

# Kids' Chronicle

## The last will be first

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus said to his disciples, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God."

"Then who can be saved?" they all wondered.

"For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God."

Peter said, "We have given up everything to follow you."

"But many that are first will be last, and the last will be first," Jesus said. "Now, we are going to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes. They will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him, spit on him, and put him to death. After three days he will rise."

Later, James and John, who were Zebedee's sons, told Jesus they had a request to ask of him. "We want you to do whatever we ask."

Jesus looked at James, then at John, and he asked, "What do you wish me to do for you?"

"When you are in your glory, we want you to allow one of us to sit on your right side, and the other on your left."

"You do not know what you are asking," Jesus said. Then he asked them a question. "Can you drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

with which I am baptized?"

James and John nodded their heads. "Yes, we can."

"The cup that I drink, you will drink and, with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized." Jesus paused for a breath before he finished speaking. "But to sit at my right side or

at my left is not mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the other 10 disciples learned what James and John had asked Jesus, they were very angry with them. Jesus did not want to see his friends arguing, so he told them all to sit by him. He wanted them to understand about leadership and authority.

"Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be the first among you will be the slave of all." Then Jesus used his own life as an example of what he was trying to tell them. "For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Mark 10.

## Q&A

1. Why were the disciples angry with James and John?
2. Why did the Son of Man come to Earth?

## Bible Accent

The Gospel of Mark was written approximately 40 years after the life of Christ. The author is accepted to be a man named John Mark who had been a missionary companion of Paul. One of the main themes of this Gospel is called the messianic secret, which refers to the fact that Jesus tried not to tell anyone who he really was. The disciples told Jesus that people were claiming he was Elijah, or John the Baptist, or one of the other prophets. Jesus then asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter immediately answered with what is called his great confession, "You are the Messiah." It is also clear from Mark's writings that the disciples did not seek Jesus out. Jesus went looking for them. He usually emphasized the most important duty of a disciple when he called them, which was to "Follow me."

## St. Louis Bertran

Louis Bertran (1526-1581) joined a Dominican order in his native country of Spain when he was 18 years old. Five years later, Louis became the master of novices. He earned a reputation for being strict with his pupils, but his words and actions demonstrated a deep devotion to God, and he inspired them to follow his example. In 1562, Louis traveled to Colombia, South America, in order to preach to the Indians there. The South American people responded in large numbers to Louis by converting to Christianity. Louis personally baptized many thousands of people. After he returned to Spain, Louis started many new missions. He is known to pray and to be humble. Louis is the principal patron of Colombia. We honor him on Oct. 9.

## Puzzle

On the blanks write the number of the chapter of the Gospel of Mark in which the event is recorded. *Answers on Page 12.*

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Jesus heals a deaf man _____    | 2. Jesus blesses the children _____ |
| 3. The Resurrection _____          | 4. John the Baptist dies _____      |
| 5. Jesus talks about fasting _____ | 6. The Transfiguration _____        |
| 7. Jesus feeds 4,000 people _____  | 8. Baptism of Jesus _____           |
| 9. Jesus enters Jerusalem _____    | 10. The parable of the sower _____  |

## Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question: **If you had to choose a leader, what would you expect from that person?**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to *Catholic Courier*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is Oct. 19, 2000. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by

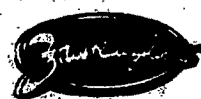
mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

The winner from the Aug. 3 question, Why is the Eucharist such an important sacrament? was Andrew Belfield, a second-grader at St. Pius X School. He wrote "The Eucharist is the most important sacrament, because Jesus turns the bread into his body and the wine into his blood. When you eat and drink Jesus, Jesus goes into our heart and life. We're remembering that Jesus died on the cross so that sins may be forgiven. The Eucharist joins Christians together".

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