



## What's Happening



# The Red Wagon News

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Hello Christ Child Members,

With the Advent Season here, I want to share some things we can be doing to Stay Awake and Stay Alert as we approach Christmas and New Year. Fill up your spiritual buckets first so that as they overflow you can share it with others. Pray the rosary regularly, read Sacred Scripture daily, offer up your pains and suffering, and have a grateful heart. Self-care is important now. Exercise regularly, get your blood flowing, take a walk, get some fresh air. You can even ride a bike! No one is an expert now; we are all in uncharted territory. We are flying by the seat of our pants but have faith in a smooth landing. Any landing we walk away from is a good landing! The Christmas Season often stirs up grief and other difficult emotions, especially if we have lost loved ones. Open your heart to those who have lost a loved one and offer support to them. Volunteer. Be a part of the solution to the problem. There are many things we can do to help the Christ Child Society and the Woman's Choice Center. We are called to prepare the way during Advent yet let us remember that God does the work of transforming lives. Take away the burden of responsibility of trying to change other hearts. We must change our hearts first, then show up and let God do the rest!

This year will be different for all of us, even in our flurry of activity, we can offer others the opportunity to slow down and connect with God, family, and friends in a deeper way. We are given the gift of being creative and innovative, find new ways to engage in community, connect the story of Jesus' birth to the now; we cannot live in the past. Seek out new pathways of faith, do not be discouraged. Hope overcomes fear, light breaks through the darkness and love is stronger than hate Be not afraid!!

Deacon Matt Levy  
Spiritual Advisor

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## Layette Program

We are planning an expansion of our layette program to include Genesis birth centers in Davenport and Silvis. This expansion will help meet community needs but require additional volunteers. If you can help by picking up supplies, assembling layettes and delivering them to a local hospital on a monthly basis, please contact Mary Anne Dockery-Jackson  
[dockeryjacksonm@gmail.com](mailto:dockeryjacksonm@gmail.com)

## Car Seats

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Staff at Women's Choice Center have expressed thanks for the three car seats donated by CCS-QC to expectant mothers who completed the 4-week birthing class. Four moms are signed up for the next class. The birthing class is a double blessing for moms who complete the class. They receive knowledge and support for a healthy birth and safety for their newborn.

*"When I read 'She wrapped him in swaddling clothes,' I longed to do the same, and He Himself taught me that I might still do so in the person of His poor, and a great desire was born within me to go out and find the poor that I might find Him."*

**Mary Virginia Merrick, Servant of God,  
Founder of the National Christ Child Society**

## Clothing the Christ Child



**Cathy's gift to the  
Christ Child**

As Deacon Matt observed, the Christmas Season may stir up grief and other difficult emotions, but it can also be a time to remember the goodness, talents and kindness of departed family members. One such memory for us dates back to a bitter cold spell during mid-January 2015. The Christ Child Society received a call from one of our community partners, Unitypoint Trinity Birthplace, asking us if we could provide a premie-sized

snow suit for, Isaac, an infant who was about to be released after having been born four months premature and weighing 1 pound 13 ounces. Isaac had spent months in the neonatal ICU in Peoria followed by weeks in the neonatal unit at Trinity and was ready to go home at 4 pounds. The nursing staff was concerned Isaac's parents didn't have warm clothing to bring him home in and gave us a call.

Finding a premie-sized snow or pram suit in one day proved impossible. That is when my sister-in-law, Cathy Pryor, came to the rescue. Cathy offered to make the snowsuit. In one evening, Cathy fashioned and sewed a fleece lined premie snowsuit for Isaac which we were given permission to present to Isaac's grateful mother.

Cathy died in 2019 at the age of 68 after a long battle with cancer. This memory of her willingness to drop everything to help a little child in need is a sweet reminder of her talents and kindness. It is also an invitation for us to continue clothing the Christ Child in the spirit of Mary Virginia Merrick.

Mary Anne Dockery-Jackson



## Jr. Christ Child

One of the ideas shared at the National Convention in September came from the Summit, New Jersey chapter. Students in grades 8 through 12 can join the chapter as junior members to support the activities and mission of service to children in the community. Junior members in Summit participate in activities including fundraising, collecting, and sorting gently used books, and de-tagging new clothing to be donated. What a great way to help teens serve others. If you like this idea and want to help initiate a Junior Christ Child Program in the Quad Cities Chapter, please contact [dockeryjacksonm@gmail.com](mailto:dockeryjacksonm@gmail.com)

## Coming Soon

- Thanks to Kimberly Souba for her work on our [FB page](#) and soon to be released website.
- The website will include information on our new giving program, "Spread a Little Sunshine".