

There's more of everything



We used this picture for our Christmas card that year.

By JOANNE DENNIS

Icy roads and snow didn't stop the John Downes family from getting together for the holidays. Steeped in tradition, the Downes have kept up their Christmas ritual of Mass, a gigantic holiday dinner, a beautiful Christmas tree surrounded by presents for all eight children and their families.

John Downes, executive director of the Rosamond Gifford Charitable organization, once wrote an article for a magazine about the joys of raising seven beautiful daughters, and one active little boy.

The magazine published the story, titled "There's More of Everything".

"That means more dishes, laundry, cleaning, ironing. But it also means more pleasure, and that's especially true at Christmas," says John, who is proud of his family.

His feelings are echoed by wife, Margaret, a former teacher, who loves having her family around her for the holiday.

"We're a close family, all proud of each others' accomplishments," she comments. "When the children were growing up, we always designated Friday night as family night, and we popped corn and played games together. It was really fun time for us."

Fifteen years ago the Downes family posed for this picture. Front row: Betsy, Margaret, Catherine; second row, Dorothy Ann, Mary, Joanne, Peggy, Nancy, John.

Elisabeth Joanna Doyle

October 1, 1985

8 lbs., 4 ozs.

*Elizabeth Downes
Anthony Patrick Doyle*