

From Bro Alan's Desk



With Halloween and the American Thanksgiving past we have entered the season of Santa

Claus parades and the onslaught of the commerce and consumerism of the Christmas season.

The following story given to me last Christmas and in view of all the changes in our world and the commercialism of Christmas; thought I would offer it as a wistful reflection upon the deeper meaning of our upcoming Christmas Holidays.

A Candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, the firmness of the promises of God.

The candymaker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Saviour. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which he reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candymaker stained it with red

stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.

Unfortunately the candy became known as the Candy Cane – a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time. But the meaning is still there for those "have eyes to see and ears to hear". I pray that this symbol will again be used to witness To the Wonder of Jesus and His Great Love that came down at Christmas and remains the ultimate and dominate force in the universe today.

Bro. Alan



Your support is vital to the growing needs of our ministry to the poor.

Please give generously to St. Francis Table.

All remaining Tax Receipts for donations made in 2001 will be mailed out in January 2002.



Dear Friends,

This year we look forward to the celebration of Christ's coming at Christmas from a very different world than last year. The need for peace on earth and goodwill to all has rarely been so vital. As we look to the future with fear and uncertainty we remember especially the victims and families of those killed in New York, Washington, Afghanistan, and Jerusalem.



Parkdale has changed as well since last Advent. Here at St Francis Table we are meeting with other agencies to address the increase in homelessness in our direct community. More than ever our patrons are losing their beds and are being pushed out into the streets. The fear of becoming homeless has become an addition to the universal uncertainty that we all feel these days. St. Francis Table does, however, continue to be a place of refuge and nourishment. One of the few certainties in Parkdale is that those who are hungry will be fed at St. Francis Table and they will be treated with dignity and respect.

Thank you all for your continued support. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue our challenge to be instruments of Christ's Peace.

Gerry McGilly