Click here to go back to Saint Nicholas web-page

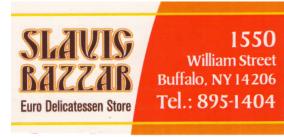
Serving Buyers & Sellers Contact me for all real estate needs

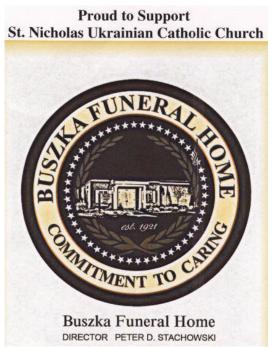


Zanna Vaida

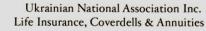
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson Office: (716) 648-7700 Fax: (716) 648-7882 Cell: (716) 510-4978

E-mail: zvaida@realtyusa.com http://zannavaida.realtyusa.com





2005 Clinton Street at S. Ogden Buffalo New York 14206 (716) 825-7777 www.buszkafuneralhomeinc.com





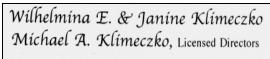
Judie Hawryluk

Fraternal Agent Chairwoman Buffalo District

79 Southridge Dr Tel: 716-674-5185 West Seneca NY 14224-4442 Fax: 716-675-2238

www.unamember.com





<u>Pietszak</u>

FUNERAL HOME



and Orlowski-Pietszak Funeral Home (716) 852-4499

2400 William St. Cheektowaga, NY 14206

806 Clinton St. Buffalo, NY 14210



\$AINT NICHOLAS U K R Å I N I Å N CATHOLIC CHURCH VKPAÏHCЬKA KATOЛИЦЬКА ЦЄРКВА СВЯТОГО М И К О Л А Я ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЄЧ. ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРІЇ

CHURCH BULLETIN

 N^{0} 50 – December 12 – 2010

Про що нам говорить празник Введення в храм Пречистої Діви Марії? Яку духовну науку він нам дає? Празник Введення говорить про радісну жертву святих Йоакима й Анни. Вони свою, в Бога вимолену, донечку самі приводять до храму на службу Богові. На каноні утрені празника в восьмій пісні читаємо: "Анна колись, приводячи Пречистий Храм (Марію) у дім Божий, голосно закликала і з вірою сказала до священика: "Прийми сьогодні дитину, Богом мені дану, введи її у храм твого Творця і радісно співай йому: благословіть усі діла Господа".

Та не тільки батьки радо приводять свою дитину на службу Богові, але й Марія радо йде за голосом Божим і своїх батьків. Як св. Йоаким і Анна, так і Марія є для нас гарним зразком радісної жертви і служби Богові.

Може ще ніколи уся Христова Церква, а в тім і наша Церква, не переживала такого великого браку покликань на священиків, монахів і монахинь, як сьогодні. Дух матеріялізму й секуляризму щораз більше й більше проникає в наші родини, тому щораз менше й менше маємо молоді, охочої на жертву й посвяту для Бога, своєї Церкви й народу.

ЦЄРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК 12 Грудня – 2010 – Ч. 50

We welcome Fr. Robert Moreno who is substituting me for today. Thank you fr. Robert and may the Lord bless you and your family!

Вітаємо між нами о. Роберта Морено, який сьогодні заступає. Дякуємо о. Роберте. Хай Господь благословить Вас і Вашу родину!

Щораз менше в нас батьків, які за прикладом святої Анни були б готові сказати нашій Церкві: "Прийми дитину, яку Бог мені дав".

Ознакою глибокої релігійности якогось народу є не тільки його величаві й численні церкви й монастирі, але передусім його численні покликання, тобто священики, місіонери монахи й монахині. Нічого не допоможуть нам навіть найкращі святині й золоті престоли, коли не матимемо священиків, які в тих храмах і на тих престолах приносили б Безкровну Жертву, уділяли б святі таїнства й голосили б Боже слово. Наш слуга Божий митрополит Андрей Шептицький каже: "Зрозумійте, що народові треба до спасення ревних і святих священиків". Брак духовних покликань веде до повільного завмирання Церкви й духовного життя її вірних, бо духовний стан — це серце й душа Церкви.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

Dec. 12: S. Forfathers – 29 Н. по ЗСД Т4

10:00 AM +Михайло Коцай (дружина Катерина) 12:00 AM For Parishioners – За Парохіян Monday, December 13 – Пон., 13 Грудня 9:15 AM +Helene Mysliewic & Anna Jusela (Jim)

Tuesday, December 14 – Вів., 14 Грудня 9:15 АМ +Богдан Ганущак (А. Мельник) **Wed., December 15 – Сер., 15 Грудня** 10:00 АМ В нам. Р. Кобрин (р. Гіль) 12:00 РМ +Harold Eckhart (Dranka Family) **Thu., December 16 – Чет., 16 Грудня** 9:15 АМ +Анна, Теодор, Оксана, Олександер, Роман (Люба Цьолко) **Friday, December 17 – П'ят., 17 Грудня**

Friday, December 17 – П'ят., 17 Грудня 11:30 АМ +Іван, Наталія і усіх померлих з родини (Марія Синишин)

Sat., December 18 – Суб., 18 Грудня
9:00 АМ +Петро, Іванна, Богдан Хома
(Богдан Дусанівський)
4:30 РМ +John & Olga Sukmann
(Mary Beth

<u>FEAST</u> day – <u>ПРАЗНИ</u>К – св. Миколай Dec. 10: S. of Fathers – 30 H. по ЗСД Т5

12:00 AM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Вічне Світло в честь ПДМ горить за +Михайла Коцай Пожертва: дружина Катерина

> Eternal Light burns for +Irene Kordrupel (requ. 6y Anna & Dorothy)

2011 Church Envelopes are ready for pick up in the church by Fillmore side. Please remember: the cost per box is \$6.00. If you did not receive a box of envelopes and would like to use the envelopes during the upcoming year, please notify the Parish Office,

(Father Marijan or Elaine).

Also: if you are celebrating Christmas on the Gregorian (New) Calendar, the CHRISTMAS ENVELOPE IS FOUND

AT THE FRONT OF THE BOX.

Please use 2010's envelope for CHRISTMAS 2010. If you are celebrating Christmas on the Julian (Old) Calendar, please use the CHRISTMAS 2011 found at the beginning of your new 2011 box of envelopes. We ask this because in most cases the number you had in 2010 is not the same as the number you have in 2011, and this may cause your donation to be entered incorrectly into the computer since most parishioners do not put names on their envelopes.

Thank You,

Elaine



Коверти приготовані і можна їх забрати зі стола у церкві під вікном з правого боку. Якщо не можете знайти коверти, або ще ніколи їх не мали, просимо на картці назначити своє ім'я, телефон і адрес з назнакою, "коверти" і поставити до кошика і на другу неділю ваші коверти будуть готові.



St Joseph School For Boys Bookstore

Ronda Doucette

Specializing in Eastern Christian Gifts and Books www.easterngiftshop.com

saintjoseph@roadrunner.com

There is still space for your ad. Маємо місце для Вашого оголошення

DNIPRO



ДНІПРО

Ukrainian Cultural Center
562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 856-4476

www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com
Hall and bar rentals are available.
See your old friends on Friday night.
Help rebuild our Ukrainian Home.
Please Contribute to the
\$100,000 Building Fund.
Donations are tax deductible.

EURO DELI AND GIFTS

4166 Union Road 2321 Millersport Hwy (Airport Plaza) (Getzville Plaza) Cheektowaga, NY 14225 Amherst, NY 14068 Tel. 716-630-0131 Fax 716-630-0133 tel. 716-688-1495

Сердечна подяка усім спонзорам! Просимо їх підтримати!

Ukrainian Home Dnipro Federal Credit Union

562 Genesee St., Buffalo, NY 14204 (716) 847-6655 (716) 847-6988

www.uhdfcu.com

info@uhdfcu.com



"The credit union with a heart"

Free checking

Competitive rates on CD's and savings account
Low rates for Visa Credit cards
ATM Visa Debit cards
Direct Deposit and Online Banking
IRA Traditional and Roth accounts
Free Life Insurance (some restrictions apply)
We financially support Ukrainian causes

Свій До Свого По Своє

Join now and become a member of our Ukrainian Credit Union Family!

Please support our sponsors!

<u> ДЯКУЄМО – THANK YOU!</u>

The Colonial Memorial Chapels, Inc. of Ukrainian Heritage, Serving Western N.Y.

Simon Pasnik & Matthew Pasnik

3003 South Park Avenue

Lackawanna, New York 14218

(716) 824-3007

Melvin J. SLIWINSKI

FUNERAL HOME 85 George Urban Boulevard Cheektowaga, N. Y. 14225 5090 Transit Rd, Depew, NY 14043

(716) 894-1772

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

<u>Просимо звернути</u> увагу на дати:



Sunday Coffee Hours: If any one would like to volunteer to host a Sunday, please contact Elaine, Dora, Emily, Mary (B.) or Anna.

- KITCHEN is now open again. Thank you for your help and patronage.
- Every Sunday after Liturgy Coffee Hour Church Hall. Please attend!
- Thanks are extended to all of you for all your good wishes and prayers on the occasion of my 30th Anniversary! God Bless!

TOP'S GIFT CARDS:

Please help us raise money for our Church by purchasing



Top's Gift Cards from us. If you buy in Tops anyway, why not help. You do not lose or gain anything by doing this, but our Church will benefit greatly. We receive back 5% of your spending. To take advantage of this program, see Mary Bodnar or call 655-3810, or call the rectory. Thank you and God Bless!

<u>Please note:</u> You can purchase gasoline with this card at Tops Gasoline Station.

У нас успішно продаються Карточки з крамниці "Топс". Купуючи їх ви помагаєте церкві. Для Вас не робить різниці чи ви платили грішми чи карточкою, але церква дістане від "Топс" 5%. На \$1,000 церква одержить \$50. Що б закупити слід звертатися до п. Марії Боднар, або до канцелярії. Дякуємо! Також можна цією карточкою купувати бензину

GHURGH BULL®TIN is published weekly. Deadline for information is Tuesday Evening.

ЦЄРК. ВІСНИК видається тижнево Інформації подавати до вівтірка вечора.

SAINT NICHOLAS

UKRAINIAN GATHOLIG GHURGH УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЄРКВА

ΚΑΛΟΧΗΜΑ Ο ΤΟ ΤΚΑΒΟ (ΠΙΑ ΟΠΙΚΟЮ ΠΡΘΥΜΟΤΟΪ (ΠΙΥΤΙΤΙΚΟ ΙΊΡΑΙ ΜΑΙΚ

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor Rev. Raymond Palko, visiting priest

E-Mail: stnbuffalo@yahoo.com

Web Page: http://stnbuffalo.com/

Dioc. Web: http://stamforddio.org/

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206 Rect: (716) 852-7566 ~ <u>Hall</u>: (716) 852-1908 **Fax:** (716) 855-1319

Confession: Before Liturgies.

Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями

Baptism: By appointment Хрещення: За домовленням

Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше Religion classes — Кляси Релігії Starts Oct. 30 — Поч. 30 Жовтня

Ministry to the sick-Опіка над хворими: Family members should call the Rectory. Родина повинна повідомити священика

IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME В разі потреби завжди можна закликати

РІваве call if you are hospitalized, homebound and need a priest. Просимо закликати якщо ви у лічниці або приковані до ліжка! The Parish Family of St. Nicholas

Cordially invites You and your family

To our Parish's Annual

ST. NICHOLAS FEAST DAY DINNER

Sunday, December 19, 2010 Liturgy at 12:00 Noon

Dinner in the Church Hall Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

Donations of Baked Goods would be greatly appreciated for next Sunday.



Сердечно запрошуємо взяти участь у

Божественній Літургії з нагоди річного празника нашої церкви Св. О. Миколая що відбудется 19 Грудня о 12. годині.

Це одинока Літургія на Празник.

Рівно ж просимо прийти на **Празничний Обід** у залі церкви Св. Миколая зара по Відправі Просимо принести печиво!!!

Please visit St. Nicholas Web-Page: http://www.stnbuffalo.com

We apdate often and put new materials. Listen to readio on line, read the bulletin, see the pictures fro bazaar, 30th anniversary and soon to be added 90th Anniversary and other events.

Веб-Сторінка нашої церкви постійно доповнюється. Просимо заглянути час до часу і напишіть свої вражіння.



Soyuz Ukrainok UNWLA Branch 49 Is sponsoring a delicious lunch, December 12, 2010, after Divine Liturgy Everyone is cordially invited.

* *

49-ий Відділ Союзу Українок запрошує Вас всіх на смачний полуденок, 12-го Грудня, 2010 по Св. Літургії. Просимо до участи.

Щоб довідатися більше інформацій Про це що дієтьая в громаді, Просимо відвідати веб-сторінку: http://www.ukrainiansofbuffalo.com

Is the the web-page to find More information and events In our Ukrainian Community. ОСЕРЕДОК СУМ Ім. ЛЕСІ УКРАЇНКИ в Бофало Н. Й. Влаштовує

ТРАДИЦІЙНУ МАЛАНКУ яка відбудеться в суботу

22-го січня 2011 р. в залях Українського Дому «Дніпро» при 562

Дженесі вул. Бофало Н.Й.

щиро запрошуємо все українське громадянство міста Бофало і околиць до участи.

До танців приграватиме:

Оркестра «ЗБРУЧ»

Забава о год. 9:00 до 1:00 Вечеря від 10:00 "Champagne Toast"

Білети: \$30

\$25 для студенти до 18р.

До замовлення білетів: Галя Турик 697-0807 Василь Середюк 821-0711 Осип Грега 604-4798



The Ukrainian American Youth Association of Buffalo, New York
Lesia Ukrainka Branch
is pleased to announce their annual

TRADITIONAL UKRAINIAN NEW YEAR'S DANCE MALANKA

Which will take place on Saturday, January 22nd, 2011 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center "DNIPRO" hall located at: 562 Genesee Street, Buffalo, N. Y. All are invited to come and join the celebration!

Music will be provided by: "ZBRUCH"

Music from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am Buffet starting at 10:00pm Champagne Toast

Tickets are \$30.00 and \$25 for students to 18 years

For Tickets Please Contact:
Helen Turyk 697-0807
William Serediuk 821-0711



Рідна Школа і Батьківський Комітет

щиро запрошує вас на

Сніданок зі Святим Миколаєм

який відбудеться у суботу 18-го грудня 2010 року в церковній залі парохії Святого Миколая початок о 10-тій годині

Вхід безкоштовний (будемо вдячні за добровільні пожертвування)

Якщо ви хочете, щоб ваша дитина отримала подарунок від Миколая – обв'язково зателефонуйте до Галі Назаревич 714-5315 або Гані Середюк 821-0711

School of Ukrainian Studies "Ridna Shkola" and the Parents Committee

Invite you to

Breakfast with Saint Nicholas

Saturday, December 18, 2010 at 10 o'clock in St. Nicholas Church Hall

Breakfast with St. Nicholas
 Come listen to our children perform.
 Gifts for good children

Attendance is free (Voluntary donations will be appreciated)

Please attend and support Ridna Shkola

If your child wishes to receive a gift from St. Nicholas please call Halya Nazarevych 714-5315 or Ann Serediuk 821-0711





The monthly meeting of the League of Ukrainian Catholics will be held on Monday, December 13, 2010

at 7:00PM at St. Basil Ukrainian Catholic Church. If interested in learning more about the League of Ukrainian Catholics, you are most cordially invited to join us.

Шановні громадяни міста Боффало і околиці Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки - Відділ Боффало пригадує,



що цьогорічна Традиційна Осінна Збірка на Український Народний Фонд – УККА, буде проводитися в нашій Українській Громаді

міста Боффало і околиці. Просимо ласкаво про Ваші щирі датки.

Централя Українського Конґресового Комітету являється нашим представником перед Американським Урядом. Та його важлива праця потребує фінансової допомоги, яка в основному надходить від української американської громади та українських фінансових установ.

Зазделегідь дякуємо всім, хто підтримує Український Народний Фонд, а тим самим підтримуємо працю централі УККА.

Датки можна складати на руки збірщиків якими є слідуючі панови:

- др. Андрій Дякун Голова боффалівського відділу УККА,
- Василь Середюк,
- Володимир Тупіцький і
- Дмитро Пітолай.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES

Our Feastday will be <u>Decem. 19.</u> Наш Празник буде 19 Грудня.

Our Prosphora will be <u>Jan. 23</u>.

Наша просфора буде 23 Січня.

We will have 2011 Parish retreat-mission from April 7 to 9

Ми будемо мати наші реколєкції-місії 7-9 Квітня 2011. р.

The 73 Annual Convention
of the League of Ukrainian Catholics
will be held in Buffalo October 7, 8, 9,
2011 at the Airport Holiday Inn.
We ask the support of our local
Ukrainian community in this
endeavor. We especially ask that
our organizations not schedule any
events that weekend. Thank you!

Are you listening "Good Samaritan"
Ukrainian Radio Program
on WJJL 1440 AM
Every Sunday at 2:00 PM?
Thank you for your donations!

* * *

Чи ви слухаєте нашу радіо передачу «Милосердний Самар'янин» Неділя, 2 год. на WJJL 1440 AM? Сердечна подяка за пожертви

Please say a prayer for the vocation!
Просимо молитися за покликання

From the desk of Fr. Ray Palko

Dear

(Your name here, for your very own personal letter)
Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!
Well, did you see us on the National News
or the Weather Channel last week? That
was some snow squall...West Seneca got the
top prize for collecting 39 inches. Most in
the area! That's a lot of snow!!! If we're
not from the place where the storm occurs,
such as this one, we immediately go on with
our lives and forget about it because the
next day it isn't news any longer.

If you live here, or if you saw the coverage on the TV, you know about the fiasco on the NYS Thruway and the closing last Wednesday night that lasted over 24 hours. Those unfortunate people became trapped there and in a short time it became a very serious situation. The storm hadn't really become a problem, even as late as 8pm Wednesday, until a tractor- trailer jackknifed and caused the traffic difficulty. Traffic was halted on all lanes of this major, major highway and all of a sudden the heavy snow began to pile up, pushed around by winds, and before anyone could blink an eye, the cars were stranded and nobody was going anywhere. None of our family, parishioners or even anyone we know was stranded there, which was a very good thing. Proud of our Elaina, who called us from D'Youville, and when we told her about the gridlock, she knew she would stay there. Actually she had to spend two nights in the dorm before it was clear to head home. Lots, lots better than sitting in a car on the Thruway!

The first thing we are taught around here about winter driving is to always be prepared for the worst when we go out, even if

it's for a short distance. Nobody should go on a trip without having at least a half tank of gas; survival kit should be in the car: blankets, extra clothes, food, etc. Because so many did not have those things and were coming home from work, shopping or a concert downtown they were completely illprepared and in a short time the traffic delav became a serious situation. Cars ran out of gas, or were about to; children and babies in the cars; people with health issues, especially diabetics became vulnerable. Thank God there weren't any major problems that I know of. Our police, and especially the volunteer firemen from the area did a marvelous job, using snowmobiles and ATV's to get up there and help those most in need of aid. What did we ever do in the old days without that cell phone???!!

So the Thruway workers showed up like the US Cavalry the next day with front loaders, plows and those giant snow-blower trucks to rescue all the stranded motorists. Even with all that heavy equipment, almost every car had to be shoveled out by hand because the snow had drifted around and under the vehicles.

The heavy squalls eventually stopped, but we've been having snow almost everyday, with a few inches here, a few inches there. Unless you live here, you probably think it's all over. Well it's not. We're getting around ok as the streets are plowed, but once Mother Nature drops a big snowfall like that, the problems have just begun. Tragedy struck last night when a young man was hit and killed while walking on a busy street because the sidewalks were piled with snow. May the Lord have mercy on the soul of that young man, who died so

suddenly, and, perhaps, unprepared. The other night a roof caved in on a house and an entire trailer park was in danger because of the weight of the snow. Now ice and ice dams on the roofs become an issue. One of the worst possible winter sounds is to hear "drip, drip, drip" as a window or roof begins to leak. Ten degrees outside and cookbooks) and give it a try, although we water is flowing through the living room! May he deliver all affected by the harsh winter weather and "keep us from all afflic- Fast and Advent as we prepare to once tion, wrath, danger and need."

The storm came, but the effects are far from over. I know, it's not even winter yet! As I write it is again Wednesday night, December 8, the 342nd day of 2010. There are 23 days left in the year. But as for me I say, "I saw the first flurries, then the first big snow, and yes it was beautiful, but C'MON SPRING!!! I've had enough winter! And the search for blooming crocuses begins! " $\Theta \Theta \Theta$

So next time we here of a natural disaster or storm, let's whisper that little prayer for our brothers and sisters who are being affected by the problem as we hear it, but also whom God has chosen as His dwelling in the days following our hearing the news, as they try to go about getting the routine of their lives back in order. One good lesson in all this is that it makes us understand we are all truly members of one family, One Body, wherever we are.

As you read this letter December will be about half way over. Time to get some Christmas shopping done I suppose. Ya know there are two things that people, especially the media, always talk about every year at this time in December. The first is that it is already "last minute shopping." I happen to think there's lots of time yet. © **8 and the other thing we hear about is**

that fruitcake is the worst thing ever invented. I don't think it's so bad. As a matter of fact. I kinda like it. Our Mom had a recipe for a really delicious one that we looked forward to at Christmas time. Maybe one of these years we'll find that recipe (we know it's stashed in one of her already know "it won't be like Mom's."

So I hope you are having a good Philip's again be blessed with the coming of our Savior. Hopefully the snows and harsh winter weather hasn't adversely affected you as we go about the hustle and bustle of getting ready for Christmas. Sometimes the things we "think" we've gotta do begin to overwhelm us. When we feel that way it's time to remember that "only one thing is necessary and Mary has chosen the better part." (Luke 11: 41-42)

Have a blessed week and God willing, many of us will be getting together next Sunday for the St. Nicholas feast day. May God bless you and our holy Lady, place, protect you!

In His Love,

The League of Ukrainian Catholics. Niagara Frontier Council cordially invites you to a HOLIDAY LUNCHEON **Saturday, January 8, 2011 11:30AM** St. Nicholas Church Hall. \$12.00 RSVP By January 2, 2011 to:

Mary Beth Sukmann - 824-1433 **Elaine Nowadly** - 867-0981

From "Good Samaritan" Ukr. Radio pr.

... The Christmas Season is also about giving something back for everything that we have received. Just a few weeks ago, a friend of mine who has always been cynical about the Church, told me that she wanted to do more for others. She mentioned how she is blessed with healthy children, a stable job that she enjoys, a genuinely good life, and how it does not seem right to be less than thankful. I told her that we all need a purpose in life, aside from our jobs, our families, and our friends. Something that helps us give back for all that we have received. So she asked me how to get involved in mission work and how to help her children realize the value that exists in every human life. Here was someone who has not stepped foot in a Church in years, someone who would hardly call herself a Christian, and now she is beginning to realize the many blessings that the Lord has bestowed in her life; the things that too many of us take for granted. Here is someone who wants to give something back for all that she has received. It reminded me that our children learn from our example, the lessons we take the time to teach them. Charity begins at home and the Lord needs to be present every day of the year through our words, actions, and deeds – so our children can learn how to love Jesus. Christmas is so much more than a Hallmark tradition; Christmas needs to be about bringing the love of the Christ child to the ends of the world. and our children need to believe in this too.

The following letter certainly helps put Christmas into perspective. Dear Friend: I am flat broke from overspending at Christmas time. But I need to go shopping again soon, because I am completely out of self-respect. I have said things I wish I could take back and I am not feeling too good about myself. I also want to exchange a carton of self-

righteousness for an equal amount of humility. I hear that it is less expensive and wears well, and while I am at it, I am also going to check on tolerance and see if there is any available in my size. I must remember to try to match my patience with the little I have left. My neighbor is loaded with it and it looks quite good on her. I was told the same department has a repair shop for mending integrity. Mine has become frayed around the edges from too much compromising. If I do not get it refurbished soon, there won't be any left. I almost forgot the most important thing of all - compassion. If I see some, no matter what the color, size or shape, I am going to stock up heavily regardless of the price. I have run out of it so many times, looking away from people who need my consideration the most, and I always feel ashamed when it happens. And while I am at it, I think I will pray for a little more Christmas spirit, because God knows I have been lacking in that department all year. I do not know why it has taken me so long to get around to shopping for these items. They do not cost nearly as much as some of the frivolous things I bought this Christmas. And I will get a lot more use and satisfaction from them than anything under the Christmas tree. Yes, I am going shopping today and I can leave my checkbook and credit cards at home. The things I am looking for have no price tags, and they bring me closer to the real meaning of Christmas and the child that made all of this possible. Friend, what a joy!

As we approach Christmas, hopefully with wide-eyed anticipation and wonder at the miracle of the Christ child being born into the world; our duty as children before a loving God is to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to shelter the homeless, to clothe the naked, to rebuild the nations, to welcome Christ into the hearts of all...