

The holy season of Advent begins the weekend of November 26-27 marking a start of the new year of grace. As you so well know, the intense concentration of the “holiday season” tends to swallow up the gentle season before Christmas. I invite you to come into the new season and the new church year with me in a different way.

Caryl Houselander was a laywoman, mystic and poet whose timeless vision of spiritual childhood comforted and challenged the English-speaking world through the ravages of World War II and the London Blitz. Her spiritual imagination constantly directs us to recognize God as a tender, caring Father who calls us through Christ to care for strangers and the unfortunate. For her, Advent is a saving time that calls us to prepare, welcome and honor God who grows to maturity in our midst in the mystical Christ. Although she wrote books on Mary, on the Passion and Resurrection, she never gave us one on the season of Advent and Christmas.

Fr. Thomas Hoffman, formerly a Lutheran pastor, now a Catholic priest has chosen selections from her writings, added passages from scripture and some beautiful prayers to give us **A CHILD IN WINTER**, a book that provides a meditation for all the days of **ADVENT, CHRISTMAS** and **EPIPHANY**. I highly recommend this book to you. I will be giving a conference on Saturday, November 21st to introduce Caryl Houselander and the book in **SYNOD HALL** at 1:30. In January, when the Advent Christmas season is complete, we will meet again to share our thoughts and prayers together.

A CHILD IN WINTER is published by Sheed & Ward (ISBN 1-58051-085X). You can order it from a bookstore. On Amazon.com you can get used copies from a fraction of the cost of a new book, which was originally \$14.95 in 2000. With this advance notice I encourage you to place an order at Hofmann’s or your usual book source so as to be

ready to go by the time of the November 21st conference and the season that starts one week later. You will be very glad you did!



Msgr. William E. Biebel

