

The Junior Observer

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A Good News Story

Jesus Talks About How He Will Die

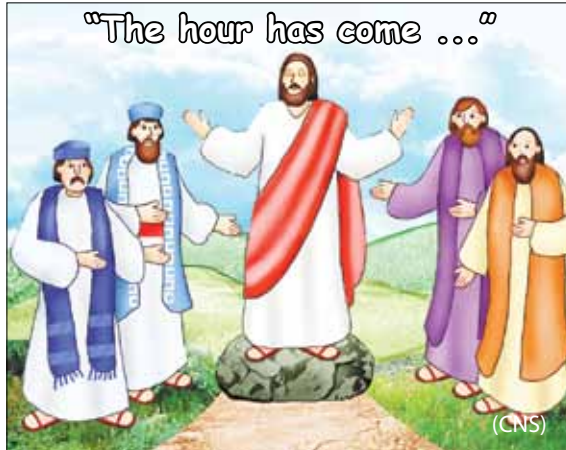
Catholic News Service

Jews from every country had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, including some who were Greek. They had been asking for information since their arrival in the busy city until someone introduced them to Philip, who was one of the disciples of Jesus.

Philip did not live in Jerusalem either. He was from Bethsaida in Galilee where many people spoke Greek as a second language.

One of the Greeks nodded politely and asked Philip, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." The word of the teaching and miracles of Jesus had spread throughout the world, and the Greeks were eager to see this remarkable man for themselves.

Philip told them he would try to help them find Jesus, but he did not know where Jesus was at the



moment. The streets of Jerusalem were filled with people shopping, visiting friends and relatives, and walking to the temple to pray. Somewhere in the crowd, Philip thought, someone would know where Jesus was. The Greeks followed him as he made his way toward Andrew, another disciple from Bethsaida.

Andrew said he thought he knew where Jesus was, so he led Philip and the Greeks to an open field just outside of the city gates. A

large crowd was listening to Jesus. When Andrew explained why he was there with the visitors, Jesus said: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

The Greek travelers looked at Jesus and at Andrew and Philip. They were not sure what Jesus was trying to tell them. Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he

continued talking.

"Whoever serves me must follow me." Jesus bowed his head and sighed. Then he looked toward the sky and said, "Father, glorify your name."

As soon as Jesus had spoken, a loud voice could be heard coming down from heaven. "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

Some of the people in the crowd thought they had heard thunder. Others thought an angel had spoken to Jesus. Jesus stood up to give the people an answer.

"The voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world. When I am lifted up from the earth I will draw everyone to myself." Jesus was referring to the way He would die.

Q&A

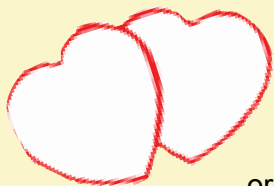
What did the Greeks want to do?

What did the voice from heaven say?

Read more about it in John 12.

Show You Care About Others

If you want to help others in need, 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. Your heart will be delivered to a child in the Chulucanas Diocese in Peru and your donation will help buy school supplies for him or her.

The deadline to mail your hearts and donation is **Good Friday, April 3.**



(Photo provided)

Eighth-Grader Builds Audio Library for SS. Peter and Paul School, Earns Award

Anna Podborny, an eighth-grader at SS. Peter and Paul School in Cary, spent nearly 50 hours recording audio books, packaging kits and making a display rack for the school's library. The project, supported by librarian Jean McDonough, helped her earn the Silver Award, the highest achievement a Girl Scout Cadette can receive. The award requires a girl to identify a need in her community she feels strongly about and develop a sustainable project to meet the need. She must complete a minimum of 50 hours of service toward the endeavor. A life-long reader, Anna realized that audio books and kits were an essential part of her love of reading at an early age. The school's library had a few audio books so she set out to add to the collection and create a place to display them. All the kits contain a hard copy and an audio CD of the book. Some also include a themed plush toy to complete the ensemble. The rack, built to hold the kits, is at the perfect height for younger readers and large enough for the library to expand the collection in the future.



(Photo provided)

Students from Centro Especial Jesús Nazareno of Parroquia San Ramón, Chulucanas, show their hearts and supplies.