

# Kids' Chronicle

## St. Paul seeks compassion for a slave

BY JOE SARNICOLA

To Philemon, my brother and partner in the Lord's work,

To Apphia, whom I consider as a sister,  
To Archippus, a fellow soldier of Christ, and to those who worship with you,

I am writing this letter to you from a prison cell. I was arrested for preaching about Jesus, but I know that he will deliver me in his own time. I pray for you every day, and I am confident that God will bless you with his grace and his peace.

I have heard that you are faithful to the Lord, and that your lives are filled with love for each other, as it should be. I now have a favor to ask of you, which I am counting on you to do as God's love would guide you.

Here in prison I met your slave Onesimus, who was arrested for escaping from you. I consider him a son who was born to me here in this jail. He has heard the word of God and he believes. His mouth speaks the praises of our God with truth and confidence. He is being released from jail. I am sending this letter with him so that you will receive him with love and compassion. He is now a brother in Christ. I know you will love him as I do.

When he enters your home, welcome him as you would me. Feed him, be sure he has a warm place to sleep. If he owes



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

you anything, I will pay. You know my word is good, and I will keep my promise.

A second thing I ask of you. Prepare a guest room for me. I expect God to answer your prayers and my own and release me from jail very soon. I will come to you as soon as I am able to ready for the journey. I know God will bless you for all you do for his people out of faithfulness to him.

Although I am writing this letter to you myself, others who are with me also send their greetings and will keep you in

their prayers daily.  
God bless you,  
Paul

### READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Philemon

## Q&A

1. Who was Onesimus?
2. What did Paul ask for himself?

## Bible Trivia

Which book of the New Testament comes immediately after the Letter to Philemon?

Send Answer to: Catholic Corner Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24579, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by Sept. 3, 1998. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Elizabeth Proletti, a student at St. John the Evangelist School, Greece. She correctly answered that the word "Gospel" means "good news."

## Puzzle

Cross out the one name in each line that does not belong with the others. Answers on page 13

1. Matthew, Mark, Luke, Samuel
2. Chronicles, Kings, Genesis, Samuel
3. Proverbs, John, Peter, Psalms
4. Isaiah, Luke, Ezekiel, Jeremiah
5. Ruth, Esther, Jonah, Judith

## Bible Accent

St. Paul wrote letters to the Christians during the early years of the church. Sometimes he knew the people in the communities to which he wrote because he had preached to them. In some of the letters, he names specific people, and even sends them greetings.

St. Paul's letters are collected in the New Testament. His letters were often written to explain teachings or to tell the people that they were making mistakes and to offer ways they could correct these mistakes.

The letter to Philemon does not try to do either of those things, but asks that Philemon, welcome back Onesimus, even though Onesimus had been Philemon's slave and had been thrown into prison for running away. St. Paul was relying on the generosity of Philemon to treat Onesimus well.

St. Paul also knew that love would guide his friends to do the right thing and take care of Onesimus as a fellow Christian.

## St. Helen

St. Helen married the Roman General Constantius Chlorus around the year 270. He later became the emperor of Rome. Even though they had a son, he divorced her and married another woman. Eventually, Helen's son became emperor of Rome himself. His name was Constantine the Great. He was devoted to his mother, and took care of her.

St. Helen was generous and compassionate, and she spent much of her money caring for the poor and building churches where people could worship God. Late in life she travelled to Palestine to visit the land where Jesus had lived. She also hoped to recover the cross on which Jesus had been crucified. We remember her on Aug. 18.

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