

Kids' Chronicle

THURSDAY, October 13, 1994 VOLUME III, ISSUE NO. 10

St. Paul writes a letter

Paul knew some of his friends were afraid that the king's soldiers would put them in prison for being Christians. He did not want them to be discouraged, so he wrote them a letter:

My dear friends,

God cares for you even in this time of hardship and he will bless you according to your faithfulness. He sees the kindness you show each other and your commitment to making the Gospel known to everyone.

When Moses gave God's laws to the ancients, he explained that the priests were selected to minister to God in the temples and to offer sacrifices to make up for the sins of the people. They also had the power to serve as judges, but their main duties were to keep the temple holy and to teach the Israelites how to live holy lives.

God sent his son, Jesus, to be our high priest and to set an example for us to follow. Jesus led a life of prayer, yet God used difficulties in his life to teach him the value of humility, obedience and faith. As a result, God made Jesus the savior of the world, and a sacrifice for our sins.

I am telling you these things because I do not want you to be afraid or give up because of hard times. I doubt that any of you have endured the tribulation of Job, yet through it all, he remembered that God tests us because he loves us and that testing leads to blessing. You punish your own children to teach them right from wrong and to

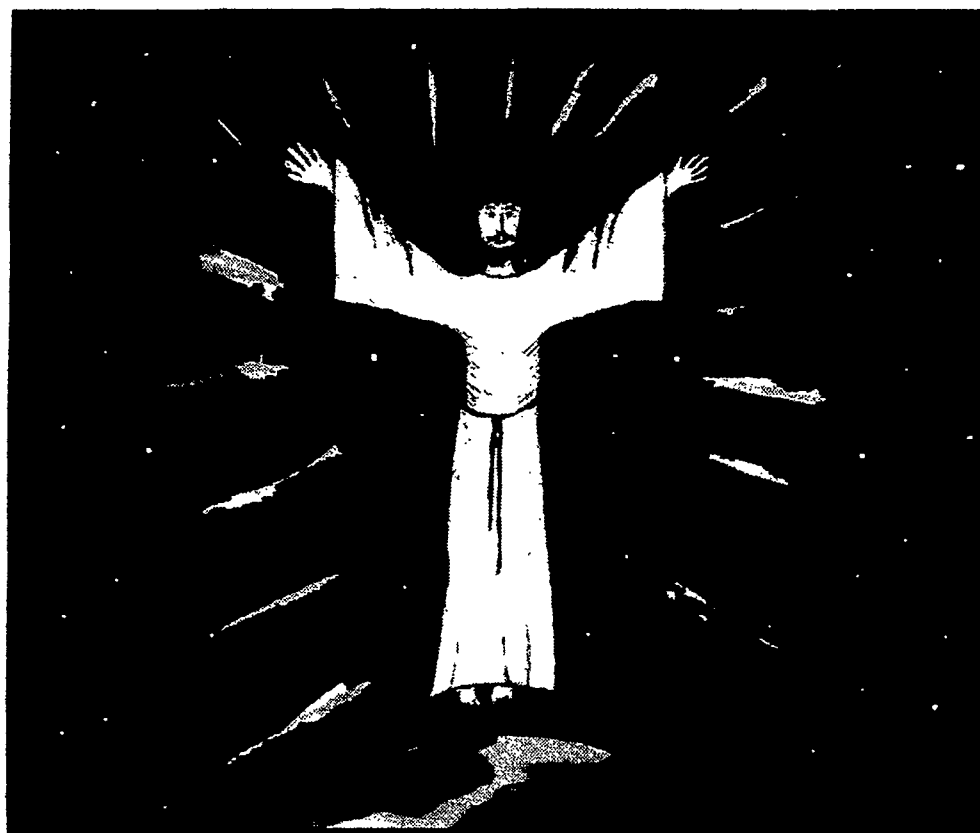


Illustration by Kathy Welsh

protect them from dangers they may not know about. God's love for us is much greater than this. He wants us to be the best Christians we can be.

If love for others is our top priority, we will certainly please God. This is what Jesus taught us; it is how he lived. Pray for each other, especially for those in prison because of their faith. Try to lead holy lives.

Let the words of the psalmist be your guide when he said, "Because God is

my helper, I will not be afraid." God will provide you with everything you need to serve him. May God always be with you.

Your friend,

Paul

Read more about: The book of Hebrews

Q&A

1. Why did Paul write this letter?
2. How did Job feel about his problems?

Bible Accent

October 24 marks the 49th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, to which more than 180 world countries now belong. The U.N.'s two main goals are world peace and humane treatment for every man, woman, and child in the world.

One committee of the U.N. works to prevent countries from going to war with each other. Diplomats meet with nations' leaders in the hope of working out disagreements peacefully.

1994 has been a year of violence and cruelty in U.S. ghettos, Africa, South America, Haiti, Cuba, and other parts of the world. As Christians, we should always pray for peace and respect for all life.

St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis was born in the Italian village of Assisi in 1182. His father was a wealthy merchant who wanted his son to inherit his business. But Francis felt a strong call by God to lead a life of poverty and concern for the poor. He also had a deep love for animals. In 1979, Pope John Paul II declared Francis the patron saint of ecology.

Because of his dedication and generosity, Francis attracted a number of followers. They eventually became part of the holy order he founded, called the Franciscans. The Franciscans are some of the best known religious today because they strive to follow the example of kindness and compassion set by Francis of Assisi. We honor this saint on October 4.



Biblical Women

Which of the following women have books of the Bible named after them? Answers on page 2.

- Esther
- Elizabeth
- Ruth
- Sarah
- Mary
- Rebekah

Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) that answers this question:

What would life on Earth be like if there were no wars?

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is November 2, 1994. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of Kids' Chronicle.

Last month's winner was Danny Castle, a fifth-grade student at St. Mary Our Mother School in Horseheads. In response to the question "How would you feel if it were against the law to be a Christian?" He wrote:

If it were against the law to be a Christian, I would be both mad and sad. I would still pray at home with my family and at night. I would hope that somehow we could have a real Mass. Hopefully the punishment would not be that bad so if anyone got caught, they would not stop praying. I hope it never becomes a law.

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