

# MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM VIRGINIA!

**C**hristmas Greetings from Virginia! Our first full year in Virginia has been enjoyable. The year started off with Robert on the road to Washington DC (his second home), Dayton, and New Hampshire all in January. (There were plenty more trips throughout the year).

**H**appily, February brought employment for Davina at Scientific Research Corporation. She is thoroughly enjoying this opportunity. With that a new routine was established -- work, home, work, weekend, work, home, repeat. We also continued teaching religion to the first graders at our parish -- a fun bunch. In May, Davina traveled to Sitka, Alaska for the graduation of her niece, Skye. It was a great reunion of the Leccese clan.

**R**eunions continued in the summertime with the weddings of two good friends from our days at the University of Dayton, Kim and Catherine. It was a great opportunity to visit and celebrate their marriages. In August we traveled to Akron for the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Gill Family Reunion. It was Robert's parents turn to organize the extravaganza. We went to help them and Amie (Robert's sister) with the children's games. It was fun to meet the second and third cousins.

**I**n the beginning of September visitors from Phoenixville arrived -- Davina's parents, sister Gloria, and their dog. They enjoyed their Chesapeake Bay visit. Two weeks after they departed for home Hurricane Isabel arrived putting their bayside cabin underwater. The hurricane evacuated us to Phoenixville for six days to get away from the storm threat and subsequent power outages. Hurricane Isabel brought a storm surge that flooded the main Langley Air Force Base.

Where we live the main result of the storm was downed trees everywhere. We lost one tree and a large branch of another tree. That large branch landed across our vegetable garden and part of our fence.

Our losses were much less than many in the area; we thank God for this.

**S**hortly after hurricane clean-up it was back to business and off to Robert's cousin Kristie's wedding in Baltimore. It was great to see Robert's family and to celebrate with Kristie and her husband Bryan. In October, we traveled to Akron again for an evening at The Carousel Dinner Theater with Robert's parents. We celebrated our 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Also in October Robert and Davina enjoyed a weeklong visit to Disney World -- the site of our engagement. We had fun with Mickey, Donald, and all of the gang. We also enjoyed the warm weather and all of the activities Disney World offers.

**T**hanksgiving brought Robert and Davina (and the dogs, of course) to Pennsylvania for some homemade pumpkin pie. It was a great trip, even newsworthy! Davina's mom made reservations for a local restaurant in Phoenixville. At the restaurant there was a reporter from the local newspaper "The Phoenix" and we were interviewed as to why we chose to have Thanksgiving dinner at a restaurant. Between Davina's mom and Robert they described that they preferred to spend more time with family rather than cooking. Wouldn't you know that it was page 2 news the next day!

**M**ore fun to come for the Christmas holidays when we travel to Dayton to visit Davina's grandmother and two aunts followed by a visit to Akron to spend New Year's with Robert's family -- parents, brother and brother-in-laws, sisters and sister-in-law, and seven nieces and nephews.

**A**s always, this year has truly been blessed for us and we are grateful for the opportunity to

**S**hare it with you. We hope 2004 brings you peace and joy in great abundance.

Robert  
&  
Davina