

# Christ is Born

December 26, 2011



Much peace and happiness during this holy season. You were remembered in my Christmas Mass for blessings in abundance.

I left Worcester Friday afternoon to spend the weekend in Sherborn with my niece, Martha and her family. I was surprised and happy to learn we would be going to the Nativity Pageant that evening. I had heard about this event that has been going on for many years in a field outside of a farm house. When Charley had three blennies he took part in the pageant. Now he puts up the stage which he and his friends built a few years ago. It is made to look like a stable. I was happily seated in the front row with a warm wrap covering me thanks to Charley. There were at least 200 people standing along the rope separating the stage area.

The first to appear were the Blessed Mother carrying the baby with St. Joseph at her side while the story was being told. Next many shepherds came followed by the three wise men. There were many little girl angels singing on the way to the stable. Drummer boys followed beating their drums. They were all in proper dress of the time. It was a professional production very well done and gave us the true meaning of Christmas. People were there from all the surrounding towns. All were invited to the farm house for a drink and cookies.

The 10:00 P.M. Mass Christmas Eve was beautiful with a piano, three violins, a cello and trumpet playing while the choir sang. My niece Martha sings in the choir.

The whole weekend was relaxing and well organized. Gifts were opened before breakfast and everything readied when my nieces Mary Ann and Nora came from Maine. My niece Christina was greatly missed but a call was put through to Alaska and we all spoke to her. We are looking forward to seeing her next week when she will be home on vacation for nine days.

All went well at Permed Family Health Service these past holidays. People were extremely generous so we had enough food at Thanksgiving and gifts at Christmas for all of over 350 client families. Our wonderful volunteers worked tirelessly, making sure all of our families were taken care of.

After the bags were filled and given out we had people coming in hoping we would have something for them. My heart went out to one lady who came in crying that she had three children and nothing to give them. I called Paulette who came down to speak to her. After hearing her story and getting gift wishes she was able to fill a black bag with enough gifts to give the children a happy Christmas. The mother was overjoyed and thanked us profusely. I think Paulette and I were just as happy as she was knowing her three children would find gifts on Christmas morning.

We are now looking forward to a celebration of our 'holiday success' hosted by John and Debbie McCabe, our Board President and his wife. While they thank us we certainly thank them for organizing the holiday program for the past many years and recruiting their many generous friends to help in this gigantic effort.

I hope and pray this finds you well. Wishing you a very happy and grace filled New Year I will close with  
Love and prayers,  
Sister Gemma Mary