

Kids' Chronicle

Paul writes to Christians in Rome

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Paul looked at the paper in front of him. He wanted to travel to Spain to preach to the people there, but he knew he would need the prayers and financial support of the Christians in Rome. He thought if he wrote them a letter first, they would welcome him when he arrived in the city. He knew it was important for him to acknowledge the devotion the Gentile Christians had toward Jesus.

"To all the beloved of God in Rome," Paul wrote, "called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from our God and Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, among all the Gentiles, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ."

There were so many things Paul wanted to tell his Roman friends. As he continued writing, he told them that he had heard of their faithfulness everywhere he traveled. He prayed for them every day, and he hoped that he would be able to pay them a visit in the near future. "I long to see you, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by one another's faith."

But Paul also knew that he would have to address some of the problems that the Roman Christians were having within their community. Some of them were judging people harshly without examining their own actions, others were placing more importance on the law than they were on the grace of God and some of them felt good deeds would cause God to bless them. Paul used the life of Abraham to explain that faith in God, is the foundation of Christianity. "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Paul wanted the Romans to know that God had called both Jews and Gentiles to believe in him. To explain his point, Paul used an example from the world of agriculture that he knew the people would understand. "Salvation has come to the Gentiles. I am an apostle to the Gentiles. I glory in my ministry in order to make my race, the Jews, jealous and thus save



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

some of them. If the first fruits are holy, so is the whole batch of dough; if the root is holy, so are the branches."

Faith was required on the part of all Christians, and God's mercy would bring the Jews and the Gentiles together with Jesus. "You have received mercy because of their disobedience. By virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may receive mercy, that God might have mercy upon all. To him be glory forever. Amen."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Romans 11

Q&A

1. What did Paul want from the Christians in Rome?
2. What did Paul say about Abraham?

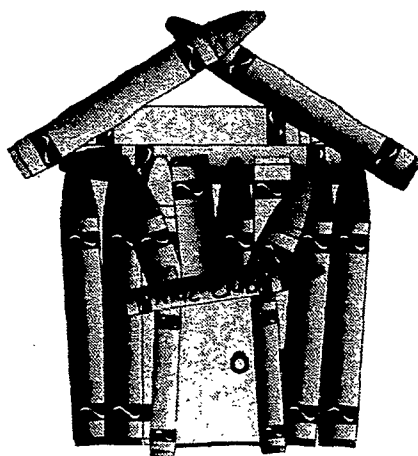
Bible Accent

Half a century before Jesus was born, Roman soldiers, led by General Pompey, took control of Jerusalem. The Romans appointed their own governor to be in charge of the territory. They left the religious rule under the authority of the Jewish high priest. When Jesus was born, Herod was king of Judea. Although this period is referred to as "Pax Romana," which is Latin for "Roman Peace," the Jewish people felt resentment toward the Romans. The Romans, who worshiped many gods, did not have any respect for the Jewish religion or traditions, and they imposed heavy taxes on the people. Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome was written during this difficult time for both the Jews and the early Christians.

St. Maximilian Kolbe

Maximilian Kolbe was born in Poland in 1894. When he was 10, Mary the Mother of Jesus appeared to him, holding a red crown in one hand and a white crown in the other. She told him to take one, but he took both. From that day on, Maximilian wanted to venerate Mary as part of his Christian devotion. In 1910, he joined the Conventual Franciscans and was ordained in 1918. During World War II, Maximilian was arrested by the Germans and taken to the concentration camp in Auschwitz. When 10 men were selected for death as punishment for a prisoner having escaped, Maximilian gave his life in place of a Polish sergeant who had a family at home. We honor him on Aug. 14.

Kids' Club



You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question: **Why do you think Paul wrote his letters to the early Christians?** 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 Aug. 15, 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*.

Last month's winner was Sara Duchesne, a third-grader at St. Francis/St. Stephen School in Geneva. In response to **Why is the Bible so important to our faith?**, she wrote "The Bible is important to our faith because it helps us learn all about the words Jesus spoke so we can follow in his foot steps. It helps us learn about God. The Bible teaches us how to be kind to others. The Bible also teaches us right from wrong."

THANKS TO OUR SAVINGS BOND DONOR
651 Plymouth Ave. N., Rochester, NY 14608 (585) 546-1740
Quality Sausage and Meat Products Since 1880



Puzzle

Unscramble the names of people mentioned in the Letter to the Romans. Chapter numbers are given as hints. The letters in parentheses () spell out a bonus scrambled name (chapter 9).
Answers on page 14.

Chapter	Letters
1. USSE(J)	1
2. VIDDA	1
3. MAHARA(B)	4
4. ASH(A)R	4
5. MAAD	5
6. USEA	9
7. (O)SSEM	10
8. (C)LUSIU	16
Bonus:	9

COURIER CLASSIFIED

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

PRO-LIFE OPENING:
THE SEVERAL SOURCES FOUNDATION, non-profit, non-sectarian shelters for pregnant women are in need of kind, compassionate individuals to fill the following opening:
Title: Live in Assistant Housemother
\$9,500 to 11,500 per year.
If you would like to receive a specific job description and an outline of our Prolife work, please contact
Anne Gallagher, P.O. Box 157, Ramsey, NY 07446
201-818-9033

GENERAL

Announcements

ADOPTIONS The Catholic Courier does not publish adoption advertising. To obtain a list of agencies that serve birth mothers and adoptive parents, call 585-529-9530. Agencies wishing to be included on this list may send information to the Catholic Courier.

Call
585.529.9530
To Place a
Classified Ad

SERVICES

Carpeting & Floor Care

Quick-Dry Carpet Care
3 AREAS for only **\$79.95**
*Price includes deep vacuuming, pre-treated soil retardant & deodorizer. Visa/MasterCard
Call 482-3896
Other specials available

Ceiling Repair

TEXTURED/SWIRLED CEILINGS: 9' x 12' ceiling only \$59! Water damaged, stained, poorly textured/swirled ceilings repaired, re-textured, re-painted, or made flat again. Any size drywall/plaster wall repairs. No job too small. 585/392-5076.

Masonry

MASONRY REPAIRS ALL TYPES, brick & cement step repairs, basement walls & garage foundation repairs. 40 years experience. Al Meyvis Sr. 323-1007

Moving & Hauling

K-D Moving & Storage, Inc.
Experience in office, household moving and deliveries.
Big or Small, We do them All!
473-6610/473-4357
25 Arlington St. Rochester NY 14607
NYDOT#9657

Painting & Wallcovering

AL MEYVIS, JR.: Painting exterior/interior. Basement walls repaired/painted/wet basement problems/all type home repairs. Power washing for decks/homes. Small jobs welcome. NYS certified. 392-4435 or 323-2876.

Plaster Restoration Wallpapering Painting

Free Estimates
585-482-3243
Terry & Nina McCullough
A Couple That Care