

Coalition seeks halt
to death penalty
- Page 3



Young adults
lose leader
- Page 6



Parish offers
varied menu
- Page 12



Catholic Courier

DIocese OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK ■ VOL. 109 NO. 40 ■ THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1998 ■ 75¢ ■ 12 PAGES

Daily life in Jesus time



Dawn.
18 C.E.

Tiberius is the emperor in Rome, Herod Antipas the tetrarch of Galilee. It is early in the Jewish month of Tammuz, just after the first figs ripened and just as the grape harvest is about to begin. The dry season is well underway.

The sun peeks over the hills east of Nazareth. Some of the small village's inhabitants stir, ready to begin their day.

Among those people may well have been Yeshua, commonly referred to as the son of Yosep the carpenter and Yosep's wife Miriam.

Of course, that family is better known by the names we call them today: Jesus — who would have been somewhere in his early 20s at that time — Joseph and Mary.

There are no historical records about Jesus' life during that period. Between the time of the Holy Family's visit to the Temple in Jerusalem when he was around 12, and the Wedding Feast at Cana, when he would have been about 30, there are no Scripture accounts of the events in his life.

Thus we do not know if Joseph, who is apparently dead by the time of Jesus' public ministry, would have been alive that supposed June morning — indeed, some legends place his death in 15 C.E. We do not know if Jesus was at that time working as a carpenter. We have no proof that he was even living in Nazareth at that point in time.

But thanks to the work of anthropologists and archaeologists, it is possible to reconstruct what life may have been like for a young Jewish carpenter in Nazareth at that time.

Continued on page 10

Story by Lee Strong
Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers