

Mercy Christmas tradition brings joy to givers, receivers

By Amy Carr
Our Lady of Mercy High School

The Christmas holiday season of 1987 has again brought forth the excitement of colorful, adorned trees, crowded shopping malls and the preparation of holiday delicacies. This year, Our Lady of Mercy students contributed to the season by focusing on the "true meaning" of Christmas through its traditional food-basket program for the less fortunate.

A tradition at Mercy for many years, the Christmas food-basket program is organized annually by the Campus Ministry Board. Under the direction of Sister Maureen Servas, campus minister, the food-basket program is led this year by co-chairwomen Julie Bennett and Teresa Curran.

Student representatives from each homeroom are given the name of one needy family selected by Catholic Family Center of Rochester. The CMB representatives are responsible for informing students in their homerooms of the families' situations and their needs. Each day beginning December 1, students are asked to bring in certain items for the food baskets. The majority of items collected are canned

fruits and vegetables, baking supplies, baby and pet foods, as well as old clothes and toys.

"Every homeroom is encouraged to become involved, and this presents a sense of unity," remarked CMB president Carrie Tocci, a senior. "(The program) gives us all an opportunity ... to gain insight into other people's lives and problems."

In addition to coordinating the collection of goods and the decoration of baskets, CMB student representatives are responsible for visiting their families during the month of December in order to find out what special needs the family may have at Christmas. After the visits, representatives also collect money from students in their homerooms to buy gifts for each family member.

"Through the visits, the CMB representatives establish a personal contact with the family and get to know them and their needs," observed Sister Servas.

During the final days of preparation, CMB representatives use donations from parents, alumnae and faculty members to purchase such perishable items as milk and bread. On the day before Christmas break, the baskets

from each homeroom are blessed at Mercy's annual Christmas "golden Mass," and then the student representatives present the food baskets and gifts to their families.

"The families show gratitude for the hard work of the representatives and students," said CMB representative Jean Dirckx, a senior. "These families have the spirit of Christmas; we give them the material needs."

This year, on December 23, food baskets from Mercy were delivered to 21 families. Sister Servas noted that the combined efforts of CMB representatives, students and faculty members created a sense of the true spirit of Christmas within the school.

"This program has given (all participants) the opportunity to give and to share with those not as fortunate," she remarked. "Students have learned that it takes humility to ask for help, and that although being a receiver is not easy, all of us need to be givers and receivers during our lives. By giving, the Mercy spirit has transcended onto others."



Christmas food baskets for needy families are blessed at Mercy High School's annual Golden Mass before being distributed.

DeSales High School Should one's personal life affect his campaign for the presidency?

Matt Quigley, senior

No, not to as great an extent as it is now. I feel that personal lives have a minimal bearing on politics. Personal lives should only come into effect if it will influence his/her political decisions.



As Teens See It

Chris Claxton, senior

No, I think it should depend on whether or not they can do the job. I'd rather vote for a person who can do the job, than a person who has a sweet record and wouldn't be willing to take a stand.



Mary Doris Peter, senior

No, I think that whatever the candidate participates in should be kept private because his personal life will most likely not effect the way he performs in office.



By Daniel Stoffel
Aquinas Institute

At a Mass I recently attended, Father Joseph Larrabee spent part of his homily speaking about the Christian act of bringing life to others. His words were very meaningful to me, and as I reflected on them, I thought of the ways in which I have brought life to others by sharing part of myself.

One way involves a lifetime experience with the mentally retarded — particularly my uncle. I have done many things for him and have come to see just how much humanity he has within himself. Unlike so many of my peers, I do not laugh at or joke about retarded people. In fact, I have met many retarded people whose good natures affect those around them so positively that they are better life givers than most "normal people."

I am also fortunate to have family and friends — who in their serving others — continually reinforce the Christian aspect of giving life. An uncle and a cousin of mine volunteer at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality every Thanksgiving. They work on the food lines for the poor, who would otherwise have no meal. My uncle could be in the warmth and comfort of his own home watch-

Speaking Out

ing football, but he isn't. That makes his help all the more special. In sacrificing part of his Thanksgiving to serve those in need, he gives life.

The results of helping others are twofold. First of all, you bring life to others, but you also bring life to yourself. The self gratification I feel serving other people is one of the best feelings I can possibly have. It's a feeling that I have contributed significantly to spreading love. Awhile back, some friends and I sang Christmas carols at a nursing home. The smiles I saw made my day. Every act of giving will provide this return.

I urge everyone to use their gifts and help others during and after the holiday season. Not only will you make someone else feel better, but you can make yourself feel better too.

Sisters of Mercy invite women to winter reflection day

The Sisters of Mercy invite women who are interested in learning more about religious life and the Sisters of Mercy to attend a winter reflection day on Saturday, Jan. 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Rita's Convent, 1008 Maple Drive, Webster.

Sister Karlien Bach, Webster, (716) 671-1612; Sister Lucille Lenhard, Elmira, (607) 734-6840; Sister Nancy O'Brien, Owego, (607) 687-3121; and Sister Virginia Taylor, Ithaca, (607) 273-0143 are also available to take reservations.

Pulitzer Prize winning author to present annual King lecture

David J. Garrow, winner of the 1987 Pulitzer Prize in Biography, will deliver the third annual Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Divinity School, 1100 S. Goodman St., Rochester. The lecture, which is free and open to the public, is entitled "The Political Evolution of Martin Luther King Jr."

Dr. Garrow, a professor of political science at City College of New York and the City University Graduate Center, is the author and editor of several books on King.

The lecture is sponsored by the Program of Black Church Studies and the Black Student Caucus of the Divinity School. King graduated from Crozer Theological Seminary in 1951.

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

We received 16 correct entries identifying the gift Alvin the Chipmunk wanted for Christmas as a Hula Hoop.

The winner was Cheryl Shank of Rochester

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

How many copies must a singles record sell to be certified platinum?

A: _____

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 papers 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

Placement examinations set for diocesan high schools

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.

Catholic high school of their choice. Registration fee is \$5. Pre-registration is desired, but not mandatory.

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

Students may register for the test through their current school office or by contacting the

Programs for Hispanic youth families available at center

The Puerto Rican Youth Development Center (PRYD), located at 997 N. Clinton Ave., Rochester provides counseling and support services to Hispanic youth and their families. Programs cover such areas as child abuse, drug

prevention, tutorial services, career development, leadership training and personal counseling. The counselors at PRYD are bilingual, and all services are free.

Call (716)325-3570 for information.

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

We received 5 correct entries identifying the Milwaukee Brewers as the team Hank Aaron played his last major league game for.

The winner was Mary Wargo of Nazareth College

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:

What is the diameter of a golf hole? (to the 1/4")

A: _____

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 Perinton Square Mall. All entries must be received within seven days of this papers 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