

ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

This morning our backyard, the small woods and the field beyond it are icily majestic. Yesterday I sat for part of the afternoon gazing out the glass door at the storm, delighting in its fury.

We have turned the family room couch around so it faces the outdoors. It doesn't do much for the furniture arrangement but a few moments there in the morning over a cup of coffee with only the trees and a strutting cock pheasant in view does much for the soul.

Yesterday's vehement winds whipping and bending the dogwood and the willows and some of the little white pines made me fear for the trees but brought the same kind of pleasure I remember from the summer thunder storms of my childhood.

Obviously, I have been fortunate enough not to have experienced a natural disaster and the prospect of a hurricane or a tornado invokes the same negative feelings in me as anyone else.

But there was little to fear in the intensity of those frenzied rains. My grandparents lived in the country. The house and woodshed and springhouse along with the chicken coop and outhouse backed up against a mountain. The one-room school house, the general store and five or six houses stood on the other side of a stream and a wooden bridge. Our isolation was complete except for Gilbert, the Indian who lived in a shack high on the mountain behind us. And he visited infrequently.

Our front porch, only 10 yards from the stream, held a long bench and a high back swing which hung from the rafters.

When the rain began and we were called from the "crick" or its banks where we made lovely if

Cardinal Leger To Be Pastor In Montreal

Montreal, Que. [RNS] — Cardinal Paul-Emile Leger, who resigned as archbishop of Montreal eight years ago to serve at African leper colonies, is returning here as pastor of a Montreal church.

The surprising announcement, made by Archbishop Paul Gregoire, said the Cardinal would take over Ste. Madeleine Sophie Church, a French-speaking parish, "in the very near future."

Cardinal Leger could not be reached for comment immediately.

Archbishop Gregoire, who succeeded Cardinal Leger, said in his statement: "After having lived for five years in Africa, where he created the re-education center of Yaounde (capital of Cameroon) and numerous leprosy clinics, the cardinal has organized his operations to be self-supporting."

"He has also traveled to several countries to make Christians aware of the needs of the people in underdeveloped countries."

fragile mud bowls, we would scurry to the shelter of the porch.

Then a very young aunt would sneak upstairs, grab a quilt from our bed and she and I would huddle under it on the swing and watch the lightning explode over the bridge.

Each thunderous clap would send us under the quilt until the steamy closeness would force us up for air.

No need to worry about the electricity or the phone being knocked out. There was neither. Fire would have been a different matter for there was no squad, volunteer or otherwise. There was only the creek, full of water.

But we were oblivious to the potential for destruction anyway. Only the power and the force and the ragged, jagged beauty of it all had our attention. Fear mixed with fascination kept us a captive audience. At night my cowardly streak would take over and I would quake in bed at the sound of the rushing creek and the mournful cry of the whippoorwill and remember all too vividly the story somebody had told about spotting a bobcat in one of the nearby hollows.

But in a daylight storm with my intrepid barefoot aunt at my side and a patchwork quilt as our shield we were invincible.

Mission Christmas Appeal

Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, has announced a Christmas appeal for the suffering-poor of the mission world.

"Christmas is such a beautiful reflection of what the missions are all about," stated Father Reinhart. "To the poor and needy of the world, every missionary brings tidings of great joy; God has become man and lives among us!"

"As at the first Christmas," Father continued, "Jesus still comes among the poorest of the poor. Today's Bethlehems are the rat-infested barrios of Latin America; the leprosy colonies of Oceania; the disease-ridden refugee camps of Asia; and the starving masses of India and Africa."

"But like the faithful and wise men of the first Christmas, we hesitate to look for Jesus there, lying in an animal's manger. How many Christians," Father wondered, "look for Him at all beneath the superfluous trivia of our over-secularized celebration?"

"However," Father went on, "like the poor and humble

shepherds, if we only 'Come to the Manger' with a heart of love and expectation, we will find Him there.

"We do not have to be reminded of our own financial burdens," Father said. "We all feel the crunch of inflation, unemployment, and the rising cost of living. Perhaps our Christmas will be less extravagant this year, and maybe that's good, if it helps us to realize more the true meaning of the birth of Christ and the blessings of life that we have."

"But in these days of Advent preparation," Father emphasized, "may we not forget those who are

really so much worse off than we can even imagine. In a true spirit of giving may each of us afford a real sacrifice of love for God's poor in the missions!"

Father Reinhart explained that the Society for the Propagation of the Faith is the Church's official organization responsible for the support of the local Churches in poor mission countries.

Father Reinhart requests that you mail your Christmas offering for the missions to:

**Father Joseph F. Reinhart
Diocesan Missions Office
123 East Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14604**

Hunger Program At St. Augustine's

An evening program on local and world hunger will be held at St. Augustine's school hall, tonight, Dec. 11.

A meal will be served at 7 p.m., followed by slides, a reflective talk, and discussion on ways that

one can help understand, work with, and ease the situation.

Handouts, fact sheets, and practical suggestions will be provided.

A short liturgical service will end the evening.



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