

Kids' Chronicle

The humble will be exalted

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus looked into the sky. His father could not have created a more beautiful day. The sun was high and bright and the breeze blowing across the hills from the sea was refreshing and cool. And it was the Sabbath day.

Jesus had been invited to dinner with one of the leading Pharisees. All of the guests were watching to see what Jesus would say and do. The Pharisees and some of the other scholars of the Law were often critical of the things Jesus did because they felt he was not following the ancient laws the way they thought he should.

Standing in front of Jesus was a man with an illness known as dropsy. The man's body was swollen as part of his condition. Jesus looked at the scholars and asked, "Is it lawful to cure on the Sabbath or not?" No one said a word. Jesus healed the man and sent him home.

As Jesus and the other guests were preparing to eat, Jesus noticed that some of the men were trying to sit in the places at the table that were considered positions of honor. Jesus could not keep silent about his observation. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor." Some of the men scowled at Jesus. Others just looked at him, wondering what else he might say.

Jesus continued, "A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, 'Give your place to this man' and then you would proceed with embarrassment

to take the lowest place."

The guests looked at each other. Some of them believed they were the most important people there, and did not think they would be asked to give their place at the table to anyone else. But Jesus had a message he wanted the guests to understand.

"When you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.'" Jesus held out his arms, palms facing up, and said with a smile, "Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and everyone who humbles himself will be exalted."

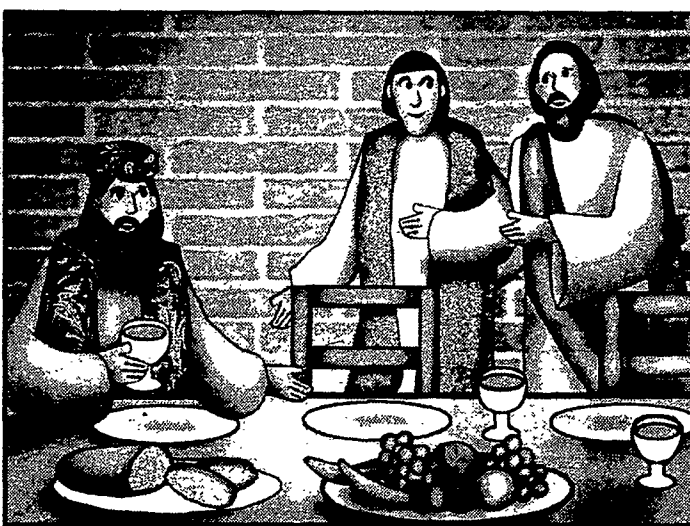


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

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Luke 14

Q&A

1. Why did Jesus visit the Pharisee?
2. Where did Jesus say the people should sit at their host's table?

Puzzle

God performed the miracle of creation in seven days. Using Genesis I as a guide, match the day of the week with the event that happened on it. Answer on page 20.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Day 1 _____ | a. God rested |
| Day 2 _____ | b. birds and fish |
| Day 3 _____ | c. "Let there be light" |
| Day 4 _____ | d. two great lights and the stars |
| Day 5 _____ | e. the dome called the sky |
| Day 6 _____ | f. dry land and vegetation |
| Day 7 _____ | g. man |

Initiation

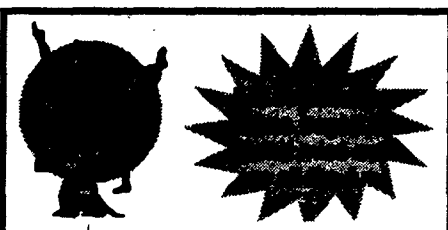
The three sacraments of initiation into the church are baptism, confirmation and Eucharist. According to the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," these sacraments "lay the foundations of every Christian life. The faithful are born anew by baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life.

In baptism we share in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and all sins are forgiven. Confirmation, through the Holy Spirit, seals the gift of new life given at baptism. Receiving the Eucharist completes our initiation and enables us to participate at the table of the Lord, with the entire Christian community. By celebrating the Eucharist we follow the commandment Christ gave us to "Do this in memory of me."

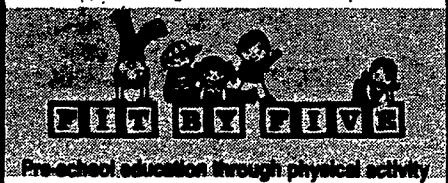
St. Pius X

Born Giuseppe Sarto in 1835, Pope Pius X was the second oldest in a family with 10 children. His father was a municipal messenger, and money was scarce for the family. With the support of the parish priest, Pius entered the seminary in Padua and became a priest at the age of 23. After 17 years, he became the canon of Treviso and, in 1884, he was appointed bishop of Mantua. In 1903 Pius was elected pope.

One of the first things the new pope did was to declare that he wanted to "renew all things in Christ" and to clarify the role of the Eucharist during Mass. He wanted children to be allowed to approach the altar after they had received the necessary religious teaching. Pope Pius X worked to see that many of the church laws that were misunderstood were explained in simpler language and authorized a revision of the Vulgate text of the Bible. He died in 1914. We honor him on Aug. 21.



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Bible Trivia

What does one of the Ten Commandments tell us to do about the Sabbath day? (Hint: Exodus 20)
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 Aug. 30, 2001. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner to the last trivia question was Benjamin Lafleur, a student at the David B. Crane Elementary School in Rush-Henrietta. In answer to "What do we call the stories Jesus would tell to explain a lesson?" he wrote, "Jesus' stories that taught a lesson were known as parables."

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