

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

Tears of sorrow, tears of joy

By Janaan Manternach
NC News Service

Tears streamed down the woman's face. She leaned against the side of the stone tomb in the garden. On Friday evening she had helped place Jesus' bruised body inside the tomb.

Images of those terrible moments two days before were painfully fresh. Her name was Mary, the same name as that of Jesus' mother. She could still see the pain on Jesus' face as he hung on the cross. She remembered how she wanted to reach out to ease his pain, but there was nothing she could do.

She sobbed. Her memory drifted back to happier days. Mary remembered the first time she met Jesus. It was in Galilee, near the lakeshore. She lived in Magdala, a town beside the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was living in nearby Capernaum.

Mary heard Jesus teaching by the lakeside. She got to know him better in the home of her friend Salome, the mother of James and John, two of Jesus' first followers. She decided to support Jesus in his mission of preaching. She and Salome and a few other women went with Jesus and his disciples as they traveled from town to town.

Mary thought of the beautiful day when Jesus touched her and cured her. She never knew just what her illness was. People said she was possessed by seven evil spirits. Whatever it was, Jesus healed her. She never forgot that. She knew then how much she loved him. From then on she lived to help Jesus, and to be with him wherever he went.

Suddenly her mind jumped back from those happy memories

to the cold realities of the tomb. Mary wiped away some tears. She bent over and looked into the tomb. She was amazed to see two angels in dazzling white robes. They were seated at both ends of the stone slab on which Jesus' body had been placed.

"Woman," they asked, "why are you crying?"

"Someone has taken my Lord away," she said. "And I don't know where they have put him."

Mary began sobbing again. She turned away from the tomb and saw someone standing nearby. She thought it was the gardener.

"Woman, why are you crying?" the man asked.

"If you took him away," Mary begged, "please tell me where you have put him."

The man said just one word, with a tone of voice that Mary recognized at once.

"Mary!" Jesus said softly. "Rabboni!" Mary shouted. That means "teacher." Her sad tears turned to tears of joy. He was alive!

Jesus was delighted to see Mary. "Don't cling to me," Jesus said to her. "Run back and tell the others that I am returning to my Father, to my God and your God."

Mary ran back to the friends and followers of Jesus. She was so excited. She told them what had happened.

"Jesus is alive!" she reported. "I saw him. He spoke to me. I touched him. He's alive!"

Story Hour biblical quotes — this week from John 20:11-18 — are paraphrased.

(Ms. Manternach is the author of numerous catechetical books and articles for children.)

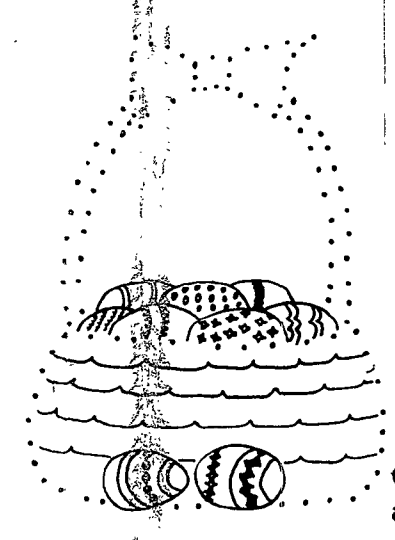
GAME CORNER

Easter Hunt

Fill in the missing vowels.

_ G G S
R _ B B _ T
B _ S K _ T
T _ M B
J _ L L Y B _ _ N
R _ S _ N

Answers: eggs, rabbit, basket, tomb, jelly bean, risen.



A Family Easter Contest

See how many words you can make out of the word **EASTER**, write them down. Examples: at, eat. (What do you think the winner should get?)

Connect the dots to make an Easter treat holder.



Trust

After ordination to the priesthood in his native Ireland, Father Peter Quinn came to America to give his life of priestly service to the disadvantaged living in our poorest home mission areas.

Supported by grants from the Catholic Extension Society, Father Quinn has earned the trust of his Mississippi parishioners by devoted service to their spiritual needs. He is part of a team of home missionaries who, together with Extension, pursue the vital and urgent task of evangelization here in the United States. But the team is too small to do the job without help. It needs new members. It needs you.

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HOW ABOUT YOU?

In the spring, what comes back to life in nature? Why do you like the season of spring, the time when Easter comes?

Children's Reading Corner

"From — Understanding the Resurrection" is a fascinating little book by Beverly Ann Beckmann. Children and adults might look at the pictures and read the words together or alone. Afterward they might remember what it was like when events in their lives went from bad to good, when what seemed to be the end turned into a new beginning.

In this book there are six resurrection stories. For example, night turns into a blazing sunrise, a dead tree becomes alive with new leaves, a bulb hidden in the earth changes into a white lily. The final story is "From the grave in the side of the hill comes new life, the risen Christ." It is a book that tells of the daily resurrections that occur in your life and of the resurrection of Jesus who is the source of new life. (Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63118, 1980. Paperback, \$3.95)