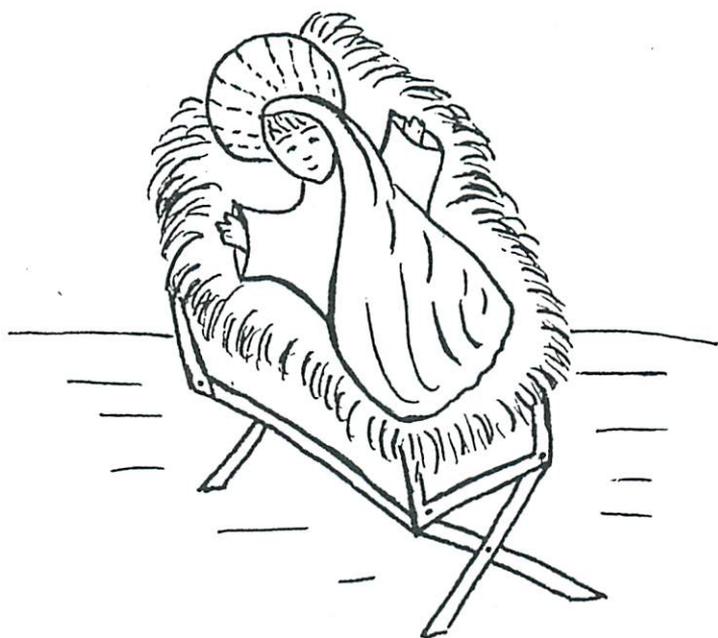


Christmas Treasure



Holy Year
1997

Introduction

Little Katie became very upset as she watched her mother rush into her room at the sound of a loud noise. Picking up an angel doll and some white feathers from the floor, her mother said, "Don't worry dear, your favorite angel doll didn't break. I'll glue the feathers on tomorrow", as she bent over and gave Katie a kiss goodnight. Katie loved her mother but she always felt she was a burden to her family since she was disabled.

Alone now Katie could hear Christmas carols and gifts being wrapped in the adjacent room. She then watched as some feathers blew around the room from an open window nearby. "If only I could pick up the feathers for mom," Katie thought as tears flowed down her cheeks. Moments later Katie was sound

asleep and she encountered this spiritual dream.

Spiritual Dream

Katie felt a feather tickle her nose. She opened her eyes and saw that the feather turned into an angel. Katie realized she must be in heaven when she noticed many of the feathers turning into angels of various colors. Just then the wind started to blow and alot of white feathers started to fall down to Earth. "Oh no," said Katie, "how can I find the feather for my angel doll since the Earth is so big?" The angel doll smiled as she took Katie by the hand and they were soon descending down towards Earth. Suddenly Katie saw a white feather glowing near a building in Chicago. As she picked it up Katie was surrounded by little faces of every race and culture in a

strange but yet peaceful room. Looking around she noticed the loving care the doctors and nurses were giving to many disabled children. She then glanced at the Christmas tree. Katie listened to Archbishop Francis recite the Christmas message to all who were present. We must have hope in order to trust God as did Mary and Joseph on that first Christmas Day . Peace comes to all when we respect life and tell Jesus that we believe and love Him in the Holy Eucharist. With a twinkle in his eyes the Archbishop said this is what Christmas is all about, as he smiled only to receive many smiles in return. Katie wanted to join in singing Christmas songs but she had to leave in order to look for more feathers.

Hovering now over the hills of Indiana, Pennsylvania, the angel doll pointed down to some youths who were pulling disabled boys and girls on sleds. It was so



WELCOME to
INDIANA, PENNSYLVANIA
Christmas Tree Capital
of the world

peaceful that you could hear the snow crunch under the sleds. Every now and then the sun shone a little through the trees. Katie wondered how she would be able to spot the feather since the entire hills were gleaming.

Katie marveled at the beautiful singing of carols as she watched the youths go from one tree to another. Finally some girls yelled, "We found the right size tree." A youth nearby picked up some of its branches and just then Katie spotted her angel doll's feather shining brighter than ever under one of the branches. Katie couldn't help but laugh and thought, "Dear God, You do have a good sense of humor. But where will this tree be displayed for Christmas?"

Katie and her angel doll now were high above the hills following the children on sleds. Katie watched as some boys stopped by a unique little church in the



Ernest Pennsylvania

town of Ernest to deliver the little tree. Snowflakes mixed with the white feathers were falling. Before the feathers reached the ground, Katie watched them turn into angels. A humming whisper was heard which sounded like violins in the wind. "This is all so exciting," thought Katie, "but I must find more feathers to glue on the angel doll."

The door of the church then opened and many young people were helping the disabled elderly people and children inside to celebrate Mass. Katie followed alongside of them hoping to get a glimpse of the little tree. There it was, small , some branches broken, with angels displaying their beautiful colors. Two angels were holding a banner which read, "Rejoice, Christ is born," and under it was another banner which read, "Peace in the Year of Jesus Christ 1997, Pope John Paul II." Katie smiled watching a white feather



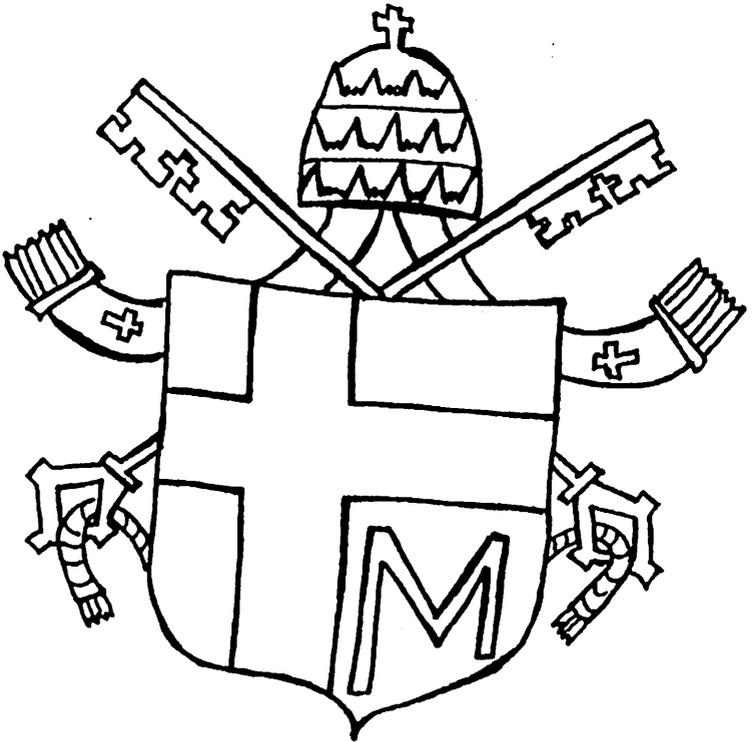
gently float down on the Infant Jesus in the manger. She reached out to get it, but instead stopped and said, "Baby Jesus, please accept this feather as a token of my love and also from all disabled people around the world."

Katie then heard Jesus say within her soul, "Katie, you are loved and you are physically disabled which can be seen, but yet there are many people that are Spiritually disabled. Inner peace comes only from Me, which radiates an inner beauty to those who trust and love Me."

THE END OF THE DREAM

Christmas Day

Katie was awakened by the sound of Christmas bells. Her mother walked in



carrying the angel doll with all the feathers glued on except one. Her mother said, "For some reason, I found all the feathers except one." Katie smiled and said, "I wonder why? Oh Mother, let me tell you about my beautiful dream," as she held her angel doll. She whispered, "Thanks Jesus for showing me how I should accept my disability." Praise God for all those who devote their time to care for, not only me, but all the disabled people." Then touching the feathers she said, "Sometimes it takes an ordinary message and ordinary feathers to form extraordinary wings."

Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas. The children of the world wish their dear friend in Christ, Pope John Paul II, a happy 19th anniversary. May God continue to bless him.

THE END

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