

# The Junior Observer

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## Q&A

**Why did God ask Solomon to build a temple?**

**Where was the ark housed when it was first brought to Jerusalem?**

Read more about it in 2 Samuel and 1 Kings

### An Old Testament Story

# Solomon Builds a Temple

Catholic News Service

**W**hen King David moved to Jerusalem, he had the ark of God brought to the city.

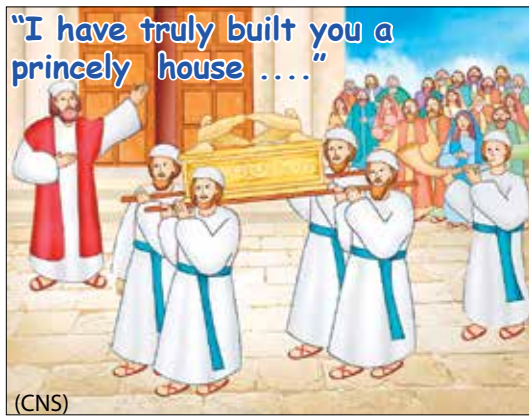
The ark was housed in a tent, as it had been when Moses and the Israelites were wandering in the desert.

But David thought the ark should be housed in a much better dwelling and wanted to build a temple for it.

God had other plans, however, so he told the prophet Nathan to give David a message about the ark.

“When your days have been completed and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you ... and I will establish his kingdom,” God said in His message to David. “He it is who shall build a house for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever.”

God was referring to David’s son, Solomon. After becoming king, Solomon began preparing the materials that would be needed to build a temple for the ark.



### Bible Challenge

God said that he would grant Solomon anything he wanted. If you could ask God for anything, what would it be? Write about your answer.

The actual construction of the Temple began in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign, which also was the 480th year since God had freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

As the Temple’s construction was nearing completion, the word of God

came to Solomon.

“As to this house you are building — if you walk in my statutes, carry out my ordinances, and observe all my commands, walking in them, I will fulfill toward you my word which I spoke to David your father. I will dwell in the midst of the Israelites and will not forsake my people Israel,” God told the king.

When the Temple was finished, the priests took up the ark and began moving it to its new dwelling. As the ark was being moved, King Solomon and the entire community of Israel gathered before it and made many sacrifices.

The ark was carried to the inner sanctuary of the Temple. Then the glory of God, in the form of a cloud, filled the Temple.

“The Lord intends to dwell in the dark cloud; I have truly built you a princely house, a dwelling where you may abide forever,” King Solomon said.

The king then turned and blessed the whole assembly of Israel.

## Mission Accomplished: All Diocesan Parishes Visited

When David Billings’ dad, Troy, took him to visit a parish in Woodstock one day, David said he knew there were two parishes in the town. “I asked my dad to take me to the other church,” he said.

“I liked the different styles and architecture of

churches. And I thought, why stop there? There’s so many more great priests and people out there in the diocese.”

And the quest began to visit every church in the Rockford Diocese in a year.

“I did some on weekdays because I’m homeschooled

— at least one church a week or more,” David said.

David reached his goal on New Year’s Eve when he and his family visited the last seven churches on his list “in the St. Ambrose, Erie, and St. Catherine of Prophetstown” area.

St. Patrick in Albany, where Father Matthew Camaioni is a parochial vicar, was the last stop on his trek, and probably his favorite church.

“It’s a really pretty church on the inside,” he said.

He prefers old-style churches over modern ones.

“I’ve been kind of thinking about becoming a priest before I decided to visit all

the churches and I’ve really liked meeting priests and seminarians,” David said.

“It helped me get to know all the parishes in the diocese, priests (and) people. We need more priests, like one priest would be at three different parishes. So it just kind of put that desire in my heart to be a priest.”

A seventh-grader, David said religion is his favorite subject in school. “Learning about my faith, that’s cool to me,” he said.

He and his family go to St. Patrick Parish in St. Charles.

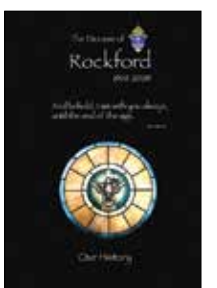
On his trips, he took “a

big black book. It’s like our history. And a lot of times on the way I would read about the history,” he said.

The book was “The Diocese of Rockford, 1908 - 2008” history book published for the diocese’s centennial year.

David has already talked about his tour to small groups and would recommend the trip to anyone.

—Sharon Boehlefeld



(Observer file photo)



(Photos provided)

David Billings (right) reached his goal of visiting every parish in the Rockford Diocese on New Year’s Eve. The last church was St. Patrick in Albany, where he and Father Camaioni (left), David’s mother Kathleen, father Troy, and his younger sister and brother posed for a photo before going out for dinner.



David Billings (left) poses with Julie and Tom Rassmussen. Tom Rassmussen took David to several parishes.



David Billings pinned each church location on a poster his mother, Kathleen, had made to help him keep track of his parish visits. He admits he doesn’t know how many miles he traveled in his quest. The last churches he visited were in the southwest part of the diocese.