

## *Congratulations!!*

♥ *Shawna and Andrew Devoe* are the proud parents of a daughter, *Madison Reeves Devoe*, born July 7, 1996 in New Hampshire. Shawna is Bruce & Roxanne Hoerning's daughter, Virginia Ferguson's granddaughter, #5 Elsie's great-granddaughter.

♥ *Michael Keeley and Elizabeth Ann Bachman* were married on September 14, 1996 in St Bartholomew Church, East Brunswick NJ. They are now residing in New York City. Michael is Lawrence & Frances Keeley's son, Gertrude's grandson, #2 Frank's great-grandson.

## *1997 Birthdays!!*

Last year we designated a monthly *Prayer Day* for the Lucke Family members who celebrated their Birthday that month. The "birthday people" were invited to pray for one another. This year, we decided to take this prayer to another level, and ask the whole family to participate. The Blessing below could be used, or you could substitute something of your own choice or composition. [If you find something special, please send it along; we can use it next year.]

A calendar showing our 1997 birthdays is enclosed; the *Prayer Day* for each month is shown with a "praying hands" picture. [PLEASE: If there are any errors or omissions, let us know and we'll send out corrections.]

## A BLESSING ON BIRTHDAYS

*A member of the household may lead this prayer at table or at another time. [A reading from Scripture may be selected and read first.]*

God of all creation, we offer you grateful praise for the gift of life. Hear the prayers of (N.....), your servant, who recalls today the gift of (his/her) birth and rejoices in your gifts of life and love, family and friends. Bless (N.....) with your presence and surround (him/her) with your love that (he/she) may enjoy many happy years, all of them pleasing to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Those present may place their hands on the head or shoulders of the one being blessed and pray:*

May God, in whose presence our ancestors walked, bless you. Amen.

May God, who has been your shepherd from birth until now, keep you. Amen.

May God, who saves you from all harm, give you peace. Amen.

[from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, pgs 211-213]