

ST. ROCK:
SPIRITUAL BAILOUT FROM FLU,
COLDS AND ANY WINTER AILMENT.

SAINT ROCK: A SAINT FOR ROCK COUNTY

By: Father Tom Jennings

I recently discovered the story of Saint Rock in a Christmas gift book from my Minneapolis cousins. Coming from Rock County, all kinds of lights began flashing for me. I think all of us in southwestern Minnesota should befriend this wonderful saint. Saint Rock was the son of the governor of Montpellier in France. When his father died, the twenty-year old Rock gave his money to the poor and began a pilgrimage to Rome. He found the land of Italy devastated by the Black Death Plague. The year was 1348. Rock immediately offered care for the victims and people noticed he had power for healing. Rock had a mark on his chest since birth—a cross-like spot on his chest. When he made the sign of the cross over those sick from the plague, many miracles occurred. Rock caught the infection eventually and crawled into the woods near Piscenza to die alone. A dog came, licked his sores, brought some food, and the dog's master looked after him. Recovered, the saint miraculously cured many more folk and even their sick cattle. He made his way back to his home town of Montpellier and was not recognized. He was suspected to be a spy for the local war. He was thrown into prison and died in 1378. When the people examined his body they recognized him by the cross-shaped birth-mark on his chest. He was given an honorable funeral. The Church's Council of Constance, 1414-1418, was debating Rock's canonization when a local plague broke out. The delegates hastily begged Saint Rock's intercession. The plague lifted, and the Council immediately named Rock a saint. Rock is frequently depicted in art with a dog—a reference to the blessed creature that succored him in his illness. We, in Rock County or anywhere, can pray for Saint Rock's help in the flu season and for protection in any illness.



CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

~ A poem from the Hartquist Funeral Home Service
of Remembrance, December 7, 2008.

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world
below.
With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting on the
snow.
The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that
tear;
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so
dear.
But the sounds of music can't compare with the
Christmas choir up here.
I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring.
For it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside
your heart.
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.
I cannot tell you of the splendor or the peace inside
this place
Can you imagine Christmas with our Savior, face to
face?

I will ask him to light your spirit as I tell him of your
love.
So then pray for one another as you lift your eyes
above.
So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you
dear.
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ
this year.

I sent you each a special gift, from my heavenly
home above.
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.
After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said
to do.
For I can't count the blessing or love he has for each
of you.
So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.
Remember, I am spending Christmas with Jesus
Christ this year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM LCCW

Merry Christ-
mas to all at St. Catherine's. May you have a Blessed and
safe Holiday Season from LCCW. Be sure to mark your
calendars for the 2nd Tuesday of each month. We meet at
7:00 pm. Come join us for spiritual fellowship!
Norma Stewart