

An Advent Meditation

(The following are excerpts from a meditation on Advent given by Pope Paul VI at a recent General Audience.)

What is Advent? Advent is that period of time which, in the official prayer of the Church, precedes and prepares for the celebration of Christmas.

The prayer of the Church follows the course of time, which is unfolded for us not only by following the cosmic-seasonal cycle of thermo-agrarian periods, but also in the renewed memory of Christ's temporal life and of the work carried out by him, which is Redemption, the mystery of God in history. This event is fixed in the solar rhythm of time, constituting a central point in the succession of history itself, that is the passage of time.

"Holy Mother Church," the recent council says, "believes that it is for her to celebrate the saving work of her divine Spouse in a sacred commemoration on certain days throughout the course of the year." Hence the first observance of religious life consists in perceiving the relationship of passing time with this dominant presence of Christ in the vicissitudes of our transient life in time, the inexorable succession of things and of events in which our present existence is born, establishes itself and dies.

The first thought of our mature conscience, therefore, must be this form and this measure of existence in which we find ourselves, in order that, as St. Paul said in his famous address in Athens, we should seek God, in the hope that we might feel after him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us. For in him we live and move and have our being.

The natural, fundamental, primitive sense of God must open up in the midst of the thousand experiences of secular life, in some flash of light, which raises the fundamental problem of God in our spirit. God knocks at our door. Then the Church, with her

wise and maternal pedagogy, speaks to us of Christ, and on the days that we call the Lord's days, that is on Sundays, she tells us the story of his coming and transfigures the tale in a celebration, because — we will have to speak about this again — this liturgical celebration is a moment of presence: we to Christ and Christ to us.

Christ who comes, this is the guise of his historical and figurative arrival; this is the Advent which we must celebrate in the first place. It is not imagination, it is a memory, it is history. A retrospective history, as compared with our temporary topicality; a history that begins 1977 years ago (according to the original calculation of Cyril of Alexandria, which the monk Denis, called the Little, composed in Rome between the fifth and sixth century A.D., compiling the collection of the Councils.)

This necessity of having recourse to ancient documents to have chronological news about the Advent of Christ teaches us that it is a question of a specific, historical fact, as we say, which takes us back to the reality of time, to the mystery rather of the time chosen by God for the coming of his divine Son upon the scene of the world. It reminds us of our duty to know "sacred history" or, better, Holy Scripture, the Bible. It is the book of Revelation, which with Tradition constitutes the historico-divine source of our faith. It looks back at the past, from which there is projected down the centuries that Word of God from which our religion draws certainty and riches.

To celebrate Advent well, we must hold this wise attitude in sovereign respect: to look back, to look to history, to the "sacred history" through which the light came to the world.

Let us all make the resolution to complete our secular culture, to enrich our religious formation, seeking the Truth that saves in the study of the Books of the Scriptures, under the lamp of the magisterium of the Church.

This is a resolution that re-opens well for us the new liturgical year and strengthens our steps for the further journey.

ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

- * The birth of Christ--Mark Zimmerman
- * The celebrating of the birth of Christ and to show love for others--Scott Chamberlain
- * Loving and gift giving--Matt Hewes
- * Giving love and getting gifts--Mike Deller

Dear Readers:

Every Christmas season columnists in newspapers across the land try their hand at interpreting this joyous holiday.

This year the students in one of the fourth grade CCD classes at St. Joseph's in Penfield were asked to give their responses as to the meaning of this blessed time. Below are their.

CHRISTMAS MEANS:

- * To love one another--Maxine Bowles
- * We get nice presents but our best present is Jesus--Jeanine Rossi
- * Love is given--David LaBombard
- * The birth of Christ--Jill Marselle
- * Giving things and giving love--Kristin Singer
- * Loving, Sharing, Giving--Peter Bianchi
- * Loving and thinking about God--David Marang
- * Sharing and Giving--Dean Gentile

Christmas to me means laughter, giving and getting and the sweet smell of the Christmas tree--Jennifer Whalen.

The above are the answers, written laboriously between bites of cookie and drinks of punch during last class before the holiday. In a discussion which followed the answers were somewhat less formal. Christmas is, as it was learned, a time when you take out the garbage without being asked, refrain from punching your brother in the nose when he does something really bad and go to bed at the agreed upon hour.

It's a time when you protect the kid in the playground that everybody likes to throw snowballs at, smile when your mother makes one of her job requests and try to remember at all times that your sister is your sister and not a punching bag.

Special Mass

A Mass for the deaf will be celebrated at St. Paul of the Cross Church in Honeoye Falls on Christmas Day at 10:30 a.m. Judy Predmore will do the interpreting. The public is welcome.

NCR EDITOR

Kansas City (RNS) — Arthur Jones, British born editor of the National Catholic Reporter, has been named new publisher and chief executive officer of the independent lay-edited Catholic newspaper. Jones succeeds Donald J. Thorman who died Nov. 30. Mr. Thorman had served as publisher and in other capacities with NCR since 1965.

The all Seasons In-ground Charmglow Natural Gas Grills

Made for year round installation use
Portable or In-ground

- Solid Cast Aluminum
- Extra-High Hood for Roast Turkeys
- Stainless Steel Burner
- 3 year warranty
- Ready to go in minutes 24 hours a day, 12 months a year
- Self Cleaning

\$99.00

Installation Available 48 Post Included

CHARMGLOW
ELECTRIC LAMP



Installed with 8' Post Normal Installation

- Little damage to lawn
- Automatic Dust to Dawn
- Cost pennies a day to operate
- Beauty & Security
- Up to 50' from house
- No Extra Charge
- Solid cast Alum. Head
- Lift out glass for each cleaning

MOSEL 300

KM
Rochester Corporation
306 Norton Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14621
544-5770

BLACK SUITS and OUTERCOATS for the CLERGY

These suits are a comfortable wool blend in a year-around weight. London Fog outercoats available with zip-in lining.

Suits \$135 Outercoats \$75

HOLIDAY GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Free alterations for the life of the garment

CORNWALL CLOTHES SHOP

23 East Avenue • 454-3100
Next to Manhattan Restaurant



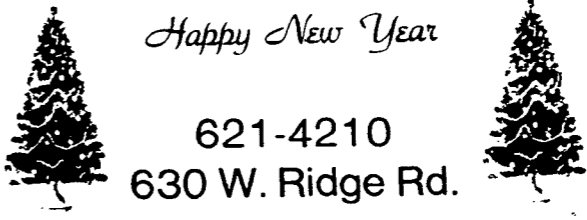
CENTURY

Wines . . . Liquor

Sherwood Deutsch . . . His Staff
Would like to Thank You for your Patronage and Wish You a

Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year

621-4210
630 W. Ridge Rd.



Happy Holidays

Jim Andriano Prestige Dodge

733 Ridge Road E. • Rochester, N.Y. 14622 • 716-338-2900

TO ALL OF OUR FRIENDS . . .

Season's Best Wishes



For Your Home or Theirs It's Everyone's Treat!

Available In
Half Pound, One Pound, Two Pound, and Five Pound Boxes

AT These Convenient Locations:

Monroe Avenue At Clover 11-9 Daily Sat till 6 Sun 12-5 p.m. 385-3632	831 Clinton Avenue South 6 a.m. till 8 p.m. Daily Sun 11 till 5 p.m. 442-6770	Hippopotamus 11-9 Daily Sat till 6 Sun 12-5 p.m. 451-5068
--	---	--

PETER'S

Home Made Candies

All Shops Open Seven Days — Weekly till Christmas