

MERRY CHRISTMAS



(Madonna of the Book, Botticelli)

No more monthly luncheons with the Raytheon crowd. Zoom meetings with the Mitre folk. The isolation is dreadful, though I did have ameliorating visits from sons/daughters Sean, Patrick/Cori, Annie, and Stephen, as well as niece/nephew Carol and Stanley. Michael has had some difficult issues, but is currently seeking a place to live and a job. Family is everything and I am ever grateful for mine -- each and every one.

As we head into this very different holiday season, I wish Christmas blessings for you all.

In the spirit,
Ole Dan

(concluded from inside)

Dear Friends and Family,

25 December 2020

What a year -- unreal -- disorienting -- frightening. We pray that all survive.

It started well enough, after last year's devastating loss. Annie moved out to a new apartment in Brookline with her cat Guaupo, while Michael stayed behind. I joined the money counters at St. Mary's and enjoyed communing with them as we went through the bills and coins of collections for each of the several masses. I joined the choir and enjoyed the singing and camaraderie, and continued as a lector. I had plans to host a gala St. Patrick's dinner with neighbors and parish friends -- ham, guinness, colcannon, soda bread -- but then

Coronavirus/Covid-19! The world changed overnight for everyone. Will it ever be the same again?

(concluded on the back)

**In this year of isolation
Do not give in to desolation.
Spread with joy the season's cheer
Knowing that the Lord is near.**