

# The Bible Corner

Cindy Cottone



## The Jesus Prayer

It was dawn. Daylight was slowly filling the room. John was not sleeping. He'd been up all night thinking, still trying to sort out what had happened over the past two days. A sick feeling came over him as he remembered again. Jesus, his best friend, was gone.

John still couldn't believe it. His own people, the Jews, had killed Jesus. They had crucified Him. And what a strange prayer Jesus had uttered as He hung there on the cross! John had been standing at the foot of the cross just then with Mary, Jesus' mother. He had heard the prayer very clearly. There was no mistaking the words. Jesus had said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

Even after all that had happened to Him, Jesus still found it in His heart to pray for those who had done this awful thing to Him. To pray for enemies?

Prayer had always been important to Jesus, as it was for any devout Jew. But there was something very special about the prayers of Jesus.

John remembered the time that Jesus had preached to 5,000 people. It was hot and dry, and the people had been there all day. John feared that they would collapse from exhaustion on the journey back home. But Jesus had taken care of all that. Someone had brought up five loaves and two fishes for Jesus. He had taken them and, after praying, He told the apostles to distribute the food to the people. All 5,000 people had eaten and gone away happy. It was late, and Jesus sent His apostles away, too. He went up into the mountains then, all alone, to pray.

Another time, Jesus had gone to the home of Martha and Mary to see their brother, Lazarus, who was very sick. Mary had rushed out to greet them. "Lord," she said, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus. He prayed to His father and then told the apostles to roll back the stone in front of the tomb. Lazarus had been raised from the dead!

Once, when all of the apostles had been gathered around him, they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus had answered, "Your father knows the things you need before you ask Him. So when you pray, you should pray like this:

Our Father who is in heaven,  
Praised be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our sins,  
As we forgive those who do wrong to us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.

"Yes, if you forgive others for the things they do wrong, then your Father in heaven will also forgive you for the things you do wrong. But if you don't forgive the wrongs of others, then your Father in heaven will not forgive the wrong things you do" (Matthew 6/8-15).

Forgive those who do wrong to us? That's why Jesus had prayed for those who had crucified Him. John remembered then, that last night in the garden

before Jesus' death. Jesus had asked His apostles to stay and pray with Him. And they had all fallen asleep and let Jesus down when He had needed them most.

"Jesus, forgive me," John prayed. There was a pounding on the door. It was Mary Magdalene. "John, hurry, come quick!" she cried. "They've taken Jesus out of the tomb. I don't know where they could have put the body."

For discussion:

- 1) What is the name of the prayer that Jesus taught to His apostles?
- 2) When Mary Magdalene came to John's house, what day was it? Where was Jesus?
- 3) If we do something wrong and are sorry and pray to Jesus, will He forgive us?
- 4) How should we treat those people who dislike us?

For further reading:

Jesus prayed many times throughout His life. Find the parts of the Bible in which these times are recorded.

- 1) Before choosing His apostles — Luke 6/12.
- 2) After feeding the 5,000 people — Matthew 14/22-24.
- 3) Before raising Lazarus — John 11/41-43.
- 4) Jesus teaches the apostles to pray — Matthew 6/8-15.

### Bowl-for-Breath

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will sponsor the annual Bowl-for-Breath week Saturday, Nov. 23, to Sunday, Nov. 30. Anyone interested in raising money for the foundation may participate at any of the 52 bowling centers in the Rochester area.

A sponsor sheet may be obtained at the Cystic Fibrosis office or local Wendy's and Fay's stores. Participants are asked to recruit as many additional bowlers as possible.

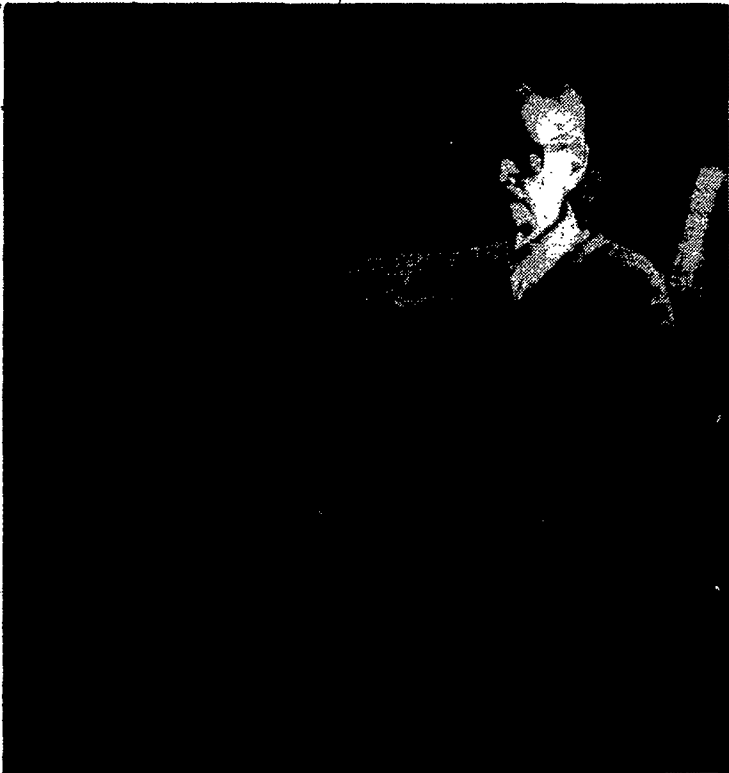
For additional information, call Angela Avallone, (716)546-5890.

### Arts and Crafts Show

The Parents' Association of Our Lady of Mercy High School will offer its 11th Annual Arts and Crafts Show and Sale Saturday, Nov. 23, and Sunday, Nov. 24, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the school, 1437 Blossom Road.

This show will feature more than 50 area craftsmen and artisans, with a variety of Christmas decorations and gift ideas. Refreshments and baked goods will be offered throughout the show.

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## TRAIN ANOTHER CHRIST

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

**DO IT FOR CHRISTMAS** For Christmas, keep in mind the penniless young man who needs your help to become a zealous priest. Help him now and you'll have first place in every Mass he offers... We'll send you his name immediately, tell you where he's studying, and he will write to you. By mail he'll be a member of your family... How can you help him? All he needs (for food, clothing, lodging and books) is \$15 a month, for costs overseas are low. Please God, six years from now he'll invite you to his Ordination... Meanwhile, will you let us hear from you? He needs your prayers, your encouragement—and the cost of his training (\$15 a month, \$180 a year, \$1080 all together) you may take care of at your own convenience. The fact is he needs you, and so does God. We hope you'll write today.

**TIP FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS** Finish your Christmas shopping in the next ten minutes by using our Christmas Gift Cards. They combine your Christmas greetings with a gift to the missions (tax-deductible in the U.S.) in the name of the person you designate. Simply select a gift from the list below, send us the person's name and address with your donation—we do all the rest. We'll send that person a Gift Card saying what you have done... **Altar** (\$100), **Mass kit** (\$75), **medical kit** (\$75), **chalice** (\$40), **ciborium** (\$40), **tabernacle** (\$25), **family membership** in this Association (\$100 for life, \$10 for a year), **sanctuary bell** (\$5).

**CHRISTMAS REMINDER** You can brighten your dinner Christmas Day by feeding hungry refugees in the Holy Land. \$20 will feed a family for a month! In thanks, upon request, we'll send you an Olive Wood Rosary from the Holy Land.

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