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A Good News Story

Pilate Declares Jesus 'Not Guilty'

Catholic News Service

Pilate looked down at Jesus and asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

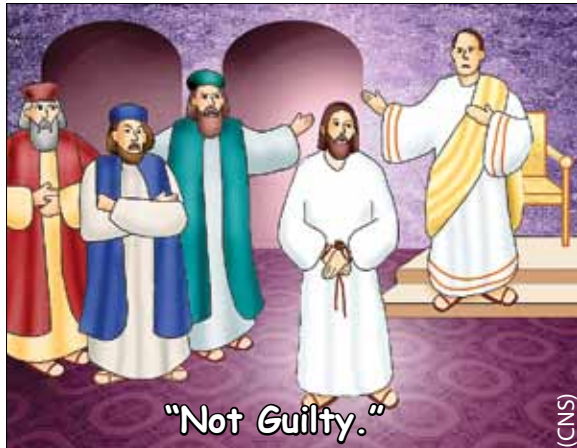
Without looking up, Jesus replied, "You say so."

Pilate spoke to the crowd of people, including the scribes and chief priests who had brought Jesus to him for judgment. "I find this man not guilty," he said.

But the people there were not satisfied. After inquiring whether Jesus was a good man or not, Pilate sent Jesus on to Herod in Jerusalem.

Herod had heard about Jesus, and he hoped Jesus would perform a miracle for him. But Jesus did not do or say anything when Herod questioned him. Herod sent him back to Pilate.

Again Pilate addressed the crowd: "I have conducted my investigation in your presence and



Q&A

What did Pilate ask Jesus?

What did Jesus ask his father to do for his tormenters?

Read more in Luke 23

have not found this man guilty of the charges you brought against him, nor did Herod, who sent him back to us. ... Therefore I shall have him flogged and then release him."

But the crowd demanded a death sentence. "Crucify him!" they shouted.

Pilate, who disagreed, turned Jesus over to the people to do whatever they wanted. Jesus was brought to a place called the Skull

along with two criminals. The three of them were crucified, or nailed to a wooden cross, until they died.

In spite of all of his suffering, Jesus did not call for the destruction of his tormenters and accusers. Instead he prayed, "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do."

Some of the people who did not like Jesus mocked him as he hung

from his cross. "He saved others. Let him save himself, if he is the chosen one, the Messiah of God."

The soldiers that were there also laughed at Jesus and said, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself."

One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus asked him, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us."

The criminal on the other side said to the first, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Looking toward Jesus, this man asked, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

And Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Advent Begins Dec. 1

The first Sunday of Advent is coming soon. That's the time to get ready for the birth of Jesus.

Advent is what we call the four weeks leading up to Christmas.

Advent is also the first season in the Church year. So you can tell your family members "Happy New Church Year" this weekend.

Advent and Lent are both seasons when we are preparing for something important. In Advent we prepare for God's gift of Jesus, His son.

In Lent we prepare for God's gift of salvation through His son, Jesus.

Christmas season is a celebration of Jesus' birth. Easter season celebrates our redemption.

The other season of the Church year is Ordinary Time. It is divided into a shorter part after Christmas and a longer part after Easter.

True or False?

Circle T for true or F for false after the following statements based on the Gospel of Luke. Chapter numbers have been provided as hints:

1. T F Zechariah was a carpenter. (1)

2. T F Elizabeth was the mother of John. (1)

3. T F Jesus baptized John. (3)

4. T F Jesus chose 12 disciples. (6)

5. T F Jesus rode a camel into Jerusalem. (19)

6. T F 6 Jesus was arrested in a garden. (22)

7. T F Jesus rose from the dead. (24)

Answers on page 14



Sixth-graders from St. Peter School in Aurora show their saint plaques and statues. The students made them after studying a saint in computer class. They shared their projects with the student body and parish on All Saints Day, Nov. 1.

St. Margaret Mary School fourth-graders (from left) Emma Finch, Paige Beres, Christina Economos, and Reilly Johnson act out a chapter from "The Mouse and The Motorcycle" for literature circles in reading recently. They are students in Algonquin.



(Photos provided)



On Nov. 1, Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Aurora hosted their annual Grandparents' Day for more than 125 guests.