

## CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

## Pierre's love of nature

By Janaan Manternach  
NC News Service

Pierre loved to take walks through the woods with his father. Their home was in a rugged part of France with many hills and dark woods.

He was amazed how his father knew the names of all the trees and flowers, the rocks and minerals. Pierre and his father picked up many interesting objects during their walks.

Pierre's mother was excited each time the two came in from their walks. She greeted them with tea and cookies. Pierre showed her each rock and flower they picked up. He carefully added each one to their growing collections.

Pierre's greatest find was a piece of iron from an old plough. He kept it in a secret place and loved to take it out and rub his hands over it. He liked it because it felt so solid and strong. But then he discovered that it could rust. That made him sad.

He became fascinated with

some of the colored stones he found in the area around his house. Pierre loved quartz crystals. They were solid, but let light through.

His childhood love for iron and rocks and everything close to the earth remained with Pierre Teilhard de Chardin all his life. When he was a young member of the Jesuit religious order, studying in England, he never took a walk without taking along a magnifying glass and a small hammer.

With the hammer he broke open rocks he found. Then he could look at them carefully with the magnifying glass. He was learning to be a scientist.

He felt close to the world and everything in it. Pierre seemed to find God everywhere.

He became a priest and continued his work as a scientist. He went to Egypt to study and teach. There he discovered the remains of a world long past — pyramids and tombs, the Nile River, the desert.

And his contact with the past

sparked his interest in the future. He sensed that the Spirit of Christ was drawing people over the centuries to a better life, a more loving life.

Then Father de Chardin went to China. There he did important work mapping the rocks and fossils in areas that never had been mapped before.

Father de Chardin spent his last years in New York. People who knew him were impressed by his scientific knowledge. He still loved to look at rocks and flowers as

he walked in Central Park. He still studied relics of ancient times.

But those who knew him were even more impressed by his love of people and of God. He was kind and sensitive. He listened to others as few people listened. He suffered much but was mostly cheerful and full of hope.

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



a game

### Missing Vowels

Fill in the vowels in the phrases below. All of the phrases are contained in this week's children's story.

- w \_ lks thr \_ gh th \_ w \_ ds
- th \_ n \_ m \_ s \_ f \_ ll th \_ tr \_ s
- w \_ th t \_ \_ nd c \_ k \_ s
- p \_ \_ c \_ \_ f \_ r \_ n
- t \_ f \_ nd G \_ d \_ v \_ rywh \_ r \_
- m \_ pp \_ ng th \_ r \_ cks \_ nd f \_ ss \_ ls
- r \_ l \_ cs \_ f \_ nc \_ nt t \_ m \_ s
- k \_ nd \_ nd s \_ ns \_ t \_ v \_

answers: 1. walks through the woods, 2. the names of all the trees, 3. with tea and cookies, 4. piece of iron, 5. to find God everywhere, 6. mapping the rocks and fossils, 7. relics of ancient times, 8. kind and sensitive.

a game

## HOW ABOUT YOU?

Do you like to watch films or TV programs, or read books that tell the story of life hundreds of years ago, in biblical times for example? Can you name a story you enjoyed about life long ago? What do you think you can learn by knowing about the past?

### Children's Reading Corner

To understand more about ourselves, we often trace our family trees, visit the birthplaces of our ancestors and gather stories about grandparents and great-grandparents. In the story "The Sky Was Blue," by Charlotte Zolotow, a little girl does this with her mother and a photograph album. Children and adults might enjoy reading this book together. Afterward they might look at some family albums together. Perhaps this will help them to recall something from the past that is important to them now. (Harper and Row Publishers, 10 E. 53 St., New York, N.Y. 10022, 1963. Hardback. \$6.95.)



## It's your move.

Maria was born into a community without options. Or resources. It couldn't even afford the services of a mission priest.

Today things are better. The parish has a priest who can stay and serve because his expenses are paid by the Catholic Church Extension Society. And that's what Extension does—it brings the Church to Americans who would otherwise be without it.

The priest who serves Maria's community is able to stay because he receives an expense subsidy made possible by the Catholic Church Extension Society.

Your parish has more options than Maria's did. It can choose to distribute Extension Calendars. By exercising that option your parish will have a direct hand in bringing the Church to poor and remote communities here in the United States.

It's your move. Check your parish calendar. If it's an Extension calendar, why not thank the sponsor or your pastor for helping us continue our work. If it's not, write us at: Extension Calendars, Room 400 F, 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601, and we will be happy to send you one.



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