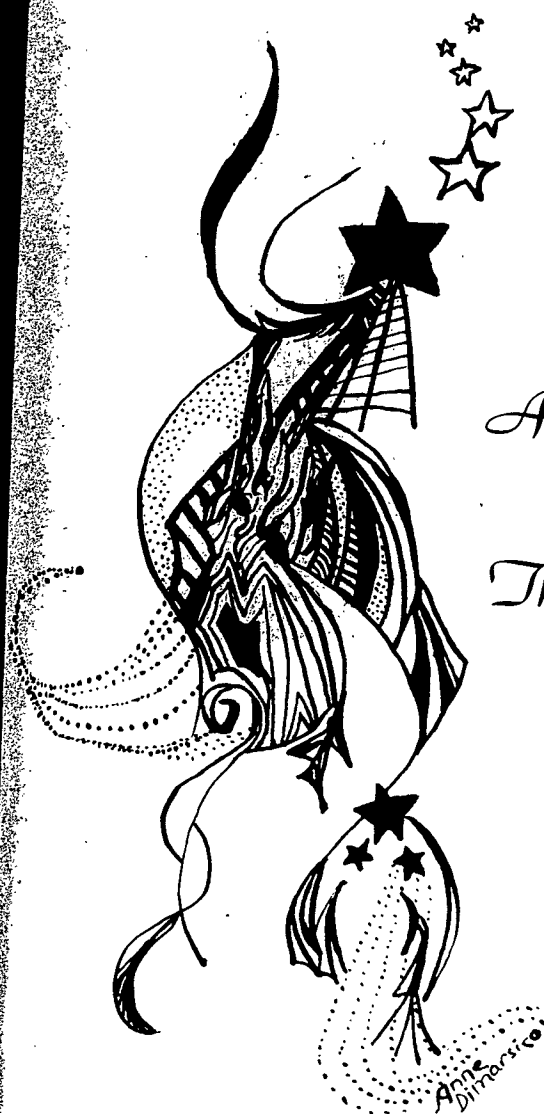


Round Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around



*A Joyous Christmas
From
The BK Community*

Anne DiMarsico

*Rise up in splendor!
Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord
shines upon you.*



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan
Karl Sanger, Karen Kuhn, Annamaria Caricchio, Diana Georger and Andy Battisti sing out Cardinal Mooney's wishes to everyone for a holy and blessed Christmas season.

Christmas is...

A time when you realize all the things that you have, not just gifts, but the love from your family and friends. *Ellen Snyder, BK.*

Christmas is...

A time to put away the problems and fears of the world and be thankful that the Lord gave us life. *Lorraine D'Eufemia, Mercy.*



An extra bit of Christmas spirit was the reward for all the Mercy girls who participated in the Christian Action Movement's Christmas basket project. Above, juniors Laurie Radder, Mary Beth Brankacz and Andrea Wesley help load up the goodies which would be delivered to needy families.

A Call for Deep Faith, Prayer

By JOHN DOSER

I find it's impossible to write a story about athletes and what they want for Christmas.

I find it equally difficult to phone athletic directors and ask them what they want for Christmas.

It's just tough to find an appropriate Christmas theme which can be woven with holiday spirit, good will and fellowship toward men when headlines scream from Page One saying "Evansville team plane in crash," and later when more details are known, "Team's Plane Tried to Turn Back; 29 Die."

I considered writing a holiday poem (ala Peter Taub); I contemplated asking Bishop Kearney hockey coach Steve McAdam what he hopes Santa would bring his son Terry who plays his hockey for Irondequoit High, or Dr. Bill Stephan, the assistant Aquinas hockey coach whose son Bill plays for Kearney.

I thought about exploring John Termotto's transfer from McQuaid to Fairport High, probably the nicest Christmas gift Red Raider tennis coach Steve Webster ever received; and I also considered doing a piece on new Aquinas basketball coach Jim Baron, the former St. Bonaventure cage ace who won his first game, a nice holiday gift to Little Fish fans who haven't had much to cheer about — in terms of basketball — for the past few seasons.

But I kept going back to those black and bold headlines on the front pages and I couldn't help but feel profound grief for the parents of the 14 young college ballplayers who died in the crash near

Evansville, Ind., last Tuesday night.

And, that wasn't all, seven women students died in a fire earlier in the day at Providence College. I mention this because it further complicated my desire to accommodate Raparound Editor Joan Smith's request that this story should be "Christmasy."

The Evansville team was aboard a chartered DC-3 headed for Murfreesboro, Tenn., to play Middle Tennessee State

It crashed just after takeoff from Evansville Airport, about one minute after leaving the ground.

Instead of a scrappy ballgame, Middle Tennessee State players, dressed in blue and white uniforms with black armbands, held a memorial service on the Blue Raiders' home court.

MTSU team chaplain David Miller conducted the service and instead of a public address announcer running through the Evansville roster with the game-opening center jump following, Miller read the Blue Raiders' scouting report on the Evansville players prepared by Raiders' head coach Jimmy Erle, and prayers followed.

"When you come to memorialize someone, you have to know who they are," Miller said.

When you finish reading the details of the Evansville crash or the Providence fire, you have to feel empathy for the loved ones, parents, friends and relatives of these wasted young lives.

You have to think and ponder about families many miles away from Rochester, N.Y., whose holidays have been destroyed by these tragedies.

You can't help but think, "My God, how lucky we are that it wasn't a local school team," that might have been involved in a tragic local bus or auto crash, instead

Our faith tells us that those who died are better off than we who remain behind, they are better off because they are now with Our Lord in Paradise while it is we who feel sadness, grief and sorrow at their loss here on earth.

There is something Raparound readers can do, however, to lighten the burden of these tragic holidays in Evansville.

You can write a letter to a mom and dad whose son or daughter died in either tragedy. You can find the names of the students in the newspapers which printed stories about the tragedies.

You can address the letter to "The Parents of _____ in care of Evansville University, Evansville, Ind. 47708, or Providence College, Providence, R.I. 02904."

What do you put in a letter addressed to parents you don't know about some college students who died whom you also didn't know?

You don't have to write a book — or even a letter as long as this article.

You simply and clearly tell how you share the sadness with the parents

and loved ones of the young men and women who died.

If you have the impulse to sit down and write your letter right after you finish reading this, by all means do it.

Do it before you become distracted by another thought it could possibly turn out to be the most rewarding Christmas present you ever gave — because you're giving a little bit of yourself to a mom or dad who last week lost a great deal more.



Christmas Blessings

Father John McDonald and the whole McQuaid family send their best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas season.

A Christmas Message

Christmas really means Thanksgiving,
A time when we are joyous and give thanks as we celebrate the birth of our Savior
Amidst relatives, friends, trimmed trees and mistletoe we love and are united in body and spirit in recognition of this Holy Day

Laurie Beattie

A Merry Christmas from everyone over at Our Lady of Mercy.

Christmas

Christmas is...

Getting trampled in a store while shopping for friends but enjoying the spirit. Watching my little sister's face light up when opening her presents. *Anne Murphy, Mercy.*

Christmas is...

The gathering of my family and friends and just the anticipation of the gifts which I will receive and give to others. But most of all,

Christmas is the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Carrie Kenning, Mercy.*

Christmas is...

A special time for me because it is when I become aware of Jesus as a person. *Sr. Eileen, BK.*

Christmas is...

Family gatherings, a break from school, sitting around the Christmas tree and being with my friends. *Rick Piacentini, BK.*