

# The Junior Observer

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## A Good News Story

# Jesus Teaches Us to Be Humble

Catholic News Service

**J**esus looked into the hearts of the people who had come to hear him preach. He knew there were those with sorrow and sickness, happiness and health. He also knew there would be a few who believed they were better or more righteous than everyone else. Jesus decided to tell a story about the selfish and arrogant people in the crowd.

“Two people went up to the temple area to pray,” Jesus said. “One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector.” To emphasize his words, Jesus grabbed the front of his robe with his hands, tipped his head back so he would appear to be looking down at the people and cleared his throat with exag-geration.

“The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer: ‘O God, I



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thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity — greedy, dishonest, adulterous — or even like this tax collector.’”

Jesus, still acting, pretended to turn away from the tax collector of his story. Most of the people watching him laughed. A few did not, just as Jesus expected.

Jesus continued by kneeling down and raising his arms up high.

## Q&A

**Who were the two men who prayed in the story Jesus told?**

**What did Jesus say about children?**

Read more in Luke 18:9-17

merciful to me a sinner.’” Jesus paused to let the people listening think about what the tax collector had said.

Then Jesus addressed the crowd of people directly. “I tell you the (tax collector) went home justified ... Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

After Jesus had finished speaking, people brought their children to him, hoping that he would bless them. The disciples did not like to see so many children trying to be near Jesus, so they tried to prevent any more of them from coming up. But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these ... Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”

## Puzzler

The answers to all of the following definitions are words that begin with the letter P. Can you guess them all correctly?

1. No war.

p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

2. A story.

p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

3. He was also named Saul.

P \_ \_ \_ \_

4. When the Holy Spirit first came.

P \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

5. A fishing disciple.

P \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

6. Old Testament songs.

p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

7. God's messenger.

p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

8. Talking to God.

p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

See answers on page 18

## Year of Faith to End Nov. 24

**I**n just one more month, on the Feast of Christ the King, Nov. 24, the Year of Faith will draw to a close.

This month, during October Rosary Month, Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford has helped children pray a “Decade a Day” of the rosary. The prayers with the bishop are a special Year of Faith project for children and their families.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI first asked Catholics all over the world to celebrate a Year of Faith on Oct. 11, 2011. He did so in a letter that was called, *Porta Fidei* in Latin or Door of Faith in English.

The name of the letter came from its first sentence, “The ‘door of faith’ is always open for us.” (The quote is from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 14, verse 27.)

The date he picked to open the year was Oct. 11, 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

The council was a series of meetings of cardinals and bishops at the Vatican. Many important documents came from that coun-

cil. The pope asked Catholic adults to spend time looking closely at them during the Year of Faith.

He also asked all Catholics to make a special effort to evangelize — spread the word — about our

faith, to do extra acts of charity, and to pray. Part way through the Year of Faith, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI retired. He said his poor health made it too hard for him to continue as pope.

That’s when Pope Francis was elected by the College of Cardinals. It is he who will formally close the Year of Faith in November at the Vatican.

Bishop Malloy has scheduled two ceremonies to end the Year of Faith in our diocese.

The first will be Nov. 16 at Elgin Community College and will be celebrated in Spanish. The second will be Nov. 24 at Cathedral of St. Peter in Rockford and will be celebrated in English.



(CNS photos)

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI asked all Catholics to celebrate a Year of Faith from Oct. 11, 2012, to Nov. 24, 2013.



Pope Francis accepts a hug from a girl as he arrives to celebrate a Year of Faith Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican June 16.