

The True Gift of Christmas

By Larry Zurek, O.F.M.

A YEAR AGO I found myself at the airport in Atlanta, trying to get a flight back to Bloomington, Illinois. Ice and rain had caused havoc in the city. When I got to the airport, the monitor showed that many flights had been delayed, others had been canceled. Luckily, my flight to Bloomington was listed as being on time.

As I sat in the waiting area by the gate, my flight, which had been on schedule, was now being posted as 15 minutes delayed. Fifteen minutes turned into another 15 minutes, then a gate change, then another 15-minute delay—and yet another gate change.

Many people at the airport that day, including me, were not happy campers. We all had places to be, schedules to keep, and the weather messed up all our plans.

The tension was evident as folks grumbled at the airline personnel at the gate. People were complaining out loud to whoever would listen. You could see the unhappiness written in the furrows on foreheads and the lack of smiles on faces.

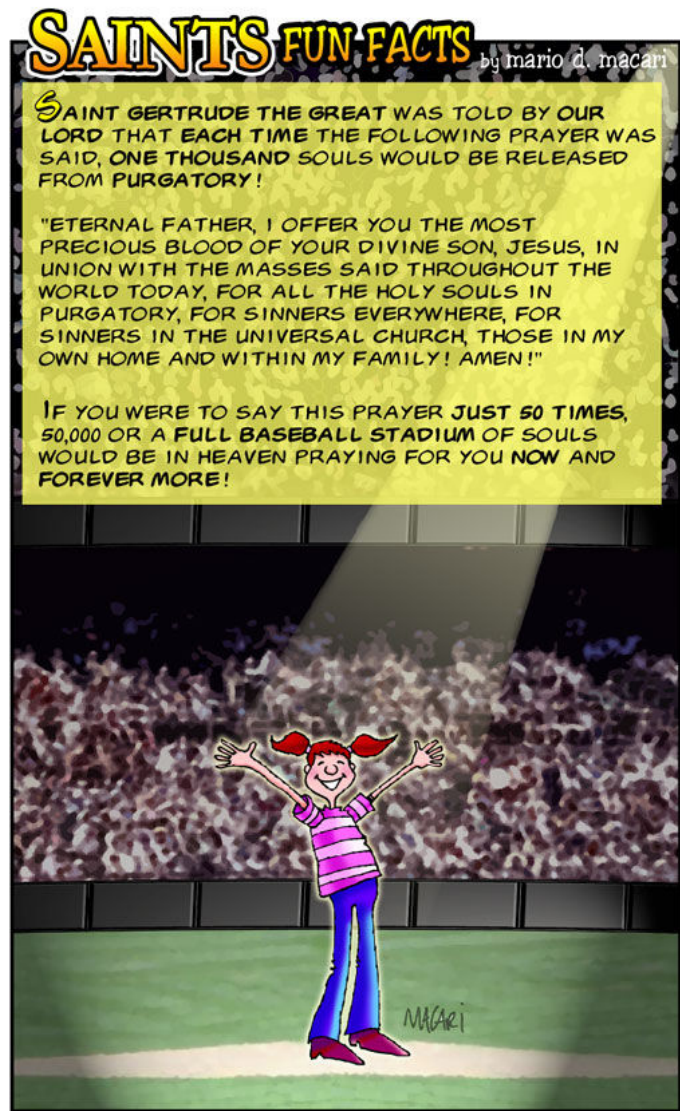
In the midst of all this, a young couple entered with a baby stroller and a young boy riding on top of a suitcase his father was toting. If you have ever traveled with children, you know it can certainly be a challenge, even under the best of circumstances, let alone when there are flight delays, gate changes and cancellations.

But these two children were an absolute delight. It was amazing to see the reaction of those gathered in the gate area when the children and their parents arrived. The little baby was a bundle of joy—*ooing* and *aahing*, giggling and clapping his hands. His innocent joy brought smiles to many a frowning face, including mine.

The other child, a little boy about two or three years of age, oblivious to the fact that their flight was delayed, began to sing. It's a song I believe most of us know and perhaps sang when we were children.

And ever since that day at the airport, it has become one of my favorite Christian hymns. It goes like this: "Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!"

You would not believe the difference this little boy made in the lives of those gathered at the gate on that day. People's moods suddenly began to change. The anger, the impatience and frustration at the many



delays seemed instantaneously to melt away.

People, who moments earlier were grumbling, arguing with the airline personnel, frustrated by their situation, were now being calmed by the singing of a little boy about how Jesus loves him.

In a crowded airport, a little boy made a difference in the lives of those who were frustrated by flight delays and cancellations. He reminded us, in his simplicity and innocence, that Jesus loves us.

During the Christmas season we come to celebrate the birth of a little boy who is love itself, Jesus the Christ. He continues to remind us that we are loved.

Just like in the song: "Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!"

Thank You

Special thanks to the following students and families for your generous Christmas gifts and/or cards and wishes:

Aubrey	Jonathan	Lia	Sophie
Danny	Josh	Maile	Tiffeny
Emily	Julia	Marissa G	Tommy
Hope	Katherine	Matthew	Vicky
Jake	Kayla		

May our Lord bless you with joy, peace, and prosperity throughout the new decade.

Resolve to make at least one person happy every day, and then in ten years you may have made three thousand, six hundred and fifty persons happy, or brightened a small town by your contribution to the fund of general enjoyment.

San Juan Capistrano Fieldtrip News

Our class will be on a very special fieldtrip next Tuesday, January 19. Permission Slips for our fieldtrip to Mission San Juan Capistrano came home today. Please check your child's Monday folder. Please completely fill out BOTH permission slips (Yes, they are identical. That's intentional, not a mistake.) and return them tomorrow.

We will need some parent volunteers to be chaperones for this trip. All chaperones must be fingerprinted. If you would like to be a chaperone and are not fingerprinted by the Diocese of Orange, please do so before the trip. If you ARE fingerprinted, the school office has your file on record. If you are doing it this week, please bring your paperwork to the school office. Thank you.

Weekly Giggle

Teacher: Why are you late, Joseph?

Joseph: Because of a sign down the road.

Teacher: What does a sign have to do with your being late?

Joseph: The sign said, "School Ahead, Go Slow!"



... to the following students who earned an A+ on the following tests.

<i>Religion - Advent</i>			
Daniel			
<i>Math Ch. 4, Section A</i>			
Kelsey	Katherine	Julia	
<i>Science Unit A, Ch. 4</i>			
Kelsey		Daniel	
<i>Spelling 15</i>			
Michael	Josh	Kelsey	Katherine
Jeremy	Hope	Jonathan	Marissa G
Daniel	Vicky	Andrew	Emily
Julia	Lia	Kayla	Maile
Trinity	John-Adrian	Bill	Tiffeny

Upcoming Tests

<i>Religion</i>	<i>Christmas</i>	<i>Wed. 1/13</i>
<i>Reading</i>		<i>TBA</i>
<i>Spelling/Vocab</i>	<i>Toto</i>	<i>Friday 1/15</i>
<i>Math</i>	<i>Ch. 4, Section B</i>	<i>Tue. 1/19</i>
<i>Language</i>	<i>Friendly letters</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>Science</i>	<i>Unit B, Ch. 1</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>Social Studies</i>		<i>Check Planner</i>
<i>Spanish, Music, Computer</i>		<i>Check Planner</i>

Upcoming Events

- ! **Fri. 1/15:** NOON dismissal
- ! **Mon. 1/18:** MLK Jr. holiday
- ! **Fri. 1/22:** Feb. lunch orders due
- ! **Mon. 1/25:** Spirit Attire Monday
- ! **Jan. 25 - 29:** Catholic Schools Week
- ! **Fri. 1/29:** Catholic Schools Week Mass 10AM
2nd quarter ends
- ! **Sun. 1/31:** Open House
- ! **Mon. 2/1:** Spirit Attire Monday
- ! **Thu. 2/4:** Pancake Breakfast orders due
- ! **Fri. 2/5:** Noon dismissal
- ! **Wed. 2/10:** Mandatory parent meeting 7PM