

Kids' Chronicle

Paul says Jews, Gentiles are both called

BY JOE SARNICOLA

My dear friends in Ephesus:
I am writing this letter to you because I want to share good news from our Lord Jesus with you. Because of his great mercy, he has extended his promise of salvation to you, even though many of you are not Jewish, but are Gentiles. Until recently, this message has been hidden from our knowledge, but now it has been revealed by the Holy Spirit, and we are spreading it everywhere we go with great joy.

There was a time when Gentiles were considered strangers and they were not able to share in the wonders that God has for us. Basically you were separated from God. But now, because of the sacrifice Christ made for all of us, we are one people called by God, both Gentile and Jew. And because of Christ, we are all able to enter the presence of God.

Think of it as if God has spent all of time building a temple. The foundation was laid by Abraham and Moses and the other prophets and built upon by the apostles who served with our Lord. The cornerstone, of course, is Christ. The rest of the bricks are you and I and the Christians who will come after us. God will live in his temple, which will be a holy place.

I keep you in my prayers daily. I ask that God will give you the faith that you need to withstand the troubles that sometimes beset you. I am certain that God will show you how great his love for you is, and he will, in fact, fill you with it. In the same way, share the love that you receive from God with each other. Be patient and humble, always acting as if the needs of others are more important than your own.



Linda Rivers

We serve one God who has one body and one spirit, and there is one baptism that joins us together. But God provides us with different gifts as he sees best. As a result, we will be able to minister to each other, especially to those in need. This will also enable us to become better Christians. The bond that keeps us together is love, so let us always continue to put our faith in God.

In closing, pray for me also, that I may be able to preach the gospel entrusted to me with courage, and that I may not be distracted by my own weaknesses. I hope I will hear a reply from you soon. I am

anxious to hear how you are growing as Christians. May God always cover you with his grace.

Love,
Paul

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Letter to the Ephesians

Q&A

1. What was Paul's good news to the Ephesians?
2. Why does God give certain gifts to people?



Bible Accent

On Jan. 4, 1998, we celebrate Epiphany, in honor of the day the Magi—the three wise men—found Jesus in the manger.

The wise men followed signs in the sky that they believed were messages from God that a great king was about to be born. Expecting to find news about the newborn king in a palace, they stopped to see King Herod. But he had not heard about the birth of any new king. When the wise men found Jesus, they presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

An angel appeared and warned the wise men not to return by the same route they had taken, because Herod was jealous of a new king who might be in his country, and had become dangerously angry.

St. John

St. John of Kanti was born in Poland just prior to the turn of the 14th century. He became a teaching priest at the University of Krakow. He did not eat meat, he slept on a hard cot on the floor, and he gave away any food that he knew he would not eat.

After being transferred to a parish assignment, St. John had a difficult time making the adjustment. However, his kindness and generosity eventually earned him the respect of his people. He eventually returned to his teaching duties, continuing them until his death at the age of 89.

Even as his own health began to fail in his later years, he continued to minister to people in need. He is the patron saint of Poland. We honor him on Dec. 23.

Bible Trivia

In what city did the wise men find Jesus?

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 Jan. 8, 1998. A winner will be selected at random.

Last month's winner was **Kerry Coniglio**, a student at St. Joseph's School, Wayland. She correctly identified the seven sacraments as baptism, holy Eucharist, reconciliation, confirmation, marriage, holy orders and anointing of the sick.

Puzzle

Answers on page 5.

Fill in the blanks using the Bible references given as clues. The first letters spell out the name of an important Bible city.

1. ----- He built a big boat (Genesis 7)
2. ----- He was the first man (Genesis 3)
3. ----- A holy mountain (Isaiah 8)
4. ----- Gabriel is one (Luke 1)
5. ----- Jewish word for teacher (John 1)
6. ----- The wise men came from this direction (Matthew 2)
7. ----- Jesus was buried in one (Mark 15)
8. ----- The language of ancient Israel

CITY: _____

Happy Holidays!

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