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Locals produce new books, CDs

The following individuals in the Diocese of Rochester have recently produced books or music CDs:

- **Mercy Sister Mary C. Sullivan** of Rochester has edited a book entitled *The Correspondence of Catherine McAuley, 1818-1841*.

- **Salvatore J. Parlato** of Rochester has written a new book — under the pen name **Chris Madeira Jr.** — entitled *Uphill Both Ways: Confessions of a Catholic College Alum*.

- **Lisa Dotolo** of Rochester recently released a self-composed CD of inspirational music called "Someday Soon."

- **Dick Dougherty** of Brighton, who is set to retire as a Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* columnist, recently released *Dougherty Revisited: A Random Selection of Columns*. Compiled by his wife, Pat, it includes 200 of Dougherty's columns.

- **John Senka**, a parishioner of St. Mary's, Watkins Glen/St. Benedict's, Odessa, is the author of the book *Wounded Body — Healing Spirit: An Arkport Soldier's Inspirational Journey as a Vietnam Combat Veteran*. The book chronicles the effect of his experiences during and after combat, including his battle with post-traumatic stress disorder and acute clinical depression.

- **Leah Zicari** of Webster has released a CD of original folk/pop songs called "Pretty On Thursday."

- **Sister Margaret Brennan, SSJ**, recently published *The Good Rain: Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester in Brazil*. It traces the changes of the past 40 years, both locally and in Brazil.

- **Diocesan Parish Support Ministries** produced a video called *A Treasure Revealed: Migrant Workers in Our Midst*, which won a Telly Award.

- **Mary Van Houten**, liturgy and music coordinator for Geneseo's St. Mary's Church, recently recorded an instrumental CD of Christian Christmas songs entitled "The Peace of Christmas." The CD was created to be used as a fundraiser.

- **Vincent A. Lenti**, a parishioner at Rochester's St. Anne Parish, recently published a book entitled *For the Enrichment of Community Life: George Eastman and the Founding of Eastman School of Music*.

Consider giving books as gifts

Juli Palma/Guest contributor

One of the ways I do battle with Christmas greed is to give books as gifts. At least the recipient will gain the lasting benefit of an expanded mind.

I asked some of my book-loving friends what they're giving this year, and their suggestions prompted me to include some of the titles I've listed below:

- The manager of the Nazareth College bookstore, Carol Wormuth, recommends *Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. She says her book-discussion club "loved it; it's a tough book to put down." It's a story of relationships among family and friends and of betrayals and redemption focusing on two Afghan boys, wealthy Amir and Hassan, a servant. Despite the disparity between their social statuses, they grow up as close friends until circumstances drive them apart. The reader will be anxious to know if Amir comes to terms with his youthful choice. (Riverhead Books, April 1, 2004. 384 pp., \$14.)

- For more cross-cultural awareness, you might try *Between Two Sides* by Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB. Peggy Rosenthal, Rochester poet and activist, says, "This is a beautifully produced book of brief poetic reflections on the astounding grace of unexpected, ordinary moments. It's written as the meditation of a contemporary Benedictine nun in dialogue with those of a 19th century Japanese Buddhist monk. Zingy, fresh angles on the life of the Spirit." (Eerdman's Hardcover, 2004. 215 pp., \$20.)

- Rochester newspaper columnist Dick Dougherty will retire Jan. 1, 2005, but *Dougherty Revisited*, a collection of 200 columns, will keep us happy for the year at least. It's a must for golden retriever fans (Midas smiles engagingly from the front cover). The book contains 14 columns featuring Dougherty's canine alter-egos Feeny and Midas. Elsewhere the author muses on everything from moose to the gender of ships. (Pat Dougherty Paperback, October 2004. 218 pp., \$16.95.)

- Another local author, Andrea Barrett, gives us *Servants of the Map*. This is the title that Writers and Books has selected for its 2005 "If All Rochester Reads the Same Book ..." program. If you wonder how the study of beetles can lead to romance, "The Mysteries of Ubiquitin," one of six stories in this collection, will make it clear. It's told in a style most suited to the mature adult reader. The book is a gift that keeps giving because the reader will have the opportunity to attend lec-



tures and even get the book signed at the official events coming in April. (W.W. Norton & Co., 2002, 272 pp., \$13.95.)

- For anyone interested in the early history of our country, *An Imperfect God: George Washington, His Slaves, and the Creation of America* by Henry Wiencek is a must-read. My husband calls this a compelling human portrait of the first president. As a true man of his time and a slaveholder, Washington struggled with this central moral issue of his generation. The focus of the book is Washington's gradual moral transformation which evolves because of his life experiences. Approaching his death, he finds the courage and determination to emancipate his slaves, a truly counter-cultural act that only enhances his heroic character. (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Sept. 3, 2004. 416 pp., \$15.)

- Another nonfiction offering is *Eats, Shoots and Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation* by Lynne Truss. The author is an avowed stickler for punctuation accuracy. She claims to have no sense of proportion, but writes in a hilariously self-denigrating British voice. The lucky recipient will march merrily on with the Apostrophe Protection Society and the Apostropher Royal. I predict that this book will be read cover to cover before sunset on Dec. 26. (Gotham Books, 2003. 209 pp., \$17.50.)

BookReview

- The younger folk might like *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* by J.K. Rowling. *Amazon.com* recommends this for ages 9 and up, but I would caution any gift giver that this is very scary stuff for a young reader who hasn't grown up with Harry's adventures. The 14-year-old hero faces issues that every young reader will recognize: the loyalty of friends, the lure of the forbidden, competitions which turn nasty, a first crush and mountains of school-work. This one might also be read before sunset on Dec. 26. (Scholastic Paperbacks, Sept. 1, 2002. 752 pp., \$8.99.)

- Monroe Community College Assistant Professor Holly Wheeler recommends *The Midwife's Apprentice* by Karen Cushman for ages 12 and up. The title character begins the story as "Brat," then becomes "Beetle" when she is taken on as a servant by the medieval midwife Jane Sharp. Gradually, the 12-year-old nobody overcomes her conviction that she's stupid and useless. She adopts the name Alyce because "Beetle was no name for ... someone who looked like she could read." In the final chapter, no longer unwanted, Alyce must choose among three job offers. She finally asks herself, "What do I want?" This is a Newbery Medal winner. (Harper Trophy Paperback, Sept. 30, 1996. 128 pp., \$5.99.)

- *Shepherds Abiding* by Jan Karon, "The 8th novel in the Beloved Mitford Series," can be enjoyed by readers of almost any age. The characters are warmly human, right down to their sufferings from "The Mitford Crud." Father Tim Kavanaugh prays, "Lord, I'd appreciate it if you'd be in on this ..." as his surprise gift of a restored nativity scene is nearly revealed well before the Holy Night. (Penguin Group, 2003. 288 pp., \$13.95.)

Palma is an adjunct English instructor at Nazareth and Monroe Community colleges in Rochester. She earned an MS in education at Nazareth College and an MA in theology at St. Bernard's Institute.

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