

WILLIAM AMADEUS



William: The English form of the Old German name *Wil Helm* "resolute defender"

Amadeus: A Latin name meaning "lover of God"

Roland: The English form of the Old French name *Hrudoland* (c. 800 A.D.) "famous throughout the country"

Born at Emmetsburg, Iowa on Wednesday, November twenty-sixth, in the year of our Lord two thousand and three at six 'o six in the evening, six pounds, fourteen ounces, eighteen and a half inches tall, hair: black, eyes: blue.

William's birth was positively Providential, guided by the same God who causes "the deer to calve." It was beautiful and simple--a three hour labor, culminating in a gentle, natural birth, into his father's hands. In a dimly lit room, we were gently soothed by the music of Mozart and loving support--all of this in a hospital setting, which was unusual for us, since our previous three have all been born at home. We are so thankful for the health and safety of both "mother and child," and also that we made it to the hospital with time to spare (!) and for our very kind and considerate doctor.

During this Advent Season, we love having a real newborn baby. He has been an object lesson to us: THIS is what Jesus was like--just like this! He was an utterly helpless, tiny baby who breathed and cried and hiccuped, and looked at the world with serious alert eyes--just like our William. And yet, the world He saw for the first time. He had created. "La Corona" is a poem by the English writer John Donne. This piece which speaks of Mary, Jesus' mother, has been on my mind.

We are enjoying our "studies and education." It has been a year of reading--Jim read thousands of pages for his thesis, I read thousands of pages of children's books, including *Goodnight Moon* and *The Owl and The Pussy Cat* at least one hundred times each (aloud of course!), and Jim and I are enjoying the process of introducing some of our childhood favorites to a very receptive Sophia and Maria. This year we made it through some excellent ones: *Charolette's Web*, *Wind*

in the Willows, several Pooh books, *Little House in the Big Woods*, *Little House on the Prairie*, and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. It is such a pleasure to watch them enjoying the stories for the very first time, and remember the effect they had on our own young lives.

The year began with us living with my (Heidi's) parents on the farm, finishing the new addition. We were richly blessed with the close proximity of loving parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles! Spring

brought five vegetable gardens into our lives--and a Farmer's Market in West Bend to sell homemade bread, jams, jellies and all the extra produce! Even Peter got into the act--he dug, planted and even weeded easy things like the tomatoes and vines. I was delighted to have the girls eat fresh foods from the garden and learn the names of many flowers, edible plants and herbs. Sophia has even excused herself from the table to run outdoors and pick a handful of chives when she thought our tomato soup tasted bland. ☺ In late July we found a wonderful farm home for rent--it's name is Meadow Run. It is

the most charming acreage you could imagine with rolling pastures divided by a tripping stream and bounded with fir, pine, apple and plum trees. Bird songs fill the air along with the lowing of cattle. The farmhouse is white with green shutters and its best

Holy Sonnets
"La Corona"
2 ANNUNCIATION

Salvation to all that will is nigh;
That All, which always is All everywhere,
Which cannot sin, and yet all sins must bear,
Which cannot die, yet cannot choose but die,
Lo, faithful Virgin, yields Himself to lie
In prison, in thy womb; and though He there
Can take no sin, nor thou give, yet He'll wear
Taken from thence, flesh, which death's force may try.
Ere by the spheres time was created, thou
Wast in His mind, who is thy Son, and Brother;
Whom thou conceiv'st, conceiv'd; yea thou art now
Thy maker's maker, and thy Father's mother;
Thou hast light in dark; and shutt'st in little room,
Immensity cloister'd in thy dear womb.

John Donne (A.D.1572-1631)

