

Christmas
FEATURE

Penfield woman publishes original Nativity story

By Lee Strong
Associate editor

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem for that first Christmas, they found no room in the inn. So Jesus was born in a stable.

But when Donatella Cardillo-Young looked at that stable, she saw little room made for some other people.

Generally, nativity scenes and stories include shepherds, boys and the three wise men — all males, the Church of the Resurrection parishioner observed.

"I thought it would be very nice to get a little girl into the scene," Cardillo-Young said.

So she decided to take matters into her own hands. Consequently, just in time for Christmas, Cardillo-Young has published *The Yellow Coat*.

The book — just the right size for stuffing stockings — tells the story of Miriam, a shepherd's daughter who is at the first Christmas and who presents Jesus with a special gift.

Cardillo-Young recalled that the story concept came relatively easily two years ago.

"I knew the shepherds were there, so it just seemed logical that she be the daughter of a shepherd and be there that night," Cardillo-Young said.

But once the story was written, getting it published was not as easy.

"It was sent out a number of times, and it was rejected at least 15 times," she said.

However, Cardillo-Young kept polishing the story and sending it to publishers.

"I liked the story," Cardillo-Young said. "I liked the idea of the story and I believed in it and I kept sending it out."

Her persistence paid off.

The story was accepted by Scythe Publications, Inc., of Nashville, Tenn., in 1994. After additional editing and the creation of illustrations by Geoffrey Brittingham, the book was released in November this year.

Since then, Cardillo-Young has been busy trying to interest local stores in carrying the \$5.95 book — with the publisher handling national distribution. Thus far, she has had success with the Catholic Shop, Logos Bookstore and Village Green Bookstore.



Illustration by Geoffrey Brittingham from the book *The Yellow Coat*, by Donatella Cardillo-Young.

But even as she is relishing the publication of her first children's book, Cardillo-Young is working on additional biblical tales told from the perspective of children.

One is the story of the prodigal son — told from the point of view of a servant's son. Another is told by the son of the widow whose oil and flour supply is miraculously increased by the prophet Elisha.

"The idea I had was to look at the Bible stories taking

the point of view of a child," Cardillo-Young explained. "I thought it would be nice for children to put themselves at the time and places. You make the children from the Bible human and try to let the child of today identify with the child of 2,000 years ago. Many of the concerns children had then were not very different from the concerns they have today."

For example, Miriam of *The Yellow Coat* is frustrated that she is not allowed to help her father in the hills, despite the fact that her twin brother is able to do so. Her father is reluctant to allow her because, as he says, "Shepherding is not for girls."

Besides writing for children, Cardillo-Young is pursuing other writing interests/compositions.

She has published poetry in magazines and in *A Harvest of Haiku*, a recently released collection by the Haiku Poets of Upstate New York. In addition, she has written two adult-oriented plays, one of which is being considered for production by a local theater group.

Moreover, Cardillo-Young is working on a novel about a woman who went to Nepal and begins to look at her own Catholicism in light of the Buddhism she finds there.

Cardillo-Young, a grandmother, has been writing actively since 1987. Just a year earlier, she had completed a master's degree in liberal studies, and at that point, she recalled, "I had two choices: I could go for a doctorate, or go for a novel."

She opted for the novel, with the support of her husband, William Chase Young. She completed that novel, which she chose not to try to publish, and went on to other projects, including the children's stories. Sadly, her husband is not able to share in her success — he passed away in 1988.

Cardillo-Young said she recognizes that *The Yellow Coat* may be out a little too late for this Christmas — and thus does not expect sales to be that large. "I'm hoping for next year."

Meanwhile, she is using experience she gained to work on the story of the servant and the prodigal son. One lesson she has learned is the value of editing and refining a story, no matter how good it seems at first.

"If you have silver," Cardillo-Young noted, "it's just silver unless you polish it up to make it shine."

DECEMBER BINGO CALENDAR

SPECIAL PAID ADVERTISEMENT ■ CALL FOR HOLIDAY CANCELLATIONS

BINGO

SUNDAY		
2:00 p.m.	St. Margaret Mary Church	400 Rogers Parkway, Rochester 716-342-2100
6:15 p.m.	St. Stanislaus Church	1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester 716-544-9951
7:30 p.m.	Holy Family Church	899 Jay St., Rochester 716-328-3110
7:30 p.m.	St. Boniface Church	15 Whalin St., Rochester 716-271-1468
7:30 p.m.	St. Rita School	1008 Maple Dr., Webster 716-671-1100
7:30 p.m.	St. Charles Borromeo Church	Bingo World, 4419 Dewey Ave., Roch 716-621-9550
MONDAY		
7:30 p.m.	St. Mary Lyceum Hall	15 Clark St., Auburn 315-252-9545
7:30 p.m.	St. Charles Borromeo Church	Bingo World, 4419 Dewey Ave., Roch 716-621-9550
TUESDAY		
7:30 p.m.	St. Stanislaus Church	1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester 716-544-9951
7:30 p.m.	St. Helens Church	Gates Center Bingo, Westmar Plaza 716-235-1210
WEDNESDAY		
7:30 p.m.	Guardian Angels Church	2061 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester 716-334-1412
7:30 p.m.	Holy Family Home School Assoc.	899 Jay St., Rochester 716-328-4800
7:30 p.m.	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church/St. Andrew School	923 Portland, Rochester 716-226-6458
THURSDAY		
7:30 p.m.	St. Anne Church	1600 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester 716-271-3260
7:30 p.m.	St. Stanislaus Church	1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester 716-544-9951
8:00 p.m.	Holy Cross Church	4488 Lake St., Rochester 716-225-8363
FRIDAY		
8:00 p.m.	St. Mark Church	54 Kuhn Rd., Rochester 716-225-3710
SATURDAY		
7:30 p.m.	Good Shepherd Church	3288 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester 716-334-3518
8:00 p.m.	St. Thomas the Apostle Church	41 Colbrook Dr., Rochester 716-225-2843

✂ CLIP & SAVE ✂

HART MONUMENT COMPANY

Since 1856

Monuments, Markers
and Cemetery Lettering

2301 Dewey Avenue
(OPPOSITE HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY)
(716) 865-6746

ARNDT FUNERAL HOME

Family Owned & Operated

RONALD JOHN ARNDT
ROBERT J. ARNDT
SHARI L. ARNDT
Funeral Directors
225-6350
1118 Long Pond Road
(South of Maiden Lane)

Gates Center Bingo & St. Theodore's Church
present a

New Year's Eve Gala

\$1000 Jackpot & Latenight Buffet
\$30.00 admission includes buffet & all you can play
Doors open at 8:00pm, Buffet at 10:30pm

Tuesday through Sunday game schedule:
235-2639

- Glass-enclosed non-smoking room
- Fully Computerized

Reservations: (716) 247-9670

2107 Buffalo Road • Westmar Plaza

CATHOLIC COURIER
ED: Cathol...
regular...
stead, t...
in this...
issue o...
wish to...
peating...
C...
S...
Reli...
Praye...
Peace...
Mary...
West...
p.m.;...
song;...
Scrip...
Mary...
West...
medi...
Holy...
Moth...
St., H...
M...
Hea...
MON...
prog...
lost...
sorec...
Gene...
AIDS...
ty A...
free;
Me...
port...
ence...
and...
of Pe...
Ave.,...
call...
Roo...
Grou...
4282...
9-11...
call...
THU...
for...
ners...
Soci...