

The Courier Journal

Youth Section

JOE and JUDY



The Story of Little Juanito

By Sister M. Marcellino, O. S. U.

"DADDY, we began special First Communion instructions in school today," said Johnny. "Dad, will you tell me something? How does it happen that we are Catholics, and none of our cousins or aunts and uncles, or grandfathers and grandmothers are?"

"Climb up here beside me," answered Dad. "I've been waiting until you were big enough to wonder about that to tell you a true story. Are you all set?"

"This story happened when you were still too little to go to school, Johnny. We were not Catholics then, Mummy and I, and you and the girls. I was a soldier fighting in the war. One day my plane crashed. I parachuted to safety, but was captured and sent to a Jap prison camp.

"IT WAS NOT very pleasant in prison. Another soldier and I planned to escape. We did get away and up into the hills where many Filipinos were hiding and doing what they could to make it difficult for the enemy soldiers.

"I traveled with the Filipino guerrillas for a long time. One day we went far inland to a hidden valley to rest and reorganize. Many people were living in the lovely valley, hiding from the Japs. They had helped many American soldiers to safety.

"My best friend in the valley was a little Filipino boy, not much older than you are now. His name, too, was Johnny, only in Spanish you say 'Juanito.' He called me Big John, and he was proud because we had the same name.

"JUANITO AND I spent lots of time together. We would go fishing to help supply food for the group. For long hours we would talk. I learned many things from Juanito. Beautiful, wonderful things. I began to understand how this little boy could be so happy, could have such peace of soul, although he had lost his mother and father, his brothers

and sisters, and his lovely home in the war.

"Because Juanito had faith in God, his heart was serene. He taught me a great deal about his religion. He made me see how empty my own life was without faith in God and trust in His goodness.

"After months of quiet and rest in our hidden valley we were all excited and happy when a priest came to join us. There would be Mass, Juanito told me, and the joy of receiving the Sacraments. And the Padre could begin to instruct me in the truths of faith. Juanito was happy because through him I had learned to know and love the good God.

"THEN ONE MORNING a frightened native raced into our camp to tell us that Jap soldiers were coming up the trail. They were searching for Americans. There was not time enough to reach the hidden cave we had prepared for such an emergency. There was only time for me to slip out of sight at the edge of the forest, where I remained quiet in hopes that by chance the Japs would not come my way.

"The Japs searched every hut in vain. No American was to be found. My friends and I began to breathe more easily, when one of the soldiers decided to search the bushes at the edge of the forest. He came directly towards me. I could not escape. Then Juanito took a desperate chance. He pretended to look anxiously in the opposite direction. He began to run, shouting, 'Big John, run away! The Japs are coming!'

"The soldiers raced after the boy. One of them threw a hand grenade. There was an awful flash and Juanito lay in a heap on the ground, while the soldiers raced into the woods in the opposite direction from my hiding place.

"WITH A HEAVY heart I hurried to the cave we had ready. When night came, and it was safe, the Padre climbed up to me. He told me that Juanito was blind. I sent him loving messages and a promise that I would find him again some day.

"Later I was recaptured. In prison camp while I waited for V-J Day when we would be released, I thought often of Juanito and prayed for him. After the Americans came I received permission to visit the valley. Memories of my friends, especially Juanito, filled my mind as I climbed the trail.

"He was there! So was the Padre, who was gathering together the orphans to care for them. I thought of adopting Juanito and bringing him here

to America, but the Padre said it would be wiser to leave him in his beloved homeland. So I arranged to support and educate him, besides helping the Padre with his fund for a new building to house his orphans.

"I CAN'T find words, Johnny, to tell you of the joy of my reunion with Juanito. He is such a happy boy. He was even glad to be blind because he gave his sight for his friend, and because his blindness may be the price of the gift of faith for me and you and Mummy and the girls.

"Some day we will sail on a big ship to visit the Padre and Juanito. Remember this story, Johnny, and while you are getting ready for First Communion

Word Square

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

- 1 Rescue
- 2 Word said at end of prayer
- 3 Offer for sale
- 4 Ceases

pray for your Filipino brother, who gave us all the precious gift of faith."

FILIPINO CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- Across
- 1 Loyal
 - 2 Second note of diatonic scale
 - 3 Melody for solo voice
 - 4 Furthest
 - 5 Trap of masked word
 - 6 Stuffed seat
 - 7 Group of angry people
 - 8 Goes with "or" when naming a choice of two things
 - 9 Garden of Paradise
 - 10 Part of verb "to be"
 - 11 One of two borders of mouth
 - 12 Scents
 - 13 Close by
 - 14 This one is "Rep." a dress fabric
 - 15 Cologne cathedral is in this country
- Down
- 16 Enigma who has and has not
 - 17 another
 - 18 Anger
 - 19 Leaves of this plant make a drink
 - 20 Fourth note of diatonic scale
 - 21 Beardless vessel
 - 22 Untruth
 - 23 Devoured
 - 24 Snatch
 - 25 Remove outer layer from fruit
 - 26 Deep, deepest
 - 27 Come six o'clock
 - 28 Remembrance of happenings
 - 29 Goes with "either"
 - 30 With
 - 31 Frenzied
 - 32 To talk dinner
 - 33 Vipera
 - 34 Latin "pray"
 - 35 Same as 7 across
 - 36 Same as 22 across

BRAINY - BETSY

Of course you know there isn't really a man in the moon, but can you answer these other questions about the moon?

- 1 Which of these numbers is closest to the distance from the earth to the moon? 100,000 miles? 200,000? 300,000 miles?
- 2 Does the moon have nights and days like those of the earth?
- 3 Would it be easy to walk on the moon's surface?
- 4 Does the moon have any effect on the oceans?
- 5 What month did the Indians call The Harvest Moon? What month the Winter Moon? And The Moon of the Plow?

WORD LADDER

Climb down from READ to SANG, changing only one letter at a time.

READ

SANG

Answers

- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 31

FUN WITH NUMBERS

$$9 \times 9 = 81 \quad \times = 10$$

$$\frac{12}{14} = \frac{12}{14} \quad \frac{70}{7} = 10$$

Here are two sets of remarkable numbers. Can you work them correctly?

- 123,456,789 x 11 =
- 12,345,678 x 9 =
- 1,234,567 x 9 =
- 123,456 x 9 =
- 12,345 x 9 =
- 1,234 x 9 =
- 123 x 9 =
- 12 x 9 =
- 1 x 9 =
- 123,456,789 x 9 + 10 =
- 12,345,678 x 9 + 9 =
- 1,234,567 x 9 + 8 =
- 123,456 x 9 + 7 =
- 12,345 x 9 + 6 =
- 1,234 x 9 + 5 =
- 123 x 9 + 4 =
- 12 x 9 + 3 =
- 1 x 9 + 2 =