

# Kids' Chronicle

## John sees many angels

BY JOE SARNICOLA

I looked up into the sky, and I saw four angels. They were standing above the earth, one in the North, the others in the South, East and West. With the power they had been given, they were holding onto the winds, so that they could not blow in any direction. The entire world was calm. No tree would bend, no wave would rush against any shore as long as the angels held back the winds.

With the rising of the sun in the East, another angel came into view. In his hands was the seal of God. With a bold voice of authority, he spoke to the four angels who were still holding the winds.

"Do no harm to the land or to the sea until the followers of our God have received his seal upon their heads," he said. "They will be numbered according to the twelve tribes of Israel, who bear the names of the sons of Jacob. From each tribe there will be twelve thousand, together they will be twelve times twelve thousand."

After this angel had spoken, I saw the lamb of God sitting in his throne. Around him were people from every country, speaking all the languages of the earth. There were so many, I could not begin to count them. They were all dressed in beautiful white robes. They held palm branches and praised God together, saying, "Glory to God, who gives salvation to his



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

people."

As the people worshiped God, the angels echoed with their own voices, "Let wisdom and honor, power and thanksgiving be to God, now and forever. Amen and amen."

Then a man asked me if I knew who all the people were. When I told him I didn't he said, "These are the men and women who have remained true to God, even in difficult times. God has rewarded them with his constant presence. They will never know hunger, thirst, or pain. God will give them his living water, and he will

wipe away their sorrow."

As surely as my name is John, I tell you that the things I have just written about are accurate descriptions of what I have seen. I made a promise to God that I would write down everything he wanted me to in letters that I would send to my Christian friends throughout the world. I pray that God will also give you the wisdom to understand what my visions mean. If you learn only one thing, let it be that God loves us and his reward for our faithful service is to spend eternity with him in heaven.

## Bible Accent



Angels are messengers of God. There are many accounts of the appearance of angels in both the Old and the New Testaments. Angels told Abraham he would be the father of a son, even though he was old. When

God was preparing to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, angels visited Lot. An angel encouraged Elijah to eat so that he would have enough strength to make a long journey. Angels foretold the coming of Christ to Earth, and were seen during important times in his life.

The most numerous accounts of angels are in the Book of Revelation. The angels John writes about in his account are seen worshipping and praising God, delivering messages, carrying out God's instructions, or watching as events unfold on the Earth.

## St. Ignatius

Historians believe that St. Ignatius persecuted Christians in the first century before he became a Christian himself. He became the pastor of the early church at Antioch, and some accounts say he was appointed as bishop by St. Peter himself.

During a later time of Christian persecution, St. Ignatius was arrested by Roman soldiers and imprisoned on a ship bound for Rome. He made a friend of one of the jailers and he was able to write letters to the people in the churches who were concerned about his welfare and who were praying for him. St. Ignatius knew he would be killed once he reached Rome, but he preached whenever he was allowed off the ship when it stopped at ports along the way.

St. Ignatius became a martyr in Rome in the year 107. We remember him on Oct. 17.

## Bible Trivia

According to the Letter of Jude, what was the name of the archangel who argued with the devil?

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 Nov. 5, 1998. A prize will be awarded to a winner selected at random from the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Amanda Rzacca, a fifth-grade student at St. John of Rochester School, Fairport. She correctly identified baptism, Eucharist and confirmation as the three sacraments of initiation.

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Revelation 7

## Q&A

1. What were the four angels doing?
2. Who were all the people that John saw?

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## Puzzle

Using the key, fill in the blanks with the correct letters to discover a message about this week's story.

Answers on page 12.

6-17-15-13 9-16-12 2-11-9-11-17-13-9

17-26 16-13-14-8-21-9

1:Q 2:V 3:K 4:B 5:X 6:J 7:Z 8:E 9:S 10:U 11:I  
12:W 13:N 14:G 15:H 16:A 17:O 18:T 19:R  
20:C 21:L 22:P 23:Y 24:D 25:M 26:F