

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

Jean Donovan — called to do more

By Janaan Manternach
NC News Service

Jean Donovan grew up in a suburb in Connecticut. Her parents loved her and gave her everything she needed.

She loved life and had many interests. She studied hard and did well in school. She liked to have fun with her friends. She especially liked to ride horses.

When she grew up, Jean was very successful. She had a good job. She had her own apartment, a car, a motorcycle and nice clothes. She traveled to other countries. She had a boyfriend.

More and more Jean felt her life was missing something important. She had everything she needed, but slowly Jean came to realize that many people had much less. Jean began to feel Christ calling her to do more for people in need.

Jean was now living in Cleveland. She decided to do volunteer work on church projects. She found this satisfying, but

still felt called to do more.

One day she read a story about El Salvador, a country in Central America where people suffered from terrible poverty. They had little food, no decent places to live, few jobs and poor pay. They also feared for their lives in a land experiencing great violence and warfare.

Jean learned that volunteers were needed to work with the peasants. She knew she would not have many things there that she took for granted in Cleveland. Her family and friends warned her of the dangers. But she volunteered and went to Central America.

What Jean saw in El Salvador was worse than she had imagined. She had never seen men, women and children so poor. She found it very hard to live in poverty with them. She felt sad that so many had given up hope.

Jean worked with some American Sisters who had been in El Salvador for a while. Together they did whatever they could to help suffering people. They work-

ed with the poor, helping them discover their own human value.

Jean soon realized that she and the Sisters were in danger. Some people didn't like them working for the poor. She was often afraid, and at times wondered why she gave up such a pleasant life in Cleveland.

Her family, friends and her boyfriend in Cleveland pleaded with her to come home before it was too late. They learned that two of Jean's friends were killed right outside the place where she lived.

But Jean felt Christ wanted her to stay with the poor in El Salvador. She remembered how Jesus gave his whole life to help suffering people. So she stayed.

Jean Donovan and the Sisters she worked with were shot to death on Dec. 2, 1980. She was only 27 years old.



(Ms. Manternach is the author of catechetical works, scripture stories and original stories for children.)

a game

Hidden Words

Find the words hidden in the puzzle below. They may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. All the words are in this week's children's story.

B	S	G	K	N	S	U	J	V	F
C	A	H	O	R	S	E	S	N	L
A	L	O	R	P	A	I	A	M	S
I	V	E	Z	O	K	E	J	B	I
L	A	W	V	V	J	H	G	T	S
P	D	Y	N	E	C	T	P	U	T
C	O	M	Q	R	L	S	H	C	E
Q	R	R	U	T	V	A	X	D	R
U	X	H	O	Y	W	H	N	P	S
E	C	D	A	N	G	E	R	D	J

CLEVELAND, JEAN, SALVADOR, POVERTY, SISTERS, CHURCH, DANGER, HORSES

a game

HOW ABOUT YOU?

El Salvador is a country in Central America. Can you locate this country on a map? What are some other countries of Central America? Why is Central America so frequently in the news today? Could you pray for El Salvador's people and others in Central America?

Children's Reading Corner

Sometimes a person will hurt another, though not intentionally. In seeing the harm done, the person who causes it might be led to explain why. This can reveal how much or how little a person's conscience has developed.

This is what happens in the story "Maggie and the Pirate," by Ezra Jack Keats. You might enjoy reading it. Afterward talk about Maggie's affection for her cricket, why the pirate took it and how he made amends. (Four Winds Press. A division of Scholastic Magazines Inc., 50 W. 44th St., New York, N.Y. 10017. 1979. Hardback. \$8.95.)



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