Moses shares God's words

By Joe Sarnicola

Three months had passed since the Israelites had left Egypt. They were following Moses, because God had promised that they would no longer be slaves, but free people. They were camped at the foot of Sinai, a mountain in the desert. Moses went up to the top of the mountain to speak to God.

"Moses," said the Lord, "this is what I want you to tell my people. If you obey the instructions I give you to live by, I will consider you a holy nation, and I will love you more than anything else I have created. So that the people will know when I am speaking to you, I will appear in a cloud that will be visible for a great distance. Tell them this as well."

Moses told the Israelites what God had said, but they were not prepared for what God had in mind. When Moses went back up the mountain, it was engulfed in dark clouds with crashing thunder, ferocious lightning and driving rain. Even more, the sound of trumpets in the sky could be heard over the noise of the storm. The people hid in their tents, trembling with fear.

When Moses came down from the mountain, the people said to him, "If you tell us what God has said, we will listen, but we are afraid that if we hear his voice will die."

Moses tried to reassure the people that God did not want them to die. "Do not be afraid. God only wants to be sure that you will not disobey him. He has given me instructions to tell you about. Let me share some of them with

"Do not mistreat foreigners or strangers.

When we were in Egypt, we were treated harshly. We became slaves in a land where we were once free. And would you want God to deal with us the way he dealt with the Egyptians?

"Be kind and compassionate to widows and orphans. If you deal with them otherwise, God will send an appropriate punishment to you. If you loan someone money, do not be mean to them until they repay you. And, if you borrow money, repay it according to the terms you



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

agreed to. If we will obey these, and all of God's laws, we will live in peace with

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Exodus 22

- 1. What happened when God spoke to
- 2. What did God say about foreigners?

Bible Accent

The book of Exodus is the story of how God delivered his people, the Israelites, from a life of slavery into freedom as they followed Moses

The Pharaoh of Egypt became afraid that the many Israelites in his country would try to overthrow his government, so he enslaved them. In an attempt to try to stop the Israelites from becoming any more numerous, Pharaoh ordered the death of all of their male babies.

The mother of Moses did not want her son to be killed so she set him adrift in a papyrus basket, hoping someone would save him. The boy was found by Pharaoh's own daughter, who adopted him and raised him as her own son.

St. Teresa of Avila

When Saint Teresa of Avila, Spain, was in her early teen years, her mother died. Her father sent her to a convent run by Augustinian Sisters. Because of a serious illness she contracted while at the convent, Teresa had to go back home.

Teresa was determined to return to convent life because she wanted to join an order. After becoming a member of the Carmelite order, Teresa began to see visions. When she spoke of them, some people believed her, but some did not.

Teresa established 17 convents and monasteries. She also wrote The Way of Perfection and Foundations. She was the first female Spanish doctor of the church, and she is patron saint of Catholic writers. We honor her Oct. 15.

Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question:

Moses talked about being kind to foreigners and strangers. What can we do to show kindness to a new family who moved into our neighborhood or to a new student in school? Send your essay - including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade - to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is Oct. 21, 1999. 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 Joelle Fenlon, a fourth-grader at Sacred Heart Cathedral School. In response to the question How can we show God that we are working to tell others about his kingdom? Joelle wrote:

I can be kind to others. I can pray to God. I could tell good news about God,

and love others as I love myself. I can try to make peace in the world and believe the Good News.

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Puzzie

Circle the correct answer to the following multiple choice questions. Answers on page 3

- 1. Lot was visited by two (a) priests (b) angels
 - (c) soldiers Hint: Genesis 19
- 2. God blessed the widow with (a) oil (b) gold (c) wheat Hint: 2 Kings 4
- 3. Jesus healed the servant of the (a) judge (b) prophet -(c) centurion Hint: Matthew 8
- 4. Jesus changed water into (a) milk (b) oil (c) wine Hint: John 2
- 5. Peter told the crippled man to (a) walk (b) be quiet
- (c) go away Hint: Acts 3 6. Cornelius was the first baptized
- (a) martyr (b) Gentile (c) disciple *Hint: Acts 10*

COURIER CLASSIFIEDS

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