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THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1995

# The Last Supper

By JOE SARNICOLA

s the Feast of Passover approached, some of the chief **I**priests and religious leaders were afraid of the popularity of Jesus, so they plotted ways to have him killed. Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' own disciples, came to the priests secretly to help them in their plan. For a sum of silver, Judas agreed to betray Jesus when the opportunity presented itself.

On Passover day, Jesus sent Peter and John to prepare a banquet room for the evening's celebration supper.

"Where will we find such a room on short notice?" asked Peter.

Jesus answered, "As you enter the gates of the village up ahead, you will find a man carrying water. Follow him to his house and tell him to show you the room where your teacher and his disciples will eat the Passover meal."

Peter and John obeyed Jesus, and everything happened as he said it would. The man with the water jug showed them a comfortable, furnished attic room and they began preparing the food for the meal.

Later in the evening, Jesus and all twelve of his disciples ate around the table. As on any holiday, the men enjoyed their celebration and the pleasure of each other's company. All of them were tired from the long walk to the village and the food was good.

Then Jesus stood up and looked very serious. He knew, but his friends did not, that his time on earth with them was about to end. He called for a washbasin of water and towels and he began to wash his disciples' feet.

Peter asked, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet? You should not be washing my feet."

"If you do not let me wash your feet, you can no longer be my disciple," Je-

# **illustration by Kathy Welsh**

sus said.

Peter reconsidered his position. "Lord," he said, "if that is the case, wash my hands and face as well."

"Washing your feet will be sufficient," Jesus answered. "All of you are clean. Except one. You may not understand what I have just done. As I have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have set an example for you to follow. If you do as I say, your lives will be filled with joy. And more, whoever receives those I have sent receives me."

Jesus hesitated and sighed when he next said, "One of you here will betray

The disciples were stunned when lesus made this statement. "Who is it, Lord?" One of them asked.

"I will dip the bread in the sauce and give the piece to the one." Jesus said and dipped his bread. He looked Judas in the eyes, and said, "Be quick in your ac-

The other disciples thought Jesus \* wanted Judas to buy supplies. They did \* not understand what had taken place in \* front of them. Judas stood and walked ® out into the night.

Jesus spoke to the other disciples after Judas had gone.

"I will not be with you much longer," Jesus said. "Before I go, I give you a new commandment. Love each other as I have loved you. This is how people will know you are my disciples.'

Read more about it: Luke 22, John 13.

1. Why were the religious leaders afraid of Jesus?

2. What new commandment did Jesus give his disciples?

### Bible Accent

There are several important Easter symbols that are used in the

Church. The crucifix, cross on which hangs the body of Christ, represents the sacrifice Jesus made for our sins. An empty cross signifies the resurrection and victory over death. The Paschal candle, which burns for forty days from Easter to Ascension Day, represents Jesus' return to life. White lilies are a symbol of new life and purity The lamb symbolizės

the sacrifice

of an innocent victim, in memory of the first Passover: While Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the forty-day period which ends on Easter Sunday, Easter is a time of

celebration, the end of a time of fasting. Easter is literally the most the Church.

### St. Bernadette

Marie Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844 to a very poor family. Her parents called her Bernadette. She was often sickly, and was a poor student in school. However, she was compassionate and kind. When she was fourteen, Bernadette had a series of visions of the Virgin Mary in a grotto in Lourdes. Mary told her to have a chapel built on the spot so that people could drink from the water of the stream that flowed there. Thousands of people came to the grotto and many miracles occurred there. Bernadette was constantly surrounded by people because of her visions. In order to maintain privacy, she joined a convent in Notre Dame de Nevers until her death in 1879. She is the patron saint of shepherds and we honor her on

## Name Match

Match the names of the people with their role in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. (Answers on page 2)

1.Judas Iscariot a. doubted in Jesus

2. Joseph of Arimathea b.prisoner who was freed

3. Pilate

c. betrayer of Jesus

4. Peter

d. provided a tomb

5. Mary

e. Roman governor

6. Thomas

f. denied Jesus three times

7. Barabbas

andropies in the Constant of t

g. found the empty tomb

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

How would the world be different if everybody loved each other, as Jesus told us to do?

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Last month's winner was Amy Callahan, a second-grade student at Waterloo's St. Mary's School. In response to the question What does Lent mean to you? she wrote:

Lent means to be kind to others and get ready for Easter and it also means to be with your family and thank God for all you have.

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