

# The Junior Observer

Vol. 37, No. 9 Published by The Observer, Official Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford JuniorObserver@RockfordDiocese.org

## Q&A

Why did many of the Christians go to Samaria?

What did Philip ask the court official?

Read more about it in Acts 8

## Bible Trivia

What was the court official in charge of? (Hint: Acts 9:27)

Answer: The queen's treasury.

### A Good News Story

# Philip Tells Jesus' Story

Catholic News Service

**A**fter Stephen had been killed because of faith, all of the Christians in Jerusalem were persecuted. Many of them fled for their safety to the country areas of Judea and Samaria. Only the Apostles remained in the city.

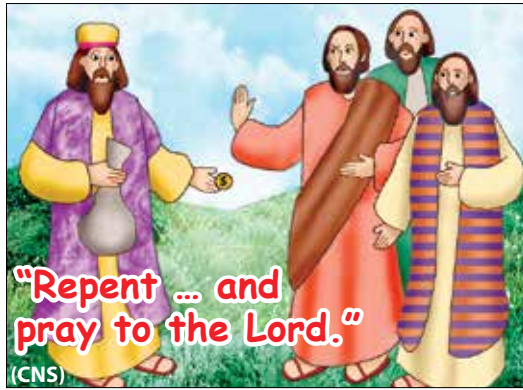
Philip went to Samaria and began preaching about the Messiah there. The Lord also used him to cast out unclean spirits and to heal many sick and disabled people. The Samaritans received Philip with great joy.

Living in Samaria was a man named Simon who professed to be a magician with great skill. His feats of magic had impressed the people so much that they praised him and said his power was from God. But as the Samaritans saw what Philip was doing in their city, they became Christians and were baptized.

Even Simon was amazed by the power of God in Philip, and he too was baptized.

The Apostles who had stayed back in Jerusalem began to hear reports of the successful ministry of Philip, so they sent Peter and John to help him. When they arrived they laid hands on the people of Samaria and prayed that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

When Simon saw this, he offered money to Peter and John and said, "Give me this power too so that anyone



upon whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Peter was angered by Simon's request. "May your money perish with you because you thought that you could buy the gift of God with money. ... Your heart is not upright before God. Repent ... and pray to the Lord that, if possible, your intention may be forgiven."

Simon shivered with fear and said, "Pray for me to the Lord that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

After that, Peter and John preached to many Samaritan villages as they returned to Jerusalem.

As for Philip, an angel of the Lord visited him and said, "Get up and head south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza, the desert route."

Philip immediately obeyed, and he met up with a court official of the queen of Ethiopia who was reading from the writings of Isaiah.

Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

"How can I," the man answered, "unless someone instructs me?"

Philip explained the passage to him, and the man was baptized.

# Diocesan Coloring Contest Winners Chosen

**DIOCESE**—Three winners of the Diocesan Appeal coloring contest were chosen from among 120 entries by a vote of those working at the Diocesan Administration Center on May 16. The entries were divided into three age groups: ages 4-6, ages 7-9 and

ages 10 and above. The winners, from youngest to oldest, are:

■ **Finn Hallahan (age 6)**, a first-grade student whose family attends St. Peter Parish in Geneva;

■ **Merritt Harks (age 8)**, whose family attends St. Patrick

Parish in St. Charles; and ■ **Elli Bland (age 11)**, whose family attends St. Mary Parish in Sterling.

An honorary "Littlest Observer" certificate and smaller prize were also awarded to three-year-old artist Greta Ochs, whose

family attends St. Mary Parish in Elgin.

The winning entries are on display in the Diocesan Administration Center on the door of Claudia Broman, director of the diocesan Office of Charitable Giving.



Finn Hallahan



Merritt Harks



Elli Bland



(Observer photo/Margarita Mendoza)

A diocesan employee views the entries, including the entry by three-year-old Greta Ochs (inset).