

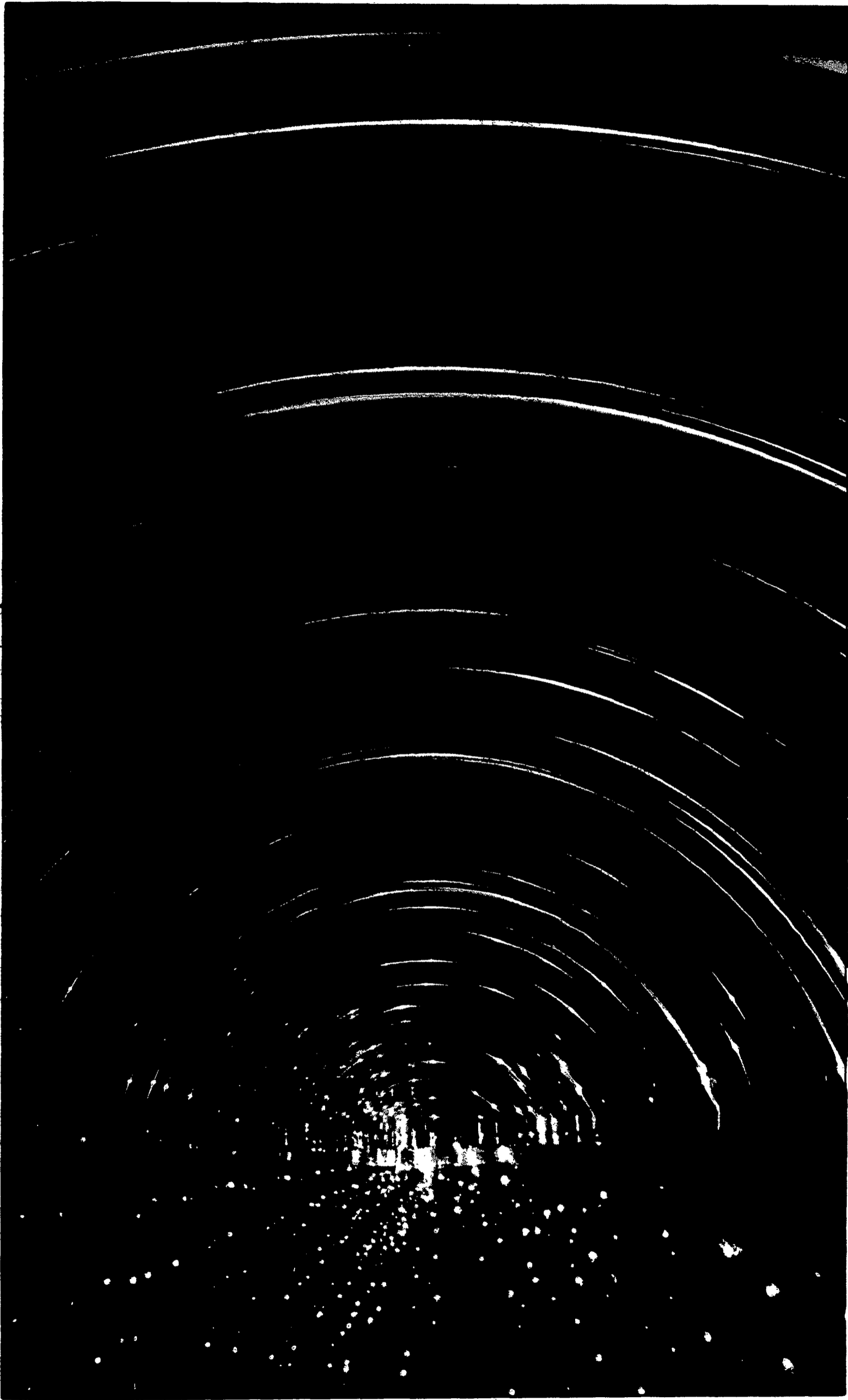
COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

50 Cents

Thursday, December 25, 1986

24 Pages



Jeff Goulding/Courier Journal

The makings of Christmas

Come closer to the hearth, to take a peek with us into the great melting pot of American holiday celebrations. Ours is a land of plenty and poverty, a tradition rich in generosity and excess, joy and sorrow. We offer you a timely journey through the varied customs and rituals — pagan and Christian, ancient and modern — that combine to fill our holiday wassail bowl of material and spiritual gifts.

Holiday punch: Mix well a sprig of holly, eight lively reindeer, three blazing Yule logs, a Christmas creche and Three Wee Kings, and there you have it: the makings of Christmas. Story begins on page 4.

Kids Kringle: Visions of sugarpilums are not the only things that dance in children's heads at Christmastime. For surefire advice from kids on keeping Christ in our Christmas celebrations, see page 2.

Monks' bread: Our recipe for the rich variety of traditions we observe at Christmas includes a leavening measure of peace and tranquility from the monks at the Abbey of the Genesee. See pages 6 and 7.

Room at the inn: At holiday time in a land of plenty, how often do we remember the least fortunate among us? For the heartening story of a special Christmas celebration for the homeless, turn to page 14.