



## St. Joseph THE SILENT — WITHOUT HIM, NO CHRISTMAS



### Community "Kinderkrippe" Project

St. Martin's public Christmas Manger on Main Street is almost ready to go. Formal dedication with Christmas caroling by all and for all, fortified by members of the St. Martin City Band, is tentatively slated for December 21–24 — **when the exact day and time are known, flyers will be posted all around town.**

The public creche is located in front of the Roman Shaefer property, next to the Corner Grocery.

This will become an annual Christmas season event and attraction, and it's for all residents of St. Martin. A great place to bring the children! So be sure to watch for notices announcing the caroling. In case of seriously cold weather, we may have to make some last-minute adjustments as to place and time.

For info call Harvey Rothstein at 548-3436, Pete Dingman at 548-3580 or Paul Hughey at 837-5436 — we are still in need of Christmas trees, greenery and/or other decorations.



### Notre Dame launches initiative to send 1 million Hispanic children to Catholic schools

<http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=4923>

Seven months after the University of Notre Dame and dozens of pro-life US bishops were at odds over President Barack Obama's honorary degree, the university is receiving praise for its new campaign to increase Hispanic attendance in Catholic schools by one million in the next decade. Currently, only 3% of Hispanic children attend Catholic schools.

### Coming to the Aid of Second Grader Forced by School Officials to Undergo Psych Evaluation for Drawing Crucified Jesus

(CNS)— The Rutherford Institute, a non-profit conservative legal organization dedicated to the defense of religious liberties and human rights, has come to the defense of the family of a second grader who was suspended and forced by school officials to undergo psychological evaluations after he drew a picture of a stick figure Jesus on the cross with X's over his eyes.

On Dec. 2, second grader Jalen Cromwell was taken to the principal's office at Lowell M. Maxham School in Taunton, Mass. where he was questioned about his drawing of Christ. According to his family, the picture reflected the child's impressions of a recent family trip to the Christmas lighting at the Shrine of La Sallette.

Jalen drew the picture at school during free time after a snack break. He placed the picture inside his desk but for some reason it was removed and inspected. His immediate suspension was then ordered, but school officials would not offer any reason why.

Not one spoken word recorded in the Bible. Only a dream in which an angel spoke. And what a message it was!

And what an example of absolute trust, to do what he then did. It rivals Mary's own earlier response: *My soul doth magnify the Lord*. No matter that what "her" angel said should have made her doubt her own sanity. She, a virgin, would conceive a child? Crazy. Yet she answered with perfect humility that she was a hand-maid (a lowly servant) of God. That's what I call obedience with a Capital O.

Joseph's response to a similar command — to uproot his little family, destroy his entire means of employment and flee to a foreign land where he would be treated as an illegal alien — should have provoked a storm of Whys. For starters, he must have wondered if this was merely a "chili dream." Maybe that lamb stew had been a little too spicy? Yet he answered with quiet obedience by bundling his young wife and her babe against high desert's chill nights and, leaving his woodworker's tools scattered on the workbench, fled into the moonless night toward Egypt and safety.

Mary and the child, we are told, rode on a donkey. Where did a blue-collar man get the money to buy such a luxury? Donkeys were SUVs, didn't come cheap. Did he trade precious tools for it? He could obtain new ones in far-off Egypt. Or perhaps he had already thought to trade those valuable spices the Wise Men had brought. We'll never know for sure.

All we can know — hoping to find courage in imitation of Joseph's own childlike trust — is that this man who carved wooden plowshares and pegged door-frames together did not quibble, argue or equivocate when God called him to carve, instead, a Life of incredible worth from the threat of a mighty power which sought to destroy it.

The Flight to Egypt was not impossible. A hundred miles, maybe two hundred. But a tough walk, with nomadic desert bandits a constant threat. But he did it out of love. And simple obedience to a God whose Son he held to be more precious than his own livelihood.

*yr. obt. svf.*

### Christmas Gift from Rome?

**SPECIAL: Popes Pius XII, John Paul II declared 'venerable'**

<http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=4969>

In a series of decrees issued on December 19, the Vatican has approved miracles allowing for the canonization of five people and the beatification of five others. The Vatican also recognized the 1984 death of Father Jerzy Popieluszko as a martyrdom, preparing the way for his beatification.

## Catholic Aid Association Post-High School Tuition Scholarship Applications

are available from rep. Dave Ehlert 1-320-836-2617 or click [www.catholicaid.org](http://www.catholicaid.org). Applicants must be a member of Catholic Aid for at least 2 years and entering first or second year of post-high school education, as part of a degree or certificate program.

**Deadline is February 15, 2010.**

### MARDI GRAS TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Tickets are on sale for Catholic Charities annual Mardi Gras celebration. The celebration will be taking a "journey to Asia" on Saturday, January 30. The event begins at 5:30 pm at the St. Cloud Civic Center and benefits **Catholic Charities Emergency Services**, the area's largest food shelf, and **DOMUS Transitional Housing**, a facility for homeless women and their children.

Catholic Charities offers two different tickets for the Mardi Gras celebration. The Gourmet Banquet ticket, \$75 per person, includes the sit down dinner, along with everything the evening has to offer – auction, entertainment, appetizers and more. The Sampler ticket, \$35 per person, includes everything but the sit down dinner. For more information about Catholic Charities Mardi Gras and tickets call 320.650.1665 or visit [www.ccstcloud.org/mardigras](http://www.ccstcloud.org/mardigras).