

The Junior Observer

Vol. 27, No. 8 Published by The Observer, Official Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford JuniorObserver@RockfordDiocese.org

A Good News Story

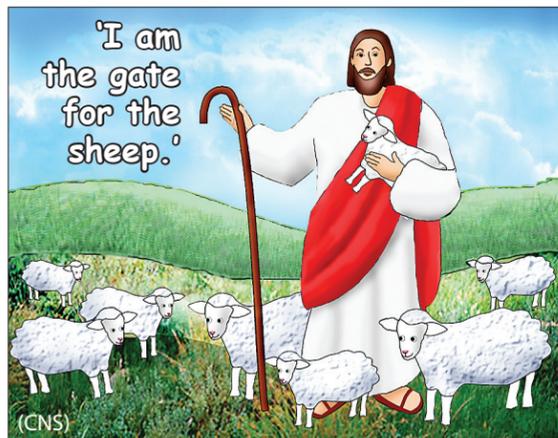
Jesus Talks of the Good Shepherd

Catholic News Service

"Amen, amen, I say to you," Jesus said to the crowd, "whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ... The sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

Jesus knew that the people who were listening today would understand his parable about a shepherd and his sheep, because many of them owned sheep or lived near someone who did. But Jesus was not finished with his story.

"The shepherd walks ahead, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice," he said. "But they will not follow a stranger; they



Q&A

How does a shepherd enter his sheepfold?

What did Jesus say he would do for his sheep?

Read more about it in John 10

will run away from him because they do not recognize the voice of strangers."

Then Jesus explained his message in plain language. "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came [before me] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in

and go out and find pasture."

Jesus held up one finger to emphasize his next point: "A thief comes only to ... destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. ... A hired man ... sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has

no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me."

Then Jesus tried to show the spiritual meaning of his story about the shepherd. "Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, I will lay down my life for the sheep. ... The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father."

When Jesus had finished his parable, some of the people argued among themselves about what he meant. Some thought he was possessed or out of his mind. Others refuted those claims because of the miracles Jesus had performed.

John's Gospel Comes in Two 'Parts'

John's Gospel opens with a beautiful poem that declares "the Word was made flesh," referring to Jesus, who came to our world.

The Good News Story today, from chapter 10, is in the first part. It is the story of the good shepherd, one of the most well known of the Bible.

Chapters 1-12 are so full of symbols and miracles that this section sometimes is called "The Book of Signs." These chapters talk about the divine nature of Jesus.

Chapters 13-20 are called "The Book of Glory," and they tell us how Jesus tried to prepare his disciples for his coming arrest, crucifixion and resurrection.

The last chapter of the book describes Jesus' appearance to some of his disciples after his crucifixion.

John closes his Gospel by saying that the whole world could not contain all the books that could be written about the wonderful things Jesus said and did.



They Broke The Code

Fifth-grade students at St. Margaret Mary School in Algonquin studied the periodic table of elements in their science classes. Then they created a periodic table "word wall" by using many of the elements from the periodic table. Fifth-graders Elle Kalamaris and Kelsey Miner were able to spell Stations of (the) Cross.

(Photo provided)

What Did Jesus Say?

In the blanks, write *yes* if the statement is one which Jesus made. Chapter and verse from the Gospel of John have been provided as hints. Find the upside down answers on page 29.

1. "Follow me." (1:43) _____
2. "My hour has long passed." (2:4) _____
3. "You must be born from above." (3:7) _____
4. "Give me a drink." (4:7) _____
5. "Rise and help your neighbor." (5:8) _____
6. "Throw away the fragments." (6:12) _____
7. "My teaching is not my own." (7:16) _____
8. "There is no light in the world." (8:12) _____