surgical delivery, but was so happy to see my husband, Jeff, a new daddy, holding our brand new baby girl.

When they whisked Anna away after her first appearance outside my womb, daddy got to go with her. While I was being cared for, he got to hold her and talk to her and get to know her for a while. He said it was a magical time.

Over the next few days, when the nurses would bring Anna to me, I would hold my tiny newborn and think about my hopes and dreams for her as well as my many fears. And often those thoughts would turn into prayers.

I prayed that God would hold her in the palm of his hand and keep her safe from harm. There is so much violence in the world today, and so many people have no respect for other people's lives. When I allow myself to dwell on it, it's overwhelmingly frightening.

I prayed for the strength and wisdom and patience to be a good mother. Here was this helpless little person, counting on me for everything.

"Please, God," I prayed, "let me know how to care for her."

I prayed that Anna would grow up thinking good about herself--no matter what anyone else thought--and know that she is a good person worthy of love.

I prayed that Anna would trust her instincts and not be afraid to speak up when things didn't seem right.

I prayed that when tough issues like drugs and drinking and sex came up, Anna would know she could come to us.

I cringed when I thought about how my father must have felt when his baby girl went out with her chosen dates.

"Please, Lord," I prayed, "let Anna use good judgment when choosing friends. And Lord, please don't let me go crazy with worry over keeping her safe and secure. I know she'll need space to make her own mistakes so she can learn about life herself."

During those days in the hospital, my husband patiently listened to my worries, then kindly brought me back to earth. He reminded me that we weren't being handed a teen-ager. Anna was only a day old! The three of us would learn together, day by day, little by little. With the Lord's help, we would do the best we could.

Anna stirred, and my thoughts came back to the present. I looked down at my little angel, who by then was sleeping peacefully in my arms, and I thought about how happy I am since she has joined us. I had thought our life together as a couple was great, but since Anna's arrival our lives as parents haven't been the same. Thank God!

I gave Anna a hug before I laid her in her crib, and tears welled up in my eyes when she snuggled into my shoulder, so safe and secure, before I tucked her in for the night. Happy birthday, Anna. We're so glad you're here, and we sure do love you.

(Sharon Mickel is a member of St. Mary Parish in North Vernon.)



HOMILIST—Father James Wilmoth, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Indianapolis, makes a point during a recent homily at the Indianapolis West Deamery parish. Christmas liturgies are an important part of the Catholic faith tradition, as families gather at Mass to pray and thank the Lord for Christ's birth. (Photo by Mary Ann Wyand)

Family gatherings are fun and joyful

by Jo Budenz Braun

My family always spent every Christmas with my grandparents, Henry and Mayme Budenz, who lived in St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Indianapolis.

My father, Leo Budenz, was the manager of the American Can Company in Indianapolis and his brother, Henry Jr., was the manager of the American Can Company located in Terre Haute. Our family and Uncle Henry's family were both blessed with six children.

Our two aunts, Kathryn and Mary, never married. Kathryn taught music and played

the organ at St. Catherine's for 27 years. Mary helped grandma with grandpa, as he was crippled and wore heavy braces. Grandpa was the vice president of the Fountain Square State Bank, and Kathryn drove him to and from work each day.

At Christmas we felt blessed just being together. After exchanging gifts and sharing a delicious meal, we enjoyed playing bingo. As evening came we shared a snack, then gathered around the dining room table so grandpa could lead us in the rosary before we departed for our homes.

All of us still living are always reminiscing about the wonderful family times we shared through the years. We still meet every other year in Fort Wayne for the Budenz reunion. We are so grateful for the life God has allowed each one of us!

(Jo Budenz Braun is a member of St. Michael Parish in Indianapolis.)

Have a Blessed Christmas

St. Mary's Child Center, Inc.

Testing for children of all ages with learning and behavior problems

Pre-School for at-risk 3-5 year-olds. Summer School.

901 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. Indpls., IN 46202 635-1491

Our Best Wishes

for a

Merry Christmas

And a

happy New Year

from

Sherman House

Restaurant & Inn

35 S. Main Street, Batesville, IN

1-800-445-4939

Merry Christmas

and

Happy New Year

from

TOM WOOD FORD

(317) 846-4241 (800) 423-4646

KEYSTONE AT 96TH STREET

Our Service Department

Is Open All Day Saturday

For Your Convenience

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM

Castleton Health Care Center

7630 E. 86th St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46256

24 HOURS 317-845-0032

SKILLED - INTERMEDIATE - ALZHEIMER CARE

• Medicare/Medicaid Certified

• Physical, Speech, Occupational, Respiratory Therapies

• Spacious Rooms with Full Baths

• Castleton/Geist area

Mary Glass Administrator

Ruth Gilbert, R.N. Director of Nursing

Jolene Patterson Admissions Director

Merry Christmas from

PERPETUAL FEDERAL Savings & Loan Association

230 Walnut Street • Lawrenceburg, IN 47025 • 812.537.1016 • Fax 812.537.1052

"Serving Our Community Since 1894"

• SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

• CHECKING ACCOUNTS

• CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

• INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

• CHRISTMAS CLUB ACCOUNTS

• DIRECT DEPOSIT

• MORTGAGE LOANS

• EQUITY LOANS

• AUTO LOANS

• STUDENT LOANS

• DRIVE-THRU

• NIGHT DEPOSITORY

• SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES

• TRAVELERS CHECKS

• NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICE

Mon-Thur 9:00-5:00 / Fri 9:00-6:00 / Sat 9:00-Noon

FDIC INSURED Member FDIC

Christmas Greetings from

Hammans Electric, Inc.

Call 317-634-5886

Announcing

Hospice Care

at

Miller's Merry Manor

1651 N. Campbell

provided in affiliation with

St. Vincent Hospice

Families on the eastside of Indianapolis can now benefit from the additional assistance and support that hospice care can provide.

For more information on hospice services, contact Beverly McIntosh at 357-8040.

Readers' seasonal memories include family celebrations

Holiday concert cheers relatives

by Shirley Vogler Meister

My sister and I credit her husband with some fine holiday fun at a time when we were under a great deal of stress from family problems.

From our Belleville, Ill., hometown, John took Beverly and me to St. Louis Union Station. It was the Sunday before Christmas Eve—a day when most men would say "Bah! Humbug!" and avoid such mammoth crowds. On the way, he announced we would hear a special choral program.

Because of severe cold, the normally outdoor event was held in the station's Grand Hall. Chorus singing from balconies: voices rejoiced with diverse tones and rhythms. A cheerful audience revealed solemn tears when everyone joined voices for the "Hallelujah Chorus" of Handel's "Messiah."

Nearby, a Toys for Children gingerbread-and-candy house called attention to another purpose of this program—to accept contributions for needy youngsters. To the tune of "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," a small boy frolicked

in the artificial snow around that house. He sprinkled it around to simulate flurries. He tossed it onto poinsettias and then on the floor, and he pretended to skate. As the Salvation Army band played on, his concentrated joy was infectious.

A few days later, we headed for St. Louis again to browse and enjoy the decor of the season and to stop for lunch. My sister, her daughter, and I were dressed in Mickey Mouse shirts, complete with long tails. As we shed our coats, a table of holiday celebrants pointed and chuckled. Someone suggested that John not be permitted to sit at our mouse trio table, since he wasn't wearing the same shirt.

Our laughter continued throughout lunch, especially when we joined the other group in flubbing through "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

John chose activities he knew we would enjoy the most. He bucked the crowds and succeeded in creating happy moments and memories at a time of family crisis, when it would have been easier to succumb to gloominess or depression.

He was helping us to be happy! Isn't that Christ's goal, too?

(Shirley Vogler Meister is a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis.)



BEARY CHRISTMAS—This family of bears greets visitors to The Children's Museum in Indianapolis, where a variety of seasonal activities will interest and entertain people of all ages. The Jolly Bears live in Jolly Town, a storybook village featuring hundreds of animated toy bears observing traditional holiday customs from around the world. (Photo courtesy of The Children's Museum)

Bubbles brighten Christmas tree

by Elizabeth A. Guthery

God has been good to me. I have seen Christmas through my eyes, the eyes of my five children, and now the eyes of my four grandchildren.

Christmas has always been special for me, but the year I remember most fondly was long ago and far away. It was the Christmas of 1945.

We lived in a bungalow. The living room had been two rooms at one time, but someone before us had taken out the partition and made it one big room. There was a fireplace at one end where my grandfather's dog, and my cat slept side by side, unaware that they were supposed to be enemies.

Our tree was live and the smell of pine permeated the house. The tree lights were large by today's standards. Remember the old strings of bulb lights? When one light went out, the whole string of lights would go off!

An only child at that time, I amused myself by playing alone quite often as there was no television for entertainment.

Our tree was already decorated in preparation for Christmas. One afternoon I was allowed to play inside with bubbles and a wand. The bubbles landed on the tree and looked so beautiful. I soon ran out of bubble solution, and went to my dad for help. He attempted to make his own solution out of shaving soap, but it didn't work as well. I still remember how much fun we had trying to get his concoction to work with the bubble wand.

I used to dream of that house, and thought one day I would visit my hometown again and ask the current residents if I could go through it once more.

Several years ago, my husband and I visited my hometown and drove through my old neighborhood. We discovered that my childhood home had been torn down to make way for a modern building!

I felt sad that the family house was gone, but I knew the memories of my home and that Christmas would live in my heart forever.

(Elizabeth Guthery is a member of St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis.)

Holy Cross years were fun, festive

by Patrick Monaghan

When I think of a memorable Christmas, I will always remember my childhood growing up in Holy Cross Parish on the near-eastside of Indianapolis.

Our family lived in the Holy Cross neighborhood from the 1940s through the late 1960s. My father and mother owned a grocery store in the heart of the parish. My early recollections of my dad's store include the fact that every boy who worked for dad went to Holy Cross School.

On Christmas Eve day, dad would order all the turkeys for his customers. In those days, all turkeys were fresh, not frozen. My dad would take my sister and brothers down

to Barnett's Poultry on South State Street to select the fresh turkeys for his customers.

I will never forget how Mrs. Barnett would process the turkeys. After the turkeys were delivered on Christmas Eve, dad would close the store and my mother would prepare dinner for our family. My grandmother and Aunt Helen, who lived next door, would join us at our house for Christmas Eve dinner.

We all would go to Midnight Mass at Holy Cross, where my dad and sister would sing in the choir and my brothers and I would assist the priest as servers.

My mother always said that the sanctuary at Holy Cross was the most beautiful in the city! The altar and the floor were made of marble and the canopy was made of red velvet with a pure gold tabernacle door. There were large oriental rugs on the sanctuary floor.

Father Spaulding, the pastor, and Sister Irene Marie, the school principal, made sure the servers and singers were well prepared for Midnight Mass.

I like to think about those days, and I regret the fact that my children could not relive my childhood years in Holy Cross Parish.

(Patrick Monaghan is a member of St. Patrick Parish in Terre Haute.)

Child's recovery was blessed gift

by Mary Jo Keegan

The Sunday morning before Christmas in 1958, our 2-year-old son Michael was seriously ill with tracheal bronchitis and was admitted to the old St. Vincent's Hospital on Fall Creek in Indianapolis.

On Christmas Eve, my husband and I could visit our son only from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. We cradled our little boy this precious hour through a tent called a "croupette" as he continued to plead for us to release him from this enclosure.

We had not bought a Christmas tree since the excitement of a small child was missing from our house. Near the hospital, trees were being sold from the front yard of a restaurant. My husband stopped there and proceeded to tell me that a tree would symbolize our hope. He was equally convincing that our 5-month-old son also would be delighted to see the brightly lit tree. We paid \$1.50 for this special tree. It was rather pitiful, but became a thing of beauty for us as we trimmed it.

On Christmas morning, the doctor called to tell us our son was removed from that confining tent. What a beautiful Christmas gift this was! On Christmas night Michael ran to meet us for that magic hour we could spend with him.

We all learned much that Christmas of 1958. Every Christmas since, as the Infant is placed in the manger, we pray first for sick children and those who love them and then thank God for our sons whom we have been able to tell about our sad December days long ago that changed into the most beautiful Christmas of our lives.

On Dec. 25, 1958, the Christ Child brought to our family, for the first time, the gift of healing as an outward sign of his great love for his people.

(Mary Jo Keegan is a member of St. John Parish in Indianapolis.)

St. Elizabeth's

**MORE THAN A HOME...
New Beginnings!**

2500 Churchman Avenue
(317) 787-3412

We wish everyone
a Blessed Christmas
and Happy New Year!

From
the Board, staff
and clients of
St. Elizabeth's

Barrington jewels



**The
Altenheim Community**

Christian Caregivers since 1910

May the rich blessings
of the Holiday Season
be with you and yours
all year through!

Providing Independent Living, Assisted Living and Nursing Care

3525 E. Hanna Avenue ■ Indianapolis, Indiana 46237
(317) 788-4261

For information on availability, contact the Admissions Coordinator

Readers share joyful memories of past holidays

Christmas Eve miracle protects son from injury

by Carol Keller

Our most memorable and inspiring Christmas happened a few years ago on a bitter cold Christmas Eve.

Our family had attended Christmas Eve Mass to hear our older children sing in the choir.

When we arrived home that night, we found that the garage door had frozen to the pavement. My husband and our oldest son struggled to open the door. They pushed and shoved it as hard as they could, and finally the garage door opened suddenly.

The impact caused the two of them to bump their heads. My husband grabbed his head and staggered into the house. I thought I saw my son follow him.

When I started to drive the car to the garage, I felt a bump under the front wheel and I realized that my son had not gone into the house. He had fallen beneath the car!

In shock, and thinking that the wheel was on top of him, I put the car in reverse and backed up. Then I saw my son get up and run into the house. At least I knew he was alive, but I thought he surely must have internal injuries.

I ran into the house after him, praying like I had never prayed before. My husband and son had both collapsed on a bed. I asked my son where he was hurt, and he told me I had driven over his legs—not once, but twice!

Sure enough, there were two sets of tire tracks on his knees! I had rolled the car over him, and when I put the transmission in reverse I ran back over him!

We checked his legs thoroughly, and there was not a scratch on his body. Miraculously, he hadn't been hurt in the accident!

I, on the other hand, fell completely apart! Instead of me consoling him, he ended up comforting me, assuring me that he was perfectly fine.

After gathering my composure and saying a prayer of thanks, I suggested that we all gather around the Christmas tree and open a gift to celebrate our Christmas Eve miracle.

(Carol Keller is a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis.)

Youthful altar server recalls memories of Midnight Mass

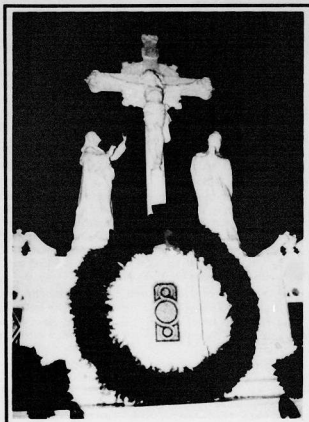
by George Zimmer

Do you remember your finest Christmas—that very special one that memory says was the best of all?

I do.

It came at a time of great sadness, that Christmas of 1941. Sadness of a nation that had just gone to war... a sadness in the knowledge that many men would leave home to fight for their country halfway around the world, and some of our young parishioners would not return. And so people turned to God for comfort.

Attendance at the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass was expected to overflow the church capacity. As a seventh-grader at St. Catherine School in Indianapolis, I was honored to be chosen to join in the ceremony as a member of the servers' procession.



CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL—A large wreath decorates the reredos in the sanctuary at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis for the Advent and Christmas liturgies. The greenery and poinsettias are colorful additions to the white crucifix and statues of the saints. (Photo by Charles J. Schisla)

Such excitement was evident as we met in our classroom at 10:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve to garb ourselves in long white cassocks augmented by midriff sashes and shoulder capes of gold-trimmed white satin.

As midnight approached, Sisters Anita Marie and Mary Gilbert of the school faculty gave a final rapid inspection of the 30 participants, lined us up in the oft-rehearsed processional column, and sent us off across the playground to enter the church from the west main entrance.

At that point, Father James Downey, St. Catherine's pastor, and his assistants, Fathers Ronald Hostetter and Paul English, joined our group as ushers opened a path through the overflow crowd to permit our entry into the church.

The magnificent voices of the boys' choir greeted us as we traveled up the main aisle and through the opened communion rail gates to take our places at folding chairs which encircled the sanctuary.

The three priests advanced to the foot of the altar steps and there began the celebration of a very special Solemn High Mass in the traditional Latin vernacular... a Mass that would continue until 1:30 a.m.

What a feast for the senses! The choir sang the Latin responses to many of the prayers. Two of the choir members gave solo performances of the stirring "Ave Maria" and "Tantum Ergo." Traditional Christmas carols punctuated the stillness as the celebrants said their silent prayers.

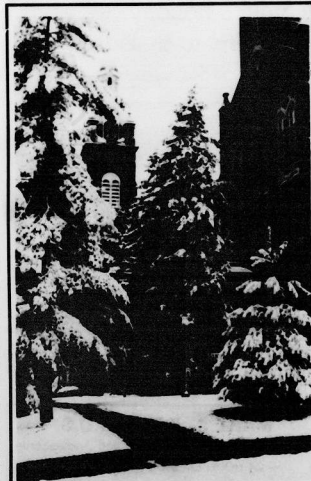
The brilliantly-lit church left no shadows to dim the colors of vestments and flowers. Clouds of aromatic incense hung on the air as altar, priests and congregation were purified from the smoke of the censer as it swung toward them.

Deprived of a normal sleep pattern and worn from the aftermath of excitement, many of the servers had begun to nod their heads as the ceremony approached its late stages. Elbows in the ribs became the tool of correction as boys sought to awaken companions who found sleep inevitable. The concluding petition was a prayer for world peace. It was quickly followed by our rapid exit down the aisle at a pace quick in excess of our sedate entry.

As I drifted off to sleep that early morning, I know that I had been part of a very special Christmas—one that I might never see again. I felt that I would remember that night for the rest of my life.

And so I have.

(George Zimmer is a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis.)



SERENE—The grounds of the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg are cloaked in snow following a winter storm. The snowfall adds a serene look to the motherhouse (at right) and the Immaculate Conception Chapel behind the trees. (Photo courtesy of the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg)

Christmas Blessings to you and yours!

JERRY OLLIER
NATIONWIDE INSURANCE

126 FITCH STREET
BATESVILLE, INDIANA

812-934-2773
life • health • home • car • business

Seasons Greetings

May The Spirit Of Christmas
Bring You Peace
And May Jesus Bring
The Warmth Of Christmas

From All Of Us At
PIP PRINTING

1555 South 3rd St., Terre Haute, Ind.
(812) 234-2621

GREENFIELD BEVERAGE

ROUTE 3, BOX 10
GREENFIELD, INDIANA

462-2818

SUBURBAN MONUMENTS

3341 W. U.S. 40, Greenfield, Indiana

Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday by Appointment 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Call 317-462-4438

The buying of a family memorial is an important decision.

We invite you into the comfort of our showroom as you make your personal selection.

Happy Holidays
When You Need To Know Ask A Pro!

MARIEN PRO HARDWARE

TOOLS & GLASS

KEYS MADE
RUST-OLEUM
AND MINWAX
PRODUCTS
GARDEN TOOLS
& SEEDS

PLUMBING
HEATING
& ELECTRICAL
SUPPLIES

3604 Madison
(317) 784-7551 Complete Sharpening Service

FAIRIS MAILING INCORPORATED

INTRODUCING OUR GIANT MAIL BOX TO HANDLE THE GROWING NEEDS OF YOUR BUSINESS

- CHESHIRE ADDRESSING
- AUTOMATIC INSERTING
- EDP SERVICES
- PRINTING
- PREMIUM FULFILLMENT
- CO-OP MAILING

ANALYSIS OF MAILING REQUIREMENTS

535 S. ILLINOIS
INDIANAPOLIS **236-6322**

KAREN L. CURTICE, M.A.

• Individual • Marriage • Family
• Bereavement • Chronic Illness

317-848-2440
10291 N. Meridian, Suite 225
Indianapolis, IN 46290

CALDERON BROTHERS VENDING CO.

Vending Machines on Profit Sharing Basis
Food Management Service

9702 East 30th Street • Indianapolis, Indiana • 317-899-1234

Readers relate holiday memories

Mother's holiday desserts were gifts to treasure

by RoseMarie Jackson

Memories from the past come tumbling back as Christmas draws near every year.

When I was growing up, the week before Christmas was a most delightful experience. My mother loved to bake, and wonderful aromas permeated the house, tempting even the most jaded appetite.

My biggest regret is that I never got her recipes. She didn't write them down, just stored them in her memory bank. By the time I was old enough to appreciate the treasures I had in my wonderful mother, I started to record some of her recipes. But I didn't get them all written down before she died.

Fortunately, I still remember how to make some of her desserts. There were nut cakes, cookies and fancy tarts. The apple streudel was my favorite, as I was allowed to help prepare it. I was just tall enough to see over the top of the table, so I had to kneel on a chair to do my part of the baking.

After she peeled and sliced the apples, I sprinkled the raisins over them. She would put them in a bowl and pour just the right amount of water mixed with lemon juice over them, then stir in sugar. This was allowed to set while she made the dough. She rolled it paper-thin the length of the table, some

hanging down over the sides. Then the apples were spread all over the dough and sprinkled with sugar and cinnamon.

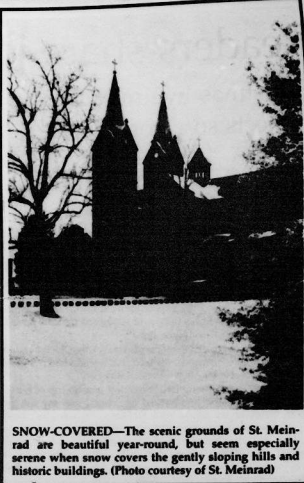
Eagerly I awaited my turn to toss the raisins onto the mixture. Of course Mama made sure they were distributed evenly. She then cut the dough down the middle, the length of the table. Folding the dough over the apples, she brought the other side over and sealed it. She cut the two rolls the length of the cookie sheets before brushing them with melted butter and sprinkling them with more sugar and cinnamon. She baked them until they were brown and crisp.

When cool, the rolls of streudel were cut into serving pieces. Of course Papa and I were the official tasters. I loved the nut cakes and shared them with a special animal friend.

A beautiful, fat squirrel ranged the trees around our house, and I had patiently taught him to come down when I called him. Clucking my tongue a certain way, I made a sound like the chattering of my squirrel friend. I would take some of the sugar and nut filling out of my nut cake and put it on the ground, then watch him happily devour it, chattering all the while. Mama warned me not to feed him from my hand, as he was wild and might accidentally bite me. We were friends for a long time.

Everyone who came to visit the week before Christmas was treated to some good eating, and always took home a sample of the goodies. Her Hungarian and German concoctions were very much appreciated, and we always had lots of holiday visitors.

(RoseMarie Jackson is a member of St. Rose Parish in Knightstown.)



SNOW-COVERED—The scenic grounds of St. Meinrad are beautiful year-round, but seem especially serene when snow covers the gently sloping hills and historic buildings. (Photo courtesy of St. Meinrad)

Family shares Christmas with orphans every year

by Margaret Royse Lawley

The coming of Advent meant anticipation, happiness, dreams and, above all, preparedness.

The house was cleaned and decorated, and the plum pudding, raisin bread, cookies, and candies were all baked and wrapped and placed on a pantry shelf.

Grandma Royse would open the cloth around the plum pudding each day and add a drop of whiskey, then carefully wrap it up again.

Secrets abounded, and hiding places were guarded from loved ones. Whispered conversations halted abruptly if someone entered the room unexpectedly.

In our large family, the tree was not put up until Christmas Eve. The youngest of five children—with an older sister and three older brothers—I was a big girl before I was allowed to help with this awesome task.

I went to bed early on Christmas Eve with visions of sugar plums dancing in my dreams. I awakened to the sound of bells, and I am sure I heard the pawing of each little reindeer hoof on the roof.

We would all come down the stairway singing "Silent Night." Papa and Mama would be standing below us near the most beautiful tree in the world. The lights were like stars.

Santa Claus left his gifts unwrapped in front of the tree. The mound of our family gifts, wrapped with care, surrounded the tree. We all gave presents to each other, some homemade, and always given with love.

Our family includes two grandmas, three aunts (my mother's sisters), Uncle Alvin, father's brother, and his wife, Aunt Leura. They did not have children, and always celebrated the holidays with us.

Uncle Alvin always said our house at Christmas looked like the basement of the Leader Store, which used to be located at Delaware and Washington streets in downtown Indianapolis.

After we "oohed" and "aahed" over Santa's gifts, we would sit in a circle and open each gift from family members so everyone could enjoy them. Most of the family gifts were inexpensive and many were homemade, but all were appreciated very much.

My father always made arrangements with a local orphanage to bring two children to spend Christmas with our family. After breakfast, he would drive to the orphanage to pick up the children and bring them to our home. Each child always received an entire new outfit, from long underwear to an outer coat and a stocking cap, along with a toy and a book or two.

We always shared a special cake for Jesus' birthday. We would light one candle and sing "Silent Night, Holy Night."

I carried this practice to my kindergarten class each year, and many parents continued this birthday celebration in their homes.

Along with the usual menu of turkey or chicken—the turkey had to be fresh because we didn't have a freezer—we always enjoyed mashed potatoes, giblet gravy, sweet potatoes, sometimes green beans, and always creamed onions and rutabagas. For dessert we shared the plum pudding with a lemon sauce poured warm over the steamed pudding.

It was always a wonderful day.

Much to my regret, I do not have the recipe for grandma's plum pudding.

(Margaret Royse Lawley is a member of Little Flower Parish in Indianapolis.)

MARK A. KAHN, D.D.S.

Dentistry for Infants, Children and Adolescents

— 24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE —

6211 WEST 30, SUITE D, INDIANAPOLIS 260-0353

GRUNDY MEMORIAL CHAPEL

OSCAR C. GRUNDY, FUNERAL DIRECTOR
2357 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ST., INDIANAPOLIS 6208
PH. 925-2323

LEBANON OAK FLOORING CO.

"Distributors of Fine Flooring"

• Plank Flooring • T & G Flooring • Prefinished & Unfinished
• Haribo Flo-Tite • Laminated Blocks • Stair Treads & Accents
• Wax Paper & Powercoats

632-9007 or 632-7625

3110 Roosevelt Ave. (2100 N - 3100 E) • Indianapolis, Indiana

Gooch Funeral Home

112 Howard Street
Rockville, IN 47872

317-569-0040

Jeff Gooch — Funeral Director
Locally Owned and Family Operated

Little & Sons Funeral Homes

Serving Our Community Since 1927

Memorial Chapel Colonial Chapel
1301 Main St. 4901 E. Stop 11 Rd.
Beech Grove, Ind. Indpls., Ind.
317-786-1476 317-885-0380

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR CITIZENS OF TOMORROW

Claver Day Nursery & Kindergarten

Nursery, Kindergarten ages 3-6 (Summerme ages 3-10)
Open Year Round. Call us for low prices.

Quality trained staff.
Breakfast, Hot Lunch, Snacks, Playground.
State Licensed, Interdenominational.

923-9080

3246 Sutherland • Indianapolis, Indiana

HAMAKER PHARMACY

4901 N. Pennsylvania
Indianapolis • 317-255-5436



Merry Christmas

from

Daniel F. O'Riley Funeral Home

6107 S. East Street (Hwy 31 South)

317-787-8224

Indianapolis, Indiana 46227

MERRY CHRISTMAS! CROWN PAPER BOX DIV.

OF THE

TENAX CORPORATION

1850 W. OLIVER • INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

632-7415 or 631-8708

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Greetings from

Big Brothers

317-925-9611

USED AMERICAN & FOREIGN AUTO PARTS
FREE DELIVERY

WPEAKS INC.

"WE MEET BY ACCIDENT."

TOLL FREE WITHIN INDIANA 1-800-553-1122

TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE 1-800-553-1122

LOCAL CALLS 769-6111 FAX 317-769-5557

7060 S. Indpls. Rd.

Whitestown, IN 46075-9510

Christmas offers invitation to return to life of church

by Linda Short

Sandy and I met only last November in a women's support group. Shortly before Christmas, she admitted to me that Christmas was a very difficult time for her.

It was the time of year when her mother had died, and all the families attending special Christmas liturgies reminded her of how alienated she felt from the Catholic Church since her divorce 20 years ago. She told me that since her divorce she thought she wasn't welcome in the church. I invited her to attend Christmas Day Mass with my family or—as I was assisting as a eucharistic minister at another Mass later that day—told her she could come during that liturgy and I personally would give her Communion.

With tears in her eyes, she thanked me and said she would consider it.

I didn't hear from Sandy all week. That Friday I called her, but she wasn't home.

I didn't hear from her, and she didn't show up for the earlier Mass I attended with my family. I wasn't sure whether she would come later, but I hoped that she would.

Later I returned to the church for my second Mass on Christmas Day. We were about ready to begin the liturgy, and as I looked around the church I saw Sandy sitting in the last row as if she were trying to hide.

We hugged and cried and held onto each other until the start of Mass. I told her where I would be standing and how she could get into my line.

As I share the body of Christ, I look directly at each person who comes to me. I could sense the line getting shorter and shorter and felt Sandy wasn't in line. Then, as the last person in line walked away, I saw a solitary figure in the back of the church slowly, almost hesitantly, come down the aisle toward me.

We couldn't hold back the tears as we shared Christ. If only someone had told Sandy many years earlier that he is always approachable, waiting for reconciliation with loving and open arms!

(Linda Short is a member of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis.)

Daughter remembers father's gift of dollhouse

by Carol Biemer Crauford

It has been 50 years since that fourth winter of World War II. My family lived on the eastside of Indianapolis, in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, in a neighborhood neither rich nor poor.

I was a child of 4 and wanted only one thing for Christmas—a dollhouse.

What were my parents to do? I was not to get my hopes up. Times were hard for everyone, and my family was no exception. Still, I hoped.

I remember sitting on the basement stairs with my brothers, watching my father begin to build something. This project was soon moved to the garage, and I quickly forgot about it. When Christmas morning came, I was only halfway down the stairs when I saw it. My heart just filled with excitement and joy. The dollhouse my father had made for me was the most lovely house I had ever seen, and in my memory it is still the most amazing and beautiful dollhouse ever made.

He used wood for the structure itself. It had doors with hinges and little doorknobs, even for the closets. It had stairs just inside the front door, and real lights in each room. They were Christmas tree lights! My aunt made some of the

furniture, and thanks to my mother there were curtains on all of the windows and rugs on the floors.

My brothers and I played with that dollhouse for hours and hours that Christmas, and as time passed continued to play with it for years and years. It sat in my bedroom until I was 16 years old, when it was stored in the garage.

My father, Francis Biemer, entered into everlasting life almost 10 years ago. Yet every year at Christmas time the memory of the dollhouse warms me and reminds me of my loving father, who cared enough to make my childhood dream come true.

(Carol Biemer Crauford lives in Pittsburgh, Penn.)

Child's first words thrill family on Christmas

by Agnes Book

Our happiest Christmas was the year our 5-year-old daughter spoke her first words, "Go home!"

We were married one year to the day after my husband-to-be came home from spending four years overseas during World War II. He asked me, "How many kids do you think we should or could take care of?" But we didn't really think we would have one child for every day of the week and then another! The first four of our eight children were girls. They were beautiful, and I dressed them alike. I would get so upset when people asked, "Where are your boys?" Our next child was a boy!

During the war I worked and lived in Louisville. I rented an apartment with two other girls, and on Saturday evenings after we got off work we would go to

the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville and clean the church interior.

Father Horrigan was there at the time, and Father Terease was there on occasion. Back then everyone said the rosary, and I was led to believe that if you said a thousand "Hail Marys" on Mary's feast day you would get anything you asked for. I took a day off work and spent the entire day there once, because the prayers had to be said devoutly and I wanted to do it right. After I finished my prayers I couldn't think of anything I really needed, so I said, "Just put this on hold, God. Someday I might need a favor."

Exactly 15 years later, on Dec. 8, we had a son at St. Edward's Hospital. Back then they wouldn't let the fathers into the delivery room, so my husband went to the hospital chapel to pray during my labor and delivery. When he came back from the chapel and they laid our son in my arms, my mind went back to that day 15 years ago when I had said the "Hail Marys" for a favor.

I was so grateful to have a son, but the same year seven babies were born in our area with handicaps and here I had healthy children. I said, "Dear Jesus, let me have the next one."

My next-born was Wilma, who was named after her Grandfather Book. She was born with her eyes closed and slept a lot, but after three operations she could see all right. She also came home from the hospital with a cast on her foot. We told our other children that she got her foot caught in the gates of heaven. Later we discovered that Wilma couldn't or wouldn't talk.

Around her fifth birthday, we were invited to Christmas dinner at my husband's sister's home. There is a long steep hill on the road to their house, and we had to back up twice because it was so slippery. Barney asked, "What shall we do?"

No one said a word. Then Wilma unexpectedly said, "Go home!" After five years, she had spoken her first words! "We were all so excited that we went home—as she had suggested—and prepared a Christmas dinner of hot dogs!"

(Agnes Book is a member of St. John Parish at Starlight.)

COOK'S GLASS & MIRROR, CO.
5703 W. Morris St. • Indianapolis, Indiana
Glass for Home, Business
CUSTOM MIRROR WORK
Table Tops • Re-Screening • Storm Repairs
Store Fronts • Fireplace Glass
- ALL KINDS OF GLASS -
41 Years in Same Location • Over 50 Years Experience
241-9344 Open Sat. 9AM-12

LAUCK Funeral Home
1458 SOUTH MERIDIAN STREET, INDIANAPOLIS
Since 1896
Funeral Trusting is Available • Catholic Owned and Operated
New Wheelchair Ramp for Handicapped
"SERVING ALL FAITHS"
636-6655 Four Generations

A Joyous Christmas — To All —
K. of C. Mater Dei
1305 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis
631-4373

Warm Wishes for a Blessed Christmas
from
CRICKET RIDGE PUBLIC RESTAURANT & GOLF COURSE
Open Golf 7 Days A Week
Restaurant Open
Daily: 10:30am to 9:00pm
Sunday: 10:30am to 8:00pm
Reservations available for large groups
22087 Pocket Road
Batesville, IN 47006
812-934-6348
RICH & CAROL DOBSON General Managers
FLOYD RIGGS Superintendent

May the peace of the Christ Child warm your heart this season!
MAURICE MOELLER INSURANCE AGENCY
135 N. Franklin Street
Greensburg, IN
(812) 663-4850
"Serving the area since 1965"

Merry Christmas
GILLILAND-HOWE FUNERAL HOME
110 East North Street
Greensburg, Indiana
812-663-8341

BUYING OR SELLING?
Century 21
Gold Key REALTORS
8000 Henderson Road, Suite 100
14 YEARS OF REAL ESTATE EXPERIENCE, DEDICATION, AND KNOWLEDGE TO WORK FOR YOU.
Personal Service
MARTHA TAYLOR
VIR: 230-7938
WM: 844-1288

In His Name Peace To All Christmas Greetings from
TAF FURNITURE CARPET
"OVER A CENTURY OF SERVICE"
663-7042 834-4112
115 W. MAIN GREENSBURG 125 E. GEORGE BATESVILLE



SURPRISES—Part of the joy of Christmas is sharing gifts with loved ones. This toddler seems to have figured out how to open presents. (Photo by Charles J. Schisla)

Readers share cherished Christmas memories

Voyage symbolizes gift of homecoming

by Don Critchlow

I am still unwrapping one Christmas memory, which I turn over and over in my mind. I keep trying to find more of its layered meanings, just as one rotates a jewel in the hand, hoping to catch the light in its myriad facets.

It happened one day in late November, as my family sailed into Boston. As we approached the city from the water, the angles of sea gulls' wings overhead framed the coastal range. The snowy mountains were white and iridescent as feathers, the nearby islands timbered with evergreen.

Over the scene a rare sun (we had not seen it in a week) poured its melted copper into the harbor. Climping the mountain range, its massive shoulders wreathed with a misty, pink shawl, we understood why Native Americans had thought it a dwelling place of the gods.

Reaching our hotel on the pier was another beautiful surprise. The Edgewater was a country inn on the waterfront. Its windows framed the port, fires blazed in the lobby, and Christmas decorations abounded—the first we had seen that year.

A prodigal loping of grape vines and crimson ribbons created a country ambience. The effect was echoed in hand-carved pine furniture, comfy chairs covered in red and green plaid, and brass bowls filled with apples and the pervasive scent of orchards.

Our room overlooked the sound, reflecting with the last rays of reflected sunset. A

splendid meal and uninterrupted sleep completed a deeply satisfying evening.

I finally decided that this voyage and its end was a Christmas symbol. The totally unexpected combination of scenery and the lovely inn was unearned, pure gift. It lives in my memory as a metaphor for our journey to God, the coming into port, a coming home.

That experience in New England taught me the truth of author Anthony Padavano's words, "The greatest of all gifts to give another is home and the most surprising of all gifts to receive is homecoming."

(Don Critchlow is a member of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis.)

Three generations cherish nativity set

by Alma Hofmann

Sixty-five years ago, I purchased a nativity set at Woolworth's 5 and 10 Store for \$1.98.

Besides all the figures, it came with a stable and even an angel.

When my sons Charles, Thomas and David arrived, I let them play with the nativity set each year.

Their greatest delight was rearranging the figures. When they had finished, I was invited to see their artwork.

One year, as the manger set was packed away, I noticed that the figures were starting to look pretty sad and worn.

I purchased another nativity set, but decided to keep the old one too.

To my surprise, after my oldest son,



CATHEDRAL NATIVITY—St. Peter and Paul Cathedral parishioners erect a large nativity scene each year to mark the birth of Christ. Setting up the nativity has become a Christmas tradition for members of the Indianapolis parish. (Photo by Charles J. Schiela)

Charles, got married he asked if I still had the old nativity set and, if so, could he have it.

Once again, as sad as it looked, my \$1.98 manger scene honored his home until his son Mike grew up and got married and asked to have the nativity set for his own home.

My dilapidated nativity set now sits on my grandson's fireplace mantel.

The stable stood up well under all of the handling over the years, but the little donkey

is minus an ear, the cow has no tail, and the lambs are legless. Since all their legs are missing, the lambs now rest deep in the straw so they appear to be lying down.

In spite of the age and condition of this old and well-worn nativity set, I was surprised to notice recently that the baby Jesus is still smiling.

I wonder why.

(Alma Hofmann is a member of Little Flower Parish in Indianapolis.)

When asked what they hate most about their jobs, 9 out of 10 people describe ours.

No kidding! We're ADP, the people who make a living doing what many feel are the most tedious and grueling aspects of their own jobs. In fact, 250,000 employers (both large and small) count on us for that and a lot more.

If there's a burdensome task that has anything to do with payroll, employee recordkeeping or regulatory compliance, we can help. We'll work with you to analyze your needs, and design convenient solutions that fit the way you do business.

Whether you're in one location or 500. Prefer using your own PCs, mainframes, or even third party systems. Do all, some or none of the work yourself. Our wide choice of software and outsourcing solutions makes it easier on you.

So call now for a free subscription to our newsletter. Or to see how you can enjoy the more rewarding parts of your job while we take care of the things you hate most. (Except plumbing, of course!)

Automatic Data Processing • Indiana Region • 1-800-735-7999

IT PAYS TO HIRE US

Payroll Solutions • Employer Tax & Regulation Management
Human Resource Systems • Benefit Plan Administration

ADP

JOSEPHSON - WALLACK - MUNSHOWER NEUROLOGY, P.C.

DAVID A. JOSEPHSON, M.D.
ELIOT M. WALLACK, M.D.
JOHN T. MUNSHOWER, M.D.

PATRICK D. REIBOLD, M.D.
ALBERT C. LEE, M.D.
THEODORE A. NUKES, M.D.

Announce The Opening Of Our Office

For

NEUROLOGY, EEG AND ELECTROMYOGRAPHY

At

**ST. VINCENT PROFESSIONAL BUILDING
8402 HARCOURT ROAD, SUITE 612
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46260**

24 HOURS (317) 338-9191



KNOX'S EPTIC SERVICE

5% OFF ALL WORK

Cleaning, Repairing,
Installing

Ask about our method of cleaning
Finger Systems with CCL's products.
CCL's products are E.P.A. approved.

**253-4575
638-7280**

R.I.P.



**Murder and Mayhem
Bookstore**

A Mystery & Suspense Bookstore
Programs and Signings
Irish MacDonald Skillman
Friday, Dec. 2, 6-8

C.J. Koehler
Saturday, Dec. 3, 2-4

Robert A. Fangmeier
Sunday, Dec. 11, 2-4

6411 Carrollton Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-254-8273

In Broad Ripple
One Block East of 64th & College

HOURS:
Monday-Friday 11-6
Saturday 11-5 Sunday Noon-4

Read In Peace



EVERY DAY DISCOUNT ART SUPPLIES

CASE, BOOK, TAID, RIDI CARDS, ACCEPTED

Artist Tube Paint.....	25% OFF
Artist Brushes.....	25% OFF
Artist Canvases.....	20% OFF
Drawing & Sketch Pads.....	20% OFF
Artist Easels.....	20% OFF
Drawing Tables.....	20% OFF
Artist's Portfolios.....	20% OFF
All Seating.....	20% OFF

**297-8000
Bates
ART SUPPLY STORES**

**NORTH WEST
4901 Century Plaza Rd.
CASTLETON
82nd & Allisonville Rd.
Hours: 9-6 M-F 9-5 Sat. Noon-5 Sun.**

Readers share Christmas poetry

Christmas

On this night in a far off land
the stillness of the night air is broken
by the sound of a baby crying.

It is that sharp, sudden cry,
made only by newborn babes,
unmistakable, and distinct.

The sound pierces the air
and carries into the heavens,
setting off a chorus of angelic songs.

Inside the stable from which the cry arose,
a new mother and her husband
marvel at the beauty of the newborn babe.

It is impossible for them to speak at the moment,
because they know they have witnessed
something no other human being has ever heard.

They know that they have just heard
the first whispering sounds
of God, become man.

by Jon R. Myers

(Jon Myers is a member of St. Gabriel Parish in Indianapolis.)

Nativity

This sacred moment
When heaven descends to earth,
Souls sing in rapture
At a mystical rebirth.

Son of God, he comes,
The Lord of all creation;
At this moment sent to be
The key to our salvation.

Angels hover near
As Spirit comes to bestow
The greatest gift, while earthbound,
We mortals shall ever know.

by Arlene Locke

(Arlene Locke is a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis.)



MONK'S MANGER—Benedictine Father Donald Walpole of St. Meinrad created this line art drawing done in ink of the Holy Family for the monks' Christmas card in 1990. The vertical lines behind the crib scene suggest the twinkling of stars. Each year, for 50 years, Father Donald has designed some type of artwork of the nativity. He is an associate professor of art at St. Meinrad College. (Illustration courtesy of St. Meinrad)

Special education students learn about joys of giving

by Sr. Mary Patrick Lenges, OSB

Our Christmas party was like none other. Since we had but one girl and seven boys in the special education class, I feared the result in drawing names! Therefore, the children were told to bring a present that either a boy or girl would enjoy and that we could put into a grab bag for a gift drawing.

When the children asked for suggestions about what to buy, I told them to get something that they themselves would be happy to receive as a gift.

Ronnie did just that. He was so fond of the article he had selected that he begged to be allowed to keep it! This confused the issue, and more or less defeated the purpose of giving gifts at all. However, after several pleas, which I answered in an evasive manner, I finally said, "Well, Ronnie, if you really want to keep it, OK, but then you won't get a surprise gift." This changed the boy's mind, and he decided in favor of surrendering his present for the sake of a surprise gift.

On the party day, the wrapped gifts were placed on the table. Each child had been careful not to let the other children see which present he or she brought to the gift exchange.

I made two sets of numbers, one through eight, then placed a number on each package. I shuffled and shuffled the second set of numbers, then let each child draw a slip of paper. Then we double-checked to make sure no one had the number that matched the number on the present he or she had brought to the party. Having such a small group, we had to draw several times until no one had his or her own present. Then each child stepped up in numerical order to claim the designated gift. It was very exciting, and the children were thrilled.

As the children unwrapped the gifts, they thanked each other for the presents. This part of the gift exchange had been practiced ahead of time. When the newness of the gifts wore off, the children started swapping items. Some presents changed hands over and over. Food came next. The children seemed to enjoy this part of the party most of all. Suddenly I noticed that trouble was brewing between two boys.

"Sister, something is the matter with Steve," one of the children explained. I hastened to see what the trouble might be. A storm cloud was gathering on Steve's face. Ronnie stood beside him, holding tight to a toy pistol.

"He ought to be satisfied," Ronnie claimed. "I gave him two things for one. Ain't that a good deal? Oughtn't he be satisfied when I traded two things for one?"

One look at Steve's face proved that he wasn't satisfied, so I asked, "Steven, why did you agree to the trade?"

Two big tears rolled down his chubby cheeks as he shook his head. After a good deal of explaining, Ronnie was made to see that both parties have to agree to a trade.

One afternoon, after the holidays, we were studying a reading lesson. Several boys were having a hard time keeping their minds on the task at hand.

"We will not take our break until we finish this lesson," I announced firmly. When the clock pointed to 2 p.m., I kept right on with the lesson. But Jim got up and put on his coat.

"Where do you think you are going?" I asked. "Did you hear me say that we would finish this lesson first, and then take our break?"

"Yes, I heard you," Jim replied. "But I didn't agree to it so it doesn't count. Remember what you said about both having to agree?"

With that, Jim started for the door. I blocked his path. Everyone got down to work then, and in a few minutes we were able to take our mid-afternoon break—with overtime—because the teacher needed it just as much as the children!

(Benedictine Sister Mary Patrick Lenges is a member of the Benedictine community at Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove.)



Indianapolis

MARSH GARAGE

Carl Marsh & Mark Bell
1368 South Belmont Street
(Corner Howard & Belmont)
631-8328 632-4075

**Mid-State
Chemical & Supply Corp.**
2100 Greenbrier Lane • 925-1407 — Paul Bosler

**Staab Sheet Metal
& Heating, Inc.**
2720 S. Tibbs Indianapolis 241-2553

Creative Composition
Betty Bennett, Owner
"Composition & Printing"
1416 North Pennsylvania Indianapolis, Ind. 317-636-8810

Brownsburg
MATTHEWS MORTUARY
482 East Main St. • Brownsburg, Indiana 46112 • 853-4296

Batesville
Bruns-Gutzwiller, Inc.
General Contractors
305 S. John Street BATESVILLE, IN 47006 934-2105

Connersville
E. W. BROCKMAN CO., INC.
CIGARS — TOBACCO — CONFECTIONARY
901-915 W. 10th Street CONNERSVILLE, IN 47031 317-825-2148

THE NEW Riedman Motors Company, Inc.
— Since 1926 — 1-800-825-4340
DODGE & CHRYSLER MOTOR CARS — DODGE TRUCKS
610 Grand Avenue Connersville, Indiana Phone: (317) 825-4341

Greensburg

PAVY STOCK YARDS

TELEPHONE: (812) 663-4611 GREENSBURG, INDIANA

Jeffersonville

NACHAND BEVERAGE CO.

"Draft Beer Specialists"
315 E. 10th Street JEFFERSONVILLE, IN 47130 812-282-8219

Martinsville

Fogleman Funeral Home

Lewis Ellison-Waters

216 E. Pike Street MARTINSVILLE, IND. 342-3348

New Albany

M. WOLFE MEAT MARKET

211 E. Market Street NEW ALBANY, INDIANA 944-5442

Richmond

AMERICAN LINEN & INDUSTRIAL UNIFORM RENTAL

1018 S. "E" STREET, RICHMOND, INDIANA
SERVING OHIO AND INDIANA
1-800-544-7709 317-966-4566

Rushville

TODD FUNERAL HOME

SERVING CATHOLIC FAMILIES SINCE 1921
805 N. Main Street RUSHVILLE, INDIANA 317-932-3070

John Deere Tractors and Farm Implements
FARMERS TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT CO., INC.
111 W. 3rd Street RUSHVILLE, IN 46173 932-2977

CURTIS BROS. COMPLETE HOME FURNISHINGS

317-832-3366 & 317-832-2183
1377 E. U.S. 52 Rushville, IN 46173

Whirlpool Appliances
— GE TV & RCA TV

Readers compose seasonal poetry

Rejoice! Rejoice!

I used to know
So long ago
Just what Christmas meant.
We heard the chimes
And sang the rhymes
That Christ was heaven-sent.

Now it seems
Christmas means
We only count the cost,
And in these days
In many ways
The meaning just got lost.

We're so intent
On what we've spent
And presents that we buy,
We ring the bells
And sing "Noels"
And we've forgotten why.

I still yearn
To just return
Where we celebrate his birth.

To simpler days
When Christmas plays
Spoke of peace to men on earth.

When bells would ring
And children sing
The simple carol's story,
And we got a lift
From the precious gift
Of Christ in all his glory.

This, I want to shout,
Is what it's about—
The birth of Christ our king.
Forget the trappings
Of gifts and wrappings
And with the angels sing.

by Toni Jordan

(Toni Jordan resides in Indianapolis.)



Elisabetta Sirani, 1663
National Museum of Women in the Arts

Elisabetta Sirani, 1663
National Museum of Women in the Arts



Elisabetta Sirani, 1663



Elisabetta Sirani, 1663

CHRISTMAS STAMP—The United States Postal Service is selling this stamp featuring Elisabetta Sirani's "Virgin and Child," painted in 1663, during the 1994 Christmas season. With the exception of 1977, stamps showing the Madonna and Child have been issued each year since 1966. The stamp also commemorates the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Christmas cards featuring Mary and Baby Jesus together or the nativity also are among the most popular selections for holiday greetings. A recent national survey conducted by a Marian scholar indicated that most Americans prefer artwork of the Madonna and Child rather than other artistic depictions of Mary. (CNS photo courtesy of the U.S. Postal Service)

*We wish you peace
and joy throughout this
holiday season.*



BANKE ONE.
Whatever it takes.

©1993 BANKE ONE CORPORATION

Advent

A time to prepare . . . A time of sharing
Not glitter and glamour, the kind in the stores.
But cookies with sparkles and trees that glimmer
From outside . . . as you pass through the snow.

It's a time for forgiving those who have hurt us,
And admitting the times we were at fault.
Coming to grips with truth because it will free us.
Reaching out with love to all we survey.

Celebrating life and the beauty it brings us.
It's a time of hope, for wishing . . . yes, praying
That peace will come to all the world.

Stop . . . for a moment! Do you hear the singing?
A sound so soft you can hardly hear.
Shhhhh! Listen! Can you hear it?

by Eileen Endres

(Eileen Endres is a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Blawie, Maryland.)

Holy Night

'Twas beautiful and blessed
That holy, holy night
When Christ was born of Mary
And pain and strife took flight
And all the world was bathed in love
And all the stars shone bright
And earth joined heaven as angels sang
On that holy, holy night.

by Margaret McClelland

(Margaret McClelland is a member of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis.)

What is Christmas?

It's not the tinsel on the tree,
It's not the gifts for you and me,
It's not the branches green outspread,
It's not the greetings that are said.
It's the love you have for me,
For all the friends and kin to see.
It's love and kindness all year through,
It's all the Christian deeds we do.
So let's give a lasting gift—
One of peace and love,
For God's blessings on us fall,
Peace on Earth, good will to all.

by Patricia Drischel

(Patricia Drischel is a member of St. Elizabeth Parish in Cambridge City.)

QUESTION CORNER

Gifts to Christ Child may not have been literal

by Fr. John Dietzen

Scripture tells us that shortly after Jesus was born he was visited by three wise men (kings?) from the East, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

It stands to reason that these three men, having traveled a long way to pay homage to a king, would not present token gifts, but gifts of substantial value. Does tradition, rumor or legend give any clue as to what the Holy Family did with this newfound wealth? (Indiana)



Your question is considerably more interesting and significant than you might think. For a start, why do we think the magi (astrologers?) came "shortly after Jesus was born"? The Gospel says only that the event occurred after Jesus' birth, during the reign of King Herod (Matthew 2:1).

Did they come from the East? Scripture says only that "they saw his star at its rising." Nor are we told how many there were. Legend has come up with three, possibly because of the three gifts offered.

These are a small sample of the reasons most scholars of Scripture see this passage of Matthew as an example of what in Jewish literature is called "haggadic midrash," stories to spin out and clarify the meaning of a particular event or teaching. These stories were meant to develop an understanding of a mystery. They were not intended to be taken literally. Such writing was quite common among Jews as an effective teaching tool.

In this understanding, the magi event would be a tale conceived by some early communities of Christian believers and placed in the Gospel of Matthew to illustrate a Christian awareness that Christ had come as savior for all people, not only for Jews.

As I said, this interpretation, or some variation of it, is commonly accepted today, and is supported by numerous Old Testament allusions and theological connections in the story of the three kings.

As for the money, it has been suggested that Joseph and Mary saved it for feast of bar mitzvah. As you say, the story just doesn't hang together with what we know of the obscure, simple life of the Holy Family. That's one more reason for seeing the magi story as something other than straight historical reporting. In fact, this remarkable Gospel story becomes more profound, and spiritually much richer, when we open up the meanings that lie beneath the obvious literal explanation.

My friend insists she was taught that only Catholics, or at most Christians, can be saved. All others are condemned.

FAMILY TALK

The giving of gifts symbolizes love, joy

by Dr. James and Mary Kenny

"The Holy Supper is kept, indeed, in whatso we share with another's need; Not what we give, but what we share— For the gift without the giver is bare; Who gives himself with his alms feeds three, Himself, his hungry neighbor, and me."

From James Russell Lowell: "The Vision of Sir Launfal"

Why is it the custom to give gifts at Christmas? What does or should a gift mean?

The gift is a representative of the self, a symbol of love. The gift should say to the receiver: I am giving you this token to let you know that you have the deeper claim on me of friendship and love.

We give a gift at Christmas to remind the receiver that we plan to give of our selves all during the year. The gift is an external sign, something special to represent the love we feel, a sacramental. Gift-giving should influence the givers as well, reminding us that as Christians we intend to be, want to be, loving persons.

The gift symbolizes and celebrates this loving attitude that Christians naturally express toward one another. A gift at Christmas time should be a sign of our everyday attitude.

Catherine de Hueck Doherty, a wise woman, once defined a saint as "a person who does ordinary things in an extraordinary way." Not someone who works miracles, but someone who is loving and giving.

What are these everyday ordinary expressions of love that the Christmas gift celebrates? They are just that, ordinary. A smile. A touch. Listening. Saying something positive. Trusting enough to share our own thoughts and feelings.

At Christmas we want to remember that our gift is only a sign of the love that we feel daily. As we give and receive presents, let's renew our intent to give smiles and compliments and positive encouragement. To give of ourselves.

For as the poet says: "The gift without the giver is bare."

(Address questions on family living and child care to be answered in print to the Kennys, 219 W. Harrison, Rensselaer, Ind. 47978.)

I am a convert to the Catholic faith and never heard that. Not only does it eliminate Jews, for example, but many other good people whose lives seem to be holier, and are certainly more thoughtful and generous, than some Christians.

She claims that she is just repeating what she learned when she was young: "Outside the church there is no salvation." Can you help? (Pennsylvania)

The phrase you quote goes back to the early centuries of Christianity. St. Cyprian, bishop of Carthage in North Africa, teaches it in his influential work "The Unity of the Church," which was published in 251. Perhaps it originated even earlier than that.

The axiom has a long and complicated history through the following centuries. There's no question that often it was interpreted in the strictest sense in official church documents.

The 12th ecumenical council, Lateran IV (1215), echoed the widespread sentiment of official church teaching of that time in declaring, "We firmly believe and confess without reservation... (that) there is truly one universal church of the faithful outside which absolutely no one is saved" (Chapter 1). The context of these words in that council clearly indicates they were to be understood in the most rigorous sense.

Nearly 100 years later, in a decree on the power and unity of the church, Pope Boniface VIII taught that outside the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic church there is "no salvation or remission of sin.... We declare, state, define and pronounce (that) subjection to the Roman pontiff is absolutely necessary for salvation for every human creature" ("Unam Sanctam," Feb. 17, 1304).

Numerous reasons could be brought forward to explain

this kind of teaching in the church. Most Christians of those centuries believed that, except for a few pockets here and there, the whole world had been evangelized; thus all people had been presented the opportunity to accept or reject Christ and his church. All this changed in the next centuries with the famous voyages of discovery which revealed the existence of countless millions of hitherto unknown people.

The bishops of Vatican Council II taught that God's saving grace is at work not only in the Jews and Moslems, who are touched by revelation in the scriptures, but in all others as well.

"Those also can attain eternal salvation," said the bishops, "who through no fault of their own do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church, yet sincerely seek God and, moved by grace, strive by their deeds to do his will as it is known to them through their conscience."

God's saving action extends even beyond those who explicitly search for him, the bishops continue. "Nor does divine providence deny the help necessary for salvation to those who, without blame on their part, have not yet arrived at an explicit knowledge of God, but who strive to live a good life, thanks to his grace" ("Constitution on the Church," 16). This belief was repeated often and in various ways in other Vatican Council documents, and later official teachings, including the new "Catechism of the Catholic Church."

(Questions for this column should be sent to Father John Dietzen at 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.)



Carefree Travel
9451 East Washington St.
899-4477
1-800-528-4557
Indianapolis to Hawaii (air only)
from \$598.00 Round Trip
(packages are available, some restrictions may apply)

Call Jeanette Leary

FROST UPHOLSTERY
& Discount Fabrics

Large Selection of Fabrics in Stock at Discount Prices!
Since 1986

- All types of upholstery needs
- Repair & Rebuilding
- Fabric shown in your house or our showroom
- Free Estimates

353-1217 4024 E. Michigan

Sextuplets Weren't An Ordinary Delivery.

The birth of the Dilley sextuplets was hardly an everyday event. Yet

made it seem that way. That's because The Women's Hospital

Hospital has some of the area's leading obstetric, pediatric and neonatal professionals on staff. The kind you need for a special event like delivering the Dilley sextuplets. And the kind you need for the most special event of all - the birth of your child.

For more information on our pregnancy and childbirth professionals, call 872-1800.

Thank Goodness We're Not An Ordinary Hospital.

The Women's Hospital

8111 Township Line Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46260

Entertainment

VIEWING WITH ARNOLD

'Miracle on 34th Street' is a charming remake

by James W. Arnold

What would happen if the real Santa Claus showed up for work in an American department store during the Christmas season?

That's still the whimsical premise of the late George Seaton's Oscar-winning script for "Miracle on 34th Street," the 1947 classic now updated for the 1990s. It's a distant cousin to the questions about what would happen if Lincoln came back, or St. Francis, or even Jesus himself. How would the world we know react to them?

Well, in Seaton's story, competing Herald Square stores fight over Santa, with the losers framing him and taking him to court for a commitment hearing. He's got to be crazy, they think. But no way is an elective judge going to send Santa Claus to a psychiatric ward.

The Santa, a gent named Kris Kringle who lives in the Mount Carmel Senior Center, also serves to bring the Christmas spirit to a little girl and her pretty single mother.

Susan, age 5, precocious but very sweet, is being raised, not to believe in illusions. "Myths only make you unhappy," says the mom, Dorey, who is clearly thinking of her failed marriage. Ironically, the affluent Dorey is the public relations executive who hires Santa for her store.

"Miracle" is impossible not to like this time of year, although the remake offers no improvements on the well-loved original beyond contemporary packaging. E.g., it's made in color on Manhattan locations, the

disputes are covered via television. Instead of Macy's and Gimbels, the contenders are fictional: Cole's, representing a quality traditional store, and Shoppers Express (the bad guys), representing a cutthroat discount chain run by a greedy tycoon.

But the movie doesn't really look or feel like New York in the 1990s. It also obviously lacks the fresh charm of the original, which won three Oscars and was nominated for best picture.

The new cast can't be faulted. Producer John Hughes ("Home Alone") knows this is another movie cow—we'll all be watching it every Christmas on television into eternity.

Bearded Richard Attenborough, no longer Sir Richard but Lord Attenborough, is less puckish than Edmund Gwenn, but surely a twinkly, credible Kris, and solemn little Mara Wilson, as Susan (the Natalie Wood role), is a jewel. Elizabeth Perkins, a touch too really depressed, is probably too good an actress for Dorey. Dylann McDermott is likeable as the nice guy lawyer and hopeful boyfriend, and Robert Prosky is shrewd in the key role of the judge who has to decide if this claimant to be Santa Claus is "real."

For Catholics, Santa stories are always problematic. He's an icon for us, too, since we're normal North Americans, but he also symbolizes the culture's turning Christmas into a carnival of consumer indulgence. We're never quite sure whether to take Santa as a usurper, or a sacrament, a joyful sign of the Lord in disguise.

We hesitate to love him too much. Most of our countrymen are sentimental about Santa as the spirit of all Christmas has come to mean. Others see him as the spirit of a materialistic anti-Christmas. In this movie, he sort of has one bit in each camp. He works for a department store, but he sends



"MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET"—Actor Richard Attenborough stars as Kris Kringle and newcomer Mara Wilson is Susan Walker in a remake of the 1947 Christmas classic "Miracle on 34th Street." The original holiday film has delighted movie-goers for decades. This remake has been updated for the 1990s. (CNS photo)

mothers to the competition if they have a cheaper price. Attenborough certainly projects the image of the loving father, the one who looks out for us.

The Seaton-Hughes script keeps talking about the need to "believe," as if it were simply a matter of will, and it didn't matter what you believed in. Just "believe." Kris talks as if he were on good terms with both the Tooth Fairy and the Easter Bunny ("The winters in New Zealand"), and that's funny. But believing in the spirit of Christmas is obviously not like believing in the Easter Bunny.

In the climactic scene, a big deal is made of the motto in the dollar bill ("In God we trust"), and the connection between Santa and other beings, unseen but believed in, is made stronger. Christian faith, one must insist, is not comparable to believing in Santa Claus. But you have to be wary of stomping on even the most slender thread leading to the heart of the mystery.

Kris/Santa remains eternally ambiguous, even in this movie. In one moment of gentle insight, sitting in the department store, Kris tells a little deaf girl in sign language that she's loved, and hums along as she sings

"Jingle Bells" with an angelic smile. It's almost a moment of grace, a glimpse of something beyond definition.

But at the end Kris/Santa also gives Susan the big house in the country she always dreamed of. It's right out of the pages of the slick magazine, next to all the other goodies you want for Christmas.

(Classic revival, slick but—of course—not as good as the original; satisfactory entertainment for the family.)

USCC classification: A-I, general patronage.

Recent USCC Film Classifications

Ladybird, Ladybird.....	A-IV
Little Women.....	A-I
Queen Margot.....	A-I
Ready to Wear.....	O
Spenshills.....	A-III

A-I—general patronage; A-II—adults and children; A-III—adults and children, with restrictions; O—occasional exhibition.

'Sesame Street Stays Up Late' on New Year's Eve

by Henry Herx and Gerri Pare
Catholic News Service

How children around the world ring in the New Year is one way youngsters can wind down the old one on "Sesame Street Stays Up Late! A Monster New Year's Eve Party." First broadcast on Saturday, Dec. 31, from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on PBS. (Check local listings to verify program dates and times.)

Those mischievous muppets travel 'round the globe for Monster News Network's special coverage of New Year's Eve in different cultures, adding a little humor of the proceedings by their presence.

In Portugal, children eat 12 grapes—one for each month—and make wishes for the coming year. The program uses animation to express their wishes come true, based on the drawings the children have made.

Japanese children play badminton, hoping to lose, as losers get their faces beautifully painted by the winners. They also show illustrating New Year's cards and pounding rice for the traditional rice cakes.

In Israel, the festivities are held in autumn, where a young man blows the ram's horn to mark the year's beginning. In Germany, youngsters dress up and bang pots and pans door to door singing for sweets. Mexican children get their sweets while blindfolded by knocking down colorful pinatas dangling from the ceiling.

The program winds up its whirlwind tour at candle-lighting ceremonies in Norway's magical village of Lillehammer, where the houses are small and the children feel big.

As directed by Chuck Vinson, the program has enough music, puppets and cultural comparisons to stuff a child's mind before a new year of learning can begin.

There are the usual silly sign gags, and Oscar the Grouch meets his match when guest star Lily Tomlin as Ernestine the operator tries to connect him to all his relatives for a holiday greeting.

Acted out shot in seven countries, the production looks a bit choppy but it's all in the service of presenting positive social values such as celebrating friendship and hope for the future, no matter where in the world you happen to live.

A nice wrap-up song at the end seals a pleasant holiday show for children—before their parents head out to share some of the bubbly with other grown-ups.

TV Programs of Note

Sunday, Dec. 25, 9:30-10 a.m. (PBS) "Prince Cinderella." This animated special is based on an unconventional retelling of the Cinderella story in which a small and scruffy Prince Cinderella must put up with three big, brutish brothers who go to parties and leave him to clean up after them.

Sunday, Dec. 25, 8-9 p.m. (CBS) "Touched by an Angel." In this series episode, Angela Della Reese and Roma Downey become part of a church Christmas celebration and try to help two brothers (Randy Travis and Paul Wittenberg), one of whom is disabled.

Sunday, Dec. 27, 8-9 p.m. (PBS) "Bah! Humbug!" Robert MacNeil hosts this dramatic and original production of "A Christmas Carol," Charles Dickens' classic tale, starring James Earl Jones and Martin Sheen.

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 8-9 p.m. (PBS) "In Search of the First Language." In this "Nova" documentary, linguists seek the world's 5,000 languages looking for links between languages. They claim to have found 20 words that may have been spoken by the first humans as early society developed in Africa.

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 9-10 p.m. (PBS) "Prisoners of Silence." A controversial new method designed to help the autistic communicate is examined in this repeat of a "Frontline" documentary. Nearly 400,000 Americans are afflicted with autism, and the vast majority are judged mentally retarded with little or no speech and seemingly cut off from the world. Four years ago, an Australian inventor developed facilitated communication to help control the sometimes jerking movements of an autistic person's hand, allowing the autistic individual to type his or her thoughts onto a keyboard. Teachers, parents and social workers embraced and learned the techniques of facilitated communication with astounding results. A nonverbal teen-age girl thought to have an IQ of 10 typed 120 poems and nine short stories. Autistics formerly thought to have no language or communication skills were studying biology and algebra, and children at age 6 were constructing perfectly spelled, grammatical sentences.

Wednesday, Dec. 28, 8-11 p.m. (CBS) "The Kennedy Center Honors: A Celebration of the Performing Arts." This special awards program honors the lifetime achievements of Kirk Douglas, Annette Franklin, Morton Gould, Harold Prince, and Pete Seeger. It is hosted by former CBS anchor Walter Cronkite.

Thursday, Dec. 29, 8-9 p.m. (PBS) "In the Footsteps of Buddha." From the "Legendary Trails" four-part series, travel writer Alexander Frater journeys from Kathmandu in Nepal to

northern India, the heartland of Hinduism and the birthplace of Buddha, and ends up in Bodhi Gaya, Buddhism's most sacred shrine.

TV Film Fare

Sunday, Dec. 25, 7:30-9 p.m. (Fox) "Fergally: The Last Rainforest." This animated children's fantasy released in 1992 tells how the tiny fairy Crysta (voice of Samantha Mathis) employs her magical powers to save a pristine forest and its lively creatures, including a wacky bat (voice of Robin Williams), from being destroyed by the pollution monster, Hexxon (voice of Tim Curry). Directed by Bill Kroyer, the animation of the natural world is lovely to see and the action is sufficiently fanciful, but the well-intentioned story is thin and its ecological message saccharine. There are some tense scenes. The U.S. Catholic Conference classified the theatrical version A-I for general patronage.

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 8-10 p.m. (CBS) "Quick Change." Disguised as a clown, Bill Murray and accomplices Geena Davis and Randy Quaid pull off an ingenious million-dollar bank robbery in the Big Apple, only to find that their complicated caper was a breeze compared to getting to the airport. Co-directed by Murray and Howard Franklin, the result is a sporadically funny attempt at screwball comedy with the madness of New York serving as a backdrop for understated performances by Murray and Davis, abetted by Quaid's slapstick goofiness. The 1990 film includes some rough language, references to an unmarried sexual relationship, and a plot which treats crime as a lark. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-III for adults.

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 8-10 p.m. (Fox) "Teen-age Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze." In this 1991 sequel, rat mentor Splinter and the feisty foursome are out to recapture the last vital of a dangerously toxic ooze from the clutches of the evil Shredder (François Chau) and his ninja thugs. Director Michael Pressman uses nonstop kung fu battles to disguise the amateur-hour plot, and Jim Henson's workshop furnishes two new monsters to keep the eyes entertained up to a point. The movie features considerable slapstick treatment of martial arts violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-II for adults and adolescents.

(Check local listings to verify program dates and times. Henry Herx is the director and Gerri Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.)

EAST OF CHRISTMAS.—THE BIRTH OF THE LORD

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Dec. 25, 1994

Isaiah 52:7-10 — Hebrews 1:1-6 — John 1:1-18

by Fr. Owen F. Campion

The church provides for three liturgies on Christmas, the feast of the Lord's birth, at midnight, at dawn, and during the day.

The readings mentioned here are from the Mass during the day. As its first reading, the church provides a passage from the second part of Isaiah. These verses were composed in a moment of great joy and expectation for God's people. Political fortunes had changed in their world. Mighty Babylon, in whose capital the hostages had been detained for many long years, was laid low by Persia. The Persian ruler, Cyrus, had no need of the hostages he freed them. As would be assumed, he immediately became a hero in their eyes. Their appreciation was without limit. They even saluted him as an instrument of God, a most unusual distinction to be conferred by God's faithful people upon a pagan.

Second Isaiah is spectacular in its eloquence and majesty. No one can read its chapters without being drawn into their joy and sense of relief. The church chooses well for this feast when it selects this part of Isaiah as the source of a liturgical reading.

Critical to understanding the Scripture is in realizing that God's people did not see their good fortune merely as a result of the political changes, not even of the good will of the Persian king, despite the fact that they honored him as the giver of their freedom. Rather, this blessedly happy turn of events was the product of God's unbounded love and mercy.

The Epistle to the Hebrews supplies this daytime liturgy of Christmas with its second reading. Among the New Testament writings, Hebrews is a book of great and impressive literary merit. It has exquisite imagery, and in words and phrases direct and indicative enough to be understood by anyone, it proclaims that great mystery, that God so loves humanity that in God's holy plan the Son of God came to redeem all people from their sins.

This feast's reading identifies Jesus as the Son of God. For many centuries the prophets

had yearned for the Lord's arrival upon the earthly scene. They knew without doubt that the Redeemer would come, since they knew without doubt that God so loved humanity that, despite human sin, God would restore humankind to holiness, to union with the divine.

The very first chapter of St. John's Gospel is the source of this Gospel proclamation for Christmas. The Fourth Gospel is brilliant in its identification of Jesus as the Son of God. Not even in the black moments of its Passion Narrative does the Fourth Gospel see Jesus as anything other than the Son of God, the king, the great and the all-powerful.

In this reading, the Gospel splendidly acclaims Jesus in all the majesty and glory of the redemptive role.

Reflection

In our culture, Christmas is a time of gift-giving. This in itself is an ancient Christian gesture. As the magi brought gifts to the infant Lord, we too bring gifts to the infant Lord whom we see in each other and in the love we feel for each other.

In these readings, the church gives us the brightest jewels of its Scriptures in the power and beauty of Second Isaiah, Hebrews, and John's Gospel. Lustrous in revealing the true identity of Jesus, these readings assure us in great literary majesty that the Lord who is born today in our hearts, if our hearts are open, freed from sin, is the very Son of God.

This newborn Lord will rescue us from the heartbreak and bewilderment of being in exile from God, and through this Lord's perfect sacrifice of self, we will sweep aside all the obstacles that stand between us and God.

No longer must we stand perplexed or in fear! We can be with God, and in God is all peace and life.

Finally, the church in these readings reminds us, as Second Isaiah reminded readers so long ago, that despite our sins we approach God to be united with God's life because God loves us with a love that knows no limits, no qualifications, no second thoughts.

How great God's gift to us in the Babe of Bethlehem! How great the Lord's gift to us in the knowledge of God given in the Lord and given again in the church and in the Scriptures it treasures dearly but lavishly shares with us.

a willingness to make sacrifices, and a firm commitment to fraternal charity.

Members of religious communities, following the model of the early church (cf. Acts 4:32), strive to live together in harmony, abiding in Christ's love and thus showing the true face of the church.

Their unity has its source in the Holy Spirit's gift of infused charity, which enables individuals to support and help each other on the path of perfection, "bearing one another's burdens" (cf. Galatians 6:2) in mutual esteem, with respect for legitimate differences.

This unity in charity is a pledge of Christ's presence and the source of a deep joy which will increase until the day when we see the Lord face to face.

MY JOURNEY TO GOD

A Lesser Bethlehem

I shall not get to Bethlehem this year,
Nor see the manger where the pilgrims
greet
the Holy Morning, once more to repeat
the ancient tidings for mankind to hear.
My plans again are otherwise laid out
With gifts to buy and parties to attend
And duties first to those who do depend
On father to help Santa get about.

Yes, what I would not give just once to
take

That perfect pilgrimage to places past
And see with my own aging eyes at last
The cradle where creation did awake.
It shall not be. Again with children dear
I seek a lesser Bethlehem right here.

by David Biff

(David Biff is a member of St. Matthew Parish in Indianapolis. The father of 10 children, Biff wrote this poem in 1988.)

Daily Readings

Saturday, Dec. 24

Vigil of Christmas

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

Acts 13:16-17, 22-23

Matthew 1:1-25 or

Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday, Dec. 25

Christmas

Midnight

Isaiah 9:1-6

Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

Dawn

Isaiah 62:11-12

Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:15-20

Day

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98:1-6

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18 or

John 1:1-5, 9-14

Monday, Dec. 26

Stephen, first martyr

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59

Psalm 31:3-4, 6-8, 17-21

Matthew 10:17-22

Tuesday, Dec. 27

John, apostle, evangelist

1 John 1:1-4

Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12

John 20:2-8

Wednesday, Dec. 28

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

1 John 1:5-12

Psalm 124:2-5, 7-8

Matthew 23:1-18

Thursday, Dec. 29

Fifth day in the octave of Christmas

Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr

1 John 2:3-11

Psalm 96:1-3, 5-6

Luke 2:22-35

Friday, Dec. 30

The Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalm 128:1-5

Colossians 3:12-17 or

Colossians 3:12-21

Luke 2:41-52 or

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Psalm 84:3, 5-6, 9-10

John 3:1-2, 21-24

Luke 2:41-52

Saturday, Dec. 31

Seventh day in the

octave of Christmas

Sylvester I, pope

1 John 2:18-21

Titus 2:11-14

John 1:1-18

Sunday, Jan. 1

Octave of Christmas:

Mary, Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:16-21

Monday, Jan. 2

Basil the Great and

Gregory Nazianzen,

bishops, doctors of the Church

1 John 2:22-28

Psalm 98:1-4

John 1:19-28

Tuesday, Jan. 3

1 John 2:29-36

Psalm 98:1-3, 6

John 1:29-34

Wednesday, Jan. 4

Elizabeth Ann Seton, married

woman, religious foundress

1 John 3:7-10

Psalm 135:2-4

Thursday, Jan. 5

John Neumann, bishop,

religious, missionary

1 John 3:11-21

Psalm 100:5-5

John 1:43-51

Friday, Jan. 6

Blessed Andre Bessette, religious

1 John 5:5-13

Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20

Mark 1:7-11

SAINT OF THE WEEK

John Neumann of Philadelphia was known for organizing skills

by John F. Fink

North America still has comparatively few canonized saints. However, the church celebrates the feasts of three of them during the first week in January.

The feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born citizen, about whom we wrote in this column a year ago, is on Jan. 4. St. John Neumann's feast is on Jan. 5. And the feast of St. Andre Bessette, a Holy Cross brother who built the magnificent St. Joseph's Oratory on Mount Royal in Montreal and who died as recently as 1937, is on Jan. 6.

This week, though, we are going to examine the life of John Neumann, the first (and, so far, the only) American bishop to be canonized. John Neumann should not be confused with the great English theologian of the 19th century, Cardinal John Newman. The names are similar (and Neumann is often mispronounced like Newman) but Cardinal Newman has not yet been canonized.

John Nepomucene Neumann was born in Bohemia, or what is now the Czech Republic, in 1811, the third of six children of Philip, a German, and Agnes, a Czech. He went to the seminary and to the Charles Ferdinand University in Prague. But when he completed his studies he was not ordained for a reason we would find surprising today—there were too many priests already at work in Bohemia. His home diocese did not want him.

So John left Bohemia and came to the United States. The bishop of New York, James Dubois, was glad to have another priest, so he ordained John on June 25, 1836. Father Neumann did pastoral work in and around Buffalo for four years before joining the Redemptorist Order, becoming the first man of this order to profess vows in the United States.

After joining the Redemptorists, Father Neumann did missionary work in Mary-

land, Virginia and Ohio, working especially among the German-speakers in those areas. His chief work was the establishment of Catholic schools. For a short time he was vice-provincial of the Redemptorists, using that position to place Redemptorists in the forefront of the parochial school movement.

When he was 41 in 1852, Pope Pius IX appointed Neumann Bishop of Philadelphia. It was here that his outstanding organizing and management skills came to the fore. In a time span of less than eight years, before his death in 1860, he caused no less than 80 new churches to be built in his diocese. He began the building of Philadelphia's magnificent cathedral.

However, Bishop Neumann is known primarily for organizing the Philadelphia parochial school system into a diocesan one. To start a school he attracted into Philadelphia many teaching orders of sisters in addition to the Christian Brothers. He increased the number of children in Philadelphia's Catholic school system some 20-fold. Philadelphia is still known for its excellent Catholic schools (a statement I have to make since my wife is a product of those schools).

Bishop Neumann also earned a reputation for holiness and learning. He introduced the Forty Hours devotion, which were parish missions spread over a period of 40 hours. He wrote articles for secular newspapers, usually anonymously.

Bishop Neumann's preferred language for writing continued to be German, but he had a grasp of seven other modern languages in addition to Latin. He wrote two catechisms that, in 1852, were approved by the American hierarchy. They continued in and wide use in the United States through the 19th century.

Bishop Neumann died unexpectedly on a street in Philadelphia on Jan. 5, 1860, more than two months prior to his 49th birthday. He was canonized by Pope Paul VI on June 19, 1977.

The Active List

The Criterion welcomes announcements for The Active List of parish and church-related activities open to the public. Please keep their brief, listing location, sponsor, date, time and location. No announcements will be taken by telephone. No pictures, please. Notices must be in our offices by 10 a.m. Monday the week of publication. Hand deliver or mail to The Criterion, The Active List, 1400 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, Ind., 46206.

December 22-23

Christian Theological Seminary, 1000 West 42nd St., will host Hosanna Sacred Arts troupe as they perform "Songs of the Nativity." Both evenings begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Virginia Davis at 317-436-0744.

December 22-24

The Indianapolis Ballet Theatre will conclude its 1994 season with "The Nutcracker" at the Warren Performing Arts Center, 9301 East E. 18th St. On Thursday and Friday, shows will be held at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Only a 2 p.m. show will be held on Saturday. Tickets are \$16 for adults; \$10 for children 16 and under. For more information, call 317-637-8979.

December 24

Sacred Heart Church, 1530 Union St., will hold its annual Christmas

concert at 11:30 p.m. prior to Midnight Mass.

A pro-life rosary is prayed at 9:30 a.m. each Saturday at the Clinic for Women, 38th and Parker.

December 25

Fest of the Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas!

Sacred Heart Parish, 1530 Union St., will hold a holy hour with the rosary at 2 p.m. in the church. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Dorothy at 317-356-5110.

The Secular Franciscans will meet in Sacred Heart Parish Chapel, 1530 Union St., at 3 p.m. For more information, call 317-637-7309.

December 30

Christ the King Parish Singles group at Amelia Warren's home at 7:30 p.m. for a holiday party. BYOC and a covered dish. For more information, call Amelia at 317-578-2165 or Ann Casey at 317-253-3518. All adult singles are welcome.

December 31

The Knights of Columbus, 695 Pushville Rd., Greenwood, will hold a New Year's Eve Celebration Dinner/Dance beginning at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$22.50 per person. For reservations, call Al or Ida Meyer at 317-881-8351, Frank or Betty Hommel at 317-881-2094, or Bill or Sharon Johnson at 317-882-0885.

January 1

Fest of Mary, Mother of God. Happy New Year!

Sacred Heart Parish, 1530 Union St., will hold a holy hour with the rosary at 2 p.m. in the church. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Dorothy at 317-356-5110.

Assumption Church, 1117 Blaine Ave., will celebrate its last Mass today at 9:30 a.m.

January 3

Devotions to Jesus and the Blessed Mother are held each Tuesday from 7-8 p.m. in St. Mary Chapel, 317 N. New York St. Call 317-786-7517 for more information.

The prayer group of St. Lawrence, 4650 Ave., will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel. All are welcome. For more information, call 317-546-4065 or 317-842-8005.

The near southside adult religious education program will hold the seventh part of "On the Catechism," from 7-8:15 p.m. at

Sacred Heart Church, 1530 Union St. Topic will be "Sacraments of Healing."

January 4

Father Joseph Rautenberg will speak on the Catholic position of the ethics of current reproductive techniques and genetic research. The lecture will be held at Christ the King Grade School conference room, 5858 N. Crittenden, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

☆☆☆

The Young Actors Theatre, sponsored by Turners Free University, will begin its spring semester meeting every Sat. until mid-May. For more information, call Charlotte Kaufman at 317-253-2455.

January 5

A pro-life rosary will be prayed at 10 a.m. in front of Affiliated Women's Services, Inc., 2215 p.m. St. Pius X. Knights of Columbus Council 3433, 6 p.m. WEDNESDAY: St. Anthony, 6:30 p.m.; K of C Council 437, 1:30 p.m. DELAWARE: 5 p.m. THURSDAY: St. Catherine, 5:30 p.m.; Holy Family K of C, American Legion Post 500, 1925 Georgetown Rd.,

St. Malachy, Brownburg, 5:30 p.m.; Msgr. Sheridan K of C Council 6138, Johnson Co., 6:15 p.m. St. Pius X. Knights of Columbus Council 3433, 6 p.m. WEDNESDAY: St. Anthony, 6:30 p.m.; K of C Council 437, 1:30 p.m. DELAWARE: 5 p.m. THURSDAY: St. Catherine, 5:30 p.m.; Holy Family K of C, American Legion Post 500, 1925 Georgetown Rd.,

A pro-life rosary is prayed at 9:30 a.m. each Sat. at the Clinic for Women, 38th and Parker.

☆☆☆

Apostolate of Fatima will hold a holy hour at 2 p.m. at the Little Flower Chapel, 13th and Bosart. For more information, call Lena at 317-784-9757.

☆☆☆

St. Nicholas Parish, Sunman, will hold a S.A.C.R.E.D. meeting at 7:30 a.m.

☆☆☆

St. Paul, Sellersburg will hold an hour of prayer and praise from 7-8:15 p.m. in the church. For more information, call Ron at 812-246-4555.

☆☆☆

Sacred Heart Parish, 1530 Union St., will hold a holy hour with the rosary at 2 p.m. in the church. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Dorothy at 317-356-5110.

☆☆☆

Holy Cross Church, 125 N. Oriental, will hold an Epiphany Brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adults, \$5; children \$2.

☆☆☆

Bingos

MONDAY: Our Lady of Lourdes, 6:30 p.m.; St. James, 5:30 p.m. TUESDAY: St. Michael, 6

© 1994 Catholic News Service



6:30 p.m.; FRIDAY: St. Christopher, Speedway, 6:30 p.m.; Holy Name, Beach Grove, 5:30 p.m. SATURDAY: K of C Council 437, 1305 N. Delaware, 4:30 p.m. SUNDAY: St. Ambrose, Seymour, 4 p.m.; Ritter High School, 6 p.m.; Msgr. Sheridan K of C Council 6138, Johnson Co., first Sunday each of month, 1:15 p.m.

Clinton proposes coordinating aid efforts with Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—President Bill Clinton has written to Pope John Paul II proposing a system of "humanitarian diplomacy" to better coordinate U.S. and Vatican aid efforts. The early November letter praises the church's "invaluable material and spiritual support" to suffering people throughout the world, sources told Catholic News Service in Rome.

Raymond L. Flynn, the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, confirmed Dec. 14 that he had delivered a letter from Clinton to the pope in late November, but said he could not release the message.

Sources said Clinton told the pope that "in a world with too many man-made and natural disasters" the United States and the Vatican should explore ways to create "a system to facilitate information sharing."

Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana Charismatic Mass

(Mass held on the first Friday of each month at selected parishes)

Date: New Year's Eve
December 31, 1994

St. Gabriel
6000 West 34th St.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46224

Celebrant: Fr. Paul Landwerlen

Fellowship starts at 8:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 10:00 p.m.

For Information Call 317-571-1200

Catholic Communications Center presents the

Televised Mass

WXIN-59
Indianapolis
Sundays
6:30 AM

The Staff of the Catholic Communications Center joins the Management and Staff of WXIN-59 in wishing all of our friends and viewers a most happy Christmas season and many blessings in the new year of 1995.

December 25, 1994 and January & February, 1995 TV Mass Schedule:

Date	Celebrant	Congregation
Dec. 25	Most Rev. Daniel Buechlein, OSB	Staff of Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center
Jan. 1	Rev. Richard Ginter	Members of St. Peter & Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis
Jan. 8	Rev. Thomas Murphy	Members of St. John Parish, Indianapolis
Jan. 15	Rev. Robert Borchertmeyer	Members of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus Parish, Indianapolis
Jan. 22	To be announced	
Jan. 29	Rev. Joseph McNally	Members of St. Barnabas Parish, Indianapolis
Feb. 5	Rev. Henry Beck	Students & Faculty of Marian College, Indianapolis
Feb. 12	Rev. Martin Peter	Members of St. Pius X Parish, Indianapolis
Feb. 17	Rev. Anthony Volz	Catholic Press Month
Feb. 26	Rev. Roger Gaudet	Members of St. Thomas Parish, Fortville



St. PATRICK'S DAY IN JANUARY

Mark your calendar now for

Saturday, January 21, 1995

from 8:00 p.m. until midnight
at St. Pius X K of C
71st and Keystone

Irish Brigade Band - nationally recognized

Hosted by the St. Lawrence Sports Committee

Advance tickets are \$10 per person. \$15 at door.
Reserve a table for 8 now!

Beer, Wine, Mixed Drinks Available

Contact Colleen Laughlin for information . . . 317-823-2422

Youth News/Views

Youth need help making connections with God and faith community

by James Van Alstine
Catholic News Service

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.—Youth ministers must take more seriously the job of helping young people reconnect "to the God which has become distant," author and liturgist Mary Frances Reza told a national conference.

"We have to start seeing the church with new eyes," Reza told some 1,350 participants in the 25th National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry held Nov. 30 to Dec. 3 in Colorado Springs.

Thirty youth ministry coordinators from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis attended the national conference.

Reza urged adults to ask whether young people would see something in the church "that would make them want to have our faith."

The author of two books, Reza has served on the boards of the Institute of Hispanic Liturgy and the Southwest Liturgical Conference. She centered her talk on the difficulties that church leaders and workers face in their careers.

Contending that lay workers in education and youth ministry are increasingly overworked and generally underpaid, she encouraged them to do whatever they can to avoid ministry burn-out.

"Take time to realize how precious you as a person are, and that the spirit of God is within you," Reza said. "You were given the breath of life; he promised strength would come from within. We need to nurture it and not forget that it's there."

Although lay workers are filling more positions in church work, Reza believes they have failed to adequately bring their spirituality to their work in ministry.

"Leadership needs to form," she said, "and become a spiritual leadership."

Another keynote speaker, Robert J. McCarty, coordinator for youth ministry training in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, said he is worried about the direction society is taking with regard to young people.

"The recent elections seem to have created a shift in our country," said McCarty, an author and 20-year veteran of youth ministry work. "We seem to be moving away from a 'kinder, gentler nation' to a more cautious, frustrated, individually-oriented nation."

McCarty believes these changes in the political climate will lay heavily upon America's youth.

"There's a move in our society to

control young people—establish curfews, tighter laws and penalties, jail them," he said. But there is a discrepancy between today's rhetoric of family values and applied social policy.

"Society gives lip service to the value of young people," he said, "but you establish priorities where you spend your money, time and resources, and it's not happening with kids."

In the struggle to save today's youths, McCarty said the church must become more "youth friendly" and seek to involve them more. He said the church has an image problem with young people.

"Young people know what the church is against, but do they know what it is for?" he asked. "Youth ministry must be focused on the justice and compassion, the healing, the respect for life, and the kingdom of God."

If the church fails to be attractive to young people, McCarty warned, they will seek less desirable alternatives such as gangs.

"They will go where their needs are met," he said. "Our young people today are doing theology with their feet."

McCarty was one of seven people receiving awards from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry during the conference. He was honored in the trainer category.

Other winners were:

- Thomas D. Bright, staff coordinator for justice ministry services at the Center for Youth Ministry Development in Naugatuck, Conn., in the Gospel values of justice and peace category.

- Mary Jean Hart, a Philadelphia resident who chairs the National Catholic Committee on Girl Scouts and Camp Fire, in the Girl Scouts/Camp Fire/Boy Scouts category.

- Paul Henderson, associate director in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth, in the national category.

- Colette Kennett, director of the Diocesan Youth Organization in Belleville, Ill., in the regional/diocesan category.

- Felipe Salinas, director of the Office of Catechesis for the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, and a member of the board of directors of Bread for the World, in the multicultural gifts category.

- Thomas Zanzig, an author, editor and consultant with St. Mary's Press, in the publisher-author-artist category.



HOLIDAY HELPERS—St. Jude School eighth-graders (from left) Trisha Wright, Randi Steele, Ann Kennedy and Kevin Huser of Indianapolis are among thousands of Catholic school students in the archdiocese who collected canned goods for the poor during the holiday season. (Photo by Mary Ann Wyand)



WELCOME—Archdiocesan Youth Council members (from left) Betsy Carl of St. Patrick Parish in Terre Haute and Sarah Martin of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis and Sarah's sister, Mary, prepare to welcome 30 youth ministry coordinators at the Indianapolis International Airport upon their return from a national youth ministry conference in Colorado.



SURPRISE—Janet Roth, youth ministry coordinator for St. Benedict, St. Ann and Sacred Heart parishes in Terre Haute (left), expresses surprise at the Indianapolis International Airport on Dec. 3 as Julie Szozek-Van Valkenburgh, director of the archdiocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and a group of archdiocesan teen-agers greet her at the arrival gate with banners and hugs following her trip to Colorado Springs for a national youth ministry conference. (Photos by Mary Ann Wyand)

Holy Father urges youth to pray for needy children

In a Christmas letter from the Vatican reported by Catholic News Service, Pope John Paul II requested prayers from young people to help ease the "unspeakable suffering" experienced by boys and girls around the globe.

"We must pray together," the Holy Father urged youth, "and pray hard that humanity, made up of billions of human beings, may become more and more the family of God and able to live in peace."

Clinging war in the Balkans and ethnic strife in Africa, where children are daily made victims of a "raging" hatred, the pope said the pain in his heart moved him to ask young people for their spiritual help.

"You instinctively turn away from hatred and are attracted by love," he said in a 16-page letter to youth released at the Vatican on Dec. 15. "For this reason the pope is certain that you will not refuse his request."

The Vatican press office described the pope's holiday letter to youth about the needs of the world's children as a "mini-encyclical" and said it represented a true pastoral and educational document.

Stressing that God loves them, the pope told young people of all ages that he was entrusting world problems to the spiritual efforts of youth because God "eagerly awaits" their prayers.

Noncalli High School in Indianapolis has scheduled an entrance examination for incoming freshman students on Jan. 7 from 8 a.m. until noon.

The test fee is \$10. To register for the exam, call the Noncalli office at 317-787-8277.

☆☆☆

Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville will hold a make-up entrance examination for prospective 1995 freshmen on Jan. 14 from 8:15 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

All students who are interested in attending Providence as a member of the Class of 1999 must take this exam. There is no charge for the test, but reservations are required by calling the school office at 812-945-2538.

☆☆☆

During Advent, Our Lady of Providence High School faculty members brought some imagery of the **Far East** to the Clarksville school via educational programs for students that were geared for cultural diversity.

Many classes in a wide spectrum of Far Eastern subjects and disciplines were offered to more than half of the Providence student population on Dec. 1 so the young people could learn about the Japanese and Chinese cultures.

Topics included an origami workshop, instructions in the Japanese language, calligraphy lessons, sessions on Japanese music and dance, a workshop on kimono fashion, a tea ceremony, and a *Sakudo* peace video.

Chinese cultural activities focused on a *Tai Chi* mini-class, an introduction to the history and people of mainland China, lessons in Chinese writing, and an introduction to the use of an abacus.

The Crane House and Japanese Cultural Center assisted Providence faculty members with the special classes. School lunches that day featured a Far Eastern influence.

Young Adult Scene

New journeys start when old adventures end

by Christopher Carstens
Catholic News Service

Recently my son and I took a three-day driving trip in his 1983 GMC truck, from San Diego, Calif., to Corpus Christi, Texas. Adrian is 19, and he and I enjoy the same kind of music. We listened to the greats of American Blues as we drove across the great American Southwest. Howlin' Wolf and B.B. King sang us up the mountains and down into the

desert, and Bobby Bland brought us through the valleys.

I could tell how much he's grown these last few years. It used to be that I'd notice some beautiful scenery, and he wouldn't even look up from his book.

One evening we were driving across the central plains of Texas as the sun set, orange and radiant, behind a mountain that looked like it had been carved on Mars. "Dad," he said softly, "you don't want to miss this." He was so right. There was none of it I wanted to miss.

When Adrian and I are on the road, meals are different. Breakfast is standard: big sodas and beef jerky from some sort of quick-stop market. I guess we figure that's how the pioneers made it across the country, driving their covered wagons from one 7-11 to the next.

We avoid the fast-food factories. Big Macs taste the same everywhere, and we prefer the local diner. That way, we can meet people.

In Lordsburg, N.M., the waitress told us she won't let her son play football because she's afraid he'll get hurt, and she won't visit her relatives in California because she's afraid of earthquakes. And we imagined that being afraid of stuff was what keeps people from adventures.

People are often nicer than you expect. One afternoon, in a place where towns are about 50 miles apart, the truck started making a particularly nasty noise. We pulled over and couldn't find anything; not that we could fix much, since we didn't have any tools and share precious little mechanical skills.

We drove on, anxiously, to the next town. The noise was mostly gone, but who knew what would happen? Maybe the truck was about to die. "This will cost

me plenty," I'm thinking, especially since it was 5:30, and anybody who was open would be charging extra.

There was one garage, and it was closing as we arrived. The man listened and said: "Sounds like the speedometer cable needs a little lubrication. You can do it when you get to Corpus."

He could have put the truck on a rack, fiddled around for an hour and jacked us up for \$300. But honesty and decency are alive in America. By the way, the noise went away and didn't come back.

We got to Corpus Christi, safe and sound. But that's where the trip got tough for me.

Adrian was staying there to live with his uncle while he works and goes to college. Adrian's big adventure is just starting. He's ready for some independence, and this is how he's getting it. I got on a plane and flew back to San Diego. It seemed like the drive out was the shortest I ever took, and the flight back took forever. My wife was waiting, and Max, our dog, both kids are gone now.

Linda and I are learning that these adventures always end. It hurts. They say you just start out on a new journey. Maybe. Right now I'd like to be back in the truck.

© Copyright 1994 by Catholic News Service

23 students from Marian College are selected by 'Who's Who'

The 1995 edition of *Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges* will include the names of 23 students from Marian College who have been selected as national outstanding leaders. Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory have included the names of these students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success. The students listed from Marion county are: Sharon Goebel, senior psychology major and graduate of Cardinal Ritter High School; Casady L. Kramer, senior psychology major and graduate of Secunia Memorial High School; Erin O'Connell, senior nursing major and graduate of Cardinal Ritter High School; Lucille Perry-Highbaugh, senior sociology major and graduate of Broad Ripple High School; Maria C. Vespo, senior dietetics major and graduate of Secunia High

School; Mrs. Debbie L. Vahary, senior nursing major and graduated out-of-state.

St. Mary of the Woods will host the second annual *Indiana College and University Creative Writing Day and Contest* on Feb. 17-18 in the SMWC Library. Creative writers and editors of creative writing publication won't want to miss a visit by highly acclaimed poet Naomi Shihab Nye. Writers may submit work for the poetry and short fiction contest until Jan. 15, 1995. Contest applicants may submit up to three works per category and be registered for Creative Writing Day. For more information or to register, call Patrick Harkins at 812-535-5292.

A Young Adult Catechetical Day, "I Believe . . . We Believe" will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Feb. 4 at Eagle Creek Park. The day has been designed as a pilot for young adults in their 20s and 30s. It will be a day of

prayer, reflection, sharing, educational input and an opportunity to form a small faith community. For more information, call Ann McGuire at 317-236-1430.

The Indianapolis Speech and Hearing Center has teamed with *Butler University* to develop a preschool language program to meet the needs of children with problems in communication development. Children, ages three to six, with speech or language delays and/or hearing impairments are eligible for this class. The class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Indianapolis Speech and Hearing Center in Broad Ripple. Classes will be taught by a licensed speech-language pathologist and two speech pathology clinicians from Butler University. The program will run from January through April. For more information, call Glenna Kropp at 317-259-8105.

*May the peace brought by the newborn Savior
be yours this Christmas season and throughout the year.*

Archabbot Timothy and the monks of Saint Meinrad



YEAREND ROUNDUP OF 1994 TOP STORIES

Year of broken papal leg, catechism, Rwanda

by Jerry Filteau
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON—When the plane carrying the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi was shot down April 6 in Kigali, Rwanda, scarcely anyone in the world was prepared for the tribal bloodletting that ensued.

By month's end at least 100,000 Rwandans had been massacred and some 2 million had fled their homes. By December the death toll was estimated at 500,000.

The refugee camps created by the crisis were so massive that it took months for international relief agencies to get control over the provision of basic food, water and health services. Thousands died of starvation and disease in the camps.

The tragedy in Rwanda and the international relief effort there formed one of 1994's biggest news stories. Three bishops were among Catholic church personnel killed. The church in Rwanda was criticized for being a party to Hutu-Tutsi divisions instead of struggling to overcome them.

The U.S. bishops' aid agency, Catholic Relief Services, ran programs serving more than a quarter-million of the refugees. In December CRS warned that Rwandan reconstruction would suffer a major setback without international intervention to halt growing intertribal violence and intimidation in the refugee camps.

The first-ever synod of African bishops, held in Rome April 10-May 8, denounced the "lust for power" and "fratricidal hate inspired by political interests" that the bishops saw as tearing African societies apart.

Another of the year's major religious stories began with an accident April 28, when Pope John Paul II slipped in his bathroom and broke his leg.

The broken leg forced the leader of some 900 million

Catholics to postpone trips to Sicily and Belgium and to delay a May meeting of the world's cardinals until June. Months later he had to cancel an October visit to the United States and United Nations because the leg was healing too slowly.

At every public appearance TV cameras zoomed in to show the 74-year-old pope leaning on a cane and to catch any grimace of pain. Every sign of frailty led to rampant speculation about who would succeed him if he died.

But the pope attended every general session of the monthlong world Synod of Bishops in October, which discussed religious orders and consecrated life in the church.

In November the pontiff took up his postponed trip to Sicily, where he delivered a stirring denunciation of the Mafia, and in December plans were still on for a January 1995 trip to the Philippines. Papua New Guinea, Australia and Sri Lanka.

The pope also presided in November over ceremonies creating 30 new members of the College of Cardinals. Among those receiving red hats were two Americans, Cardinals William H. Keeler of Baltimore and Adam J. Maida of Detroit.

Also on the list of new cardinals were several bishops who had suffered persecution under hostile governments and one of the theological giants of the 20th century—Cardinal Yves Congar, a 90-year-old French Dominican priest who played a significant role in the development of several documents of the Second Vatican Council.

In March Pope John Paul established a new Pontifical Academy for Life, a 70-member academy of scientists and scholars to help the church respond to biomedical issues and questions of human life and dignity.

During the preparations for the 1994 U.N. International Conference on Population and Development, the pope led a global public campaign to get stronger language on marriage and family values into the final action plan, to reverse the

plan's support of abortion and contraception and to improve its focus on development. His efforts included letters to heads of state around the world and numerous public statements.

At the conference itself, held in September in Cairo, Egypt, the Vatican delegation persuaded participants to make significant changes in the language of the final document.

Among the pope's most notable actions within the church was a short letter to the world's bishops May 30 formally declaring "that the church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgment is to be definitively held by all the church's faithful."

The letter came shortly after the Church of England ordained its first female priests—a move that caused many Anglican clergymen, including retired Bishop Graham Leonard of London, to enter the Roman Catholic Church.

Less than two months before the statement on women priests, news appeared of a Vatican ruling, confirmed by the pope, that girls could be altar servers in the Latin-rite church. At a meeting in June most U.S. bishops endorsed the practice, already widespread in U.S. parishes. But at least two bishops—in Lincoln, Neb., and Arlington, Va.—exercised their authority to continue only male servers.

The U.S. bishops responded to pastoral concerns arising from the women's ordination letter with a statement in November strongly endorsing the advancement of women in all areas of church life where church law and teaching permit.

The ongoing Catholic debate over the role of women in the church received new impetus from other quarters as well—especially in new controversies over gender-inclusive language.

The new "Catechism of the Catholic Church"—out in French since 1992—finally appeared in English in June and was widely welcomed. Before the end of the year more than 2 million copies had been published in the United States alone. Many U.S. dioceses and parishes started programs to educate their people about it. But the Vatican decision to eliminate the inclusive language from the English translation before allowing it to be published drew criticism.

Inclusive language was the source of another controversy late in the year as it was revealed that the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith had ordered withdrawal of permission for liturgical use of two inclusive-language Scripture translations approved by the U.S. bishops.

One was the New Revised Standard Version, a text already officially adopted and published in liturgical form by the Canadian bishops for use throughout Canada. The other was the New American Bible revised version of the Psalms, a translation done under the U.S. bishops' own sponsorship.

The Canadian bishops obtained permission to continue using their NRSV Lectionary at least for the time being. And Cardinal Keeler, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, announced that a meeting of U.S. bishops and scholars with members of the Pontifical Biblical Commission would be held in Rome to try to iron out difficulties.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who as head of the Vatican's doctrinal congregation was behind the decisions against inclusive language, was the key figure behind another church controversy as well. In response to a German pastoral initiative to permit some divorced Catholics in unsanctioned second marriages to receive Communion, he issued a stern letter saying there could be no such exceptions.

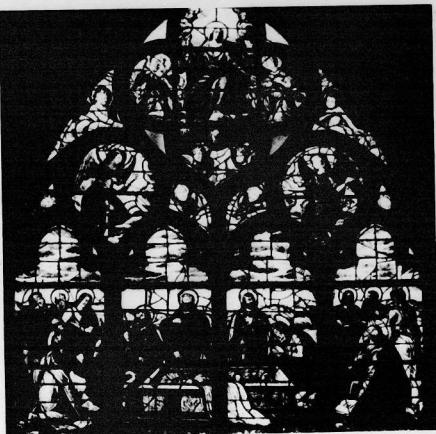
For U.S. Catholics, major issues or news events in 1994 with moral or religious dimensions included:

- President Clinton rejected proposals in a National Institutes of Health report that called for federally funded projects involving creation of human embryos for research purposes.
- Oregon voters approved the nation's first law permitting physician-assisted suicide for the terminally ill. In neighboring Washington, a federal judge ruled the state's ban on such suicides was unconstitutional.
- Abortion opponent Paul J. Hill murdered an abortion doctor and an escort in Pensacola, Fla., a move denounced by religious and pro-life leaders.
- Health care reform remained stuck in Congress. Catholic leaders supported most proposed reforms but adamantly opposed the abortion funding mandates in various proposals.
- November elections placed Republicans in control of both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years—a shift that was seen as good for the Catholic bishops' public policy stands on abortion but possibly troublesome for some of their other social welfare positions.
- Catholic bishops continued to address problems of clergy sexual abuse of minors. Steven Cook renounced his allegations against Chicago's Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardini. The Santa Fe Archdiocese settled many claims it faced, but new claims surfaced elsewhere.
- The sensational O.J. Simpson case and several dramatic killings of small children by parents or by other children highlighted a growing national concern about the rising tide of violence in American society. The U.S. bishops issued a call for grass-roots family and parish efforts to reverse the trend, and men's religious orders made the fight against violence a national priority.
- Violence was a major element of 1994 news elsewhere around the world.
- The civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina continued for its third year with no signs of relief despite continuing efforts by religious and political leaders to end it. Pope John Paul visited Zagreb, Croatia, in September. But Serbian Orthodox Church objections stopped him from also going to Belgrade.

(Continued on page 37)

This Christmas, take your family window-shopping.

The real story of Christmas isn't told in store windows but in church windows. Come and celebrate Christmas with us in the worship and wonder of God's love.



Come, join us this Christmas!

For the name of a Roman Catholic parish near you that will give you a warm welcome this Christmas, call Patti Hoop at the Catholic Communications Center, Archdiocese of Indianapolis

317-236-1585 or 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1585

Sponsored by the Evangelization Commission
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

1994 Review

TOP STORIES

1. Catechism
2. Calvo Conference
3. Health Care
4. Rwanda
5. Bosnia

Catechism of the Catholic Church



TOP NEWSMAKERS

1. Pope John Paul II
2. President Aristide of Haiti
3. Catholic Women
4. President Clinton
5. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger



1994 IN REVIEW—Publication in English of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" was the year's top story in a Catholic News Service poll of Catholic newspaper editors. Pope John Paul II ranked No. 1 in the newsmakers category. See "Editorial Commentary" on page 2. (CNS graphic by Caole Lowry)

(Continued from page 36)
Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In Haiti, the violence by the ruling military junta brought a continuing stream of Haitian refugees across the Caribbean. Heavily under threat of an imminent U.S. invasion the junta agreed in September to step down. U.S. forces helped restore the elected president, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, to power. To resolve church difficulties with his role as a priest in politics, he offered to resign from the priesthood.

In neighboring Cuba, last stronghold of communism in the Western Hemisphere, the Catholic bishops called again for a national dialogue, an end to a ban on opposition parties and

Cuba-U.S. talks to end the U.S. embargo. Pope John Paul also urged an end to the embargo, and Cardinal Keeler asked the Clinton administration to heed the pleas. Cuban refugees meanwhile continued to make perilous boat crossings to Florida.

New Year's Day 1994 marked the start of an armed uprising by impoverished Indians in Mexico's Chiapas state. Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of San Cristobal de Las Casas, who was reportedly under Vatican investigation for his controversial ministry with the poor and advocacy on their behalf, played a key role mediating government-rebel peace negotiations.

Despite continuing violence, the Middle East saw progress toward a regional peace and Palestinian self-rule. The Vatican, building on its fundamental agreement with Israel that was signed at the end of 1993, established full diplomatic relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Plans for a papal trip to Lebanon in the spring had to be canceled because of security risks.

In Northern Ireland the big news of the year was an end to a quarter-century of civil strife that had left more than 3,000 dead. The Irish Republican Army announced a cease-fire at the end of August and opposing Loyalist forces followed suit. South Africa saw a relatively peaceful end to nearly half a century of apartheid, its national policy of racial segregation and white minority rule. Nelson Mandela, who had spent 27 years in prison for his fight against apartheid, won a landslide victory in the country's first universal suffrage elections in April and was sworn in as president in May.

The Irish government fell in November as a result of a dispute over a high official's delays in dealing with a request for extradition of a priest charged with child molestation in Northern Ireland. That case and others led to new police investigations and revelations and sharp media criticism of the Irish bishops, who were accused of failing to deal adequately with clergy sex abusers in the past.

For Pope John Paul, 1994 marked the start of formal church preparations for the observance of the start of the third millennium of Christianity. He called the world's cardinals together in June to talk about plans for 2000. In November he issued a letter, "As the Third Millennium Draws Near," in which he said the coming of the millennium could serve as a key to interpreting his whole pontificate.

Among Catholics honored for their achievements in 1994 were:

- Author, educator and psychologist Sidney Callahan, recipient of the University of Notre Dame's Laetare Medal.
- Philosopher-theologian Michael Novak of the American Enterprise Institute, noted for his writings advocating

"democratic capitalism," who received the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

- Feminist theologian, Sister of St. Joseph Elizabeth A. Johnson, author of "She Who Is," who received the U.S. Catholic award for contributions to the advancement of women.

Leading Catholic figures who died during the year included:

- Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, 81, a 17-term Democratic congressman from Massachusetts and speaker of the House 1977-87. Jan. 5 in Boston of cardiac arrest.
- Cardinal Francis Marty, 89, archbishop of Paris 1968-81; Feb. 16 in a car-train wreck in southwestern France.
- Passionist Father Carroll Stuhlmueller, 70, Scripture scholar and theologian; Feb. 21 in Chicago following a stroke.
- Jesuit Father Joseph H. Fichter, 85, teacher, author and pioneer in sociological studies of the U.S. Catholic Church; Feb. 23 in New Orleans of natural causes.

• Bishop Alvaro del Portillo, 80, head of Opus Dei since 1975, who oversaw his group's establishment as the only personal prelature in the church; March 23 in Rome after a heart attack.

• Archbishop John L. May, St. Louis archbishop 1980-92 and president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops 1986-89. March 24 in St. Louis, after a 20-month fight with brain cancer.

• Dr. Jerome Lejeune, 67, French geneticist noted for pro-life work and contributions to discovery of cause of Down's syndrome; April 3 in Paris of lung cancer.

• Russell Kirk, 75, Catholic writer considered a founder of contemporary political conservatism in America; April 29 in Mecosta, Mich., of congestive heart failure.

• Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, 64, widow of President Kennedy and shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis; May 19 in New York of lymphoma.

• Mgr. Joseph Grémillion, 75, former Vatican official and social justice leader; Aug. 9 at the University of Notre Dame, from natural causes.

• Raul Julia, 54, stage and film actor from Puerto Rico who started going to Mass again because of his experience playing Archbishop Oscar Romero in the 1989 movie "Romero"; Oct. 24 in New York following a stroke.

• Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas, 71, of San Salvador, staunch human rights advocate throughout El Salvador's 12-year civil war; Nov. 27 in San Salvador of a heart attack.

• Cardinal Vicente Enrique Tarazona, 87, retired archbishop of Madrid, who led the Catholic Church in Spain through major civil and ecclesiastical reforms of the 1970s; Nov. 28 in Valencia after a long illness.

BUYING OR SELLING?



Good Key REALTOR®
8000 Henderson Road, Suite 100
14 YEARS OF REAL ESTATE
EXPERIENCE, DEDICATION,
AND KNOWLEDGE TO
WORK FOR YOU.
Personal Service

MARTHA TAYLOR
VLS: 290-7330
HHS: 844-1388



BROKER/REALTOR

LEGAL ADVICE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Ruth Ann Hanley, Attorney

(317) 577-1515

IHM Parishioner

Flexible Hours

Drive-up Parking

Happy Holidays!

Thomas P. O'Brien
Chairperson

Cathline Mullin
Vice Chairperson

Z. Mae Jimison
Secretary

Natalie Bruner
Treasurer

Marion County Democratic Party
748 East Bates, Room 300
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 236-0808 - Fax 236-0804

Automotive • Appliance
Electronic & Medical Applications
Laminated Precision Cut
Parts & Adhesives • Dampers
Insulators • Shielding
Hose & Tube Assemblies
TAPE MOUNTED PRODUCTS



GASKETS • BUMPERS • FILTERS

Providing flexible solutions... for Industry

MARIAN RUBBER PRODUCTS Co., Inc.

1212 EAST MICHIGAN STREET INDIANAPOLIS IN 46202-3500

Phone: (317) 638-6525

Fax A Sketch For A Quote

Fax: (317) 638-8664

"Stock Reduction"

50% - 70% Marked Down

on most jewelry items
including my signed
custom-made creations!



EVARD'S DAUGHTER
257-3667

1214 Hoover Lane, Indianapolis



Zita Romner

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY CLAIMANTS

For professional legal assistance in your application for disability benefits and at all levels of your appeal, call

PHILLIP V. PRICE

Attorney At Law
—Statewide Representation—
(317) 290-1800

Member, National Organization of Social Security Claimants Representatives



Make tax
time less
taxing on
your time.

Call Now for Timely Tax
Return Preparation

- Individuals and Businesses
- Convenient Appointments
- Including Evenings and Weekends
- Knowledgeable and Experienced

881-6670

Patrick A. Sherman, CPA
Martin J. Armbuster, CPA CFP
John D. Grant, CPA

300 S. Madison
National City Bank Building
3rd Floor Greenwood

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from TRI-COUNTY ASPHALT

Serving Indiana Since 1948

—FREE ESTIMATES—

- RESIDENTIAL DRIVEWAYS • SEALCOATING
- Discounts for senior citizens
- and non-profit organizations
- LICENSED & BONDED BY THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS
- CALL: 317-849-9901 • 358-1334 • 862-2967

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Office DEPOT

Save on Copying, Printing & More!

Count On Us Every Day!
Our \$1.2 million inventory in every store ensures that we have virtually everything you need on our shelves, every day! Our everyday low prices mean you never have to wait for a sale; you can enjoy the unbeatable savings every time you shop at Office Depot.

Charge It!
Get the credit your business deserves! Enjoy the convenience of an Office Depot credit account with no annual fee! We also accept most major credit cards.
Guaranteed Next Business Day Delivery!
Order by phone or fax and get next business day delivery!

SOUTHERN PLAZA

Open 7 days and 6 nights: Daily 8-9/Sat 9-5/Sun 12-6

782-3178 • FAX 782-1266

BOOK REVIEWS

Pastoral theology is an art

BENDING THE RULES, by Jim Bowman. Crossroad (New York, 1994). 214 pp., \$19.95.

Reviewed by Msgr. Charles Dollen
Catholic News Service

The story is told, however apocryphal, that a certain English noblewoman was quietly insisting that Pope Leo XII grant some special dispensation. The pope replied directly, "It is not the custom of the Holy See to grant such dispensations." Then he added with a twinkle in his eye, "But you might try an American bishop."

That could have been the introduction to ex-Jesuit Jim Bowman's treatment on how pastoral theology is practiced in Chicago. Like most Chicagoans, he presumes that is the norm for the entire United States. It isn't. That's what is so misleading about his subtitle, "What American Priests Tell American Catholics."

Pastoral theology is more an art than a science. It means taking the letter of the law and knowing how to apply its spirit for the good of souls. It's something that can be learned by experience, but it can't be taught.

Canon law is a refuge for some priests; it is a starting point for others. Jim Bowman interviewed about three dozen priests

to find out how they would treat certain difficult moral cases, from birth control to the treatment of funerals to their sensitivity to homosexuality. He could find every variation from those who applied the law rigidly to those who found it merely a good direction to start from.

The American Catholic laity has been aware of this from the beginning of the church in the United States. The laity has always "shopped around" for confessors who were more lenient, or more merciful, or more reasonable. In the seminary we called it "epikeia," the application of the laws with mercy.

Bowman gives us some examples of this in actual practice. He keeps the identities of the priests confidential, of course, but there will certainly be guessing games around the rectories of Chicago. If you like that sort of thing, you might like this book.

(Msgr. Dollen is a book review editor of The Priest magazine and a pastor in southern California.)

(At your bookstore or order prepared from Crossroad/Harper & Row, Keystone Industrial Park, Scranton, PA 18512. Add \$2 for shipping and handling.)

† Rest in Peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Mon. the week of publication, be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests and religious sisters serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in *The Criterion*. Other priests and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it.

† BANET, Mabel E., 68, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville, December 9. Wife of Donald H.; mother of Stephen C., Theresa M. Kuhlenschmidt and Jean L. Yeager; sister of Benedictine Father Gavin Barnes; grandmother of five.

† BENDER, Juliana T., 88, St. John, Elmhurst, Dec. 8. Aunt of several nieces and nephews.

† BRINKSNEADER, Elsie Anna, 77, St. Paul, Tell City, Dec. 12. Mother of Dorothy Strobel; grandmother of eight; great-grandmother of six.

† CORD, Emma C., 98, St. Joseph, Shelbyville, Dec. 14. Mother of Mary Alice Andrews, Edward L. Omer W., Alfred D. and Nicholas J.; grandmother of 25; great-

grandmother of 47; great-great-grandmother of one.

† DEAN, Ervin M., 74, St. Mark, Indianapolis, Dec. 11. Husband of Irene; father of Fay Schoettle, Linda Bondurat, Phyllis Ulrich and Kay Tilley; brother of Darrell Dean, Garnet Carpenter and Harriet Tucker; grandchild of eight; great-grandfather of nine.

† HARRIS, Harvey H., 77, St. Bernadette, Indianapolis, Nov. 29. Father of Philip L., brother of E.G., Cloyce Fisher, Joyce Ward and Pauline Myers.

† HERBERT, Gust, 89, St. Mary, Rushville, Dec. 14. Husband of Florine; father of Virgil, Lloyd, Jerry B., Walter, Angela Godar, Ruth Carr, Louise Hayes, Patsie McVey, Carolyn Risk, Mary Hoerig, Becky Stewart and Jeanie Hawley; grandfather of 50.

† HORNBERGER, Harold J., 63, St. Patrick, Indianapolis, Nov. 28. Husband of Marygrove; brother of Paul R., Sister Mary Catherine, Patricia Fischer, Marilyn Keutzer, Angela Lee and Norma O'Garra.

† JEDINAK, Albert, 75, Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood, Nov. 12. Husband of Marguerite

A., father of Linda Greiner, Terresa Guild, Martha Jednak, Randall Jednak and Margaret Vargo; grandfather of 11; great-grandfather of six.

† JOHNSON, Charles W., 85, Little Flower, Indianapolis, Dec. 11. Husband of Marjorie M.; father of Charles W. Jr., John, Jerry, Sylvia, Joanne, Judy Gapp and Jean DeVore; brother of Robert and Frank; grandfather of seven.

† KENNEDY, Raymond J., 84, Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood, Dec. 5. Father of Susan Carmichael and Carol Schofield; grandchild of two.

† KESTIENS, Rose E., 75, St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, Dec. 11. Mother of Dennis, William, Bernice Mary, Marilyn Mullis, Anne Marie Jacob, Virlee Howe and Helen Miller; sister of Linus Oeding, Edgar Oeding, Gregory Oeding, Leo Oeding, Ralph Oeding, Cecilia Kestiens, Marie Gessner and Helen Hopf; grandmother of 28; great-grandmother of 20; great-grandmother of 33.

† KIDWELL, Louise H., 86, Prince of Peace, Madison, Dec. 10. Sister of Sister Maria Woltschlag.

† KIEFFER, Joseph F. Sr., 94, St. Anthony, Indianapolis, Dec. 10. Father of Joseph F. Jr., Vincent,

Katie Absher, Patricia Hostetter, Bernadette Herbstreit and Marian Wadell; brother of Robert Kieffer and Mary Lutz; grandfather of 36; great-grandfather of two.

† LAWSON, Lorene H., St. Gabriel, Connersville, Dec. 7. Wife of Wayne V.; sister of Irene Herrall and Mary Connolly; grandmother of two.

† LOESCH, Paul F., 83, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, Dec. 8. Husband of Mildred; father of John Loesch and Paula Podesta; grandchild of five; great-grandchild of one.

† MEYER, Howard F., 71, St. Michael, Brookville, Dec. 10. Husband of Wilma; father of Connie Arlinghaus and Gregory E. Meyer; son of Nora; brother of William J. and Dorothy Dumas; grandfather of four.

† MIFFLIN, Dee Dee Lilly, 72, Holy Family, New Albany, Dec. 6. Daughter of Ethel Lilly; sister of Raymond Lilly, Bernard Lilly, Edward Lilly, Ralph Lilly, Viola Montague and Evelyn Boslock.

† O'BRIEN, Beatrice G. Keller, 84, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Dec. 11. Mother of Beatrice DeHebrard, Thomas J., John P. and James E.; grandmother of 17; great-grandmother of ten.

† OSBURN, Agnes K. Daly, 75, St. Philip, New Albany, Dec. 6. Wife of Rudolph; mother of Tom Osburn and Judy Aikman; sister of John Daly; grandmother of four.

† SHIRLEY, Geraldine H., 90, St. Mary, New Albany, Dec. 15. Aunt of several nieces and nephews.

† SLINGER, Mary Ann Lobdell, 69, Little Flower, Indianapolis, Dec. 7. Wife of Arthur; mother of Nicholas G. Lobdell, Randolph G.

Lobdell, Pierre B. Lobdell, Michael J. Slinger, Tina Miller, Donnie Bradford, Linda Slinger, Kathy Walsh and Susan Patten; son of Jim Norman; grandmother of 23; great-grandmother of three.

† STOLL, JoAnn, 55, St. Peter, Brookville, Dec. 6. Wife of Edward; mother of Frankie, Henry, Ruth Niese, Marilyn Houtz, Donna Grossman, Linda Cobler, Georgia Kim and Mary daughter of Hilza Litzinger; sister of Joe Litzinger, Emil Litzinger, Albert Messing, Rita Litzinger and Marie Federie; grandmother of seven.

† WAGNER, John William, 72, St. Patrick, Indianapolis, Dec. 9. Husband of Gwen; father of John, Ted and Susan Rogers; son of Clara Hanks; grandfather of six.

† WANEE, Betty M., 73, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Dec. 5. Wife of Neil D.; mother of Pamela Clark, Sharon S. Miller, Linda Stuffer, Valerie R. Collings and Neil R.; sister of Robert E. Lining and John Whiteside; grandmother of 12; great-grandmother of two.

† WERNKE, Alfred G., 77, St. Louis, Batesville, Dec. 4. Husband of Mary Jane; father of Alfred, Robert, Therese-Walby, Deborah Wanstrath and Mary Wernke; brother of Helen Rateman and Irene Behlmer; grandfather of 11.

† WESSLER, Marie, 81, St. John, Elmhurst, Dec. 3. Mother of Robert Wessler; grandmother of two.

† WOODWARD, David M. Sr., St. Vincent, Bedford, Dec. 11. Husband of Carol; father of David M. Jr., Darin M. and Dana M.

Baker; son of Frank and Irene; brother of Joseph, Frank L. and Edwin; grandfather of four.

† WRIGHT, John F., 63, St. Paul the Apostle, Greencastle, Dec. 10. Husband of Betty; father of Kathleen Coffinet; brother of Ruth Daugherty, Pauline McGrogan and Beatrice Lindley; grandfather of three.

† ZIELINSKI, Janice, 69, St. Louis, Batesville, Dec. 16. Mother of Jim, Mike, Steve, Frank and Mark; sister of Robert Storey and Gene Storey; grandmother of eight.

Providence Sister

Marie D. Walta dies on Dec. 14

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Providence Sister Marie Dolores Walta on Dec. 17 in the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Sister Marie Dolores died on Dec. 14. She was 96 years old.

The former Anna Maria Walta was born in Brooklyn, New York on Nov. 7, 1898. Sister Marie Dolores Walta entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence in 1918. She professed first vows in 1921 and final vows in 1926. Sister taught in schools staffed by the Sisters of Providence in Indiana, Illinois and California. In the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, she taught at St. Andrew, Indianapolis.

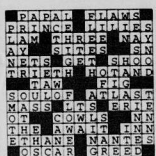
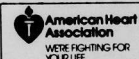
Sister Marie Dolores is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Pre-plan your funeral

It's a good feeling knowing it's done...

Call on us. Find out more about our INDIANA FUNERAL TRUST FUND - a special program to help you pre-plan.

Summers Funeral Chapels
3040 N. Capitol Ave. 2515 East 34th St.
924-5329



Catholic Cemeteries

Archdiocese of Indianapolis

The logical choice for those seeking Catholic arrangements.

Gene Harris, Director

435 W. Troy Ave. • Indianapolis, IN 46225
317-784-4439

Yes, I would like additional information on:

☐ Mausoleum entombment ☐ Ground burial ☐ Memorial ☐ Family Lot Areas ☐ Personal Reference File

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____



Grinstainer Funeral Home, Inc.

SAM H. PRESTON - OWNER
The oldest Funeral Establishment in Indianapolis - Founded in 1854
"Centrally Located to Serve You"

1601 E. New York Street Indianapolis, IN 46201 (317) 632-6374

OAKLAWN MEMORIAL GARDENS & MAUSOLEUM

The Full Service Cemetery with Chapel

Offering blessed burial grounds and mausoleums since 1960

Member of American Cemetery Assoc.
PERPETUAL CARE **317-849-3616**
3700 ALLISONVILLE ROAD, INDIANAPOLIS 46250

DRUGS:

It Takes Guts To Say NO!

The selection of the price funeral you want is left up to you.

The LEPPERT & HURT Funeral Home

740 East 86th Street Indianapolis, Indiana 844.3966

The Choices are Yours

Experience. A tradition of service.



Generations

FLANNER and BUCHANAN MORTUARIES & CREMATORY

Note our new phone number: **387-7000**

Broad Ripple: 475-4475 Lawrence: 562-0145 East: 899-7115

1305 E. Broad Ripple Ave. 5215 N. Shadeland Avenue 1022 E. Washington Street

Carmel: 848-2929 Southwest: 637-3733 Zionville: 873-3366

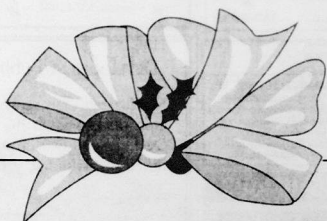
325 E. Carmel Drive 1614 W. Morris Street 105 W. Pine Street

Decatur Twp: 856-2627 Speedway: 387-7020 Administrative Office: 387-7000

**\$15
to parish
or charity
of your
choice**

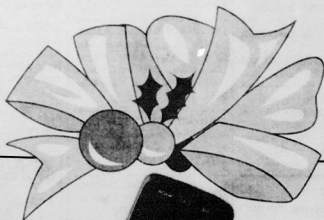
Give Peace Of Mind This Season.

Security for family and friends during all seasons.



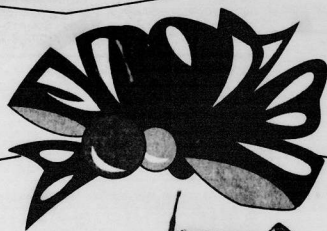
\$49.00*

**Motorola Flip Phone
DPC 550**



\$75.00*

**Nokia LX12
Installed Antenna
No hidden cost**



\$9.99*

Tote Phones**



Hours:

Monday-Friday 8-8

Saturday 9-3

Christmas Eve 9-3

Communications Concepts

842-0272

8501 Bash St., Suite 200, Indianapolis

CELLULARONE®
Authorized Agent

*Requirements:

Credit must be approved
by Cellular One credit.
Pay a \$37.50 activation fee
to be included on first bill.
Commit to a 3 year service agreement
with Cellular One.
New activation only.
May not be redeemed for cash.
Offer expires 2/14/95.
Offer valid in the following counties:
Marion, Johnson, Hamilton, Boone,
Hancock, Hendricks, Morgan, Shelby.
Call for details.

** \$10 set-up and programming fee



**★ with purchase of a phone the second phone is our
gift to you (with activation).**

Counties included:
Marion, Hancock, Boone, Hendricks,
Hamilton, Morgan, Johnson and Shelby.