

Kids' Chronicle

God gives people different gifts

By JOE SARNICOLA

My dear friends in Corinth:

You live in a great city, a city of trade and commerce, a city where people from all over the world come to do business or just to visit. Your culture draws from the best that the Greeks, the Romans, and other nationalities have to offer. Your teachers are some of the best scholars, your political leaders are the best trained, and your architecture reveals the greatness of your achievements. Yet I have concerns.

I hear there is immorality in Corinth. And there is confusion in your temples. Do you serve Paul or Peter or any of the disciples? Jesus Christ is the only one you should be serving. He is the only one who died for your sins. The rest of us are only his servants, as are you. This is an important lesson. Beyond that, you should understand the nature and purpose of the gifts the Spirit has given to us.

Although there are many gifts, they all come from the same source, which is the Holy Spirit. We each serve God in different ways, as the Spirit leads us, but we serve the same Lord. We have different talents and abilities, but they have been given to us by God.

The Spirit may give one person wisdom and another knowledge. One person may have great faith, another the power to cure disease. One person may deliver a message from God, another may speak in a spiritual language. Yet the Spirit is the common bond. The Spirit gives his gifts as he sees fit. All this is done to glorify God.

A body has many parts, yet there is only one body. A foot or a hand are not the whole body, but parts of the body.

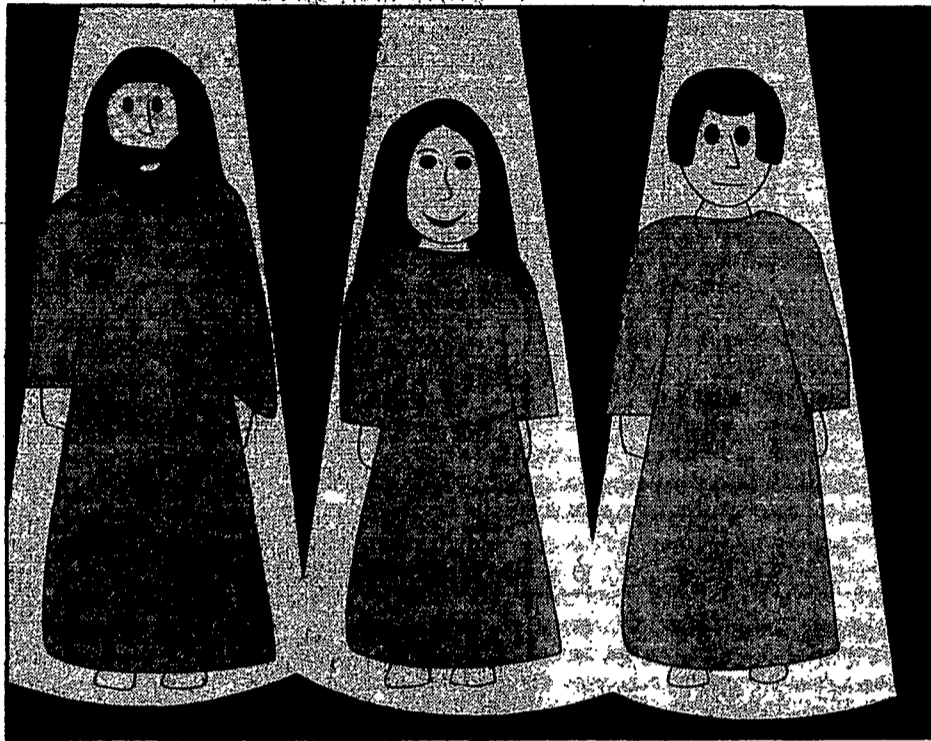


Illustration by Amy Sundstrom

Each is important in its function. God has selected the parts of the body and placed them where they are the most appropriate. And so it is with the gifts of the Spirit.

Let us not argue over which gift of the Spirit is more important any more than we would about the parts of the body. And in the same way the receiver of a gift is not made more valuable by the gift he receives. God judges us by the way we serve him, and how we use the gifts and abilities he gives us.

Let us serve God in humility and with gratitude for the good things he has done for us. By all means pray that God

will continue to bless you with the gifts of his Spirit, but one thing is greater than all of the gifts of the Spirit.

Love.
Yours in Christ,
Paul

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
1 Corinthians 12

Q&A

1. What concerns did Paul have about Corinth?
2. What did Paul say was greater than the gifts of the Spirit?



Bible Accent

The Feast of Pentecost was another name for the ancient Festival of Harvest, also called the Festival of Weeks.

This celebration was ordained by God when he told the Israelites to offer the first of their harvest of grain to him. The festival lasted for seven weeks from the day of the first harvest of the season. This first day of the festival is called Pentecost. Jewish people believe that Pentecost is also the traditional anniversary of the day when God gave the Law to his people and Israel became a nation in the eyes of God.

After Jesus had ascended into heaven, his Apostles were praying in Jerusalem as he had commanded them to do. The Holy Spirit came down with wind and fire and the men felt the power of God. The people who were in Jerusalem witnessed a miracle of languages when everyone heard the Apostles praying in their own languages at the same time. From that day, the good news of Jesus was available to the Gentiles as well as the Jews.

St. Bede

St. Bede is the patron saint of scholars. His parents presented him to the monastery of Ss. Peter and Paul in the town of Wearmouth, England, in the year 676. Bede was only 3 years old at the time. The Benedictine monks there were his teachers, and he achieved a high level of literacy.

Bede became a cloistered monk when he was thirty years old. After his ordination, Bede rarely left the monastery. He spent most of his working hours writing and studying. He wrote a history of England, which is still used as a reference by scholars today, and he wrote many essays on scripture and Christianity.

In recognition of his efforts, the Church titled him "Bede, the Venerable," in 853. We remember him on May 25.

Bible Trivia

In Chapter 20 of his Gospel, John gave the reason he wrote his book. What was it?

Send Answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by June 13, 1996. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Kevin Quinn, a student at Irondequoit's Christ the King School. He correctly identified David as the famous shepherd of the Old Testament who became a king.

Puzzle

Unscramble the words or phrases to learn some of the names or titles that refer to Jesus in the Gospel of John. The chapter of the Gospel where the word can be found is given after each scrambled word. Answers can be found on page 3.

- a. draw (1)
- b. balmfoogd (1)
- c. rabadfoilfe (6)
- d. glithofethlowrd (8)
- e. dogopeshrehd (10)
- f. noitcuseerrr (11)



draw your Dad

Wish your dad a Happy Father's Day by drawing his picture! We'll publish all submitted pictures for Father's Day in our June 13th edition. Cost is only \$20 per picture.

Guidelines: All pictures must be drawn on the attached coupon with black pen only. Send picture and payment along with father's name and artist's name, address and phone number by June 1st to:

Draw Your Dad • Catholic Courier
PO Box 24379 • Rochester, NY 14624-0379

Dad's Name: _____

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Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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