

# Kids' Chronicle

## Disciples choose a 12th companion

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Peter saw Jerusalem up ahead. He and his friends had been traveling since the last Sabbath day to reach the city. They were still marveling about how Jesus had risen from the dead, and then he had risen into heaven while they were watching. They walked to the upper room where they would stay and committed themselves to prayer.

John, James, Andrew, some of the closest friends of Jesus, as well as his brothers, were with Peter. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was also part of the group, along with some other women. Peter estimated there were more than a hundred people who had come to hear about Jesus and to pray together with him and the other disciples. Peter had an important message for everyone there.

"My friends," he said, "we have seen the Scriptures fulfilled. Whatever the prophets wrote about Jesus has come to pass. But there were also prophecies about one who would betray him. The money he received for his treachery has been used to buy a piece of land we call the field of blood. But there is still one prophecy which we have been chosen to complete."

The people in the room mumbled among themselves about what Peter was talking about. What prophecy would they fulfill?



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

Peter continued. "The psalmist wrote, 'another must take his office.' We must choose the one who will take the place of Judas, so that there will be twelve of us. Just as there were twelve great tribes of Israel, named after the sons of Jacob, Jesus chose twelve men to be his first followers. We must bring the number back to twelve."

One of the men present called out to

Peter. "How are we to do this? How will we know who is the one God wants as the twelfth man?"

"First we will pray," Peter answered. Every head bowed and there were several minutes of silence as the people prayed for God's guidance. "Now, we will look at the men on either side of us. If you know these men to be good and honest and servants of the Lord, perhaps one of them will be chosen."

Eventually, after discussions and suggestions, the choice was to be between a man named Joseph, who was also known as Justus, and another man named Matthias. The method chosen to select was the ancient custom of drawing lots. And the lot fell to Matthias.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:  
Acts I

## Q&A

1. What did Peter say they had to do?
2. How did they choose between Joseph and Matthias?

## Bible Accent

Historians believe that the first account of the life of Christ was the Gospel of Mark, which was written about 20 years after Jesus had ascended into heaven. Christ taught wherever he went, but the early Christian leaders wanted to preserve those teachings, so they began writing down what they remembered as the Holy Spirit guided them. Additional books were written, mostly in the form of letters, to explain some of the concepts that the people were having trouble understanding. Paul, Peter, James and John wrote some of those books. Eventually the writings were selected and studied by the church leaders. This collection was first called "the New Testament" 200 years after Christ. The New and Old Testaments make up the words of God and are, as David wrote, "a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."

## St. Andrew Bobola

Andrew Bobola, the son of Polish aristocrats, joined a Jesuit order as a young man in 1609. After his ordination as a priest, he became a preacher at the church of St. Casimir in Vilnius. His enthusiasm in that position earned him the admiration of both his parishioners and his superiors. As a result, he was appointed as the head of the Jesuit house in Poland. The next assignment Andrew accepted was to take up his life for 20 years. He became a missionary. But his homeland was subject to attacks during these difficult times, and in 1657, the Cossacks invaded Pinsk, today part of Belarus, where he was living. Andrew was captured, and his captors ordered him to denounce his Catholic faith. Because he refused, he was tortured and he died a slow, painful death at the hands of the Cossacks. We remember Andrew on May 21.

## Puzzle

Fill in the blanks with a book of the Bible that begins with the last letter of the one before it until you reach the end. A few hints have been provided. Each line represents a missing letter.

J U D E

E \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

L U K E

K I N G S

## Bible Trivia

On which feast day did the Holy Spirit first visit the disciples in Jerusalem? (Hint: Acts 2)

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 June 1, 2000. The winner of the last trivia quiz was Brendan McGinnis, a third-grader at St. Patrick's Church, Macedon. In response to the question, During Mass, there is one reading from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament and one from the \_\_\_\_? he answered "The Holy Gospel."

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