

Below: right to left: Mr. Samuel Thomas, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mrs. Rohanna Thomas, Samuel's mother



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AN

ODE



TO



CHRISTMAS

TIME

From our poet

Mr. Samuel Thomas

AN ODE TO CHRISTMAS TIME

A boy unwraps a fishbowl to find
a baby beluga swimming inside,
spitting cold water from its
smirking lips.

Outside the living room window,
snow descends timelessly,
a family is curled around a fire,
slowly the roof unfolds like a paper plate
and white flakes settle on furniture,

Little elves with chubby fingers
and green felt hats crawl out from
hiding spots to deposit
silver cups of steaming cider,
one remains and plays the violin,

The fireplace crackles and flickers,
wafts of roast turkey stick to the air,
pink-cheeked cherubim fluttering above,
perch themselves on shoulders and
the mantelpiece.

In a corner, a candle flame highlights
a barn holding a baby boy, awed parents,
and gathered onlookers,
stained-glass pictures hang
from window frames.

Over the unclosed roof,
the glow of the night attracts
a daughter's tiny hands,
from a gemmed black sky,
she plucks a handful of plump hot stars
like magnets from a fridge
to be placed on the snow covered
arms of a fir.

As the white coated room rises,
the baby whale circles
the fish bowl, and winks
at the children before
shooting out, and disappearing
into a deep chamber of white.