

FEATURING

Activities and events of interest



A memorable night of faith, fellowship, and fun at the ballpark

Catholic Night with the San Antonio Missions took place on September 1 at Nelson W. Wolff Stadium. Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS, prayed a special pre-game blessing and threw out the ceremonial first pitch, while a Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Honor Guard displayed the colors during the National Anthem. The hometown team was victorious over the Midland Rockhounds 7-1.

VERONICA MARKLAND | TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Book Review

Adventures of Harry Wayne the Wolfchicken shows true character

► Reviewed by **Julie Catalano**, for Today's Catholic

Adventures of Harry Wayne the WolfChicken, Maurice Prater, author, Anna Morelli, illustrator. Divine Providence Press, an imprint of Wiseblood Books, paperback, 40 pages, 2026.

Life is hard for Harry Wayne and his father George in Great Depression-era America in the 1930s. Author Maurice Prater smoothly balances the reality of the times – the loss of security and the emotional weight of poverty – with optimism centered in everyday acts of courage. The story conveys wholesome, unpretentious virtue without sermonizing or preaching, and readers of all ages might find themselves asking, What would I have done?

Father and son share a deep loss of a mother and wife, whose presence is softly depicted throughout without being maudlin. Harry has fond memories of his mother lightly tousling his wayward hair, the same head of hair that prompts the school bully Leroy to taunt Harry with “Are you too poor to get a haircut?” Leroy then bestows a nickname upon his hapless victim: the Wolfchicken. It turns out to be an apt metaphor for how children navigate growing up – sometimes boldly, sometimes timidly – and it foreshadows the test of character that Harry will soon face.

Prater subtly portrays economic gloom with references to bare cupboards, fried baloney sandwiches, and George lamenting the lack of customers for his coal delivery service. In ways both subtly and visibly, every page keeps the reader in tough times but with glimmers of light, like Harry humming a Bing Crosby tune and characters de-



lighted at sharing a simple meal after saying grace.

Likewise, Anna Morelli's illustrations convey the somber, spare feel of the times. Her rich but muted palette of browns, greens, and blues is picture-perfect for 1930s America, softening history's starkness without minimizing its significance. This is an ideal cross-generational book, affording elders the opportunity to relay real-life stories from their own parents, giving young readers a chance to

connect familial dots between past and present.

Despite its whimsical title, Prater addresses serious themes of moral courage, personal integrity, and most importantly, doing the right thing even when nobody is looking. Or perhaps doing the right thing because nobody is looking. He shows that true character is forged in small everyday choices, that even when life is not easy it can still be loving, and that having faith can bring a sweet, surprising possibility of better times to come.

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Fall Festival

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