

**"The Chrstian Community welcomes you with great joy!"**

## **Baptismal Ritual**

**Baptism is not a private affair.**

**"The deepest roots of our faith are tied to others.**

**linked to those around us.**

**This feast reminds us, we are part of something greater.**

**I am connected to Margaret who I just baptized**

**and countless others.**

**But so are all of us.**

**We are apart of something greater--and something great.**

**We are connected by water and by grace.**

And like Jesus at the Jordan,

We are not alone,"

by Deacon Greg Kandra

Post Christmas Reflection:

A Christmas card expected is missing. There is a gap, a torn fabric depleting Christmas. We wonder. Then investigate, and our friend has slipped away from us since the last Christmas rush.

"God is friendship...He who dwells in friendship dwells in God."

Saint Aelred of Rievaulx

+ Father Ken Russell...friend since Sabbatical, 1986.

I lost a friend,

some part of me torn away.

Adrift in the winds.

Not through immanent death.

No, through benign neglect.

Â

A Christmas card friend.

Such cards are fragile tissues,

Lofted through the mails.

Two seasons ago exchanged,

His death, the summer between.

Â

January--accounting time.

Where is Ken's from "Drifter Avenue?"

Hard to forget that address.

But I did forget--drifted on,

Only a tomb to visit now.

WJF