

# Kids' Chronicle

## The Holy Spirit fills the Apostles

BY JOE SARNICOLA

While the Apostles were praying on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled the room they were in with a powerful wind. A spiritual flame flickered above the heads of every person there. The people in the room began to pray out loud in foreign languages.

The people of the city and visitors from all over the world looked into the window of the room. They heard the singing and praying and they wondered what was going on. The spectators were amazed. The people from the different countries all heard the men praying in their own languages at the same time. They could not explain how such a thing was possible.

Peter stood up and spoke to the people who crowded outside the building.

"We are not drunk," Peter said, "nor are we out of our minds. We are fulfilling the prophecy of Joel, who said that God would fill his sons and daughters with his spirit. We will proclaim his message."

"What is this message?" someone asked.

"The same Jesus who was crucified has risen from the dead," Peter replied. "He is the Messiah that was promised by the prophets."

Some of the people felt guilty because of what Peter had said. An older man asked, "What can we do now?"

"Repent and be baptized," Peter said. "Then God will fill you with his spirit."

Many of the people who saw what had happened became Christians that day because they followed Peter's instructions. Others did not understand and returned to their homes. A few people simply



Illustration by Amy Sundstrom

would not believe in God.

The Apostles stayed in the area to teach and to baptize as many people who were interested. The people were very supportive of the Apostles and made sure they always had a place to stay and enough food to eat.

The Apostles continued to be blessed by God and filled with his spirit. They

healed the sick and performed other miracles. Whenever they needed any material things, they sold what they owned and divided the money. This way, no one lacked anything that was needed, and no one had more than he needed.

The Apostles prayed every day in the temples and in the homes of the people. They praised God and demonstrated his love for everyone. The city was filled with their enthusiasm, and new people became Christians every day as a result of the faithfulness of the Apostles.

### Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT: Acts 2

- Q. 1. On which Jewish holiday did the Holy Spirit appear?  
2. How were the needs of the Apostles met?

### Bible Accent

The Acts of the Apostles tells the stories of some of the men who obeyed God after the death of Jesus. A successor was chosen to replace Judas, and the Apostles waited in Jerusalem for the sign that Jesus promised would come. That sign was the Holy Spirit, who appeared in a wind on Pentecost. The Holy Spirit empowered the early Christians to serve God.

Peter became an eloquent speaker and healed sick people. Stephen was able to pray for the forgiveness of the very people who were killing him. Paul was changed from a persecutor of Christians to one of the most famous Christian figures of the New Testament.

The faithfulness of these men set a high example for all of us to follow, but their message was a simple one: "Repent and be baptized. Then God will fill you with his spirit."



### Saint Fulbert

Although Saint Fulbert was born into a poor Italian family, his intelligence and perseverance brought him out of his poverty. He studied mathematics, philosophy, and science at a Benedictine school.

Fulbert made some important friends at the school, and as a result, was placed in charge of the religious schools of Charles, France. Under Fulbert's leadership, the schools gained a reputation for being some of the best in Europe.

Fulbert's political influence increased as members of the French government confided in him for advice on matters of state. Many of Fulbert's hymns, sermons, and other writings are still studied by clergy and religious today. We honor him on April 10.

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

**How was it possible for the Apostles to perform miracles?**

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 April 25, 1996. 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 **Shane Presley**, a sixth-grade student at Our Mother of Sorrows School in Greece. In response to the question **What is your favorite miracle story from the Old Testament and why?** he wrote:

My favorite miracle story from the Old Testament is when Moses turned his walking stick into a snake. I like this story because it shows the power of God. If you have trust in God, he will give you the hope and faith you need. Moses didn't want to help the Israelites, but God gave him the strength.

When I am feeling like not going to church or offering something up, I think of this story. Moses didn't want to do it at first, but God gave him the strength he needed. So, too, God will give me the strength I need in difficult times.

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### Puzzle

Who of the following men are believed to have written books of the New Testament? Answers on page 2.

|        |         |         |       |
|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| Luke   | Mark    | Timothy | Roman |
| Paul   | Matthew | John    | Acts  |
| Joseph | Jude    | Revel   | Moses |

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