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As this is being written the weatherman is calling for a new storm which will dump another foot of snow in the area. This on top of the 12 to 18 inches already here.

As a child I remember one of my favorite stories being about a group of school children getting caught in an April blizzard.

They make their way back to the one room school house and spend a cozy night with teacher watching over them as snow piles up past the first floor window.

Now, as a parent with three children being bused various distances I fail to see the romance in the story I enjoyed so much as a youngster.

If there is anything good about such disastrous weather I suppose it is the camaraderie it fosters among strangers.

In such situations people

almost immediately drop inhibitions.

Yesterday a woman began a conversation with the information that she and her husband just paid out \$15. to an unscrupulous snow plow operator for two minutes work and they still couldn't get up their hilly driveway.

In another sixty seconds I discovered that the women had five children, worked downtown for an employment agency and - small world - once lived in our former neighborhood at the same time we did.

On home ground the snow simply means a constant dressing and undressing. Donning snowmobile suits, double pairs of socks, pants over pants and exchanging of wet boots for dry ones, all of which takes place in the kitchen for some reason or another fill all daylight hours.

Elsewhere in the kitchen all thoughts seem to turn to soup in this kind of weather and the soup kettle or pressure cooker is in constant use.

And as temperatures plummet following the snow fall, regular blankets prove inadequate and we go to the closet and start unearthing all of grandma's quilts. Topping each bed in colorful, puffy fashion, they are incontrovertible proof that winter is really here.

Tompkins-Tioga Region

Results of the Respect Life collection in Tioga County were released recently. Parishioners from the county donated \$800.58. Two-thirds of the total will be forwarded to the state and national Right to Life agencies and the remainder will be used by the Tioga County group. Results of the collection in Tompkins County are now being tabulated.

The region is preparing a state of the region report to be sent to Bishop Hogan in January. Comments (pro or con) should be submitted to Father Albert Cason, regional coordinators or any member of the executive committee.

Father Eugene Weis, pastor of St. John's in Newark Valley, has been elected by priests in the region to represent them on the Diocesan Priests

Council. Father Weis replaces Father Kevin Murphy who has moved to St. Patrick's, Elmira.

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Gifts are tax deductible. Canadians: Write 1407 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario M4T 1Y8
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Courier Calendar

Community-Unity Family Sing-along - Caroling around the Christmas tree outside St. Joseph's Church, 43 Gbhardt Rd., at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, with cookies and hot chocolate inside until 6:30; all town residents invited. If weather requires postponement. 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19

Christmas and the Bible - A two-hour study session for adults, tonight at 7:30, St. Boniface Church, downstairs, with Father Richard Shatzel.

Eastman School Free Concerts - In Eastman Theatre school symphony and Musica Nova, 8 tonight; Philharmonia, with guest violinist Donald Weilerstein, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16

Christmas Cantata - Born a King, sung by St. Christopher's Church choir, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at 3350 Union St., North Chili, public invited

Breakfast with Santa - Sunday, Dec. 18, after 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses at Most Precious Blood

MIME Workshop - Amy Brill's shadow puppet show, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, Bob Berkly solo mime, 8 p.m. Dec. 17, at 50 Chestnut Plaza

Folk Festivities - Holiday foods from many countries, exhibits, performances, 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, Rochester Museum

Top Hat - Ginger Rogers, Fred Astaire 1935 film, tomorrow, 2 and 8 p.m., Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum

Star of Christmas - Strasenburgh Planetarium's traditional show, through Jan. 8. Box Office: 244-6060, ext. 65.

Slave Revolts in the Age of Revolution - Talk by Prof. Eugene Genovese, U of R historian, specialist in slavery in U.S., tonight at 8, Hubbell Auditorium, Hutchison Hall, U of R campus

Christmas Bureau - Fifty drivers needed Friday, Dec. 16, between 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. to deliver cheer baskets to elderly and infirm. Details: 271-0868.

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