

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

How Angelo tended his vineyard

By Janaan Manternach
NC News Service

Angelo grew up in a small village in Italy. His parents rented a small farm. They grew grapes and vegetables. They were proud to be farmers.

Angelo's father, John, loved to work in the fields. He dreamed of the day he would own his own vineyard. He hoped his children would love farming as much as he did.

Angelo was the oldest son. He had 12 brothers and sisters. His father counted most on Angelo to grow up to help him on the farm.

But Angelo didn't like farming. He felt bad that he did not enjoy working on the farm as his father did. His family had always been farmers.

It wasn't that Angelo hated hard work. He liked another kind of work. He knew his talents were for other things.

Soon Angelo knew everything that he could learn in the village school. His parents let him go to a bigger school in a town about five



miles away. Angelo walked to and from school. He did chores on the farm, too.

The priest in his village was a friend of Angelo's father and mother. Father Rebuzzini helped Angelo with his lessons.

His parents kept wishing Angelo would be like the rest of the family. They hoped he would still become a farmer. But they knew, in their hearts that Angelo wanted to be a priest.

Father Rebuzzini encouraged

Angelo. The good priest talked with Angelo's mother and father. He told them he thought God was calling their son to be a priest. Finally Angelo's parents let their boy go off to the city to study to be a priest.

Angelo missed his family, but he knew he was developing the gifts and talents God gave him.

Eventually Angelo Roncalli became a priest. He worked with the poor. He served in the Army. He taught in the seminary. He

wrote books. He was a diplomat. He lived in many parts of the world. He became a bishop, then a cardinal. He always tried to keep growing and to become the best person he could be.

Then as an old man he was chosen to be pope. He took his father's name, calling himself Pope John XXIII. Some of those who elected him hoped he would keep everything the way it was in the church.

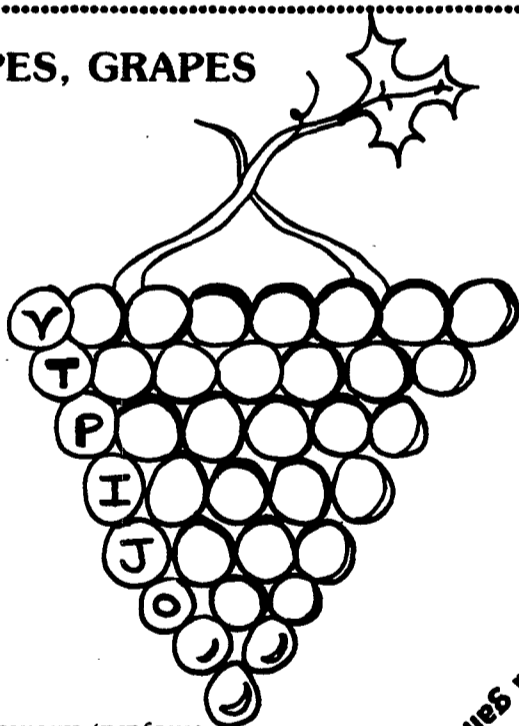
But Pope John XXIII remembered something he learned as a young boy. He remembered how important it is to grow and develop. He believed that God wants us to achieve our fullest possibilities.

Pope John thought all in the church had possibilities to grow. He called all the leaders of the church together to talk about how to do just that.

(Ms. Manternach is the author of catechetical works, Scripture stories and original stories for children.)

GRAPES, GRAPES, GRAPES

Fill in the grapes with letters to form words from this week's children's story. Then color in the grapes.



vineyard, talents, priest, John, old a game

HOW ABOUT YOU?

There is more than one way to grow — we get taller or stronger. But we can also grow inside. Do you think people can learn to love, to care more?

Children's Reading Corner

"Always, Always" is a story by Crescent Dragonwagon. Children and adults might enjoy reading it aloud together. Afterward they might talk about things that remain sure and dependable even though great changes occur. In the story the living pattern of a young girl changes with her parents' divorce. She lives from the fall through the spring with her mother and summers with her father. It is hard each time she has to separate from one parent to go live with the other. She learns that one thing will never change: how much her parents love her. "We both love you," her mother said, "and we always, always will." (Macmillan Publishing Co., New York, N.Y. 1984. Hardback. \$10.95.)



Discovery

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