

Kids' Chronicle

Weeds grow amid the farmer's wheat

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Wherever Jesus traveled, people would run to where he had been spotted. The sick or injured were carried to him. There were many people with many needs.

One day, there were so many people Jesus had to stand in a small boat as it drifted out a short distance from the shore just to create a small space between him and the crowd. From this boat he told them a parable about the kingdom of God.

When it was time to plant, Jesus said, a farmer gathered his bags of wheat seed together and worked in his fields from the first light of the morning sun until the moon and the stars appeared in the sky at night. It was good seed, and he hoped for good weather, which would bring an abundant harvest.

The farmer worked hard to keep his fields clear of weeds. There was enough rain for a good crop, and sprouts started to break their way through the soil. At the end of each day, the farmer slept well, knowing that another day of hard, but honest, work would begin in the morning.

But some of the farmer's neighbors were jealous of his success. They did not want to work hard for a good crop. They wanted someone else to do the work. They also did not want to see anyone else succeed. So one night, they planted weeds in among their neigh-



Illustration by Amy Sundstrom

bor's wheat.

When the weeds started to spread, the farmer's laborers asked him if he wanted them to start pulling them out. The farmer knew that someone must have planted these weeds. He also feared that because there were so many weeds mixed in with the wheat the workers would pull out wheat along with the weeds.

So he told his laborers to wait until the harvest. Then the wheat could be

separated from the weeds. The wheat would be stored safely in the barns and the weeds would be burned in a fire.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Matthew 13

Q&A

1. Why did Jesus teach from a boat?
2. Why did the farmer wait to pick the weeds?



Bible Accent

Wheat was an important grain crop in ancient Israel. Growing to a height of between two and five feet, the golden brown plant was used to bake bread, as a cereal, and for mixing with other grains. If there was a plentiful harvest, the extra wheat would also be sold or traded.

Jesus used the image of wheat that had been separated from the chaff — the husks of the wheat — and weeds as a symbol of Christians who have prepared their hearts to serve God (Matthew 13). In John 12, Jesus said that just as grains of wheat falling to the ground could produce a great harvest, so too would Christians spread the good news to the world.

St. Victor

Victor was an officer in the Roman army of Emperor Maximilian. But he was also a Christian.

When Roman soldiers were ordered to search cities for Christians to arrest and torture, Victor would go to their houses and warn the Christians. He also told them not to be afraid if they were captured, because God would be with them, no matter what happened to them.

The Emperor found out and ordered Victor arrested and tortured. Victor died a terrible death, but he remained faithful to God. We honor him on July 21.

Puzzle

Unscramble the following letters to learn the names of four authors of the Gospels.

Answers on page 5

MOATKAWMTH
EUEJRKLHN

Kids' Club

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

Why do you think Jesus used parables, or stories, when he was teaching?

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is July 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 Daniel Streicher, a sixth-grade student at Greece's Mother of Sorrow's School. In response to the question *God spoke to Moses on the mountain top. Where does God speak to us today?* he wrote:

Today, God speaks to us in many ways. God speaks to us in church through the priest or deacon. God also speaks to us during prayer. The best way to talk to God is just to take five or ten minutes of the day to clear our minds and listen to what God says.

God also speaks to us through the Bible. When I read the Bible, I feel filled with the Holy Spirit. Although we may not know it, God is speaking to us all the time. We just need to be "quiet" and listen.

THANKS TO OUR SAVINGS BOND DONOR:

651 Plymouth Ave. N., Rochester, NY 14608 (716) 546-1740

Quality Sausage and Meat Products Since 1880



SCHOOL HOTLINE

716-381-9999

24 Hours Day • 7 Days Week



A community service sponsored by...
 • Catholic Courier • The Catholic Shop •
 • Kenny Roger's Roasters • Teacher's World •
 • L.A. Nails • Salvatore's Pizza •
 • Chuck's Tuneup Tales • Muzet •
 • Genesee Valley Parent News Magazine •
 Supporting education & the Rochester community.
 E-Mail us at PTHotline@aol.com

Expert Automotive Repairs

General Repairs • GM Specialist
 Fuel Injection • Electrical Systems
 Exhaust • Brakes • Carburetion
 • Tune-up • Shocks • Struts
 N.Y. State Inspection
262-4585



44 Richmond St. • Rochester • 14607

Aquinas Lacrosse Camp

July 29-August 9

Boys Grades 4-12
 cost: \$80

For information or to register, contact:
Coach Dave Stein

(716) 671-7238

or Aquinas Institute, 254-2020 x58



Selling Fast!!!

THE THREE TENORS

Jan 3/4, 1997 Toronto

Final Call! *Beauty & The Beast*

Matinee - July 31st

624-3110



PREFERRED TRAVEL
 SERVICE, INC.
 Mendon, New York