

The Junior Observer

Vol. 28, No. 7

Published by The Observer, Official Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford

JuniorObserver@RockfordDiocese.org

A Good News Story

Jesus Raises Lazarus from Death

Catholic News Service

Their brother Lazarus was very sick, so Mary and Martha, his sisters, sent word to Jesus and asked for his help.

When Jesus received the message, he said, "This illness is not to end in death but is for the glory of God."

Though Jesus loved Mary and her family very much, he did not leave until two more days had passed. He said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

But the disciples answered, "Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?"

"Lazarus has died," said Jesus. "And I am glad for you that I was not there that you may believe. Let us go to him."

When Jesus and the disciples



arrived, they learned that Lazarus had been in his tomb for four days.

Martha went out to meet Jesus, but Mary stayed home with the people who had come to comfort them after their brother's death.

When Martha saw Jesus, she said: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

"Your brother will rise," Jesus said to her.

Q&A

What did Mary and Martha say to Jesus?

What did Jesus do before he healed Lazarus?

Read more about it in John 11.

When Mary saw Jesus she said with tears in her eyes the same thing her sister had said: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When everyone was in front of the tomb, Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

"Lord," said Martha, "by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days."

"Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

The stone was moved so that the entrance to the tomb no longer was blocked.

Jesus looked toward heaven and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me." Then he said with a loud commanding voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

And Lazarus came out, alive and well.

Show Your Care About Others Like Pope Francis



Our new Pope Francis is well known as a friend of the poor. He's from Argentina, which is in South America, just like Peru.

If you want to be a friend of the poor, but you don't have a pair of hearts to decorate for this year's Heart to Heart project, ask an adult to help you download one at <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org>. Click on Junior Observer, then on Heart to Heart artwork.

Send your decorated double-hearts and a \$2 donation for each pair to The Junior Observer, 555 Colman Center Dr., P.O. Box 7044, Rockford, IL 61125. Do not mount your hearts on other paper because it adds to mailing costs.

The deadline to send your hearts and donation is **Good Friday, April 18.**

Why Does Jesus Work Miracles?

John 9:1-7



Read the Gospel and Color



We are reaching the middle weeks of Lent. The readings on Sundays for a couple of weeks will be about the miracles Jesus performed.

This Sunday, one of the readings will be from the Gospel of John, chapter 9, verses 1-7.

In it, the Apostle John tells us about the time Jesus cured a blind man.

The next week, he raises Lazarus from death. (Read the story on the top of this page.)

These Good News stories help us understand that Jesus is the son of God. By sharing these miracles in the New Testament, we learn that we can trust Jesus to be our Savior, and to help lead us to God the Father.

This miracle, especially, helps remind us that Jesus came to bring us out of the darkness of our sins and into the light of God's love.

With your family, read the story of the blind man and talk about it.

Then color this picture to help remind you of Jesus's power to save us.

Is it a Town or Village?

During Old Testament times, a village was a settlement or community with no wall around it. A town was encircled by a wall that had several gates. A town was probably on top of a hill or other high ground and was near a supply of fresh water. Several villages may have been within a few miles of the towns. People lived in small houses with small rooms.

In New Testament cities, the influence of Greek and Roman engineers provided beautiful buildings, paved streets, efficient waterways and busy market areas.