

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus is Transfigured

BY JOE SARNICOLA

When Jesus was with three of his closest friends, Peter, James and John, he told them to follow him. They walked and walked until they were at the top of a high mountain. Jesus stopped and looked at his friends, and smiled at them with love. As he did, his face shone as if it were the sun, and his clothes became like a bright, white light. Within the beacon of light that surrounded Jesus, Moses and Elijah appeared and were talking with him.

Peter, James and John looked at each other. They were amazed by the vision that they were watching. Peter spoke to Jesus. "Lord, it is good that we are here." With his left hand he pointed at Moses and with his right hand he pointed at Elijah. "If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

Before Peter could finish his sentence, a huge glowing cloud formed in the sky over him, James and John. Except for the light coming from Jesus, the shadow of the cloud engulfed the three men in total darkness. A loud, booming voice spoke from the center of the cloud. "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." The three men were terrified, and fell down on the ground shivering.

Then Peter felt the hand of Jesus on his shoulder. "Rise, my friends, and do not be afraid." Peter, James and John looked up. Only Jesus was with them, and the sky was cloudless, blue and bright. Jesus motioned for his friends to come forward



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

with him with a wave of his hand.

On the way back down the mountain, Jesus told them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The three disciples nodded agreement silently, then one of them asked, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" Jesus answered, "Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to

him whatever they pleased. So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands." The disciples realized that Jesus was telling them that he was referring to John the Baptist. Later that evening, Jesus said, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men, and they will kill him and he will be raised on the third day."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Matthew 17

Q&A

1. What happened to Jesus on the mountain?
2. What did Jesus say about Elijah?

Bible Accent

Baptism is the first sacrament that most Catholics experience. Before we brought babies and children by their parents. Children who were not baptized as infants are given special teaching before their baptism. Adults who were not baptized go through a special program called RCIA, which means Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. The celebrant asks God to bless the water which will be used during the baptism ceremony. Then he pours the water three times over the person being baptized, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The water of baptism represents a cleansing from sin into a new life. Baptism is one of the sacraments of initiation into the church. The others are Eucharist and confirmation.

St. Sigfrid

Sigfrid was sent to Norway with two other bishops after a request from Olaf, the king of Norway, who had converted to Christianity. As part of his journey to the Scandinavian countries, Sigfrid stopped in Sweden to preach to the people there. The king of Sweden became a Christian and Sigfrid was baptized and was named by Sigfrid after a small river. The river was named for Sigfrid and many miracles are attributed to the site. Sigfrid appointed three of his nephews, two who were deacons and one a priest, in charge of the diocese of Varo. In Sigfrid's absence, Swedish soldiers who were not Christians, killed the three men and destroyed the church. When the king was prepared to have the soldiers put to death, Sigfrid asked him to let them live. Sigfrid also preached in Denmark, but the Swedish people consider him one of their apostles. We remember him on Feb. 15.



Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question: **Why is our religious education so important?**

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 Feb. 21, 2002. 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 to the last trivia question was Maria Kane of Rochester, a student in the Seton Home Study Program. In response to "Can you name the four Gospels of the New Testament?", Maria wrote, "The four Gospels of the New Testament are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John."

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The Catholic School Board of Monroe County is seeking applicants for board membership. New members join the board after July 1, 2002.

If you are interested, please call the Catholic School Office, at: 328-3228 Ext. 294 for an application.

Puzzle

Fill in the blanks with the correct answers. The first letters of the answers will spell a mystery word. *Answers on page 9.*

1. heavenly father
2. church time between Pentecost and Advent
3. disobeying God
4. author of many New Testament letters
5. Communion
6. church season before Easter

Mystery word: _____



Call to Holiness

St. Michael the Archangel Chapter

Tuesday, February 19, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

We are pleased to welcome special guest speaker

Bowie Kuhn

FORMER COMMISSIONER OF BASEBALL

Bowie Kuhn has had a distinguished career as a lawyer and served as Commissioner of major league baseball for a fifteen year tenure. He is the author of *Hardball: The Education of a Baseball Commissioner*. With an early background as a baptized Catholic, he was subsequently awakened to a deeper conversion to the faith and the awareness of the call to be a saint. As a lay faithful, he provides a powerful witness to the "universal call to holiness." He will talk on Pope John Paul II's plea for the lay apostolate, "Duc in Altum"—"Put out into the deep" (Lk 5:4) for a catch, from the concluding Apostolic Letter of the Jubilee year, "Novo Millennio Ineunte."

St. Jude The Apostle Church

4100 Lyell Road, Rochester, NY

For more information call: Vivian - 387-9662, St. Jude's Church - 247-4322