

# Kids' Chronicle

## Jesus talks with Nicodemus

BY JOE SARNICOLA

A moving figure stayed in the shadows of the village at night. He kept the collar of his cloak up high against his chin, so that no one would recognize him. When he came to the house, he looked around to see if he was being followed and then he knocked on the door. A tall man with a warm smile and eyes that appeared to glow opened the door.

"I am Nicodemus," the figure said to the man.

"Come in, my friend," said the man. "I have been expecting you. I am Jesus. Please sit down." Nicodemus sat down, and Jesus sat across from him. "What can I do for you?" Jesus asked.

"I am a Pharisee. All my life I have followed the laws of Moses. But when I hear of the things you have done, things I have seen with my own eyes, I know you must be from God. There is no way the blind would be able to see, the crippled walk, even demons be cast out."

"What you have said is true," Jesus answered. "But no one can see God's kingdom without being born from above."

"Born a second time?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely such a thing would be impossible."

Then Jesus said, "No one will be able to enter my Father's kingdom without



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

being born of both water and spirit. Are you surprised by what I have said? Flesh will give birth to flesh, and spirit will give birth to spirit."

Nicodemus rubbed his chin with his hand and shook his head. "I just do not understand what you are saying."

"But you are a teacher," Jesus said. "It is easy to say that something is true

when you have seen it happen. How can I expect you to understand if I speak about the things of heaven, when you do not understand what I have been doing on earth?"

"I am sorry," said Nicodemus. "I want to understand. All my life I have studied the Scriptures, but I have never heard anything like what you describe. Please explain further."

"I will tell it this way," Jesus said. "Because God loved the world, he sent his Son to them. And they have only to believe in him in order to live forever with God. The Son was sent to be the savior of the world."

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John 3

## Q&A

1. To what Jewish group did Nicodemus belong?
2. Why did God send his Son into the world?

## Bible Accent

The conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus is the setting for one of the most familiar of all Bible verses, John 3:16, where Jesus says that because of God's love for us, he sent Jesus to us: If we believe in him, we will have eternal life.

Nicodemus was a teacher, a Pharisee, and, very likely, a member of the ruling council known as the Sanhedrin. Jesus sat down one night with Nicodemus to tell him about God's love. Nicodemus misunderstood some of the things Jesus told him.

Finally Jesus told him in very plain, yet beautiful language, about how he came to earth so that we might live with him forever. That promise still holds true for us today.

## St. Nicholas Owen

St. Nicholas Owen was a little man with a big imagination. In the 1500s, when English priests were hiding from persecution because they were Catholics, Nicholas hid them in many ingenious places. Spaces between walls, underground tunnels, even holes in the ground became safe places for the priests to hide. When Nicholas was preparing to create a new hiding place, he would spend time in prayer and would receive the Eucharist.

He designed and built the hiding places, and he never told anyone where the priests were until it was safe for them to come out. He was eventually betrayed and captured, after which he suffered horrible tortures. Nicholas did not reveal any information, and was released when a ransom was paid by one of his friends. He was captured a second time and he died from torture in the tower of London. We remember him on March 22.

## Bible Trivia

The church spreads the readings for Mass over three years, which are called years A, B and C. Which year are we in right now?

Send Answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by March 30, 2000. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Bridget Casey, a third-grader at St. Louis School, Pittsford. In answer to "What was the name of the mountain on which Moses was given the Ten Commandments?", she wrote, "Moses received the 10 Commandments on Mt. Sinai."

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## Puzzle

The Latin language is part of the rich history of the church. Match the Latin phrases from the Mass with their English definitions.

Answers on page 9.

1. Dominus vobiscum. \_\_\_\_\_ a. Glory to God in the highest.
2. Gloria in excelsis Deo. \_\_\_\_\_ b. Lamb of God.
3. Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus. \_\_\_\_\_ c. Grant us peace.
4. Agnus Dei. \_\_\_\_\_ d. The Lord be with you.
5. Dona nobis pacem. \_\_\_\_\_ e. Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
6. Pater, Filius et Spiritus Sanctus. \_\_\_\_\_ f. Holy, holy, holy.