

DEACON'S CORNER

What do you think? Water buffalo or heifer? Or how about tree seedlings or a llama? Then there's always a flock of chicks, ducks or geese. Just too many choices!

This year my family has decided to buy one gift for each other and we are going to give a gift to others through Heifer International. Our own DRE Gretchen Poliero has long educated us about Heifer International and its good work.

For \$ 150 one can "Light up a Life with a Llama" as the catalog from Heifer tells us. A South American family with a llama can earn a modest living selling the wool and making clothes.

Rob is campaigning for the water buffalo. There's a quote in the catalog by a farmer in China, "If I die, my family will weep for me, if my buffalo dies, my family will starve." Water buffalo are the most prized livestock for many farming families around the world. They provide pulling power that can plow and plant a field in two days that takes two weeks to sow with a hoe. In addition, because of their rich milk they are an instant source of nutrition. You can give a gift of a water buffalo for \$250 or share in a gift with others for \$25.

www.Heifer.org/catalog will deliver the book to your door and your family can go over the choices around the dinner table. It is amazing how it wakes the kids up to the needs outside their community.

It is fun to see the stuff that is out there. You can log on to www.freerice.com and play a fun vocabulary game that not only tests your intelligence, but for each question correctly answered 20 grains of rice will be donated to end hunger.

Lastly, there's Tom's Shoes, a company that manufactures a simple fabric slip-on shoe based on traditional South American style and produced with fair-labor practices. For every pair of shoes purchased the company donates a pair of shoes to a child in need in Argentina and South Africa. Log on to www.tomsshoes.com.

There are so many opportunities to give, and the holiday season is the time of opening up our hearts and our wallets as well, to those we love, and to those we share the planet with who have great need. It doesn't take much effort to find those in need, they can be our next-door neighbor, the good folk in Camden, the wonderful worshipers and friends from Mt. Pisgah, our struggling sisters and brothers in

Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia. The world is shrinking, the needs of others is all around us.

Take time this season of Advent to be quiet, to pray together around the dinner table, to thank God for your health, your warm bed, your family, the food in your pantry and on your table. When all that is done, open up your circle and allow others in. Your children will remember the gift you give outside your circle to others long after the packages are opened. Imagine the back to school chatter, "Hey Johnnie, what did you get for Christmas? The response will quiet a room, "Well, we bought a water buffalo!" Pretty cool, huh?

So, what do you think? Heifer, water buffalo, llama, ducks, geese? Oh, decisions, decisions.

Blessed Advent season to you and yours.

Your Deacon, Colleen

A NOTE FROM YOUR DRE

Oh, how I love the Christmas season. Every year I wish that it would slow down so I could enjoy it even more! The heart of this wonderful season is the love we know we have from God. God sent His only Son into this crazy world to help us find God. Please during this most joyous of seasons, take time to help someone else out, wait and let someone else go first at the traffic light, share a smile with a stranger. You could be the one making their day/life extra special. You never know who you may meet!!

Merry Christmas and may you have many joyful and thankful moments in the coming year!

Faithfully yours,
Gretchen S. Poliero, DRE

PARISH HOUSE HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, December 7th, 9:30 am – Parish Hall

*Celebrating the Feast of St. Nicholas
"The true story of how many of our customs
started."*

*Celebrate December birthdays afterwards.
Special guest will be there!*

Children, family & friends are welcomed!