

# The Children Who Wait

## Donald Is a Quiet Child

The season of welcoming the Shunned Child is upon us. Tonight and tomorrow, all over the world, families note that an innkeeper turned away a pregnant girl and her husband—forcing the young couple to deliver to the world a Child in a stable. Families make room in their homes for this Child on this night.

Today, another child is waiting — waiting for love and security. Waiting for a family he can call his own. His name is Donald.

He is one of more than 1000 children in New York State who are considered by adoption agencies to be "hard to place."

"Donald, 7 years old, is a likable, well-mannered child. Slow, with possible brain dysfunction, he is uncoordinated and can't participate too well in sports.

"He enjoys quiet activities like listening to music, watching TV, and reading. He particularly enjoys watching football and baseball on TV.

"His hyperactive condition is well controlled by medication. Donald tests in the average range.

"Donald is a child who needs a warm, concerned family so that he, too, can have permanence, security, and love."

That is how Donald's listing reads with the Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP). This group puts out a publication called the CAP Book, a photo



DONALD

listing of more than 200 children who need adoption.

The Children Who Wait are hard to place for a variety of reasons.

Some children are from minority races, others are mixed racially. Some are sibling groups. Some are older — the age range for The Children Who Wait goes from infancy through early teens. And some are physically, mentally and/or emotionally handicapped.

The one thing they all have in common is the need for an adoptive family.

In years past there was a great emphasis on placing healthy infants in adoptive homes. Today

however, a special drive is underway to find loving and secure homes for children like Donald.

Persons considering adoption of The Children Who Wait should know of the dramatic change in adoptive patterns in recent years. Today both couples with large families and singles are taking these children into their homes.

Children are being placed across religious and racial lines. Financial subsidies are available to ease the burden of adoption. The basic requirement is a loving, caring environment that can meet the needs of the children.

For general information about adoption, the following agencies should be contacted:

Catholic Family Center, 546-7220; Monroe County Department of Social Services, 442-4000; Northaven, Inc., 266-4330; the Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP), 288-7989.

For further information about Donald, THE CAP BOOK should be contacted at 436-5070.

As Jesus said of himself, "The foxes have dens and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

### Parish Council Issues Names

**Penn Yan** — Members of St. Michael's Parish Council recently have been named. They are: Father Thomas McVeigh, Father Paul Gibbons and Father Paul Ryan, representing the rectory and Sister Brian Madigan, representing the convent. The laity will be represented by Mrs. Joann Madsen, Mrs. Jean D'Abbracci and Dean Duffy, elected for three years; Miss Betty Murphy, Don Flynn and Charles Sweeney, elected for two year terms and Art Lauer, Mrs. Rosalind Michalak, Bob Young and Mrs. Julia Teahan for one year. Tom Murphy, Mrs. Margaret Calder and Mrs. Mary Scott will represent the school. John Martini will be the education committee chairman and Young will be the chairman of the human development committee.

On Nov. 17 the parish council elected the following officers for 1975-76: Mrs. Teahan, president; Lauer, vice-president; Mrs. Scott, recording secretary and Miss Murphy, corresponding secretary.

### St. James Gives 32 Diplomas

**Hornell** — Thirty-two graduates received diplomas at commencement ceremonies held in St. Ann's Church. It was the largest graduating class in the history of St. James Mercy Hospital School of nursing.

Diplomas and scholastic awards were presented by Miss Loretta Haefele, director of the school, who also delivered the commencement address. The diplomas were blessed and benediction was given by Father Eugene Emo, hospital chaplain. Spencer Crow, president of the hospital board of directors, welcomed the graduates, relatives, friends and faculty.

The Medical Staff Award for the highest average went to Amelia Nasca. Mrs. Elaine Adam and Martha Allison were recipients of the Women's Board Award for the second highest average.

number of people around to kick that notion into a cocked hat. Our oldest kept making pointed remarks about how the neighbors had their shopping not only done but wrapped. Her brother kept counting the number of trees already shining forth from windows in the tract. The kindergarten, who had brought home one of those construction paper link chains with one link to be torn away each day until Christmas, chalked off the remaining loops each morning in a voice loud enough to be heard at the North Pole.

My duty was clear. And I set to with vigor, if not enthusiasm. I thought of all the times my parents had worked together to make each Christmas so splendidous, so rich in memories as to sustain one forever.

Now it was our turn. Time for the Advent calendar, the cut-out cookies, hunting up the Christmas records, stalking the elusive perfect gifts, unwrapping the tree decorations, preparations ad infinitum.

And slowly — I almost mystically and magically — could feel the difference in the air. Not excitement, exactly, nor wonder, but at some point between talking to the nice boy that sold us the tree and setting it up, the apathy vanished.

And here it is Christmas Eve. And I am ready. Ready to sing "Happy Birthday, Dear Jesus" at the Family Mass, ready for the gift giving, ready for the trips to the grandparents, ready to feel the warmth that very special day radiates. A blessed and merry Christmas!

### ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

The truth is that I was not ready for Christmas. Not ready to "hang the stockings by the chimney with care." Not ready to choose and shop for umpteen presents, not ready for the baking, the cleaning, finding a tree, the special events at school, hurrying packages to the post office and the thousand and one other details that we have decreed must be done before we can celebrate the Lord's birth.

For the fact was that after basking in the unseasonal warmth of Indian Summer at a time when Old Mother Nature has already clouded us several times over in an average winter I had deluded myself that there was more of the sunshine and soft breezes ahead. And if that were true then Christmas must necessarily be far, far off.

Then also, if I am to be honest, the holiday, once the most "mystical, magical time of the year" as some song or another says, wasn't so mystical or magical for me anymore.

The farther I get from childhood the more the wonder lessens no matter how hard I try to concentrate more on the creche and less on the Christmas tree.

Operating under the force of that self-centered logic I decided that if I weren't all aglow over the impending festivities, it was certain no one else could be either.

Happily, there were any

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