

The Junior Observer

Vol. 29, No. 6

Published by The Observer, Official Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford

JuniorObserver@RockfordDiocese.org

A Bible Story

God Speaks to Moses from a Burning Bush

Catholic News Service

During a time when the people of Israel were slaves in the land of Egypt, a man named Moses was tending a flock of sheep in the land of Midian. He was watching the flock for Reuel, who also was called Jethro. This man was Moses' father-in-law, the priest of Midian.

Moses led the flock through the wilderness and eventually came to Mt. Horeb, which was called the mountain of God.

As Moses guided the sheep toward the mountain, he saw a curious sight. There in front of him was a bush that had flames shooting out of it. As Moses continued to look, he noticed that as the fire continued to burn, the bush remained whole. The fire did



(CNS)

not destroy it.

Moses walked up to the bush with a look of wonder. He just had to get closer so he could figure out what was going on.

As Moses drew near, God noticed he was coming and spoke to him from the center of the burning bush.

"Moses! Moses!" God called out.

"Here I am," Moses answered.

God warned Moses not to

Q&A

Where was God's voice coming from?

What did God want Moses to do?

Read more about it in Exodus 3.

come too close to the bush: "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

God then explained that he was the God of Moses' ancestors: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. As God spoke, Moses became frightened and hid his face. He was afraid to look at God.

But the Lord continued to speak to him. He had a very special assignment for Moses. "I have

witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry against their taskmasters, so I know well what they are suffering," God told Moses.

"Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them up from that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey ... now, go! I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

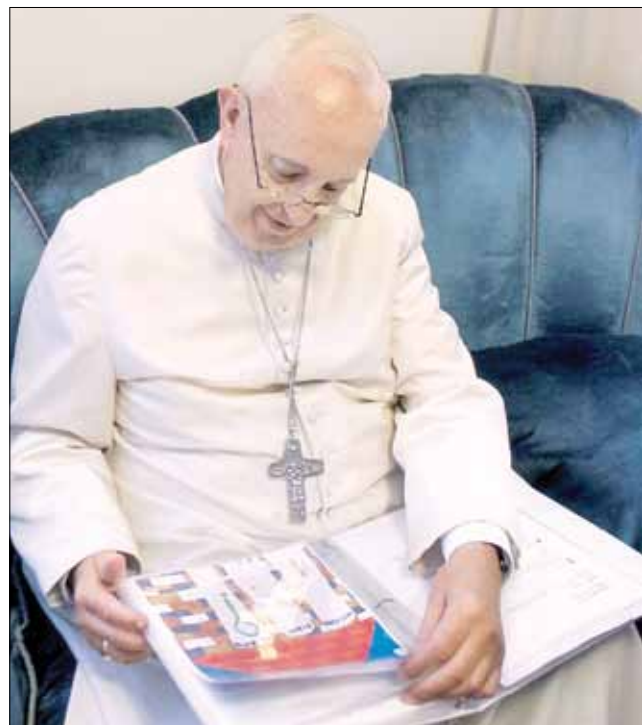
Moses was stunned. "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" he asked. God promised to be with Moses. The Lord told him what to say to the elders of Israel so they would know God had sent Moses to rescue them from the Egyptians.

Pope Francis Answers Kids' Questions

BY CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

Children can ask hard questions about faith.

"These are tough," Pope Francis said



(CNS photo/courtesy Antonio Spadaro)

Pope Francis reads letters from children in 2015. Letters children sent to him make up the book "Dear Pope Francis." It will be published March 1.

when presented with questions from 30 children from around the world.

Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro, who went through the questions with the pope, said half the time he personally was stumped when thinking about how he would have responded. But the pope wasn't.

The questions, illustrated with the drawings of the children, ages 6-13, and the pope's answers will be published March 1 as the book "Dear Pope Francis."

The children's questions are "simple, but not silly," said Father Spadaro, who discussed them with Pope Francis and recorded his answers.

Pope Francis will have a chance to meet nine or 10 of the children in late February when he has promised a private audience for some of the people who took part in the project.

The big batch of letters sent to the pope are in 14 languages and come from children in wealthy cities, poor rural areas and even refugee centers.

In the end, 259 children in 26 countries sent questions and pictures they made to the pope.

"This is important," Father Spadaro said. "It says a lot about the magisterium of Pope Francis; he knows his ministry can reach children."

Dear Pope Francis

The Pope Answers Letters from Children Around the World



By Pope Francis

(CNS photo/courtesy Loyola Press)

This is the cover of "Dear Pope Francis," which includes drawings by children ages 6-13. The book will be published March 1.

What is the Magisterium?

By the magisterium we mean the teaching office of the Church. It consists of the pope and bishops.

Source: www.ewtn.com/faith/teachings/chura4.htm



There's Still Time to Send Your Hearts for Lent

If you want to be a friend of the poor during Lent, taking part in Heart to Heart is the perfect way.

Use the hearts on page 9. You can copy it if you need more or ask an adult to help you download

a pair at <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org>. They'll need to click on Junior Observer, then on the 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.

The deadline to send your hearts and donation is **Good Friday, March 25, 2016.**