

Absolutely angels

Story by Mike Latona • Photographs by Greg Francis

gone. "We were all stunned. We were like, 'Where did he come from and where did he go?' It was like a miracle," Tamra said. "You kind of think about it, and angels do perform miracles."

"I do believe in angels. I believe there is somebody looking over you, no matter what," she added.

Jeanne Kidera remembers an equally mystical event that took place during a family trip when she was 7 years old.

"We got totally lost. A man next to us motioned for us to pull over, and asked if we were lost. We were kind of laughing because he was in a white car and he had white (clothes) all over him," said Jeanne, 16, from St. Thomas More Church in Brighton.

Jeanne's family followed the man's car for a few miles, and he led them back to the correct highway. They then paused to give him a departing thank-you wave — but his car had disappeared.

"He was nowhere to be found. We all went, 'Hmmm ...'" Jeanne said.

Although the angels described by Tamra and Jeanne were total strangers, Tim Deckman stated that he "absolutely" believes friends and family members, as well, can serve as angels.

"If someone is feeling a bit down in life, and they don't feel they can carry on, they might get a card from someone they know and it makes them feel significant again," said Tim, 14, from St. Joseph's Church in Rush.

Whereas the Catholic Church acknowledges the presence and importance of angels, church teaching defines angels in a spiritual, non-human sense. However, Jeanne believes that each of us have the potential to be angel-like to those around us.

"They're people who say the right thing at the right time, when you don't think there's anyone who understands," Jeanne said. "Angels are a reinforcement."

"Somebody might say, 'Oh my God, that was just what I needed to hear.' So an angel might be working through you," Maggie agreed.

Angel said that angels should be associated not just with miracles and coincidences, but also with everyday acts of love and kindness.



One of the many angel figurines Angel has collected.

"My best friend Shannon has been an angel for me, and I'm sure I am for her. I think God's a definite part of our relationship," Angel said.

Angel added that she also considers Shannon's mother to be an angel, because she helped inspire both girls to take part in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) — the process in which adults are fully brought into the Catholic faith.

"Her mother evoked a passion in our hearts, getting us wanting to know God," Angel said.

At times, Jeanne noted, people can act as angels to others without being conscious that they're doing so.

"There's that probably someone out there you don't even know anymore that you've touched, and you don't realize it," Jeanne said. "There are times when you're called upon to be an angel, whether you realize it or not."

When an angel is at work, Maggie noted, it usually happens in a very subtle manner.

"The person won't have a name tag on," Maggie remarked.

This element of mystery is part of God's design, Jeanne said.

"If it wasn't mysterious, there would be no need for faith," Jeanne said.

Tamra and Angel's faith has led them to believe they could be designated as angels in the afterlife.

"I definitely think you're assigned to somebody (after you've died), to watch over that person. Your purpose is to help this person along using your experience in life," Tamra said. "That little voice telling someone what's right from wrong — that's your angel."

"I always wish that when God takes me home, he'll make me an angel," Angel commented.

Coming Next:

Family rituals



Holiday Gift Guide

Looking for Quality

Printing?

Call

Through a special arrangement between Wayuga Press and the Catholic Courier Graphic's Department, you can now get quality, affordable typesetting and printing.

Give us a call for your next job!

COURIER GRAPHICS 716-328-4340

WAYUGA PRESS 315-754-6229

Gifts of Comfort and Convenience, from the people of Southside.

Pride

All-Electric Lift/Recliner

Flick the fingertip switch to get up easily, without assistance, or settle down to relax or nap comfort. Choice of stunning fabrics and colors to go with any home decor.

Standard Chair
Small or Medium
\$499.00
Large, \$589.00

Deluxe
Luxury Chair
\$100.00 OFF
All Models

LINEY AKROS Not just for

D.F.D. Cushion wheelchairs!

Hours-on-end comfort for

- Long-haul Drivers • Office Workers
- Construction Operators
- Anyone who must sit for long periods!

Give this incredible \$59.00 comfort for only #812

Southside

A P O T H E C A R Y

Medical Products • Medical Services • Medical Supplies

1815 South Clinton Ave., Suite 400.

271-7141 • Women's Center: 244-3340

1-800-333-0979 • TTY 271-7141

All prices are in effect through December 31, 1997.

Need computer consulting?

Lowans Enterprises can help.

Lowans Enterprises is a total IBM PC & PC Compatible hardware software consulting firm.



- Evaluate your specific computing needs
- Assist in purchasing the most computer for the least \$ amount.
- Provide technical support; eg. setup, optimize, and troubleshooting of both hardware/software.
- Customize hardware/software to your needs.
- Provide instruction on operation.

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Call for appointment

(716) 262-4653

Fax (716) 232-6736