


Small acts of caring teach students holiday's meaning

By Pat Shaw
McQuaid Jesuit High School

As the Christmas spirit captivates us and we rush to the stores to buy gifts, we often forget the real meaning of Christmas: McQuaid, however, has not forgotten. Its annual Christmas-basket drive raises money and donates food to Rochester's poor.

"(The Christmas drive) gives students a chance to give to people who aren't able to give to themselves," moderator John Ladd said.

The Christmas drive has been a tradition at McQuaid for nearly 25 years. Relying on the student body, drive organizers prepare Christmas baskets full of food and holiday items to distribute to the poor. In addition, money raised is used to buy gifts for poor children.

The program works through various agencies in order to reach out to a broad range of needs. Every year, money is donated to the Rochester-area multiple sclerosis organization and to the Eastern Service Worker's Association, which tends to the needs of the poor on the east side of Rochester. Remaining funds are donated to different organizations every year, this year to St. Peter's Kitchen.

The success of the drive has been a tribute to McQuaid, and while Ladd admits that he has the usual fears about not making the annual goal, each Christmas his fears are put to rest. Over the last five years, McQuaid has raised nearly \$10,000, a true show of generosity. This is due to both the zeal with which the teachers promote the project and the unity of the student body in reaching the goal.

Students are proud of the drive. "We're doing something that others seem to ignore," one McQuaid student said. This feeling of importance inspires the students with a desire to give what is so little of themselves — a reminder of the true idea behind Christmas.

"It's nice to know that such a small act can mean so much to a person," another student observed.

It is this self satisfaction in giving that perpetuates the drive.

Another way McQuaid will reach out to the needy during the Christmas season is through cards. While a card may seem like a superfluous item to donate, to the lonely it is as valuable as a crate of food is to a poor family. It is the gift of caring and reassurance that one is not alone, especially not on Christmas. It is this aspect of the drive that sobers many students' views on what Christmas means to others less fortunate.

"I realized the true meaning of giving by writing a Christmas card to someone who was without a family and alone," one student remarked. "It made me feel good."

Hopefully, McQuaid is making a difference. However small the gifts or slight the donations, they are emulating the Christmas spirit much of society seems to have lost. It is noble to move away from the materialistic level and give for the sake of giving. In doing this, McQuaid is proud of itself.

"The drive is a chance to live the Good News, the Gospel," Ladd said. "It takes students' minds off of less important things like shopping and materialism."

To this end, McQuaid is making a difference.

Bishop Kearney High School

Do we celebrate Christmas for the correct reason?

JULIE HOFMAN, senior

Generally, the first thoughts one has of Christmas are those of presents, days off and parties. Deep down inside, though, one feels a sentiment of a greater significance. Christmas gives happiness, togetherness and a sense of love and warmth. It is a time of giving as well as receiving as Christ had done.



NOEL FRANUS, junior

I think that many of us have lost the association between Christ's birth and Christmas. Too many people think that the major focus is to give and to receive. Sure, giving is great, but I think every once in a while we must remember the greatest gift God ever gave us — His Son.



DOMINIC SALAMIDA, sophomore

I don't think people celebrate Christmas for the reason intended. I think the majority of people think way too much about gifts and Santa Claus. It really bugs me to see kids believing in Santa instead of Jesus' birth — the real reason for Christmas. I hope that Jesus' birth becomes more the subject of Christmas soon.



As Teens See It

JACQUELINE FEWKES, freshman

No, because Christmas was started as a religious holiday to commemorate Jesus' birth. Today, however, it has become a habit and excuse for adults to take a vacation, and children would sooner think of presents and candy on Christmas than of Jesus. Non-Christians are forced to acknowledge Christmas — making this a holiday, not a time for religious worship.



Mass focuses on homeless

Cardinal Mooney High School's annual Christmas Mass will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 1:30 p.m. Father Matthew Kawiak of St. Boniface Church in Rochester will be the celebrant. Cardinal Mooney Chaplain Father Donald Haycock will assist him.

Nine Rochester-area Swedish exchange students will dance in native costumes, led by Mooney exchange student Karen Hallender.

Father Kawiak will focus on the homeless as the theme of the Mass. After the ceremony, students will take gifts to St. Joseph's Villa, Hillside Children's Home, Monroe Developmental Center, Melita House, Liberty Manor and Catholic Family Center.

Placement examinations set

All Rochester-area eighth-grade students enrolled in public, private or Catholic schools are invited to take placement examinations at the Catholic high school of their choice on Saturday, Jan. 9, at 8:30 a.m.

Students may register for the test through their current school office or by contacting the Catholic high school of their choice. Registration fee is \$5. Pre-registration is desired.

A make-up placement examination will take place at Our Lady of Mercy High School on January 16, at 8:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF GUITARS

Most New Album And Tape Releases Just \$5.98
CD's From \$8.98 - \$11.98 Each

We received 24 correct entries identifying "Sue" as the girl who took a ride in Harry Chapin's taxi.



The winner was Marie Tychan of Rochester

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

Who recorded the #1 hit song in 1973: "Delta Dawn?"

A:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip Code _____
School _____

Rules:

Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal
Music Trivia
1150 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14624

ATHLETES OUTLET

Professional Team & Tee-Shirt Headquarters NFL, NBA, NHL

We received 9 correct entries identifying Louis Orr and Rosie Bouie as Syracuse University basketball's "Louie & Bouie show."



The winner was Ron Luchetti, Jr. of Penfield

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:

What's the diameter of a basketball hoop?

A:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip Code _____
School _____

Rules:

Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the Athletes Outlet will feature a Sports Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a certificate redeemable for \$5.00 OFF towards any purchase at either of the two Athletes Outlet locations: Long Ridge Mall, next to Sears, or Parkson Square Mall.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal
Sports Trivia
1150 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester, NY 14624