

TIME TO MEASURE UP

by Nancy Cramer

As we approach the seasons of Advent and of Christmas, it is an appropriate time for us to "measure up." What do I mean by that phrase? Of course, it is your ideas that are important to you, but here are some questions to consider:

- 1) How have I done this year in my role as a (parent, mother, father, daughter, sister, brother etc)?
- 2) Have I met my expectations? Or did I even have any expectations of how I want to behave in that role?
- 3) Are my expectations, or goals, or achievements, appropriate for me? Do they match or exceed what I am capable of?
- 4) What are the expectations of me as seen by others? (parent, teacher, friend, spouse, child etc)
- 5) What new goals should I set for myself? Are they too ambitious, or not high enough, or just right?
- 6) What have I done as a citizen this year- to help others, to obey laws, to improve life for me and others?
- 7) Have I acted according to my beliefs as a Christian? Have I succeeded, excelled, or fallen below?
- 8) What goals will I set for myself in all the above categories? (NOTE: If you define these now, you will have your New Year's resolutions done ahead of time!)

People usually get a pat on their back for accomplishments. If you have finished this list, then you deserve that pat on the back. Give yourself one right now, and enjoy the beauty, mystery, majesty, and glory of the Advent and Christmas seasons.