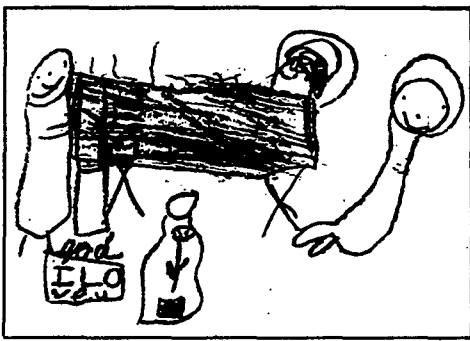


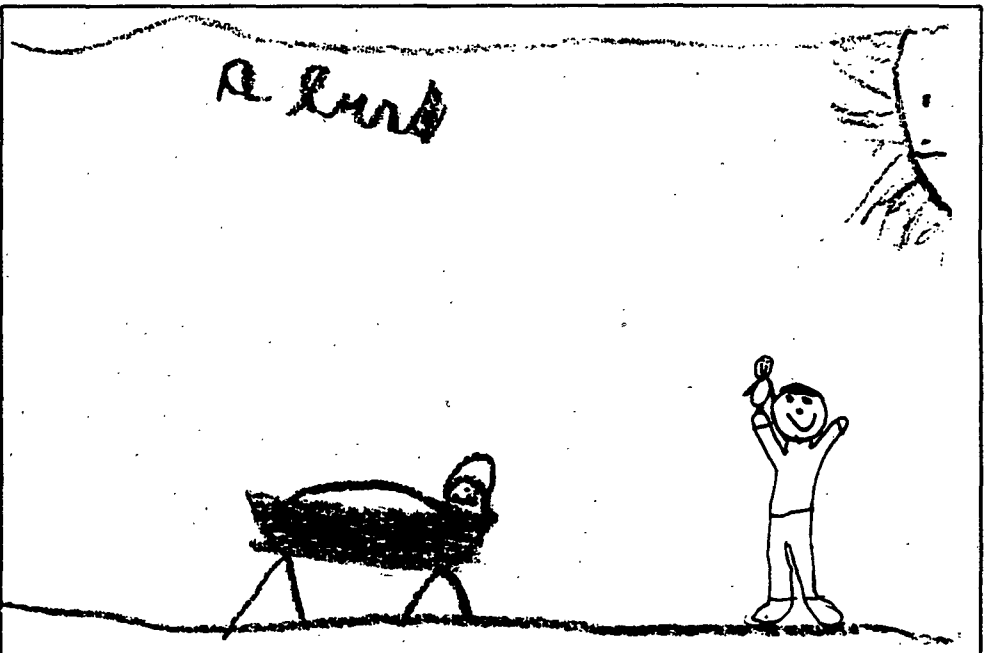
A BLANKET — Steven Sipes, second grade, St. Michael's, Newark.



'THE LOVE FROM CASEY' — Casey Jacobs, first grade, St. Michael's, Newark.



A CAT — Brian Urban, second grade, St. Michael's, Newark.



A BIRD — Robert Kolb, second grade, St. Michael's, Newark.

How to decorate a Christmas tree

First I go out and get my Christmas tree. Then I fill the Christmas tree stand with water. Then we let the tree get used to are house for a night. Then tomorrow night we will decorate our Christmas tree with ornaments and two angles and lights. Then I will wrap my mom's and dad's and my other family member's presents and put them under the Christmas tree and wait until Christmas time.

Lidja Gillmeister
St. John, Humboldt
Grade 2

How to make a fruitcake

First you goet sum fruit. Then you get a bowl and you put The fruit in the bowl. Then you put The fruit in The stov at a Hie Tempettr To dRy. Tac it out of the stov.

Kristin Lemback
St. John, Humboldt
Grade 1

How to decorate a Christmas tree

First you put the Christmas tree up. Then you put the lues on the Christmas tree. Next you put the decoiratchins on the Christmas tree. Last you put the gifts und the Christmas tree.

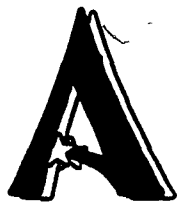
Christopher Edelman
St. John, Humboldt
Grade 1

How to tell Santa what you want for Christmas

It is very easy. All you have to do is get in line and then think about what you want and by that time you'll be up to Santa Claus, and hop right onto his lap and tell him what you want.

Michael Miller
St. John, Humboldt
Grade 3

Bishop Matthew H. Clark
Along the Way



As I write these pre-Christmas words to you, I am conscious that the next time I do this column will be for the February 19 issue of the Courier-Journal. We do not publish next week, and thereafter I shall be on retreat at Guelph, Ontario until February 12.

Not writing this column for several weeks leaves me with mixed feelings. On the one hand, I welcome the respite from the weekly deadline, from the constant search for a theme and the Sunday evening, Monday morning pressure to get the work wrapped up.

On the other hand, I'll miss the opportunity to be in regular touch with so many friends. Doing this column every week offers an opportunity to converse with you in a personal way. It also provides a focal point that helps me, I hope, to become more observant of life and to reflect on the Lord's loving activity among us day after day.

Now I ask you again for the gift of your prayers for me during the privileged weeks ahead. I go with the hope that somehow I'll grow closer to the Lord and you through the experience. I go also with some understanding of the structure and the dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises and with a strong desire in my heart to be as open as I can be to the Lord's will. Beyond that I hope to offer all of the experience of my years as your bishop, with the hope that God will accept it and send

me home built up to serve with you in a more loving manner.

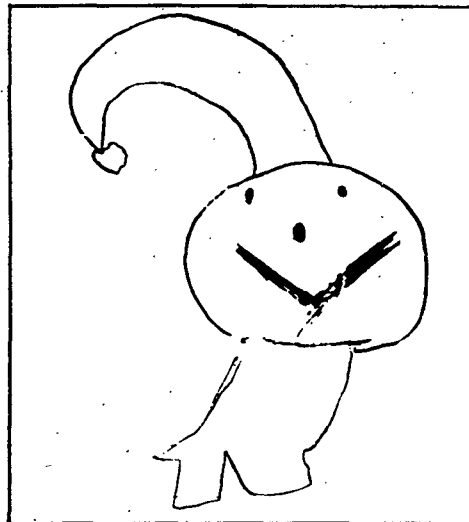
At this special time, I also look back on the year now drawing to a close. I am aware that there were moments of suffering and times of joy for all of us in our community of faith. National issues like those involving Archbishop Hunthausen and Father Curran were controversial and found very good people looking at the same questions from notably different points of view. Our pastoral letter, "Economic Justice for All," also generated a wide range of comment.

Locally, we have devoted much energy to Catholic schools, religious life, and ministerial and financial planning. We revamped our 1986 Thanks Giving Appeal after a difficult experience in 1985. We continue to respond to the difficult pastoral questions of our age. None of this is easy, but if we approach them as people and in a spirit of faith, we will learn more about the Lord and ourselves in all that we experience. We'll even come up with some constructive answers along the way!

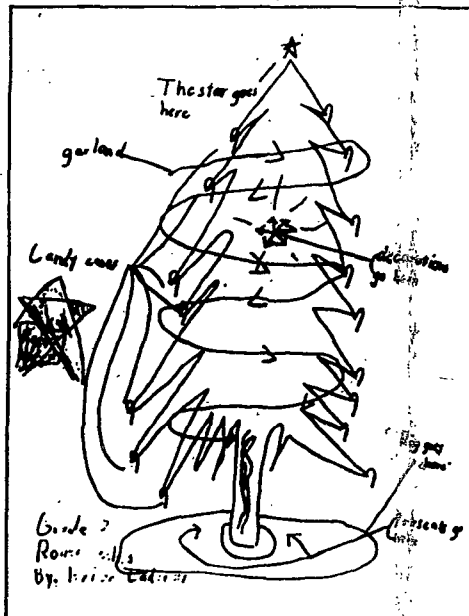
The strongest single memory I have of 1986 is of the many ways you have strengthened my faith and shored up my hopes. Such gifts made even the more difficult moments of the year times of special grace, and I am deeply grateful to you for all of them. It is a joy to serve among you.

Please accept my prayers and best wishes for rich blessings and deeper life for 1987.

Peace to all.



Nicole Keshley, first grade, St. John, Humboldt.



Brian Cadieux, third grade, The Rogers School.

How to decorate a Christmas tree

A Christmas tree a Christmas tree. How beautiful it is. I couldn't see my knee because I'm to busy decoarting the Christmas tree. Oh how beautiful it looks. It looks so beautiful.

Thomas Stoll
St. John, Humboldt
Grade 2

How to decorate a Christmas tree

First you git the christmas tcer aut. Then you decorate it wish lights and pitris and Christmas cura. And you pat presets unr it.

Jamie Romano
St. John, Humboldt
Grade 1

How to make a fruitcake

First, you need two eggs and one nut. Then add four cups of sugar, nine apples and three bananas. After you get all the stuff in the bowl now it is time to put it in the microwav. Now we will set it for twenty minutes. It's done!

Carly Honady
St. John, Humboldt
Grade 2

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