

The Junior Observer

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Q&A

Who were Jesus' three friends?

How long had Lazarus been dead?

Read more about it in John 11

A Good News Story

Jesus Raises Lazarus from Death

Catholic News Service

Jesus was good friends with Mary, Martha and Lazarus, who were siblings. He loved them very much.

One day, Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus that Lazarus was ill.

Afterward, Jesus remained in the place where He was for two more days. Then He suggested that He and the Apostles return to Judea, where Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived in a village near Jerusalem.

"Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him," Jesus told His friends.

The Apostles didn't understand and thought Jesus was talking about ordinary sleep.

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

By the time Jesus and the Apostles reached the siblings' village, Lazarus had been dead for four days.

When Mary and Martha heard that



Bible Trivia:

What was the name of the village near Jerusalem in which Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived?

Answer: Bethany

Jesus was coming, Martha went to meet Him outside of the village.

"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died," Martha said.

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and anyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Jesus asked.

"Yes, Lord," Martha answered. "I

have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

Martha returned home to get Mary. Mary left quickly, and some Jews who were there to comfort the sisters followed her.

When Mary saw Jesus, she fell at His feet and wept. Jesus looked at Mary and the crying Jews. He asked where Lazarus had been laid and began to weep.

They took Jesus to a cave that had a stone across the entrance. Jesus had the stone removed then looked up to heaven.

"Father, I thank you for hearing me," He said. "I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me."

Suddenly, Jesus cried out in a loud voice.

"Lazarus, come out!" He shouted.

Lazarus, who was wrapped in burial bands and had a cloth covering his face, came out of the cave.

"Untie him and let him go," Jesus said.

The Legacy of St. Clare, a Friend of St. Francis, Lives On

St. Clare was born in Assisi, Italy, in 1193. She was influenced by her fellow townsman, St. Francis of Assisi, and wanted to serve the poor.

She went against the wishes of her family and, with St. Francis' help, founded an order known as the Poor Clares.

For 40 years, she was the head of the community in San Damiano, whose nuns included her sister and widowed mother.

St. Clare served the other nuns in her order who went out to beg, and she became sick because of her hard life. She died in 1253, and we remember her on Aug. 11.



(Observer file photos/Amanda Hudson)
Sister gets an idea.

In the Rockford Diocese, the Poor Clare Colettines who live at Corpus Christi Monastery in Rockford help keep the legacy and traditions of St. Clare alive every day.

The religious order of Poor Clares is called a "cloistered" order. That means most of the nuns never leave the monastery after they arrive. A few are called "externs," and they leave the walls that surround the monastery to take care of business for all the nuns.

They first came to Rockford when our first Bishop Peter Muldoon asked them to make a home here and pray for the diocese and



Sister slides down the stair rail.

the world.

They arrived in Rockford in 1916 to begin their service of prayer.

While the Poor Clares have a serious job in the prayers they pray day and night, 365 days a year, they also like to have fun with one another.

Many years ago, one of the nuns who liked to draw and paint made cartoons to amuse herself and the other nuns at Corpus Christi.

In one of her cartoon series, she showed a young nun who was just trying out the cloistered life. She was called a postulant and wore a little cap on her head, like an old-



Sister thinks again about her idea.

fashioned maid.

One of her jobs was dusting all the stairs from top to bottom. She was so tired when she got to the third floor, she tried to think of a way to get back down more easily.

In the first cartoon (above), an idea, like a light bulb, lit up in her mind. Her solution was a ride down the stair rail. In the last cartoon, it seems as though sister thought her idea might not have been such a good one after all.

The Poor Clares pray for you everyday. Remember them in your prayers, too.

—CNS and Sharon Boehlefeld



Living in a cloistered order means even when Bishop David Malloy visits, the Poor Clare nuns typically visit with him from behind a grill.