

The Junior Observer

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A Good News Story

Jesus Cures a Sick Man and Feeds 5,000

BY JENNIFER FICCAGLIA
Catholic Courier

One day, Jesus and the apostles were in Jerusalem on the Sabbath.

As Jesus was walking by the pool near the city's Sheep Gate, He saw a large number of ill and disabled people.

One man who was there had been ill for 38 years.

Jesus stopped to speak to him.

"Do you want to be well?" Jesus asked the man.

"Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me," the man replied.

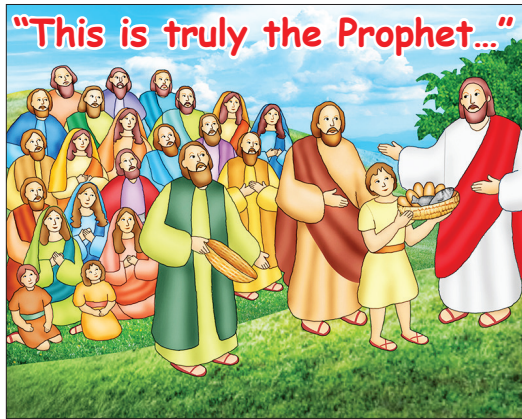
"Rise, take up your mat and walk," Jesus responded.

The man immediately became well, took up his mat and walked.

Not long after curing the ill man, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee.

He was followed by a large crowd of people who had witnessed the signs He was performing on the sick.

Jesus went up a mountain with the apostles and sat down.



(Illustration/Linda Jeanne Rivers)

Bible Trivia

What did Jesus think the crowd would do? (Hint: John 6:15)

Answer: Carry him off to make him king.

After Jesus was seated, He saw the large crowd that had followed Him.

Jesus turned to one of His apostles, Philip.

"Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" Jesus asked.

Jesus already knew what He was going to do for the hungry people, but He had asked Philip the question as a test.

Philip scanned the crowd. There were many thousands of people who

had followed Jesus up the mountain.

"Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little," Philip replied.

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, came up to Jesus.

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Andrew said.

"Have the people recline," Jesus told the apostles.

So, the men in the crowd reclined, about 5,000 in number.

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks and handed out the loaves to those who were reclining, and gave them as much of the fish as they wanted.

When everyone had eaten their fill, Jesus told the apostles to collect the fragments of leftover food so nothing would be wasted.

The apostles collected enough food fragments to fill 12 wicker baskets.

"This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world," the people said when they saw the sign Jesus had done.

Q&A

How many loaves and fish did the boy have?

How many people did Jesus feed?

Read more about it in John 5 & 6

Vocations on Vacation: Summer VBS Examines God's Call

LOVES PARK—During the week of June 24-28, youth of St. Bridget Parish enjoyed a twist on the classic VBS summer program: a "Vocation" Bible School.

Each child had the opportunity to explore vocations including diocesan priesthood, consecrated life, permanent diacon-

ate, and sacramental marriage. Guest speakers and dedicated volunteers — in stages of their own discernment — all illustrated how to live God's calling to serve His Church.

The camp featured St. Bridget priests: Father James Linkenheld, Father Jeffrey Filipski and Father

Colin Easton; Franciscans: Sister Teresa Paul, OSF, and a postulant, Kim; Deacon Bill Dall; diocesan seminarian Max Peterson; Mark and Barb Peterson, coordinators of St. Bridget's Marriage Ministry, and many more.

To end the week, the children supported religious sisters through a "Mission of Love" drive for Freeport's Madonna Renewal Center, run by the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ. These "Blue Nuns" care for mothers and babies in need. A carload of gifts went to help the sisters prepare for the arrival of two new babies in July.

—Contributed by Mary Henson.



Sister Mary Nesta Ezeanya, IHM, accompanied by Madonna Renewal Center residents Nellie and Rose, accept the "Mission of Love" donations at the end of the Vocation Bible School week.



(Photos provided/Mary Henson)

Diocesan seminarian Max Peterson accepts a quilt made for him from vocation-based drawings by the Vocation Bible School participants.



During snack time, Father Colin Easton and his mother, Amy Easton, share their vocation stories with campers.