

Kids' Chronicle

A letter to the Hebrews

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Dear fellow Hebrews,
After God created the earth and everything in it, he rested on the seventh day. He has promised us rest as well. This rest was not the Promised Land, where our ancestors lived after Moses led them out of the slavery of Egypt. That was a land of abundant harvest, plentiful meat and fruits and fresh water. The rest that God has promised us is even greater than that place. And the time for this promise to be ours God calls "today."

To lead us into this rest, God has provided us with a guide. His name is Jesus. Jesus is our high priest. He knows how we feel and he understands our weaknesses. He loves us and cares for us. He wants to show us the way to heaven, where we will be with God, our father. There is no limit to his mercy.

God has given his entire creation over to Jesus, because Jesus proved he was faithful in everything he did. Jesus, who never sinned, took our sins so that we would be able to be with him.

When Jesus was with us on earth, he prayed to God. He wants us to do the same. Yet, even



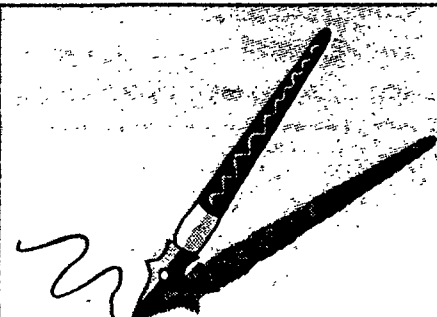
Illustration by Zoe Maves

though Jesus was his own son, God allowed the faith of Jesus to be tested. Jesus showed us that if we obey God and have faith in him, God will always be with us and will help us through any difficult time.

Remember the faith of our ancestors. Noah listened to God and God saved his family from the flood. Because of Abraham's faith, God gave him a son, even though Abraham was an old man. Because

of his faith, Moses believed the promises of God were more important than the wealth of Egypt. The faith of Joshua's people caused the city of Jericho to crumble to ruins. There are many tales of faith recorded in our Scriptures.

Let us use our own faith and keep our eyes on Jesus who loves us.



Bible Accent

The word "Hebrew" is another name for the Israelites. Hebrew is a term that identifies the people as having a separate ethnic background from the Egyptians, the Philistines or any other nationality.

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews has never been positively identified. The writing style is very different from that used by Paul in his letters. Some scholars believe the book may have been a series of lectures that were written down by scribes and later collected together.

St. Edward

St. Edward the Confessor led a remarkable life. The son of Ethelred, king of England, he escaped to France with his mother when England was attacked by the Danes in 1013.

Thirty years later, St. Edward himself was the king of England. He was a faithful Christian and he used the powers of his office to ensure a peaceful life for the English people. He even repealed heavy taxes that had weighed heavily and unpopularly in England.

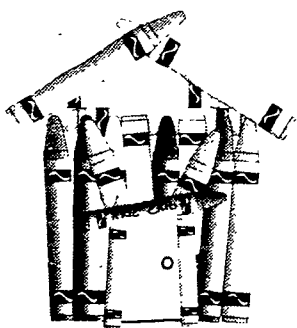
St. Edward also invested money in the restoration of St. Peter's Abbey in Westminster. He was loved by his people because of his generosity and his kind leadership. He believed in treating everyone with respect. We remember him on Oct. 13.

Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Hebrews 14

1. What was Canaan?
2. Who is our High Priest?

Kids' Club



You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question: **All Saints' Day is only a few weeks away. Who is your favorite saint and why?**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to **Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624.** Deadline for entries is Oct. 23, 1997. 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 **Alexandra Doyle**, a sixth-grade student at Seton Catholic School, Rochester. In response to the question, **Why did God make the rest of creation first, and then human beings last**, she wrote:

God created the Earth first so the human beings would have somewhere to live, things to eat, and things they needed. If God made humans first where would God put us? Since God loves us, he decided to have everything ready and waiting for us humans. It just explains his undying love for us in one of many, many ways.

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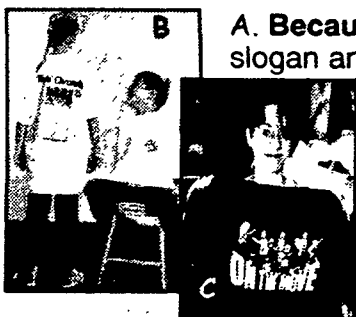


Puzzle

Answers on page 14.

With the help of the clues, answer the following number questions.

1. How many sons did Jacob have? (Gn 35:22)
2. How many Psalms are in the Bible?
3. How many days did Jesus fast? (Mt 4:2)
4. How many people did Jesus feed? (Mk 6:44)
5. How many Apostles did Jesus choose? (Mt 10:1)
6. How many churches did John write to? (Rv 1:4)



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