

# *Alternative Christmas Catalogue*

## *2011*



### ONE SOLITARY LIFE

*He was born in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. Then he became an itinerant preacher.*

*Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that...*

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

*Cathedral of Mary Our Queen*

***Holiday Greetings!*** The suggestions in the *Alternative Christmas Catalogue* focus on sharing and giving of oneself--talents, time, love, and service--to family and community. It is also to assist in the prayerful reflection of the Season. The catalogue is not meant to be an exhaustive list of suggestions but rather a catalyst that will stimulate thought and inspire action in promoting an alternative way of celebrating Christ's birth. For example, you might want to institute the practice of giving no more than three gifts to each child because Jesus received only three gifts.

This catalogue is divided into three sections. Individual parishioners, families, and office groups are invited to use it in whatever way the Holy Spirit prompts them.

**Section I--Gifts of Treasure** is subdivided into three lists: Cathedral Ministries, Community Outreach, and Alternative Giving. The programs profiled need financial and material support. For the parish ministries, a contact person is listed to answer any questions.

**Section II--Gifts of Time & Talent** focuses on non-material gifts that can be shared with family and friends, and help make God present to them through love. This section explains how to make an Alternative Christmas gift certificate and encourages us to think of gifts in non-commercial terms.

**Section III--Reflection** invites participation in "Apps for Advent" and offers prayers you can use at mealtimes or with Advent Wreath home ceremonies, beginning with the First Sunday of Advent and ending with Christmas.

Dear Cathedral Friends,

The season of Advent is upon us and the Cathedral Parish is pleased once again to offer a special way to celebrate the Christmas season with the *Alternative Christmas Catalogue*. This is a unique and very special way to honor our family and friends while responding to the call of our Catholic faith to feed the poor, clothe and house the homeless and care for all the vulnerable members of our community.

In these most difficult of economic times for us all, the needs of those among us who are most vulnerable and live with great struggle presents us with a compelling opportunity to express our solidarity in Christ-like love through our participation in the *Alternative Christmas Catalogue*.

We hope you will find many wonderful and creative ways to celebrate Christmas with your friends and family as offered in the catalogue. We offer just a few ways you can help the programs in the *Alternative Christmas Catalogue*. You could choose an organization that is close to the heart of a family member or friend in whose name you make a donation. Or, you could decide as a family to sacrifice the cost of one gift to each other and, instead, give the funds to a program which the family chooses. Also, you could collect clothes, money or goods that could be donated on behalf of your employer instead of an office gift exchange.

There are so many other creative ways to use the catalogue, but we hope that whichever program you choose will afford you a deep and rich blessing in celebrating Christmas with the spirit of true selflessness and sharing. These are the virtues that reflect Christ's sacrificial love for us all - may they continue to live and grow within your heart so that you may be blessed throughout the coming new year.

I wish you and those you love a truly blessed and joyful Christmas celebration of the mystery of Incarnation – God's word of love made flesh for us in Christ!

Sincerely;

*J. Bruce Jarboe*

Reverend Monsignor J. Bruce Jarboe  
Rector

**SECTION I  
GIFTS OF TREASURE**

**CMOQ Service Outreach Ministry and Programs**

**\*\*Service Outreach Committee:\*\***

The Service Outreach Ministry Committee serves as the coordinating head of the CMOQ Service Programs, and assists in the outreach to other social justice organizations. For questions regarding the below-listed CMOQ Ministries, or others listed in this directory, please email:

[serviceministries@cathedralofmary.org](mailto:serviceministries@cathedralofmary.org).

Co-Chairs: Julie Cain: 410-464-1767 [jjuliecain@comcast.net](mailto:jjuliecain@comcast.net) and Fred Hallahan [fhallahan@comcast.net](mailto:fhallahan@comcast.net)

**\*Adopt a Family:**

Cathedral families “adopt” over 200 needy families from our Sister Parish, Immaculate Conception on Druid Hill Avenue, for Christmas, providing a full Christmas dinner and one gift for each family member.

Contact: Willis Gunther: 410-277-4112 [Willis1206@msn.com](mailto:Willis1206@msn.com)

**\*Blood Donor Program:**

Coordinated with the American Red Cross twice a year. Assist scheduling appointments, prepare announcements for bulletin, post signs on campus, assist with set up/sign in on day of drive, distribute snacks. 2-7 p.m. on the day of the drive.

Contact: Judy De Pauw: 410-323-8293 or [jdpaws@earthlink.net](mailto:jdpaws@earthlink.net).

**\*CARES (“Civic and Religious Emergency Services”):**

A program of GEDCO (Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation), CARES offers assistance to qualified persons and families with evictions, prescriptions, food and utilities. Serves zip code areas: 21210, 21212, 21218 and 21239. Can leave food donations at CMOQ in the basket at each entrance.

Contact: Keith Korschgen: 410-532-6286 or Rachel Neill 410-532-2273 ext. 15 ([rneill@gedco.org](mailto:rneill@gedco.org))

Mon. or Thurs. 8:45 a.m. to 11 a.m., Sat. 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

**\*Cathedral Food Program:**

You can make an immediate difference in the lives of our hungry neighbors by donating money to feed hungry people in Baltimore. You can contribute by taking an envelope marked "Cathedral Food Program" from the tables by the doors to the Cathedral, placing your money inside, and giving your envelope during the regular collection at Mass. Contact Anina Griggs, [aagriggs@yahoo.com](mailto:aagriggs@yahoo.com)

**\*Our Daily Bread:**

Prepare lunch casseroles, set up dining room, and serve meals to guests. Each month, on the first Tuesday, Dr. T.E. Llewellyn collects beans and franks casseroles in the school circle between 7:45a.m. and 8:15 a.m. to be delivered to ODB. Casseroles are also collected in the early morning at 103 Taplow Rd. in Homeland, and at the church, in the upper side lot, near the front of the church, between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. For casserole recipe or details regarding other items in need, refer to the parish website.

Contact: Thomas Llewellyn: 410-453-9369/[brassingto@aol.com](mailto:brassingto@aol.com)

**\*Respect Life/Gabriel Network:**

**Respect Life** – uses legislative alerts, petitions, bulletins and literature to communicate/educate parishioners on all life issues from conception to natural death. Coordinates Respect Life Sunday in October. Baby Shower in May benefiting Gabriel Network and Pregnancy Center North.

Contact: James Vitale: 410-852-7070/[jwvitale@aol.com](mailto:jwvitale@aol.com)

**Gabriel Network** – “Hotline” refers women in crisis pregnancy to the parish. Volunteers work in pairs to create support system for pregnant women in need. They provide baby items and furniture, transportation, babysitting. Expenses are taken from a budget provided by the parish. Help coordinate social services. Spiritual help provided when possible.

Contact: Dawn Koppers: 410-435-5811/[dawnkoppers@gmail.com](mailto:dawnkoppers@gmail.com)

\*Haiti Parish Partnership - Support our partner parish, St. Charles Borromeo in Gonaives, Haiti through prayer, fundraising and delegation preparation. Contact: Paddy Morton: 410-464-0556/[paddymorton6@aol.com](mailto:paddymorton6@aol.com)

### **Community Outreach**

In honor of the Parish’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Service Ministry Directory was updated and includes many worthwhile local agencies in need of assistance, both financial and volunteer time. The Directory may be found on the parish website at:

<http://cathedralofmary.org/parish/advisory/pastoralcouncil/service/Service%20Directory.pdf>

If you do not have a computer, please contact the Parish Center to obtain a copy.

## Alternative Giving – Gifts that Give Twice

Unfortunately, in our world today, the meaning of Christmas often gets lost in the hype of buying the latest gadget or finding the flashiest bauble to out-do your neighbor. If you really must make gift purchases, consider making a donation in someone's honor to a favorite charity, or making purchases from organizations that support third world cultures, pay a living wage to their workers or are environmentally friendly. Look for the Fair Trade label, particularly on coffee or chocolate products, the labels below certify that the product is held to strict humanitarian or environmental standards:



Below are websites to organizations that promote fair trade or promote self-sufficiency. This is by no means exhaustive, feel free to do research and make purchases from other similar organizations.

**Work of Human Hands** - Whether you're doing your Christmas shopping or want a unique work of art to spice up a room and serve as a conversation starter, by choosing to do your shopping through Work of Human Hands you're helping skilled artisans and farmers maintain their craft and improve their lives. Remember to say or write in the comment line that you support CRS Fair Trade when you place your order, and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the [CRS Fair Trade Fund](#).

<http://www.serrv.org/default.aspx?source=F103> or call 1.800.685.7572 to place your order or request a free catalog.

**Ten Thousand Villages** - Your fair trade purchase of handmade jewelry, home decor and gifts helps improve the lives of thousands of artisans in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. <http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/catalog/shop.php> or visit the shop in Fells Point at 1621 Thames St., Baltimore, MD 21231, 410-342-5568.

**Beads for Life** - Beads for Life eradicates extreme poverty by creating bridges of understanding between impoverished Africans and concerned world citizens. Ugandan women turn colorful recycled paper into beautiful beads. Women in Northern Uganda gather shea nuts and press them into shea butter for cosmetics and soaps. And people who care open their hearts, homes and communities to buy and sell both products. [www.beadforlife.org](http://www.beadforlife.org)

**Heifer International** – Buy your Mom a cow! Choose a meaningful gift to give a loved one and help children and families around the world receive training and animal gifts that help them become self-reliant. [www.Heifer.org](http://www.Heifer.org)

**For Fair Trade Chocolate visit:**

**Equal Exchange Interfaith Program** 50 United Drive West Bridgewater, MA 02379 Tel: 774.776.7366 Fax: 508.587.5955 <http://interfaith.equalexchange.com/category.aspx?categoryID=26>

Or <http://divine.serrv.org/crs/cart.php>

**For Fair Trade Coffee visit:**

<http://www.crsfairtrade.org/products/coffee-overview/buy-coffee/>

## SECTION II GIFTS OF TIME & TALENT

### Alternative Christmas Gift Certificates

Another way to celebrate an Alternative Christmas is to scale back your own gift buying and **give gift certificates for your precious time & priceless talents to those you love.**

Try exchanging an "Alternative Christmas Gift Certificate" (use one of the forms inside, or create your own). This works especially well for children who are vulnerable to the intense advertising of the season. Here are some suggested gifts for families and neighbors. You think of others!

Example of a completed Alternative Christmas Gift Certificate.

- o A day with a child to do anything s/he wants.
- o Babysitting for a couple who doesn't get out often.
- o Shoveling an elderly neighbor's sidewalk the next snowstorm.
- o Reading once a week with a child.
- o Making a brother's or sister's bed for a week.
- o Writing letters for someone too old or too young to handle the task alone.
- o Taking a godchild to a movie, then out for an inexpensive dinner.
- o "Secret" gifts that you'll try to give without being discovered, such as "sneaking" a treat into someone's backpack, leaving an encouraging note under a pillow, or doing someone's chores while s/he's out.
- o Driving an elderly neighbor to church, the doctor's, dentist's or a store.
- o Writing your spouse a love note every Sunday night for a year.
- o Doing home repair jobs or housecleaning.
- o Helping an arthritic person wrap gifts.
- o Visiting a shut-in each month of the coming year.
- o Loading and unloading dishwashers, washers and dryers.
- o Setting and clearing the table.
- o Brushing your teeth every night without your parents' asking.
- o Putting away games and toys.
- o Knitting, sewing, crocheting, embroidering or needlepointing an article of the recipient's choice.
- o Painting a picture or framing an original photograph
- o Inviting a lonely person from the neighborhood to come and enjoy your family fun on Christmas morning (and open a small gift from you); or, inviting several persons who live alone to join you for Christmas dinner.

## Family Alternative Giving

Involve your entire family in a yuletide project. Have each family member recycle clothing and toys for a needy family. As a family unit, prepare a meal for a soup kitchen or a family in need; clean up your neighborhood and encourage neighborhood families to participate. Giving is supposed to be fun. By trying these activities, or creating your own, you can recapture the cheer and true meaning of Christmas giving. Some may even become new family traditions!

### SECTION III REFLECTION

#### “APPS FOR ADVENT”

Advent Reflection/Fellowship Series: Spiritual Applications for Advent to have a Blessed Christmas.

"Advent Spirituality and Prayer" Dr. Thomas Little December 6 at 7:00 pm

"Tis the Season of Peace, not Stress" Dr. Patricia Fosarelli December 13 at 7:00 pm

#### Prayers for the Advent Wreath

A fragrant Advent Wreath, with its three purple and one pink candles, is a potent reminder of the spiritual nature of Christmas. The circular wreath symbolizes the everlasting love of God who has no beginning and no end, while each candle has a specific symbolism.

#### SATURDAY BEFORE THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (NOVEMBER 26)

**Blessing of the Advent Wreath:** "O God, send your blessing upon our wreath. Help us to understand its symbolism and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ your Son, the light who leads us. Amen." (**Sprinkle the wreath with Holy Water.**)

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (NOVEMBER 27)

**Candle Lighting:** "We call the first candle The Candle of Promise to remind us that God promised to send his Son. (**Light one purple candle.**) This candle reminds us of the early prophets and the message that Christ has already come to us once."

**Hymn:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: Verses 1 (Emmanuel) & 2 (Wisdom)*

**Grace:** "Lord God, you have come to us in many ways and still come again and again. We gather and begin this holy season which marks your coming as man. May we find in our meal and fellowship, signs of your presence and reasons to look for you in the time ahead. We pray through Jesus Christ who came once and will come again, and who lives forever and ever. Amen."

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (DECEMBER 4)

**Candle Lighting:** "Now it is the Second Sunday of Advent, so we light two candles: The Candle of Promise and The Candle of Hope. The Candle of Hope reminds us that God gave us hope with his gift of life forever in him." **(Re-light first purple and then a new purple candle.)**

**Hymn:** *On Jordan's Bank*

**Grace:** "God of infinite variety, you fashioned this good earth with limitless imagination. To us you have given first place. As you bless us around this table, may we be a blessing for others, sharing good things with them, especially with those who do not see the beauty of this world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen."

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (DECEMBER 11)

**Candle Lighting:** "Now it is the Third (*Gaudete*) Sunday of Advent, so we light three candles: The Candles of Promise and Hope, and The Candle of Love. This third candle reminds us that God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son, so that whoever believes in Jesus will have eternal life. **(Re-light two purple candles, then the pink candle.)** The Candle of Love reminds us that Christmas is near, and to be joyful."

**Hymn:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: Verses 3 (Holy Lord) & 4 (Rod of Jesse)*

**Grace:** "Almighty Father, in this time of anticipation and joy, we remember your promises of old and your faithfulness in fulfilling them. We gather in the name of Jesus, promised by the prophets. As you bless us and this food, help us to show Jesus to others today. Amen."

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (DECEMBER 18)

**Candle Lighting:** "On the Fourth Sunday of Advent we light all four candles: The Candles of Promise, of Hope, of Love; and The Candle of Light. This last candle reminds us that Christ is the Light of the world." **(Light all four candles.)**

**Hymn:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: Verses 5 (Key of David), 6 (Desire of Nations), & 7 (Dayspring)*

**Grace:** "Heavenly Father, the darkness of sin once filled this earth and brought fear to men and women. With the coming of your Son Jesus, your light began to shine, never to end. We thank you for his presence and light at this holy time. Let this food and those we love strengthen us. We ask through Christ our Lord. Amen."

## CHRISTMAS EVE (DECEMBER 24)

**Candle Lighting:** "This is the last time this year that we will light the Advent candles. For four weeks we have been thinking of God's gift to us--his Son Jesus Christ; and we have been getting our hearts ready for Christmas." (**Light all four candles.**)

**Hymn:** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**Grace:** "Dear God, thank you for the special times we have spent together this Advent. We offer you praise, Lord, for your blessing of life, for this food and drink, and for our family. May our sharing today draw us close to Jesus. Amen."

**Blessing of the Nativity Scene:** "The pilgrimage of Advent is over. We show our joy for Christ's birth with the blessing of the Nativity. "Lord, we have prepared this Nativity Scene in your honor. Your Son chose to be born in a lowly stable because there was no room for him in the inn. Bless this crib. It is a sign of our willingness to let him come into our home this Christmas and make it a place of love, peace and great joy. Amen." **Hymn:** *Silent Night*

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT CERTIFICATE FORMS

*Alternative Christmas Gift Certificate*



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*This comes with my Best Christmas Wishes*

*May the blessings of this  
Holy Season be with you always*

Christmas Presence



To:

From: