

Christmas 2014

PARENT PARTNER

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

**Behold, the virgin shall
conceive and bear a
son,
and they shall call his
name Immanuel”
Matthew 1:23**



**“Merry Christmas,
My Friend”**

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give
And to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands

Soon ‘round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate on a bright Christmas
day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of soldiers like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
“Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
my life is my God, my country, my Corps.”

Then the soldier rolled over, whispered with a voice so clean and pure,
“Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure.”
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night!

Excerpt from poem by Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt, 1986



Please keep our
Armed Forces personnel in
your prayers, as well as all
those that are far from
home this Christmas Season.

Lisa Cuypers

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