

# Schools

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change gifts."

Working with the same theme, St. Joseph's Parish in Wayland used funds it raised at a rummage sale last summer to support St. Peter's Kitchen in Rochester and to adopt a three-year-old child in Chile.

The entire parish has rallied around the effort to adopt Jonathan Ortiz Leiva, who will continue to live with his family in Valparaiso, Chile. According to Nancy Goodrich, religious education director at the Wayland parish, the adoption of Jonathan has provided parishioners a more personal approach to giving.

"This is something (parishioners) can get their hands on, and the young people are really looking forward to watching Jonathan grow," said Goodrich, who added that a picture of the Chilean boy arrived in Wayland the weekend before Christmas. "It's important to tell our children that not every place is like Wayland; there are poor people out there."

Through Children International, an agency based in Kansas City, Mo., parishioners will write to Jonathan once a month.

Sister Marie Stanislaus, SSJ, said the parish project is in tune with what the teachers at the school have been trying to emphasize all year.

"We've been teaching the children about social action and social justice, and (the adoption of Jonathan) is providing a personal contact for the children of the parish," said Sister Stanislaus, who added that the school assists in the candy sale on behalf of the School of the Holy Childhood at Eastertime.

"Father (Paul) Schnacky believes that we have to share part of our blessings with others," Sister Stanislaus said.

Goodrich also credits the pastor of St.



Second-graders at St. Theodore's School in Gates entertained their classmates during a baby shower for the infant Jesus.

Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal

Joseph's parish with setting the example for the parish's current project. She hopes that the growing success of the rummage sale as well

as other fundraising measures will help the parish's ongoing efforts to fight poverty.

"Father Schnacky has always taken money

out of his own pocket when emergency funds are needed," Goodrich said. "We don't want him to have to do that anymore."



Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal

Lindsay Dreury inspects her starred scepter as she prepares to lead a procession of fellow angels.

# Pageant

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"I told her I'd be delighted if she could be baby Jesus," said Jordan, whose son Kyle appeared in his fourth pageant — his second as a shepherd. Katie, who is a little more than five months old, was adopted through Love the Children, a Pennsylvania-based adoption agency.

"It kind of makes you feel good inside when the community asks you to do something like this," Jordan added.

The pageant has been touching the hearts of participants and audience members since its inception in the late 1960s. Through the efforts of pageant organizers and area religious leaders, Aurora's celebration of the birth of Christ has become a commemoration for people of all faiths.

"It's a small community here, and it seems senseless to divide members (along) various religious lines when we're all celebrating the same birthday," said Morehouse, who is a member of the United Ministries Church in Aurora.

Morehouse credits Father John Hayes, former pastor of St. Patrick's in Aurora and St. Michael's in Union Springs, and Father William V. Spilly, current pastor of the Cayuga Team Ministry, with promoting the "great deal of blending" among the area's denominations.

Nor is that interaction among denominations not limited to the weeks before the Christ-

mas pageant. "It's constant; there is a very relaxed atmosphere of sharing and helping around here that you probably wouldn't be able to duplicate in a much larger community," Morehouse said.

Marie Taylor, who is in charge of costumes for the production, said her job is easier thanks to a community-wide effort to make the pageant a success.

"The costumes we use now were largely put together by parents of past pageants," said Taylor, who is a parishioner of St. Patrick's in Aurora. "This year I'm using a fur that belonged to my husband's grandmother to add to one of the king's costumes; (the fur) must be 80 years old."

Taylor added that another costume will be made from the lining of a coat she didn't finish making. "We get pieces of fabrics from so many people," she said. "The pageant brings in the talents of so many people."

Taylor, a teacher in the Aurora Cooperative Pre-School, which is open to children of various religions, said the pageant educates children while entertaining the community.

"Some of the children don't belong to any church, so this is how they learn more about the birth of Jesus," she said. "Usually at the first practice you ask why we celebrate Christmas and you hear 'because of toys and gifts.' When you ask the question again, you sometimes get the same answer, but then you hear a little voice say 'No, it's because it's Jesus' birthday. That little voice makes it all worth it."

# Immigrants

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"Then the day after (Christmas) you stand in line to return it all!"

Christmas celebrations in the United States also end much more abruptly than in Poland, where holiday visiting and partying don't begin until December 25th, but may extend well into February.

In spite of the major and minor adjustments required, the Karpinskis seldom question the

wisdom of their decision to leave their country anymore. "In Poland, we had problems that were unbearable, that we couldn't solve ourselves," Elzbieta explained. "Here we have problems too, but they are the same problems that everyone has — nothing too difficult."

On the other hand, Thomas, who is thick in the throes of what he calls "the emigrant sickness," believes that Poland will probably always remain his home. "I didn't want to leave my country," he said. "When and if something changed there, I would probably go back."

"It's not so easy to leave," he concluded.

# Christmas Eve Mass from Rome available on video cassettes

Christmas Eve Mass, celebrated by Pope John Paul II, is now available on video cassettes — VHS and Beta formats — from the Universal Sound and Video Corporation of Oceanside, Calif., (USAVCO).

The Mass is celebrated in St. Peter's Basilica with the Sistine Chapel Choir. The English narration is by Archbishop John Foley, who is head of the Pontifical Commission of Social Communications for the pope.

Broadcast in 14 different languages, the Mass will for the first time be seen in Poland

— the home country of Pope John Paul II.

The 95-minute videocassette is available from USAVCO, P.O. Box 341, San Luis Rey, Calif., 92068, for \$29.95 plus \$3 for shipping and handling charges. Church and dealer inquiries are invited.

A portion of the proceeds are being donated to the U.S. Catholic Conference. Spanish and Portuguese versions are also being prepared and will be available within several months.