

KINGDOM

CHRISTIAN MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ■ ISSUE 12

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REVELATOR



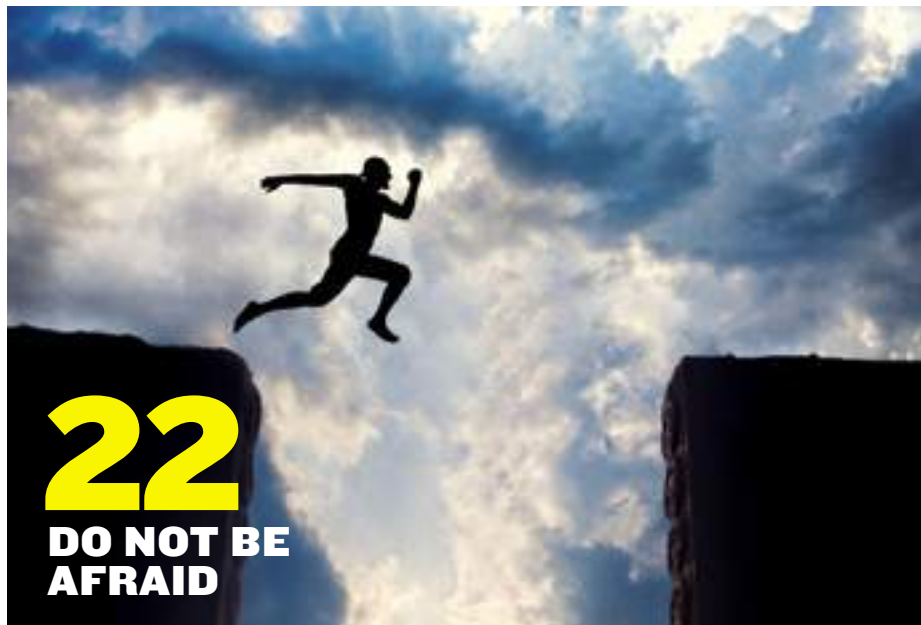
**AN
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE
FOR TEENS**

**Do not
Be Afraid**

**FAITH
IN THE
FAMILY**



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A Prayer for the Kingdom Revelator Magazine

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. We thank you for the gift of the Kingdom Revelator magazine and we ask you to touch the hearts of all the young people who will read it. We pray that you will work powerfully through the magazine to transform the lives of the readers through your Word and Wisdom. May it encourage them to grow in faith and to strive for holiness so that they are more effective witnesses to your power and love in their lives. Holy Spirit, teach us, guide us and help us to be your messengers and to spread Your Word through all generations. Amen.

SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT AND THEY SHALL BE CREATED AND YOU SHALL RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

PSALM 104:30

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK

Your feedback is very important to us. Please e-mail any comments or suggestions to kfkmag@gmail.com.

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If you would like to send us your personal testimony, write an article for an upcoming issue (maximum 1,000 words please), submit a drawing or poem or just to contact us - please e-mail: kfkmag@gmail.com.

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A message from the Editorial Team

Welcome to latest issue of Kingdom Revelator. In this Easter season we look forward to Pentecost, when the Church celebrates her birthday and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles in the Upper Room. We find out about the Holy Spirit, the Gifts that the Spirit brings and publish some thoughts by Pope Francis on what Pentecost means today. There is an interview with Mary Beth Bonacci from Life Teens Incorporated who discusses her work in talking to young people about sexuality, chastity, and marriage. This is a challenging area for young Catholics who are trying to live by the Gospel values, which are very different to the messages that they receive through popular culture.

As the exam season is approaching, one of our readers shares how God helped her to revise and gave her good exam results, when she thought that she had failed. This encourages us all to pray and trust in God when times get difficult. Our situation may seem hopeless to us but God can turn any situation around and bring something positive from the worst situations, if we only trust Him. Dr John Das, a Catholic evangelist, echoes this in his article showing us why we should not be afraid. This is a common message in the Bible. Our human nature is to worry and panic when unexpected things happen but when we trust in God He will send us the help that we need.

St Dominic Savio, who died before his fifteenth birthday, is an inspirational figure for young people because his holiness was recognised from an early age. He once said, "I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God." That is a great motto for our lives. Let us make sure that everything we do is pleasing to God then we too will be on the road to sainthood!

THE GOD WHO DOES THE

Brijil shares her testimony of how God showered his mercy on her during her AS exams.

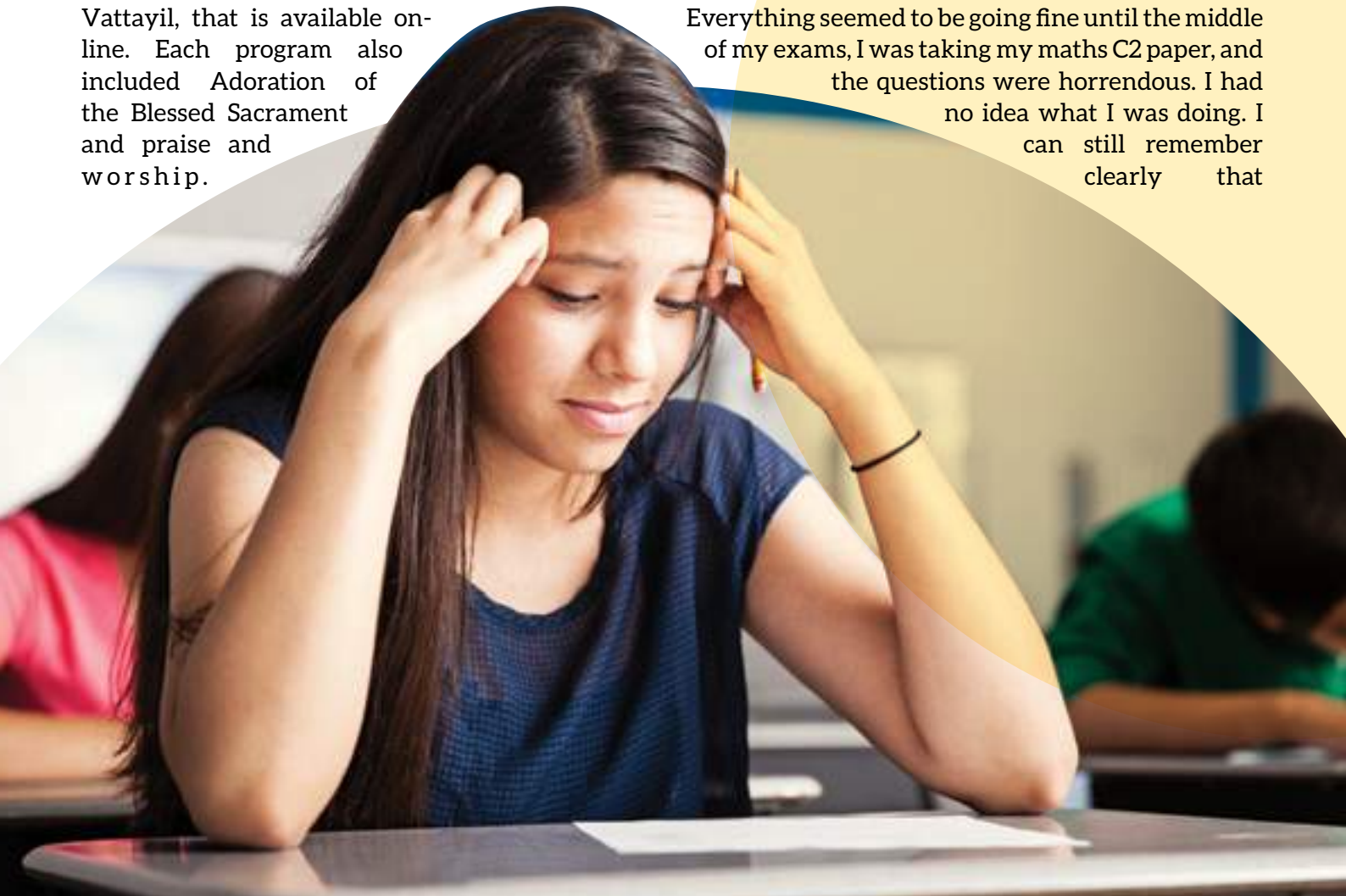
IMPOSSIBLE

Hi, I'm Brijil, following my dad's advice, each day before revising for my AS exams I watched an episode of Sehon Abhishekagni which is a Bible teaching in Malayalam (the language of Kerala, India) given by Fr. Xavier Khan Vattayil, that is available on-line. Each program also included Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and praise and worship.

I would place my hands on the books that I was going to revise from whilst watching the program and pray that God would help me to revise.

A NIGHTMARE EXAM

Everything seemed to be going fine until the middle of my exams, I was taking my maths C2 paper, and the questions were horrendous. I had no idea what I was doing. I can still remember clearly that



there were about eight questions on the paper and I could only fully answer the first three questions. I knew that these were only worth between two and six marks each. As I started the fourth question, I began to get worried because I wasn't sure what to do. So I moved on to the next question, and then to the next but the questions just seemed to get worse and worse. I managed to do parts of the next few questions but the bits that I did were only worth about four marks each compared to the possible twelve marks that I could get if I finished the question. The exam did not go well at all.

MY DAD'S ADVICE

As soon as I got home, my dad asked me how it had gone and I burst into tears, because I knew that I had failed that exam. I couldn't even answer half of the paper. He started to tell me Bible verses of encouragement such as, "Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6: 33) "I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, "Be lifted up and thrown into the sea", it will be done." (Matthew 21:21-22) "What is impossible with man is possible with God." (Luke 18:27) He then told me to go to the prayer room in our house get down on my knees and thank God for all that had gone wrong in the exam. So I went and did as he said, I knelt down and thanked God. I thanked God, for all the questions that I had not managed to complete. For all the questions that I couldn't finish because I ran out of time. I thanked God for all the questions that I didn't know how to approach or what techniques to use. In short I thanked God for everything that had gone wrong. I walked into the prayer room crying, but after thanking God I walked out of the room with so much happiness and peace that I had never felt before. My tears had been changed to a big smile, because I knew that Jesus had a plan for me!

ANOTHER CONFUSING EXAM

A few days later I remember doing my Biology exams. I was worried afterwards because all my friends seemed to have answered the questions differently to me

and they had drawn different graphs. The second Biology paper was even worse. We were expecting only two questions to be about applying our knowledge but every question in the exam paper was an application question that included many calculations and I found it very confusing. I had never had such a hard exam paper, where I was so unsure of what the examiners actually wanted.

"I AM THE LORD,
THE GOD OF
ALL MANKIND. IS
ANYTHING TOO
HARD FOR ME?"

JEREMIAH 32:27

I tried my best to answer all the questions, but I remember just trying to write down anything and everything that might have a link to the question. Afterwards, everyone was discussing the exam and I compared my answers with two of my friends. These were smart girls who always got top marks and I remember they had similar answers to each other but my answers were quite different to theirs. I felt the familiar sadness and worry, knowing I had gone and messed up another exam.

KEEPING FAITH

After that exam, at home, I just told Jesus, "You're going to have to mark the paper, because if the examiners see my answers they won't even pass me. Jesus you have to fill those examiners with the Holy Spirit." I just kept praying in faith. Before the results were announced, I was very worried, as I knew that my exams had not gone well. However, by God's grace and mercy, He awarded me a B in maths and A's in my other three subjects. I knew God had done the impossible. Because I trusted in Him, He worked for me. When I put God first in my life, He provided the miracle that I needed. All Glory be to Jesus! ☺

INTERVIEW





Mary Beth Bonacci, an American, is well-known internationally for her talks and writings about love, chastity, and

sexuality. She appears frequently on radio and television programs and addresses large gatherings of young people. Her apostolate, Real Love Incorporated is dedicated to presenting the truth about the Church's teaching about sexuality, chastity, and marriage. Carl Olson, editor of IgnatiusInsight.com, spoke to Mary Beth about her work and her thoughts on teenagers and the challenge of sharing the truth about sex, dating, and marriage.

disease and pregnancy; it's about finding and living real love. That one insight changed my life and I was driven to share it with teens. I didn't, however, have any kind of overarching plan for how I was going to share this message. I just read a lot about it and talked a lot about it. The Lord took over from there. A local pregnancy centre called me about a year later and asked me to speak on chastity for their new speakers' bureau. The rest is history.

Teens definitely face much more pressure than we did when I was in high school. There is much more sexual activity and many more types of sexual activity, engaged in at younger and younger ages. But there is also a lot more support. The chastity movement has made a big difference. I give talks and kids come up to me afterward to show me the pledge cards they signed at their churches, or to tell me about the "chastity clubs" they're forming to support each other.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR TEENS

What is the inspiration and story behind Real Love? Please tell us about your vocation.

Mary Beth Bonacci: When I was a senior at the St. Ignatius Institute of the University of San Francisco, the Institute sponsored a four-part speaker series on chastity. Those talks, all based on the Theology of the Body, blew me away. I saw for the first time that chastity isn't just about avoiding

You've been speaking to youth about love, sexuality, and related issues for nearly twenty years. What changes have you seen in the popular culture in these areas? How have high school and college aged youth changed?

Youth today are both better and worse than they were twenty years ago. I see the gulf between the two getting wider.

What are the greatest challenges and obstacles the Church faces in reaching young people with the truth of the Gospel?

It is the popular culture. The messages bombarding teens every hour of every day from music, television, movies and the Internet, all glamorize values that are absolutely the opposite to the Christian message. We can't



THE ETERNAL ERROR IS THAT GIRLS STILL BELIEVE THAT GIVING BOYS SEXUAL FAVOURS WILL MAKE THE BOYS LOVE THEM. OF COURSE, THE EXACT OPPOSITE IS TRUE, WHICH IS WHY THE MESSAGE OF CHASTITY AS LOVE IS SO IMPORTANT.

respond to that simply by trying to out-glamorize the glamorizers, we'll never win at that. We have to appeal to that deeper place that the popular culture can't touch, the "God-shaped hole" in their hearts that the sexiness of Hollywood can never fill. They're hungry but they just don't always know what they're hungry for. We need to show them.

What differences exist between the average non-Christian teenager and the average Catholic teenager?

The average Catholic teen is more likely to have goals and a vision that go beyond the here and now. They have support, they have adults in their lives who are showing them the "bigger picture" of life in Christ, and that makes it a lot easier for them to resist the temptations they face every day.

What are the most common questions you hear? What are the most common errors or falsehoods that kids embrace, both consciously and subconsciously?

The questions never really change. "How far can I go?"

"How do I explain chastity to a friend who isn't living it?"

"Is (whatever sexual sin they're hearing about in school) a sin?"

The errors run along the lines of thinking that the only real sexual sin is intercourse outside of marriage, and that anything short of that isn't really a problem. The other, eternal error is that girls still believe that giving boys sexual favours will make the boys love them.

Of course, the exact opposite is true, which is why the message of chastity as love is so important.

What should Catholic parents be doing to keep their children not only in the Faith, but helping them to become devout, vibrant Catholics?

What are the most common mistakes that parents make with their teenagers?

The most common mistake parents make is waiting until their children are teenagers to begin to address these issues. They need to start when they're young, inculcating their children with the understanding that sex is sacred, that it's beautiful, that it's powerful, and that it belongs

in marriage. Parents also need to help their children understand their own dignity as made in the image and likeness of God, and their bodies as temples of that image and likeness. That makes the children less likely to "trade" on their bodies to gain popularity or acceptance. And, of course, parents need to foster in their children a strong spiritual life. The power to live chastity doesn't come from us, it comes from God!

We often hear negative stories about today's youth, from the rate of pregnancy outside of marriage to a seemingly uncaring attitude towards religion. What are the positive stories that we might not hear as often?

Oh, there are so many wonderful teens out there! Really, they're far more impressive than I, or anyone I knew, was at that age. They stand up against the culture. They organize pro-life groups, pro-chastity groups. They stand together and they exhibit tremendous courage. It is most definitely a mistake to write off today's teens! ☪

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THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



“LET YOUR GOOD SPIRIT GUIDE
ME IN WAYS THAT ARE LEVEL
AND SMOOTH.”

PSALM 143:10

GOD IS A GIVER OF GIFTS. HE DELIGHTS IN LAVISHING GIFTS ON US IN ABUNDANCE, BUT DO WE KNOW WHAT THESE GIFTS ARE THAT GOD GIVES US AND ARE WE USING THEM AS WE SHOULD?

When we are baptised, we receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in Isaiah 11 and these are strengthened in Confirmation. These gifts are given to help us grow in friendship with Jesus and to live a moral life. They enable us to make right decisions and give us the strength to be courageous witnesses of the Gospel. We need to use these gifts regularly to grow strong in our faith, but we first need to know what they are.

WISDOM: This gift helps us to know the difference between good and evil, right and wrong. It helps us make the right choices when faced with decisions. It helps us see the world from God’s perspective. As we grow in wisdom, our behaviour and actions become more mature. Wisdom helps us grow in holiness.

UNDERSTANDING: This gift helps us to recognise the emptiness and dryness of many of the ideas in contemporary society. It helps us to see the lasting truths of the Gospel and to understand how God is working his purpose out in our own lives.

COUNSEL: This is sometimes called ‘Right Judgement.’ This gift helps us to see what is right and wrong in the events happening around us and it gives us the wisdom to act according to our conscience.

FORTITUDE: This gift gives us the strength of will and the courage to do what we know to be the will of God for us, even when this may cause us to experience loss or suffering.

KNOWLEDGE: This gift helps us to see events and things happening in our life from a supernatural point of view. It helps us understand and know what God is asking of us.

PIETY: This gift brings loyalty to God. It causes us to be obedient to Him; wanting to do only what God wants us to do. It makes us want to love God as he deserves to be loved and worship Him above everything else in our lives.

FEAR OF THE LORD: This gift helps us to reverence and understand God’s greatness and our dependence on him. It fills us with enormous respect for God and gives us a dread of offending him, or being separated from him in any way. It is not a fear in the sense of being frightened, but a fear of losing our relationship with God.

All these gifts are essential in helping us to become mature and holy Christians. They help us to become the best person we can possibly be, the person God created us to be. God gives them to us because he knows we need them. So, use them regularly as you go about your daily life and you will grow stronger spiritually, in your friendship with Christ and in your service to those around you. ☺

LOVE IS ALL WE NEED



How can we reach our true potential in life and become the people that God wants us to be? **Joel Vincent** suggests that love is the key.



WHAT IS LOVE?

Love is one of the Christian virtues. God is love and when we love, we are close to God and that makes us happy and satisfied. When we do not love others it drives us away from God and makes us unhappy. Love is a grace, a gift from God and without it we cannot be the people that God wants us to be.

PRIDE

As Christians we are called to love one another. Only love can bring peace to the world but our pride often stops us from being loving. Pride is a sin and it means having too great a sense of our own importance, in our thoughts and in the way that we act. We can be proud when we take too much pleasure in something that we have done or something that we own. Pride is giving ourselves the glory and the credit for something rather than giving it to God. When we are proud we compete against everyone else to be the best and we judge others so we are not being loving. The opposite of pride is humility and when we are humble we treat everyone equally and this draws us closer to God. Humility is difficult but it is the only way that we can love others as Our Heavenly Father loves us.

UNCONDITIONAL

God's love is unconditional, that means that there are no limits to His forgiveness and love. Our love and forgiveness should similarly be without limits. We all sin and turn away from God at times but that doesn't mean God hates us. He loves us and

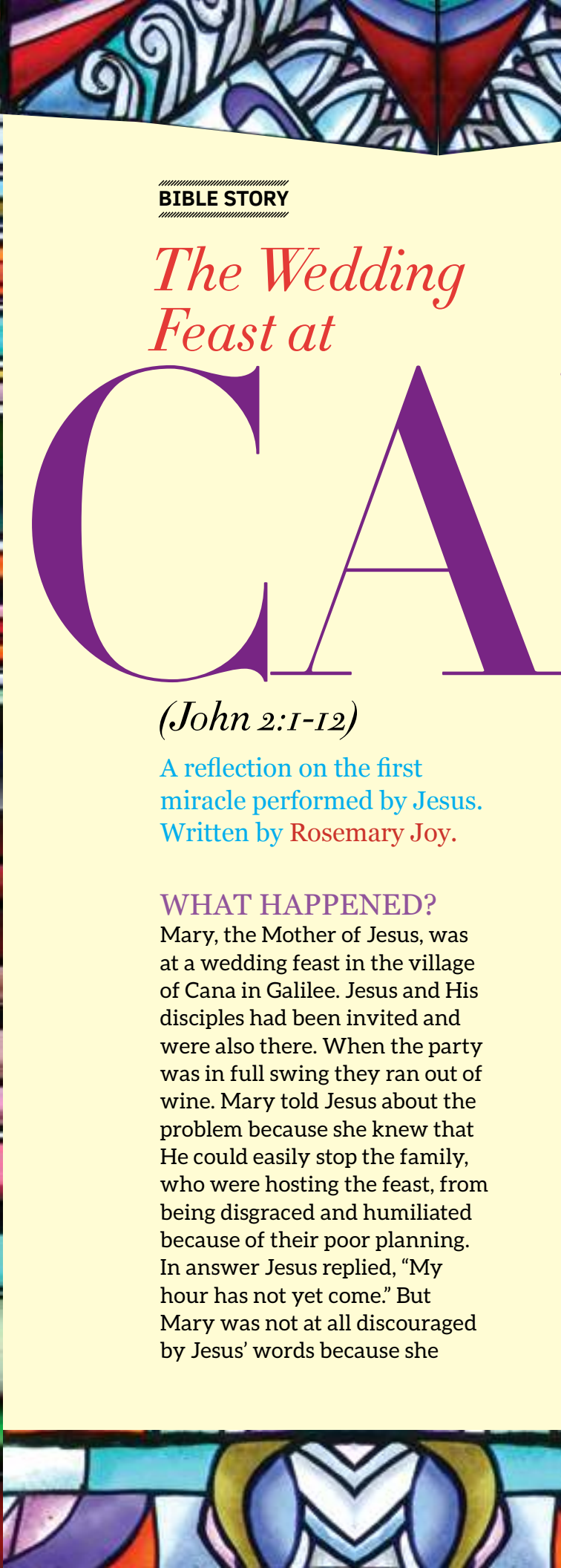
“THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WHAT LOVE IS: JESUS CHRIST LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US, AND WE OUGHT TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.”

1 JOHN 3:16

is always willing to forgive us if we turn back to Him. In the same way we should be forgiving. In the story of the prodigal son, Jesus said that when the father saw his son coming back to him, he ran towards him and welcomed him. When the young son said that he had spent all his father's money and expected to be treated like a slave, the father forgave him completely. This is an example of unconditional love. Jesus told this parable to show us how to forgive because when we forgive others then God will forgive us as Jesus taught us in the Lord's prayer, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

ONE FAMILY

When we are selfish and we don't care about other people then we can make them unhappy and sad. Our careless words or actions can have a devastating impact on others. We should be careful to look after and care for each other. We are all brothers and sisters, one family, that is united in God and the Church and we should try to never hurt or offend anyone in our family. God is our father and Mary is our mother and we should love them both. Jesus died for us because he loved us so much and we should return His love. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16) If he hadn't loved us enough to die for us then we would have to suffer ourselves for our sins in eternal damnation so we should accept his invitation to go to heaven and to be holy and be on fire with His love. ☉



//////
BIBLE STORY
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The Wedding Feast at

CANA

(John 2:1-12)

A reflection on the first
miracle performed by Jesus.
Written by Rosemary Joy.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was at a wedding feast in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus and His disciples had been invited and were also there. When the party was in full swing they ran out of wine. Mary told Jesus about the problem because she knew that He could easily stop the family, who were hosting the feast, from being disgraced and humiliated because of their poor planning. In answer Jesus replied, "My hour has not yet come." But Mary was not at all discouraged by Jesus' words because she

knew that her loving son would listen to her. So, she confidently told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them to do. At the

and through it he shows His disciples the awesome power that was working through Him. When the disciples witnessed

this miracle they realised that Jesus was no ordinary teacher and they began to believe in Him.

WHAT DOES IT TEACH US?

If we sincerely want to experience inner or physical healing in our lives, we must

first invite Jesus into our hearts. If the family had not invited Jesus to the feast, he would not have been able to save them from dishonour. Whenever we are in trouble or danger, our first instinct should be to invite Jesus to come into the situation and take complete control of it, according to His holy will. Jesus is always waiting to be invited into our lives so that He can reveal how extraordinary His love and mercy is. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20) Let's open the door of our hearts and let Jesus in!

Do you love your mum? Of course you do! Just like us, Jesus dearly loves His mother. When we ask our Mother Mary to pray for us, she prays with us asking her son to grant our requests. Jesus listens to His mother! In the story, even though Jesus said at first that His time had not yet come to perform a miracle, He simply could not ignore what His mother was asking Him to do. As well as being the mother of Jesus, Mary is also our mother. Jesus Himself gave His mother to us while he was on the cross, by saying to His beloved disciple John: "Behold, your mother." (John 19:27) When Jesus said this, He was not only addressing John, but every one of us. By acknowledging that Mary is our own mother, we know that if we ask her to intercede for us, she will definitely take our prayers to her Son, Jesus. Also, she will be with us to love and comfort us while we wait for our prayers to be answered. This is because Mother Mary regards us all as her precious children, and she wants to hold us all close to her heart. We should allow her to nurture and care for us by asking her to always pray for our needs. The best way to ask for her intercession is by praying the Holy Rosary. Our Lady told Blessed Alan de la Roche, "You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary." ☪

feast, there were six very large stone water jars that were used by the people for the ritual washing of their hands. Each huge jar held about one hundred litres and Jesus told the servants to fill them right up to the brim with water. When they were full, Jesus told the servants to take out some of the water, which had been miraculously turned into wine, and give it to the head waiter. He did not know where the wine had come from, but when he tasted it he was truly amazed. Quickly, he called over the bridegroom and said, "The best wine is always served first. Then, when the guests have had plenty to drink, we serve the wine that doesn't taste so good, but you have kept the best wine until last!" This was Jesus' first miracle,

FAITH IN THE FAMILY

One of our young readers has written an important message for other young Christians.

A CALL TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

God is pouring out His Holy Spirit on the younger generation, and I think that he wants to use us, young people for building up his kingdom. Joel 2:28 says "In the last days, I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophecy; your young men shall see visions and your old men dream dreams." Many of us, teenagers and young people, have been touched by the Holy Spirit and our lives have been changed. We don't want to waste our time on things that have no benefit for our soul. All we want is to build a relationship with God and to grow as a generation ready to serve Him and be used by Him. We know that through personal prayer, reading the Bible, Holy Mass and the Sacraments, we are able to love Jesus and be filled with His power. We live every day wanting to become more



immersed in His love. We want nothing more than to love and serve our God and we want people to experience the love of Christ through us. Jesus is calling all young people to live their lives to the full with the true joy and freedom that comes from Him. (John 10:10).

A CALL TO PARENTS

The Church calls us to pray for young people, because it sees them as “the future of the church!” It’s strange that parents work very hard to earn enough money for a comfortable life for themselves and their children, and they strive to make sure that their children get the best education and study hard in

school, but rarely do parents look at their children and say, “I want you to become a saint!” It seems such a funny thing to say. But later, when

they have problems with their children, they wonder what they did wrong! St. Augustine said, “The life of parents is the book which the children read.” His mother, Monica, spent seventeen years of her life praying for his conversion, as he was living a very sinful life. None of her prayers were wasted and after seventeen years, her son’s life was totally changed. After his conversion St. Augustine became one of our most powerful Saints. This was all due to the prayers of his mother, and she became a Saint too. This is what all parents are called to do. They should spend their time praying for their children but also, they need to teach them how to say no to sin, and yes to holiness.

FAMILY PRAYER

Family prayer is very important and we should make time for it in our homes, praying the Rosary together as a family. The younger generation must see their parents practising their faith; otherwise

they will lose it when they grow up. It is said that the family that prays together stays together. If there is no family prayer in your homes ask your parents if you can start it. If they are unwilling then pray for your family and your parents, crying out to God for them. Families should also read Bible stories together. By hearing these powerful stories families are bonded together and grow in faith. “Take care and watch yourselves closely, so you do not forget the things that your eyes have seen, or let them slip from you mind all the days of your life: make them known to your children and your children’s children.” (Deuteronomy 4:9)

Let us pray that all the young people in this nation may encounter the love of Jesus and be filled with His Holy Spirit! ☩



THE HOLY SPIRIT A REALITY?

AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF PENTECOST WE FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HOW HE CAN HELP US TODAY.

THE TRINITY

As I grew up I learnt a lot about Jesus, His life on earth and all the wonderful things that he did, His death on the cross and His Resurrection. I heard about God the Father, who seemed to be like a big jovial grand-father type figure who loves us all and wants the best for us. But the Holy Spirit was a bit of a mystery. He was often represented by tongues of fire or wind or the breath of God. He used to be called the Holy Ghost and that is how I used to think of Him. A sort of divine power that appeared occasionally in the Bible, which somehow spoke God's words to the prophets and Holy men and women but it (I didn't even think of the Holy Spirit as a person) was not relevant to my life.

PENTECOST

How wrong I was. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity. Equal in importance with God the Father and Jesus the Son. In the Gospels, towards the end of His ministry, Jesus spoke a lot about the gift of the Holy Spirit that His followers would receive after He had ascended to His Father. This is what happened at Pentecost when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. God came down to earth in a different form to Jesus and filled the hearts and souls of His disciples. This was wonderful news for the early church. They had just

lost their beloved Jesus when He died on the cross but God visited them again in the form of the Holy Spirit, who promised to be with them always.

GOD WITH US

The Holy Spirit was not just for the first disciples, He is the God who is with all His people, so He is ours too! We receive the Holy Spirit in our Baptism and we are strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation. When we receive the Eucharist we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus but as God is Trinity, we also receive the Father and the Holy Spirit in Holy Communion. The Holy Spirit also gives us gifts like those mentioned in Isaiah 11 and also other supernatural gifts, sometimes called charisms that help us to build up God's Kingdom. St Paul lists some of these in 1 Corinthians 12. They include extraordinary gifts of faith, healing, prophecy, teaching and administration.

OUR STRENGTH

We can try very hard but it is impossible to be a Christian without the help of the Holy Spirit. He gives us the inner strength to walk the Christian life, to become more like Jesus and to live his commandments. In our weakness the Holy Spirit makes us strong, He is our defender against the evil one who wants to lead us astray and He will make us more aware of the temptations of sin that are all around us and will give us the strength to fight against these.

OUR GUIDE

The Holy Spirit knows the heart of God and is our guide showing us the path that God wants us to take. He may do this through an inner prompting of our

“DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOUR BODIES ARE TEMPLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO IS IN YOU, WHOM YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM GOD?”

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19

spirit or through conversations with other faith-filled Christians. He sometimes even speaks to us in an audible way. The Holy Spirit can melt the stony hardness of our hearts and change us into the loving, compassionate people that God wants us to be. Jesus said that a good tree produces good fruit and when we are led by the Holy Spirit people will notice in us the fruits of the Spirit in our lives. They will experience our love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22 - 26)

THE POWER OF GOD

The Holy Spirit is the power of God in us. St Paul said that he had led many non-believers to the Church by displaying powerful signs and wonders. He said that everything that he had said and done was accomplished through the power of the Spirit of God. (Romans 15:18 -

19) Many people became Christians when they saw the miracles that the Holy Spirit worked through the early believers and the Church grew. The Holy Spirit has continued to move with power throughout the history of the Church inspiring the great Saints and Popes over the ages. Today He wants to be more powerful in our lives and to work great signs and wonders through us. This is possible, if we pray for healings and miracles through the power of the Holy Spirit.

SUBMIT TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

I have learnt that the Holy Spirit is just as important in our Christian lives as the Father and the Son, and He wants to be more active and work through us. Each morning we should submit ourselves to God by asking the Holy Spirit to be with us, to guide our thoughts, words and deeds throughout the coming day. In this way He will lead us towards holiness and wholeness in our lives. Come Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity!

FORGET ME NOT

Sister Mini Puthumana, a nun of the Congregation of the Daughters of St Francis De Sales, shares her thoughts on the challenges of being a teenager today.



REMEMBER THE MOST PRECIOUS THING

There was once a woman whose life was really miserable, she had a child and they were living in utter poverty. Every day she cried out to God saying, "Jesus, please help me. Save me from this difficult situation." God answered her prayers and said, "Look, I will take you to a room full of valuable treasure. I will give you five minutes to collect whatever you need to end your poverty. But don't forget the most precious thing." She agreed and as God had promised, He showed her the doorway into a room. So, laden with carrier bags, and carrying her child she went in and the door closed behind her. Then she heard the voice of God say, 'You can collect whatever you want and when the time is over, you will hear a bell and the door will be opened and you must leave immediately.' She agreed. The woman put the child in a safe place in the corner of the room and began to work. She was amazed to see all the wonderful treasure and started to put the best pieces into her bags. She collected as much as she could and suddenly the bell rang. Though she was tired, she managed to stagger through the door with all her valuables and immediately the door shut behind her. Suddenly she remembered her child, but it was too late. Then she recollected the words of Jesus, "Don't forget the most precious thing."

THE BEST YEARS OF YOUR LIFE

During their adolescence young boys and girls should experience the best years of their lives. They have many friends around them to chat and relax with. They share jokes and enjoy themselves with their school friends and they do many risky things. They waste their time with some rubbish things as well. There are so many opportunities for having fun and gradually they can forget the most precious thing in their lives. Teenagers crave for love. Love from their friends, from their family and from the opposite sex. Sometimes they may fall in love with someone who doesn't respond to them and they get upset and disappointed. They may even feel that there is nobody in this world who they can share their problems with. Where can they find the solution?

HAPPINESS FROM WITHIN

Naturally youngsters are influenced by the world around them and the pleasures that it offers and they can easily get depressed and find no meaning in their lives. They don't find any real happiness anywhere and feel empty inside. Like the woman in the story, we gather up all the things that the world tells us are important and enjoy all the worldly pleasures but they do not give us any real happiness because true lasting happiness only comes from within. When we hear the voice of God, He will satisfy our hunger for love, and remove the sadness. "For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?" (Matthew 16:26). These words changed the life of St Francis Xavier.

SEEDS OF FAITH

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen once said that as our stomach craves for food, so our soul should also thirst for God. The problems of our teenage years can be overcome when we become friends with the ever loving Jesus. The seeds of faith were handed on to us by our parents and if we can allow these seeds to grow, we will not become the slaves of any unnatural things of this world. At the same time we will be able to withstand temptation to sin and the bad influences of our peer group. God knows each one of us, our weaknesses, our strengths, our abilities and our talents and like the prodigal son, when we return to God, and recognise Him as the supreme, the most precious God, He will work in us and do miracles in our lives. "Stretch out your hand to Him like a little child to his father so that He may lead you on." St. Francis de Sales.

Like a fire fly, although it is only tiny, overcomes and removes the darkness, Lord please illuminate the hearts and minds of young people today so that they can live their youthfulness with vigour and enthusiasm and always appreciate the most precious things in their lives. "Do as little children do, who with one hand cling to their father, and with the other gather blackberries along the hedges." St. Francis de Sales. ☪

Sharlet Francis Xavier writes about the young Saint who died in his teens.

FAMILY LIFE

Dominic Savio was born in 1842, in the village of Riva in northern Italy. The name Dominic means belonging to God and the name Savio means wise. His devout family was poor, but hard-working. As a child Dominic went to the Oratory of St. Francis De Sales, a school founded by Don Bosco, the future Saint, who later wrote a biography of Dominic as he was so impressed by his holiness. Dominic was very bright. He did well at school and was loved and respected by his friends. He attended Mass regularly and was often seen in Church praying with great passion to Jesus. At that time, children would receive their first Holy Communion in their early teens, but his Parish Priest, inspired by the Holy Spirit, decided that Dominic's faith and devotion were so strong that he was allowed to receive Jesus in Holy Communion from the age of seven.

LIFE CHANGING DECISIONS

As he prepared for his First Holy Communion, the seven year old Dominic decided that he would make four rules for himself.

1. I will go to Confession and Communion as often as my confessor will allow.

SAINT DOMINIC SAVIO



2. I will sanctify Sundays and holy days in a special way.
3. Jesus and Mary will be my friends.
4. I will suffer death rather than sin.

Dominic lived by these resolutions until his death. He always considered God as his Lord and master and he was sure that God would reward those who were faithful with eternal life. He is said to have enjoyed the company of his guardian angel and used to have conversations with him. But while he full of energy and ready to join in any games with his friends, Dominic's health was not strong.

LIVING LIKE CHRIST

Dominic was a very compassionate boy as he tried to imitate Jesus in all that he did. When he was eleven he was falsely accused of a serious offence at school. Dominic was threatened with expulsion, but because he had never misbehaved before, he was just given a severe scolding before the whole class. Dominic made no reply but stood in silence with his head bowed. A few days later the boy who was actually guilty was discovered. The teacher regretted punishing Dominic and asked him why he had not defended himself. He answered gently, "I remembered how Our Lord had been unjustly accused. I knew that the other boy was in trouble for other things and I hoped that if I kept silent he would be given another chance."

DEVOTION TO MARY

Dominic had a special love for the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He often prayed asking for the grace to keep his heart like Mary's, free from every impure desire. Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854

"Like St Dominic Savio, be missionaries of good example, good words, good action at home, with neighbours and colleagues at work. At every age we can and we must bear witness to Christ! Commitment to bear witness is permanent and daily."

HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II
IN A HOMILY ON 7TH DECEMBER 1997

and Don Bosco and his Salesian brothers offered themselves to Mary, the Immaculate Mother of Jesus in a very special prayer. Dominic remembered his first Communion resolutions and renewed them at this time, especially that he would suffer death rather than sin. Dominic had made such evident progress in virtue that Don Bosco began to write down everything he noticed about the young boy and this would later become his biography.

CALL TO SAINTHOOD

One day, Don Bosco said to

his pupils, "Everyone is called to be a Saint. It is easy to be a Saint. You just have to carefully do the ordinary things of the day in an extra ordinary way." Dominic was deeply touched by this and began to think very seriously about how he might become a Saint. He began to do acts of penance and gradually became more aware of God's call to holiness in his life. He was already very pious, but he became a person of prayer and began to actively spread the Gospel message of God's love to others.

VISION OF ENGLAND

Dominic Savio told Don Bosco about a vision that he had. "While praying I found myself in a wide plain that was enveloped by mist and there were many people groping about in the fog as though they had lost their way. A voice said, 'This is England.' Then I saw another figure coming towards me, wearing robes like those worn by the Pope in the picture in our class room. He was holding a huge, flaming torch in his hand, and wherever he went the mist disappeared. Soon it was all clear. Then the voice said, 'This torch is the Catholic faith which is to illuminate England.' Dominic asked Don Bosco to tell Pope Pius IX about the vision.

HIS DEATH

Dominic's health was never strong and a month before his fifteenth birthday he took sick and died. He was canonised on 12th June 1954 and his feast is kept each year on 6th May. ☺



DO NOT BE AFRAID

THERE ARE MANY PRESSURES ON US THESE DAYS AND WE TEND TO WORRY ABOUT ALL SORTS OF THINGS BUT THE BIBLE TELLS US THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY FIVE TIMES NOT TO BE AFRAID. DR JOHN DAS SHOWS US WHY OUR LOVING GOD IS SPEAKING THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO OUR HEARTS TODAY.

CALLED BY OUR NAME

God loves each one of us intimately and has called each one of us by our name. Jesus is the good shepherd who calls us to follow Him. "The sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." (John 10:3) A good shepherd knows each one of his sheep and if he loses one he always knows which one is missing without counting them. Then he will go out searching for the lost sheep. When he finds it he will know it by its bleating. He will be able to pick it out from among all the other lost sheep, even though they all look alike because he knows his sheep so well.

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR US

God said, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you and before you were born I consecrated you.' (Jeremiah 1:5) He is saying the same thing to us today. God had a plan for each one of us, even before we were born. We are the chosen ones and he loves each one of us individually, so there is no need to be afraid. He knows us and loves us. "He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love." (Ephesians 1:4)

DIVINE PROTECTION

God will protect us from all harm. Daniel was thrown into the lion's den and they left him there for six days. (Daniel 14: 31-42) In the pit were seven starving lions but God protected him and the lions did not eat him. This was a miracle but even more amazing is that God also took care to satisfy his beloved son, Daniel's, hunger. He sent an angel to the prophet Habakkuk, who was in Judaea preparing a meal for the workers in the fields. The angel asked him to take the food instead to Daniel, then took hold of Habakkuk by his hair and flew with him at the speed of the wind to Babylon which was a great distance away. The angel set Habakkuk down on the edge of the pit and he called to Daniel to take the food that God had sent him. Daniel replied, "You have remembered me, O God, and have not forsaken those who love you." (Daniel 14:37) If we too love God like Daniel did then He will never abandon us.

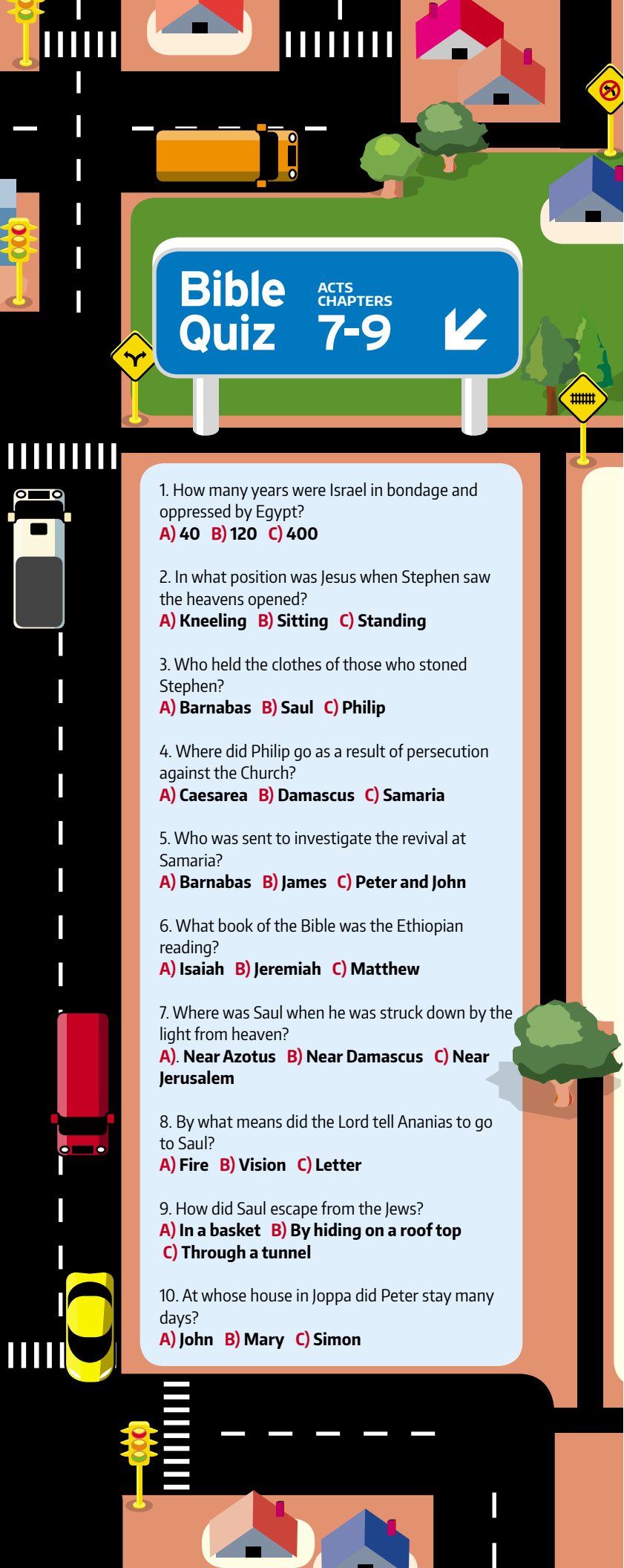
GOD HOLDS OUR HANDS

When we have problems and times are difficult we should not be afraid because God our father is holding our hand and walking with us. "I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, Do not fear, I will help you." (Isaiah 41:13) Even if we turn away from God we should not be afraid because he allows us to say sorry and turn back to Him. When we go to the Sacrament of Confession there is no condemnation. We are forgiven and there is great joy in heaven and in our hearts. When we are walking in His ways, the Lord is delighted. We may struggle sometimes but He will give us strength. He makes our steps firm and although we may stumble He will stop us from falling over because he is holding our hands. (Psalm 37:23-24).

GOD ACTS MIRACULOUSLY

When you follow God's ways he will protect you and give you everything you need. "God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19) I remember, a few years ago, one rainy Sunday evening when I was driving with my wife. Suddenly our car broke down. It stopped and I couldn't fix it. So we started to pray. Very soon two men on a motorbike came towards us and asked what was wrong. I explained that there was a problem with the battery. They left us and returned with a car battery which they fitted in our car. Then they very kindly came back to our home with us, on their bike in the pouring rain. When we got home they took back their battery and drove off. Before they left I offered them some money for their trouble but they refused. We were very surprised and grateful for their help and we thanked God for sending them to us. I had never seen these people before or since that time but I am convinced that it was God who was acting through them to rescue us in our hour of need.

So there is no need to be afraid if you love God and give your heart to Him. When you do this you will want to return quickly back to Him when you fall and in return He will be with you always to guide and protect you. ☺



Bible Quiz

ACTS
CHAPTERS
7-9



1. How many years were Israel in bondage and oppressed by Egypt?

A) 40 B) 120 C) 400

2. In what position was Jesus when Stephen saw the heavens opened?

A) Kneeling B) Sitting C) Standing

3. Who held the clothes of those who stoned Stephen?

A) Barnabas B) Saul C) Philip

4. Where did Philip go as a result of persecution against the Church?

A) Caesarea B) Damascus C) Samaria

5. Who was sent to investigate the revival at Samaria?

A) Barnabas B) James C) Peter and John

6. What book of the Bible was the Ethiopian reading?

A) Isaiah B) Jeremiah C) Matthew

7. Where was Saul when he was struck down by the light from heaven?

A) Near Azotus B) Near Damascus C) Near Jerusalem

8. By what means did the Lord tell Ananias to go to Saul?

A) Fire B) Vision C) Letter

9. How did Saul escape from the Jews?

A) In a basket B) By hiding on a roof top C) Through a tunnel

10. At whose house in Joppa did Peter stay many days?

A) John B) Mary C) Simon

COME HOLY SPIRIT

*Come, Holy Spirit,
Water of life,
Breath of God,
Flow silently
From your throne above
Into our hearts.*

*Heavenly Comforter,
Most welcome guest,
The sweetest refresher,
Bring rest to the weary,
Cooling in heat,
And comfort in sorrow.*

*O Light of Life,
Holy Spirit,
Brighten our hearts
Without you,
We are without hope,
All is worthless.*

*Cleanse us from our sin,
Water what is dry within us,
Bring healing to our wounds.
Bend our stiff necks,
Warm our cold hearts,
And lead us in your ways.*

*Holy Spirit, Heavenly Friend
Guide us, strengthen us,
Send us your Holy Gifts.
Help us to love
As you love.
All the days of our lives.
Amen*

PENTECOST REFLECTION

In this extract from a homily given on Pentecost Sunday 2013 Pope Francis looks at three things that the Holy Spirit brings.



NEWNESS

When we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives He will bring newness. This can make us feel uncomfortable because we naturally want to be in control and plan our lives for ourselves. We are happy to be followers of Jesus up to a point but it is hard to abandon our lives completely to Him. We worry that God might take us on a path that we don't want to take because throughout the Bible whenever God has revealed himself to someone He has brought newness and change into their lives. Noah was ridiculed but when he built the Ark he was

saved. Abraham had to leave his home and his country on the strength of a promise by God. We should not fear this newness that the Holy Spirit brings into our lives because it also brings with it a sense of fulfilment and gives us a great joy and peace. Do we want to be surprised by God? Are we open to the Holy Spirit

in our lives? Do we have the courage to be led down the new paths that God sets before us?

HARMONY

The Holy Spirit brings harmony to the Church. He brings many different charisms and gifts but these all work together for the good of all. Every Christian should realise how important the Church is. It is through the Holy Spirit working in the Church that the Christian receives Christ and the teaching of the Church, inspired by the Holy Spirit, guides and sustains our faith. When we put ourselves outside the Church's

teaching and community then we create division and disharmony. So let us ask ourselves: Do we let ourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit living in the Church and with the Church?

MISSION

Our souls have been likened to a sailing boat with the Holy Spirit being the wind that blows it forward in the right direction helped by occasional gusts of wind produced by the gifts of the Spirit. With the help of the Holy Spirit the Church is always driven forward and stops being self-centred and closed in on herself. She is compelled to go out and proclaim the Gospel and to communicate the joy of faith

JESUS SAYS:
"I WILL ASK THE
FATHER, AND
HE WILL GIVE
YOU ANOTHER
ADVOCATE TO
REMAIN WITH
YOU FOREVER"

JOHN 14:16

helping everyone to meet with Christ. The Holy Spirit gives us the courage to take the Gospel message out onto the streets of the world. Do we let the Holy Spirit open us up to the mission of spreading the Gospel?

PRAYER LINE FOR YOUTH

Friends,
Are you worried?...
Confused?...
Having problems?...
We have a dedicated prayer team
waiting to pray for you...!!!
Please send us your intentions and
we will pray for you in confidence.

Our email ID:
krprayer@gmail.com

*"Call to me and I will answer you."
(Jeremiah 33:3)*

