

The Friends of Saint Jude

P.O. Box 15368
2390 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 931-5919 www.stjude-shrine.org

Christmas 2008

Dear Friends of St. Jude:

Christmastime is rich in symbols. The very fact that this, our celebration of beginning, comes at the end of the year is itself symbolic. Our God seems to delight in paradox. He humbles the exalted, lifts up the lowly, calls the poor blessed, a virgin fruitful. We proclaim a tiny baby our king.

These paradoxes may amuse us, but, in truth, they should shake our very foundations. God is calling us to cast aside our categories and labels in the way we view the world, especially our brothers and sisters. What we perceive as making people powerful and strong – wealth, beauty, fame – are merely shadows. It is in poverty, powerlessness, and weakness that we should seek the face of God. Do not let the wealth, beauty and fame of those the world holds up as powerful and strong deceive you. They are as helpless as you or I. As lost in the dark winter of loneliness, sin and self-pity. As much in need of a savior.

And the fact that God has given us as a savior His very Son should be a cause of great rejoicing. His Son, Jesus Christ, who comes to live in our confusing, painful, awkward yet wonderful world, shares our life. No more can we say “God doesn’t understand.” He has come to us to live, to love, to be betrayed by friends, to laugh until tears flow down his face, to stub his toe, to worry about where his next meal would be coming from, to bury the man who raised him, to rejoice at the wedding of friends; to partake in our life, and by so doing allow us to partake in His life.

In quiet moments this Christmas season, I invite you to reflect on the paradoxes, and not be daunted by the challenges they afford us. Open your hearts to Him Who Comes, let Him become familiar with you and love you. In this darkness, we find light; in this child, we find our king; in this moment... eternity.

On the reverse side of this sheet, you will see a depiction of this year’s Christmas card. If you would like to send this lovely card to your family and friends this Christmas, please use the form to send us your order. Also, please send us a list of those whom you wish to include in the Christmas Novena of Masses. You may also contribute to this year’s calendar appeal for the education of our Dominican seminarians. This year’s calendar is a beauty. We will keep its theme a surprise, but you are sure to find it delightful when shortly you receive it.

All of us here at the St. Jude Shrine pray that through the intercession of our Holy Patron, St. Jude, the Lord may fill your hearts with the Joy, Hope, and Peace of the Child Jesus.

In Christ’s Peace,

Stedman F. Matthew
Chief Administrative Officer

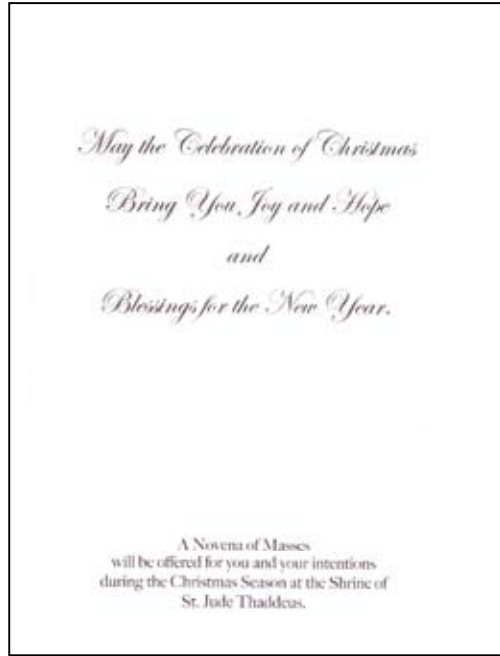


Left to right: Rosa Pinto, Stedman Matthew, Hennie Wisniewski, Lois Fiedler, Fr. Martin de Porres Walsh, O.P., Lynn Holden, Margarita Araujo
Merry Christmas from the Staff of the Shrine of St. Jude



Front Cover

(Actual card size is 4.5" x 6.25")



Inside

(Cut along dotted line.)

Christmas Novena of Masses

Dear Stedman:

Please include the following names in the Christmas Novena of Masses at the Shrine of St. Jude:

Send to: Shrine of St. Jude, P.O. Box 15368, San Francisco, CA 94115-0368

Please do not send cards to me.

Please send _____ card(s) to me.
(number of cards)

Donation enclosed: \$ _____

Yes, I would like to contribute to this year's calendar appeal for the education of our Dominican Seminarians. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$ _____.

Name: _____ Address: _____