

On the last Sunday of Advent, several groups of Sisters traveled to four of the mission chapels in Pennsylvania and upstate New York. They attended Mass, visited with the parishioners, and entertained the children with games and crafts.

At 9:00 on Christmas Eve, the Office of Matins began and was followed by carols and Midnight Mass. After attending a second Mass on Christmas morning, the Sisters and Postulants enjoyed a day of recreation, which ended with a special Christmas meditation and a visit to the Blessed Sacrament.



Young students ponder the new Nativity scene window at St. Anne's Church, White Bear Lake, MN.



The principal of St. Pius V School gives a spiritual talk to Sodality members at a Christmas gathering.

In Our Schools

During the four weeks of Advent, our Sisters at St. Anne's Academy in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, and St. Pius V School in Melville, New York, used various means to help their students prepare for the coming of the Infant Savior. A favorite custom in many classrooms is filling a manger with a piece of straw for each sacrifice or act of virtue. The statue of the Christ Child then rests on this soft bed throughout the Christmas season. Another practice is having the students put miniature presents or candy, representing their little sacrifices or prayers, in a special stocking for the Baby Jesus. Bulletin boards can also be used to "take steps" on the road to Bethlehem or build a stable to encourage devotion to the Christ Child.



The students of St. Pius V School in Melville, NY, perform a Christmas play.

Under the Sisters' direction, the students in each school performed a Christmas play and concert for their parents, relatives, friends and benefactors. Shortly before Christmas, the children and parishioners helped the Sisters decorate the parish church. Then on Christmas Eve, the Sisters sang carols before, during, and after the Christmas midnight and morning Masses.