

Extracted from St John Vianney December 21, 2008 Bulletin

### Christ in Christmas by Carl E. Beyer

This is the time of year when I wonder how many celebrate Christmas with Christ in their lives without realizing they do. This time of celebration is only for one reason. The birth of our Savior.

Raised by an Atheist step-father and a mother that had real social problems I do remember Christmas. Being one of the youngest I remember having Christmas Sundays. We would celebrate Christmas together the Sunday before Christmas so that the siblings could celebrate Christmas with their own families. With seven children Christmas was always festive. Then with the nieces and nephews threw in, we had a self-made crowd.

What is Christmas if not the celebration of the love that Jesus spreads throughout the world. We certainly had that love among us siblings and looked forward to the gathering. There was no big presents since we had a bunch of presents to purchase but we took the time to make the presents personalize for each.

I often wonder how so many of my siblings and myself sought out our Lord. Was it because of those gatherings at Christmas? The love between us is the very fiber of Jesus in our lives. No grace was said before our meals but we all sat down together and we all shared our love. Jesus works through us in this season and many do not even realize the work that is being done in their hearts.

If I haven't mention previously this was all accomplished with dysfunctional parents. But our problems with our parents could not stop us siblings from enjoying each other. After my step-father died my Mom once had us celebrate Christmas in her bar. There is nothing like a Christmas with a "regular" coming up and asking you what you got for Christmas. After that we made a point to start taking Christmas into our own hands and celebrate them in one of our homes. Even in a country bar, it doesn't quite work with babies and small ones running around. On the other hand, we were able to have some mean games of 8-Ball that Christmas.

So say a special prayer this Christmas that the love people share will open their eyes to the love of Jesus Christ. God Bless you all, now go forth and share Jesus' party with those you love.