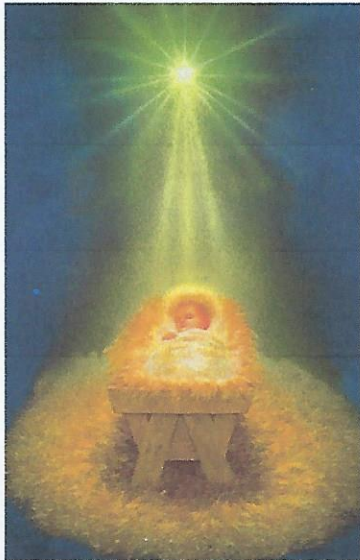


Q. Why do we decorate our Churches and homes with lights, candles and holly during this festive time of the year?

A. Let's begin with the decorative houses at Christmas time and at lights and the candles.

Lighting Up the Night

As we approach the winter solstice on December 21, the days keep getting progressively shorter, with fewer and fewer daylight minutes available to us. Symbolically, it almost seems as if night will gradually overpower the day altogether. Symbolically



we associate darkness with the power of evil and despair



and light with goodness and hope; that same goodness and hope which Christ brought to our world by His birth, at a



time when the world was at its darkest. He is the "Light of the World" a light which darkness could never overpower. And so Christians, on every continent of the globe, brighten up their churches and homes with lights at Christmas time to remind the world that this is a season of goodness and hope and of light and renewed joy. It is an important sign to others to continue this tradition of lighting up our Churches and



Holly: The Reason for His Birth

Holly has been traditionally associated with Christmas for centuries. It is a plant which reminds us that Christ's birth culminated in His death and Resurrection, so that the world could be ultimately saved from the power of evil. The red berries symbolize Christ's blood, which would be shed for us and, the sharp points on the leaves of the thorns of Christ's crown at His crucifixion.

at least until the Feast of Epiphany in January.

Reminders of Christ

Of course, before electricity, candles were used to provide this same light. Candles also symbolize something else. In giving us light and warmth, they waste away, a reminder to us that it was in giving of Himself, through His suffering

and death that Jesus brought us new hope and light. And so, when we

give of ourselves totally to the service of others, as Jesus did, we too, bring that same light and the same warmth into their lives!



Catholic Women's League

CONVENTION INFORMATION

Please go to our Parish Website to access the "December Update Sheet" which includes:

- ◆ Introductory information about our hosting the Diocesan Convention in April, and;
- ◆ 2 Updates: upcoming events. Printed copies of these Updates have been placed at the main entrance to the Church. We are also grateful to those who continue to financially support our feminine products project for the 'Dew Drop Inn'.



Knights of Columbus



'KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS'



We thank Sir Knight **Bill Vass**, Faithful Navigator of the Fr. Baxter Assembly and Sir Knight, **Mike Spivak**, Grand Knight of Fort William Council 1447 for installing this year's reminder in front of our Cathedral .



Development and Peace CARITAS CANADA

Our Group supports legislation that would hold Canadian companies liable if they fail to prevent harm to the environment and implement due diligence when operating abroad.