

The Junior Observer

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Saul Becomes a Follower of Jesus

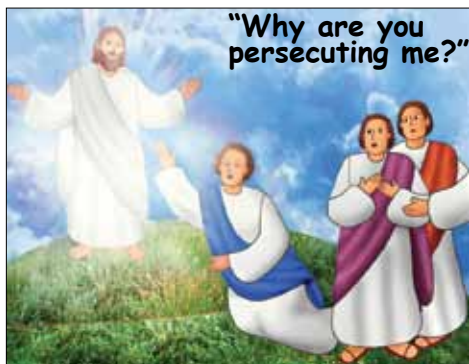
Catholic News Service

After Jesus returned to His father in heaven, the Apostles began traveling from town to town preaching about the Lord. Many Jews and gentiles began to believe in Jesus and became members of the first Christian community.

During this time, Saul, a Jewish man from Tarsus, began to persecute Christians. He hated them so much that he asked the high priest for special permission to find Christians in Damascus and bring them back to Jerusalem in chains.

On his way to Damascus, Saul suddenly saw a great light. It was so bright that it made him fall to the ground.

“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” a voice asked. The



(CNS)

Q&A

Who were the people Saul hated?

Who helped Saul regain his sight?

Read more about it in Acts 9.

men traveling with Saul were shocked, because they heard a voice but saw no one. Saul demanded to know who was speaking.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” the voice said in reply. “Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do.”

When Saul got up, he no longer could see. His friends took him by the hand and led him to Damascus, where for three days he was blind and would not eat or drink.

In the meantime, the Lord appeared in a vision to one of his followers, Ananias, who lived in Damascus. He told Ananias to find Saul and lay his hands on him to cure him of his blindness. Ananias was surprised, because he had heard of Saul and his persecution of Christians.

“Lord, I have heard from many sources about this man, what evil things he has done to your holy ones in Jerusalem,” Ananias said. “And

here he has authority from the chief priests to imprison all who call upon your name.”

“Go,” said the Lord, “for this man is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before gentiles, kings and Israelites, and I will show him what he will have to suffer for my name.”

So Ananias found Saul staying at the house the Lord said he would be in.

“Saul, my brother,” Ananias said, “the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Immediately, things like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. Afterward, he was baptized and became a follower of Jesus.

Time Again to Share Your Heart with Children in Peru

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, we begin the church season of Lent. An important part of Lent is *almsgiving*, which is a word that means giving help to the needy.

For 16 years, children in the Rockford Diocese have taken part in a mission effort that is theirs alone.

The Chulucanas Diocese in Peru is a “sister” diocese of the Rockford Diocese. That means we make special efforts to help them.

In the past, we have sent missionaries there. We also helped build a church there.

And every year in Lent, children here decorate the hearts on this page to send, with \$2 for school supplies, to children in Chulucanas.

Make as many copies of the double hearts as you’d like.

Don’t paste the hearts on craft or any other paper because it adds to the mailing costs.

Since Heart to Heart began, children have decorated more than 26,000

hearts and donated more than \$60,000.

The deadline to send your decorated hearts and donations is Good Friday, March 25.

Send your double hearts and \$2 donation to **The Junior Observer, Heart to Heart, PO Box 7044, Rockford, IL 61125.**

Here's How Heart to Heart Began

Sixteen years ago, former president of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Rita Prunuske, and former Junior Observer editor, Penny Wiegert launched Heart to Heart so children here could send paper and pencils to Peruvian children who wanted to go to school.

*Heart to Heart ... De Corazón al Corazón
Rockford — 2016 — Chulucanas*

