



PRAYER AND PRETZELS

by Mrs. Stephen Bogdan

Philadelphia is known for its delicious, soft pretzels sold everywhere.

Pretzels came to America through the kindly, hospitable people called Pennsylvania Dutch ... whose ancestors were not Dutchmen but German.

They have always been famous cooks, and one of the delicious food items they brought was the pretzel with a salty, intriguing taste and a queer, twisted shape.

However, the word, "pretzel," comes from the Latin word, "pretiola." The meaning of this word, pretiola, is a "small reward."

In Southern Europe were many monasteries where monks taught religion to the neighboring children.

When the children learned their Bible lessons correctly, the monks gave them one of these tasty tidbits.

The special shape evolved because children prayed with crossed arms.

In ancient pictures angels, too, are often shown with crossed arms.

Next time you munch on a pretzel, think of prayer. Remember Jesus said, "Pray to thy Father who sees you in secret ... and He shall reward you openly."

