

The Junior Observer

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Q&A

What did the younger son want from his father?

Why was the father excited to see the younger son return home?

Read more about it in Luke 15

A Good News Story

Celebrating a Son's Return

Catholic News Service

One day, tax collectors and sinners gathered around Jesus to hear Him speak.

The Pharisees and scribes were disgusted.

“This man welcomes sinners and eats with them,” they sneered.

Jesus overheard them and decided to tell the parable of the lost son.

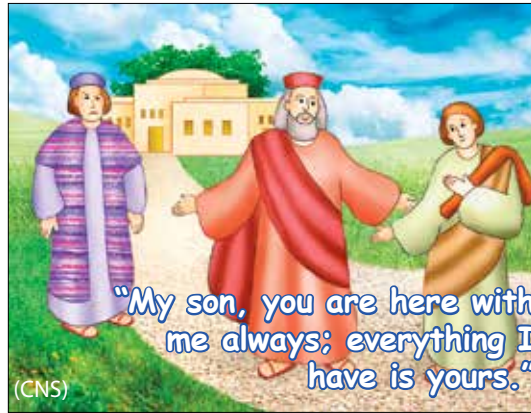
There was a man who had two sons, Jesus told the crowd.

The younger son wanted to leave home, so he asked to be given his share of his father's estate. The father did so, and the younger son set off for a distant country.

The younger son squandered all of his money. Afterward, a famine struck the country, and he could not afford to support himself.

He found work tending swine for a local farmer. He was so hungry that he was tempted to eat the pigs' food.

Suddenly, the younger son came to his senses.



Bible Challenge

When have you asked someone to forgive you for poor choices or bad behavior? Write about your answer.

“How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger,” he said to himself.

The younger son decided to return home. He planned to admit his sinfulness to his father.

While he was still a long way off,

his father caught sight of him coming home and ran to embrace and kiss him.

“Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers,” the younger son said.

Instead, the father told his servants to bring a fine robe, sandals and a ring for his son.

“Take the fattened calf and slaughter it,” the father ordered. “Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.”

The older son, who always had done everything his father had asked, was angry that his wayward brother was being celebrated.

“My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours,” the father said to his older son. “But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.”

Getting a Head Start on Alms

Ash Wednesday was Feb. 26 and two diocesan grade schools have a head start on one of the pillars of Lent — almsgiving. That's the practice of helping oth-

ers less fortunate and asking nothing in return.

What are you and your school doing for Lent?



(Photo provided)

Hampshire St. Charles Borromeo Students Make Birthday Kits

Students and their families at St. Charles Borromeo School of Hampshire donate birthday celebration essentials from cake mix, frosting and candles to plates, napkins, toys and favors to their “Birthday in a Box” project. The items were assembled as kits in colorful bags for distribution by local food pantries. Students assembled 136 birthday kits for children served by the Burlington-Hampshire food pantry.



(Photo provided)

Rockford Academy Students Aid Poor Clares

Rockford's All Saints Catholic Academy students Mason Caltagerone (left), student council president, and Phoebe Nelson, vice-president, present Boylan Central Catholic High School girls basketball coach Paul Perrone with a check for \$3,002 and notes with over 300 prayers for the Poor Clares. The Lady Titans recently presented the collection from All Saints and other donors to help the Poor Clares of the Corpus Christi Monastery in Rockford. (See YO, Feb. 21.)



(Photo provided)

Elgin St. Thomas More Students Bring Book to Life

Each year the third grade class at St. Thomas More School in Elgin reads the book “Miss Alanieus: A Vocabulary Disaster” by Debra Frasier. Afterward, each student selects a vocabulary word to present both orally and visually. They then hold a parade, modeled after the one in the book for other classes and parents. This is the 12th year third-grade teacher Doreen Varley has led students in the project.