

# Weekly Message Weekly Message



Greetings special friends,  
Well, we are in our last days of school for the 2005 year. It is hard to believe that Christmas is just ten days away. This year has flown by so quickly. I hope that you are planning lots of wonderful time with your families during the holidays. This will be the last Weekly Message of 2005.

Here are some thoughts for the day:



“Forgiveness is as valuable to the one forgiven as to the one who forgives.”  
Amish proverb



“To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.”  
Thomas Aquinas (1224-1274) philosopher and theologian



“The holiest of all holidays are those kept by ourselves in silence and apart; the secret anniversaries of the heart.” Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, “Holidays”



“One step in the right direction, if continued, leads away from the path of destruction.” Joseph Bruchac, ‘At the End of Ridge Road’



“It is better to be approximately right than precisely wrong.” Warren Buffett, investor and business leader



“Have fun! Misery is optional.” Jean Westcott, writer



For those of you in Texas, keep in mind that the **Texas Dance Educators Convention** is held in Houston January 11-14th. You can go online and register at [www.tdea.org](http://www.tdea.org). The national convention is April 27-29th in Richardson (outside of Dallas). You can go online and register with **Dance/Drill Team Directors of America** at [www.dtda.org](http://www.dtda.org). There is so much to learn at your state and local director conventions with workshops and exhibitors from around the country.



Make sure to take time to visit our web site over the holidays. We have over 1,000 pages of information to resource. <http://www.DanceADTS.com>

From our American Dance family to yours, have a wonderful Christmas, New Years, and holiday celebration. May you be showered with many blessings. You have all blessed our lives so much. Please *keep in touch* in the coming year.

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*Sincerely,*

*Joyce E. Pennington, Pres. CEO*

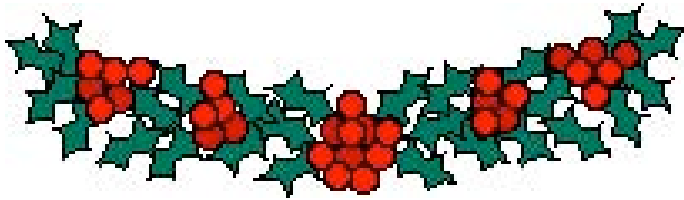
*American Dance/Drill Team*

*www.DanceADTS.com*

*800/462-5719*



## Twelve Days of Christmas



Here is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who

won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

Today, I found out. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to the members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.



The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with me and I found it interesting and enlightening and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol.