

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus cures Simon's mother-in-law

By JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus was standing by the shore of the Sea of Galilee watching the fishermen throw their nets into the water. When two of them pulled their boat onto the sand, Jesus approached them and said, "What are your names?"

The tall, muscular fisherman answered, "I am Simon. This is Andrew, my brother."

"Why do you catch fish?"

Simon wondered why a stranger would ask such a question, but he answered, "This is how we make our living. We catch our fish every morning and then we sell them in the marketplace."

Jesus was silent for a moment and then he said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Simon looked at Jesus, he looked at his brother. Then, with a loud laugh, he reached out his hand to Jesus in friendship and said, "Why not!" Come, Andrew." Andrew and Simon left their boat, fish and all, and went with Jesus.

As the men talked, Simon mentioned that his mother-in-law was very sick, and he thought she was going to die.

"Take me to her," Jesus said.

Simon brought Jesus to his home. His wife was on the bed crying, and his mother-in-law was pale and sweating from a dangerous fever. "Mother,"

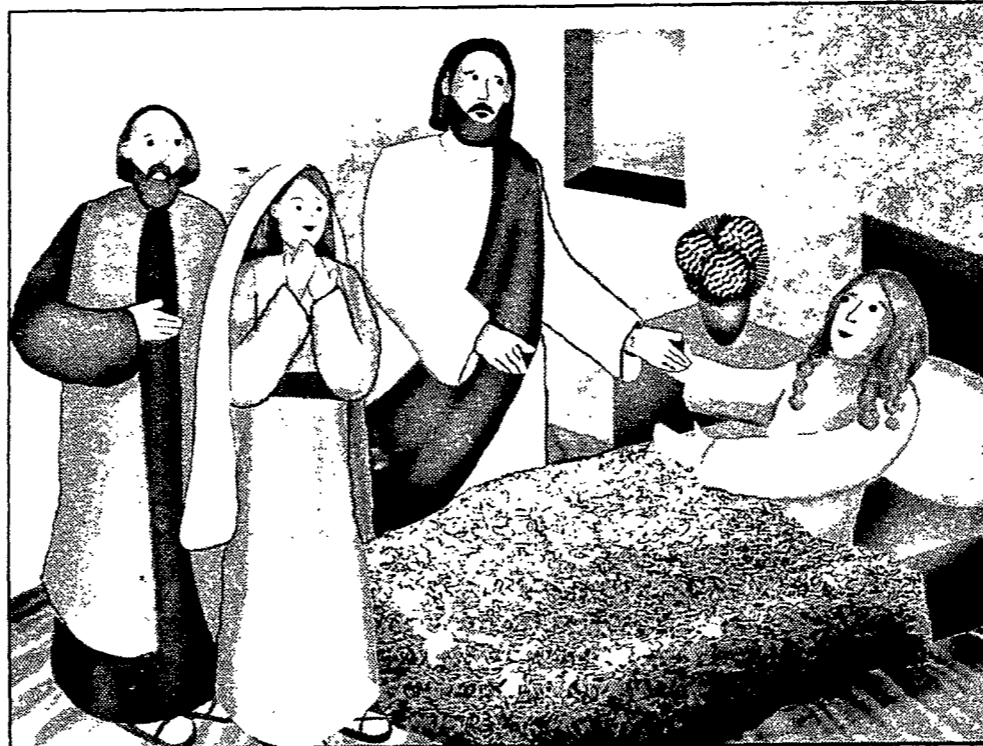


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

called Simon. "Can you hear me?"

The sick woman was barely able to open her eyes, but she looked at Simon and made a weak nod of her head.

"Mother, this is Jesus. He is my friend. And he is a man like no other. I believe he can make you well." Simon's wife tried not to cry any harder, but she was sure her mother would not live through the night.

Jesus walked over to the bed. "Woman, can you reach for my hand?" he said.

With a great effort, Simon's mother-in-law lifted her hand slightly. Jesus immediately grabbed it with both of his hands. "Father, grant this woman health," he prayed. Then

he said, "Woman, can you sit up?"

The woman seemed to receive a burst of strength and she slowly sat up.

"Woman can you stand?"

The woman brought her legs over the bed and when her feet touched the floor, she stood up.

She was completely healed, and waited on her company.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Mark 1

Q&A

1. What was Simon doing when Jesus met him?
2. What happened when the sick woman stood up?

Bible Accent



In our profession of faith, we speak of our belief in "an apostolic church." But what do we really mean when we say that? An apostle is a person who is sent to lead or to

deliver a message. When Jesus gave the great commission to his followers and said, "Go into the world and preach the Gospel," he made apostles of all of us. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us our goal as apostles of Christ is "to spread the Kingdom of Christ over all the earth." In order to help us carry out our mission, Jesus appointed his first apostles as leaders of the Christian community. That role of government is carried out in our time by the pope and the bishops. As Catholics, we are united by Christ, and we all share the same gift of salvation we received from him.

St. Timothy

St. Timothy was the son of a Greek father and a Jewish mother. He accompanied St. Paul on major missionary journeys, and Paul wrote two letters to him that became part of the New Testament. Paul must have thought very highly of his friend, because he addressed him as "my true child in the faith." Timothy visited Thessalonica at Paul's request, and from the information he gathered, Paul wrote his letters to the Thessalonians. When Paul was imprisoned in Rome for preaching the Gospel, Timothy may have been with him. Evidence indicates that Timothy became the first appointed bishop of Ephesus and he may have been stoned to death. We remember him on Jan. 26.

Bible Trivia

Can you name two deeds that are the professions of our faith? They can be found in the weekly missal.

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 Feb. 3, 2000. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

There was no winner to last month's question, What popular Christmas song is based on the visit of the astrologers to Jesus?

TRIVIA ANSWER: "We Three Kings."

Puzzle

Match the name of the brothers together, using the Bible reference clues to help you. *Answers on page 2.*

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| 1. Simon _____ | a. Aaron (Exodus 4) |
| 2. James _____ | b. Adonijah (1 Kings 2) |
| 3. Moses _____ | c. John (Mark 1) |
| 4. Cain _____ | d. Esau (Genesis 25) |
| 5. Jacob _____ | e. Andrew (Mark 1) |
| 6. Solomon _____ | f. Abel (Genesis 4) |

Catholic Schools Week Special Edition - February 17

This special edition salutes Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rochester for the vital role they play in faith formation, quality education, and ensuring a secure and disciplined learning environment.