

## Recycled Christmas



"What a week!" I complained to my neighbor, Joan, as I wearily slumped into one of her kitchen chairs that hot July morning. "First, Mom's medical tests came back with inconclusive results which means more procedures for her. Then the washing machine broke down. And to top it off, last Sunday just as we were pulling out of the church parking lot, an out-of-control car missed us by inches. What a fright! I still get shivers every time I think of it."

As I slowly shook my head, a flash of crimson caught my eye from the other side of the family's fruit bowl. Taking a second look, I spotted a bright red Santa Claus card sparkling in the summer sunshine pouring through the window.

"Looks like Christmas in July around here," I laughed. "Somehow though, reindeer and jolly old St. Nick seem a little out of place in the middle of a summer heat spell."

"Maybe," Joan explained, "but maybe not. When we were taking down our Christmas decorations last January, I told Jack how I hated to throw away all the Christmas cards we had received. So many were from people who are very special to us."

"I know what you mean," I agreed. "With all the messages and updates on the cards, it's like having a bunch of mini-visits."

"Well, Jack suggested that we save the cards and pick one each day during the coming year as our special prayer person of the day."

Swinging open the broom closet, Joan pointed toward a plastic shopping bag hanging on the hook. "We put all the cards in this bag. Each morning we pick one at random and pray for that person or family at breakfast and throughout the day. It doesn't matter whether it's a dear friend or someone like our piano tuner who sends all his customers a card. It's a chance to carry the Christmas spirit into the rest of the year. When we empty the bag, we put the cards back in again and start all over."

Closing the closet door gently, she paused a moment with her hand on the knob, and then said in a soft voice, "Your card was on our table this past Sunday."

- Patricia Brewster, Hornell

*Nowhere is there a darkness  
so black  
that Your light will not penetrate and shine.  
Nowhere is there a sorrow  
so heavy  
that Your merciful arms will not lift the weight.  
Nowhere is there a heart  
so lowly and undeserving  
that You will not enter it and abide.  
As Your mother once laid You upon the straw  
gently and with love  
silently gazing upon You  
with wonder and in awe  
You rest in our hearts  
and we quietly reflect upon  
Your presence  
transforming the commonplace into holiness.*

- Michael Malerk, Rochester

The Word of God Came as a  
Baby To Dwell Among Us  
Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him.  
John 1:1 • 18

### Merry Christmas

St. Boniface School  
(cor. Gregory/Whalin Streets)

Quality Education  
since 1861

### Thoughts to Consider



**EDWIN SULEWSKI**  
Funeral Director  
Favorite Things

Each of us has a wealth of warm and beautiful memories we associate with the Christmas Season...our own "favorite things." Delicious warm smells from the kitchen...the fun of surprising those we love... mistletoe... holly... caroling... colored lights and all the dozens of special feelings we enjoy so much this time of year.

The beauty and warmth of the season can be even more meaningful to us if we share it with someone who may very much need our love and friendship. If someone you know recently lost a loved one, the Christmas season will be especially difficult for them. The rest of the world glows with a special warmth, at a time they feel they have lost much of their love for life and hope for the future. Your concern, and sharing of the season, can help them find renewed faith in life. Sharing, giving, loving, these are a few of our "favorite things," and we wish them for you now... and during the coming year.

**Merry Christmas**  
**SCHAUMAN-SULEWSKI**  
**FUNERAL HOME**  
2100 St. Paul Street, Rochester  
(716) 342-3400

### Season's Greetings from



**MIDTOWN MANOR APARTMENTS**

(For Age 50 and Older)

Studio: \$290

One Bedroom: \$359

- Convenient Downtown Location
- Walk to Shopping • On Direct Busline
- All Utilities Included • Laundry
- Intercom System • Free Wegman's Bus
- Cable TV • 24 Hour Emergency Maintenance
- Section 8 Accepted

475 East Broad Street, Rochester  
(716) 546-3650

### Hearing Aid BatteryMart

**HOTLINE**

CALL

**1-800-421-1012**

to get your  
hearing aid batteries  
at low, low  
discount prices

### Looking for Quality Printing?

Call us for  
**Letterhead & Envelopes**

Through a special arrangement between Wayuga Press and the Catholic Courier Graphics 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