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Gifts

Continued from page 1

These cost \$12 and also benefit the homeless in Maine, where they are made.

"We thought after a couple years the market would dry up," said Sister Christine Wagner, SSJ, center director. "But it hasn't. It's a wonderful gift, people love it."

The pins are sold at the SSJ motherhouse's Cornerstone Crafts, 4095 East Ave., Pittsford, at Kate's Tea & Gift Shop in the Mercy motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, and at the center, 417 South Ave., Rochester. Sister Wagner also is selling needlepoint houses to frame.

★ Tickets to hear Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*, Jan. 15-16 in five area talks sponsored by the Common Ground Consistent Life Awareness Fund. Tickets are \$12 for her 7:30 p.m. Jan. 15 talk at Theater on the Ridge, Kodak Park. Information is available at 716/293-3299 or 716/872-3891.

★ *Treasured Italian Recipes* cookbook sold by Church of the Most Precious Blood, Rochester, to benefit Sacred Heart League charities there. It sells for \$12 and according to Father William Graf, pastor, is a collection of inexpensive recipes using ingredients normally found in a kitchen, handed down by a woman who "did not own a cookbook or a measuring cup." He added the books have been sold for four or more years and "we keep running out of them." He's also been suggesting gift donations to the house in Haiti the parish is building.

★ Spiritual books. Sister Dolores Monahan, SSJ, of the SSJ spiritual ministry, recommends several, such as *Sleeping With*

Bread: Holding What Gives You Life by Dennis, Sheila F. and Matthew Linn.

"It is about awareness prayer, a way of people becoming more aware of their own day and what has happened, and of their own life," Sister Monahan said. She also recommended the late Father Henri Nouwen's *Can You Drink the Cup?* and several other of his books including his



last, *The Inner Voice of Love*. That final book shares spiritual imperatives he gave himself during the most difficult days of his life, originally written only in a secret journal.

For children, Sister Monahan suggested *Bible Sing and Tell* by Thomas More Division of Tabor Publishing, 1995. This is a series of books and books on tape read by children themselves.

"It is really delightful and I enjoy it as an adult too," she said. Sister Monahan would be happy to help guide parents and other book lovers and may be reached at St. Stephen's Convent, Geneva, 315/789-7841.

★ Gift certificates for Kate's Tea & Gift Shop or Cornerstone Crafts. Proceeds from Kate's benefit Mercy outreaches, while those from Cornerstone benefit the SSJ community and infirmary.

Colorful candles of recycled wax by Sister Virginia Wilson, RSM, are a hot item at Kate's Tea & Gift Shop. Handcrafted cards by Sister Betty Burkhart, SSJ, and Sister Maria Kellner, SSJ, and knitted and crocheted items are favorites at Cornerstone Crafts, where special baskets can be made up. Also on the shelves: Third-World crafts, books, music tapes, bookmarks, teddy bears, backpacks and much more.

"Sometimes you're looking for something special but that's not from a Hallmark store that 500 other people have," said Sister Elaine Englert, SSJ, of the diocesan schools department.

The Sisters of Mercy will hold their Christmas Sale from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, at the motherhouse, 1437 Blossom

Road, Rochester, where they plan an elaborate spread of items from their gift shop and beyond.

★ Gift certificates for retreats. Father David Faraone of Sodus, who usually frames photos from his travels as gifts, recalled giving two of his nieces certificates for early diocesan teen retreats.

"There's probably no better faith experience for young people than a retreat," acknowledged Michael Theisen, diocesan coordinator of youth ministry.

Weekend retreats cost \$70, with one planned in April for 11th- and 12th-graders, and three in February, April and May for ninth- and 10th-graders. Call Jeannie Raisbeck at 716/328-3210 or 800/388-7177.

★ Gift certificates toward retreats at the Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality Center, the Mercy Prayer Center, both in Rochester, Notre Dame Retreat Center in Canandaigua and other centers. Private days of reflection, weekends and special programs are offered, for \$10-80 or so, and massages also may be arranged at the Mercy center.

Upcoming SSJ programs include Richard Rohr on integrating sexuality and spirituality on Jan. 5. Phone numbers for these three places, respectively, are 716/336-4370, 716/473-6893, and 716/394-5700.

★ Gift certificates for Marriage Encounter or Engaged Encounter. John Brewster of Holy Trinity Monastery, Hornell, recalled he and his wife gave Engaged Encounter to two of their children. For family retreats, he highly recommended the Marianist Retreat Center in Cape May Point, N.J. "Families are their entire ministry," he said, adding his own and his children's families have enjoyed retreats there.

Kathy Williams, who with her husband Mike is a presenting team for Marriage Encounter, noted that people might pay a \$50 registration fee for a couple's weekend — or more, to help cover hotel, food and program costs for which an offering is taken.

"We've done it for our children, my niece and neighbors," she said. "If couples take it the

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