



March 2009  
Miami, Florida

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The season of lent continues in march. Lent is a time to grow in the love for Jesus. The devotions most use in Lent are the Stations of the Cross, Bible reading, and Daily Mass. The Fridays of Lent are special, they remind us, of Jesus death for us, For this reason we do abstinence. Try to pray and explain the children the Stations of the Cross each week. At the end of Lent we will have finish all the Stations of the Cross.

**Enclosed you will find the some Feasts and Saints of the month**

March 03 Katharine Drexel  
March 17 Saint Patrick  
March 19 Saint Joseph  
March 25 Annunciation of the Lord  
March 30 Leader's Workshop

**Enclosed Materials**

- 1) Calendar of the month
- 2) Meditation of the Sunday Gospel
- 3) Comic of Saint Albert Marvelli
- 4) Comic of Saint Catherine of Sweden
- 5) Saint Joseph Protector of the Families

**Activities**

- 1) Merciful "Way of the Cross"
- 2) Trips of Saint Paul

**Suggest Videos: (All available in the video club):**

1. Easter
2. The Life of Christ II (father Peyton)
3. Saint Patrick
4. Resisting Temptation
5. Penance (SHC)
6. Ten Commandments
7. Jesus dies on the Cross
8. Lent

We are planning the VI Congress of the Friends of Jesus and Mary for July 15 to 18 2010 in Miami Florida. We invite all to make plans to attend. It is important to share ideas and experiences. More details in the next package. Reserve the date

May God Bless You Always,

Committee of Friends of Jesus and Mary

## Message from Father Andrés Makowiec

There was a story about a lawyer who did the impossible to save his client, but his guilt was such that he was condemned to death. While the convict was waiting to be executed, the attorney returned to visit him in jail and said to him: "I couldn't do anything else for you, but I don't want you to die. I propose that we exchange clothes. I'll stay here for you and you can go free. But remember; change your life so you don't return to this place." They exchanged clothing and the convict left the jail. After a few days of enjoying his freedom, he decided to visit his lawyer. But when he arrived at the jail, they informed him that he had already been executed...

Recalling the Pascal mysteries, we are invited to identify with the criminal in this story. But it was Jesus who was executed in our place. He offered his life so that we could live. Some have learned from this lesson, like St. Maximilian Kolbe, and knew how to manage their life – offering it up so that others could live. And us?

On Ash Wednesday, we recognize publicly that we are sinners; that we are dirty and destroyed just like the ashes. (Sometimes we give incorrect meaning, almost magical or sacramental to the imposition of ashes.) In reality the imposition of ashes represents our condition as sinners and our intent to return to live according to Jesus' Gospel.

During the season of Lent, the Church invites us to meditate on the value of Jesus' sacrifice, a sacrifice to the last drop of blood. The reason for the sacrifice: His great love for each human being and His desire that all reach salvation and eternal life.

We were called to be instruments of God's love towards our families, community, and particularly, the children so needy and sensitive to love and the lack of love. So easily we excuse ourselves and cancel our meetings with the children in prayer, or our meetings with the leaders to prepare the programs for pastoral action. It's so difficult to organize the special activities, but which are so necessary to celebrate some parish or liturgical feasts.

The celebration of the Pascal Tridium shows us Jesus, who has no limits in expressing His love for us. He washes His disciples feet and, finally, opens His arms, so that no human weakness impedes Him from completing His divine mission, and allows himself to be nailed to the cross. In this way his open hands take in all who believe in Him.

I invite you during this time to meditate on the value of Love, value of suffering, value of each sacrifice, of each cross. Where there is a cross, there is salvation.

St. Theresa of Avila said: "The cross that is embraced, has the less weight". Embrace, the one God has placed on your shoulders and help others to also embrace theirs. Let us be like Cirineo for the weak, especially for our children that suffer spiritual abandonment from the world that surrounds them. Great things come from sacrificing, surrendering, and loving. Imitating Jesus, the saintly martyrs, and so many exemplary Christians, let us not be afraid to draw nearer to Jesus' cross.

Let us begin this Lenten time with a good sacramental Confession. Let us reconcile with our families, with our parish groups, and with our ministries. Then, let us achieve our Lenten objective of being generous, surrendering our lives, our capacities, our time, to the last drop, to the last sigh, to the last instant. Our only measure of love has to be a love without limits as Jesus showed us.

Be Generous!

May God give you the grace of humility and fill you with love.

Father Andrés Makowiec



Friends of Jesus and Mary  
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

9779 S.W. 72nd Street • Miami, Florida • Tel : (305) 412-1700 • Fax: (305) 412-1777

E-mail: E-mail: amigo\_jym\_miami@fcpeace.com • Webpage: www.fcpeace.com



# MARCH 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>I Sunday of Lent</b>  <i>Gn 9,8-15</i> <i>Psalm 24, 4,5,8-9</i> <i>1 P 3:18-22</i> <i>Mk 1,12-15</i>	<b>2</b>  <i>Lv 19,1-2.11-18</i> <i>Psalm 18</i> <i>Mt 6,7-15</i>	<b>3</b> <b>St. Katharine Drexel</b>  <i>Is 55,10-11</i> <i>Psalm 33</i> <i>Mt 6,7-15</i>	<b>4</b> <b>St. Casimir</b>  <i>Jon 3,1-10</i> <i>Psalm 50</i> <i>Lk 11,29-32</i>	<b>5</b>  <i>Es 4,17</i> <i>Psalm 137</i> <i>Mt 7,7-12</i>	<b>6</b>  <i>No meat</i> <i>Lenten Weekday</i>  <i>Ez 18,21-28</i> <i>Psalm 129</i> <i>Mt 5,20-26</i>	<b>7</b> <b>Ss. Perpetua &amp; Felicity</b>  <i>Dt 26,16-19</i> <i>Psalm 118</i> <i>Mt 5,43-48</i>
<b>8</b> <b>II Sunday of Lent</b>  <i>Gn 22,1-2.9-18</i> <i>Psalm 115</i> <i>Ro 8,31b-34</i> <i>Mk 9,2-10</i>	<b>9</b>  <i>Dt 9,4b-10</i> <i>Psalm 78</i> <i>Lk 6,36-38</i>	<b>10</b>  <i>Is 1,10.16-20</i> <i>Psalm 49</i> <i>Mt 23,1-12</i>	<b>11</b>  <i>Jr 18,18-20</i> <i>Psalm 30</i> <i>Mt 20,17-28</i>	<b>12</b>  <i>Jr 17,5-10</i> <i>Psalm 1</i> <i>Lk 16,19-31</i>	<b>13</b>  <i>No meat</i> <i>Lenten Weekday</i>  <i>Gn 37,3-4.12</i> <i>Psalm 104</i> <i>Mt 21,33-43.45-46</i>	<b>14</b>  <i>Mi 7,14-15.18-20</i> <i>Psalm 102</i> <i>Lk 15,1-3.11-32</i>
<b>15</b> <b>III Sunday of Lent</b>  <i>Ex 20,1-17</i> <i>Psalm 18</i> <i>1 Co 1,22-25</i> <i>Jn 2,13-25</i>	<b>16</b>  <i>2R 5,1-15a</i> <i>Psalm 41 y 42</i> <i>Lk 4,24-30</i>	<b>17</b> <b>San Patrik</b>  <i>Dn 3,25.34-43</i> <i>Psalm 24</i> <i>Mt 18,21-35</i>	<b>18</b>  <i>Dt 4,15-9</i> <i>Psalm 147</i> <i>Mt 5,17-19</i>	<b>19</b> <b>St Joseph, husband of Mary</b>  <i>2S 7,4-5a.12-14.16</i> <i>Psalm 88</i> <i>Rm 4,13.16-18.22</i> <i>Mt 1,16.18-21.24a</i>	<b>20</b>  <i>No meat</i> <i>Lenten Weekday</i>  <i>Os 14,2-10</i> <i>Psalm 80</i> <i>Mk 12,28b-34</i>	<b>21</b>  <i>Ob 6,1-6</i> <i>Psalm 50</i> <i>Lk 18,9-14</i>
<b>22</b> <b>Iv Sunday of Lent</b>  <i>2Ch 36,14-16.19-23</i> <i>Psalm 136</i> <i>Eph 2,4-10</i> <i>Jn 3,14-21</i>	<b>23</b>  <i>Is 65,17-21</i> <i>Psalm 29</i> <i>Jn 4,43-54</i>	<b>24</b>  <i>Ez 47,1-9.12</i> <i>Psalm 45</i> <i>Jn 5,1-3.5-16</i>	<b>25</b> <b>Annunciation of the Lord</b>  <i>Is 7,10-14</i> <i>Psalm 39</i> <i>Hb 10,4-10</i> <i>Lc 1,26-38</i>	<b>26</b>  <i>Ex 32,7-14</i> <i>Psalm 105</i> <i>Jn 5,31-47</i>	<b>27</b>  <i>No meat</i> <i>Lenten Weekday</i>  <i>Ws 2,1.12-22</i> <i>Psalm 33</i> <i>Jn 7,1-2.10.25-30</i>	<b>28</b>  <i>Jr 11,18-20</i> <i>Psalm 7</i> <i>Jn 7,40-53</i>
<b>29</b> <b>v Sunday of Lent</b>  <i>Jr 31,31-34</i> <i>Psalm 50</i> <i>Hb 5,7-9</i> <i>Jn 12,20-33</i>	<b>30</b>  <i>Dn 13,1-9.15-17.19-30.33-62</i> <i>Psalm 22</i> <i>J 8,1-11</i>	<b>31</b>  <i>Nu 21,4-9</i> <i>Psalm 101</i> <i>Jn 8,21-30</i>				



# Friends of Jesus and Mary

First Sunday of Lent March 01- 2009

Readings:9, 8-15;Psalm 25,4-5,6-7,8-9 ; 1Peter 3; 18-22 ;Mark 1:12-15

## *Jesus says no*

*The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beast, and the angels ministered to him. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe the gospel." Mark 1:12-15*

## Reflection

Jesus prepares for his mission by praying;  
He resists the temptation to look for something easier and goes out to preach  
Inviting all to a new life.

Do you sometimes feel tempted not to do what adults ask of you? Do you ask God to be with you when you are about to do something important? Of all the things you do daily, what do you need to change?

Jesus spends 40 days in the dessert without eating.  
We Christians have a period of 40 days of Lent, to reflect on our lives and commitments.  
What do you plan to offer for Lent?

## Activity

Have the children write down what they would like to offer for Lent. Place the papers in a basket. Bring it to the altar. Every week pray asking God for strength to accomplish their commitments.

You can star to pray this day the "Merciful stations of the Cross"

## Prayer

Sometimes we find it easier to seek comfort for ourselves than to do good for others, because that demands sacrifice. Give us strength to overcome our temptations and help us to continue to follow you, serving others. Amen





# Friends of Jesus and Mary

Second Sunday of Lent 8, 2009

Readings: Genesis: 22: 1-2,9a, 10-13, 15-18 ; Psalm 116:10, 15 16-17, 18-19 ;Romans 8:31b-34;Mark 9:2-10

## *The Transfiguration*

*Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son.*

*Listen to him."* Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

*As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.*

**(Mark 9: 2-10)**

## Reflection

The experience of the Transfiguration gives us the promise of a world far beyond our own imagination and our own dreams

Jesus invites his friends to know that he is the Son of God and true God

Talk with the children about the very happy moments in their lives that they remember as clear as a photograph. Did they wish those times would last forever?

Talk about what they want to do when they grow up. What do their parents tell them they should do? Do they suggest professions that make a lot of money only because of that?

Talk about the voice that says we must listen Jesus. How do they listen?

## Activity

Have the children draw three camping tents. On one write "My happiest moment" On another one "Here I am now" On the third one "What I would like to be in the future" Have them present their tents, saying: Here are my dreams, Jesus I want to listen to you. I know you are at my side always."

## Prayer

Loving God, we have so many dreams and hopes for us and for our family. Today you tell us that, if we listen to you, you will fulfill us with blessings although they might not be the kinds of things we expected. Give us a great trust in your love. Amen





# Friends of Jesus and Mary

Third Sunday of Lent March 15, 2009

Readings: Exodus 20: 1-17; Psalm 19: 8, 9, 10, 11; 1Corinthians 1: 22-25; John 2:13-25

## *Jesus purifies the Temple*

*Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changes seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words scripture; Zeal for your house will consume me. At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty- six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" but he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken. While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well. (John 2: 13-25)*

### Reflection

There were offerings of animals presented to God in the Jewish temple. People needed to buy the animals there. Jesus was angry, not so much at the practices as at lack of devotion shown by people at the temple.

For Jesus the most important thing was the honor given to God. Jesus dares to denounce abuses because he has the authority of the Father. What is most important for them? Is money, work, or entertainment ever more important than God? What values is this society transmitting to them?

### Activity

Bring to the group a few coins to look at and see whose images appear on them. Prepare some dollar bills with the image of Jesus, where they can show his message of love and the value, in one side. On the back what is important to them or what they will do this week. On the following page you will find a model.

### Prayer

Lord give us strength and patience to refrain from getting angry at things that simply make us uncomfortable, but to have the courage to stand up against injustices and against what harms others. Teach us your ways of peace, love and justice. Amen



# The Ten Commandments

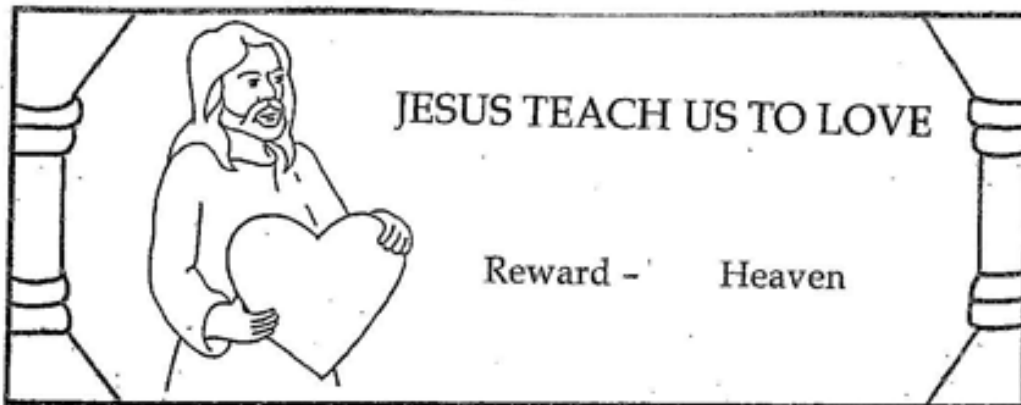
Exodus 20 1-7

Every day we show our love for God and one another. We teach God's law of love

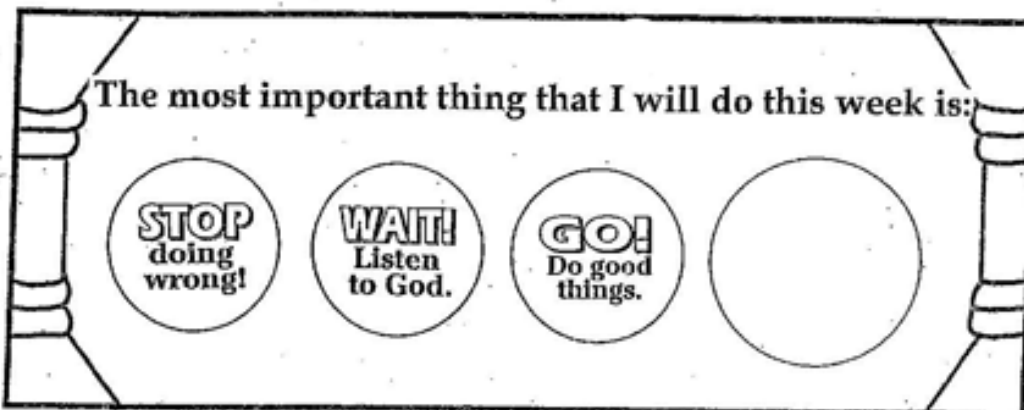
When we treat others the way that we want to be treated we become beatitude people



We teach other God's law of love ... God will welcome us to the heaven

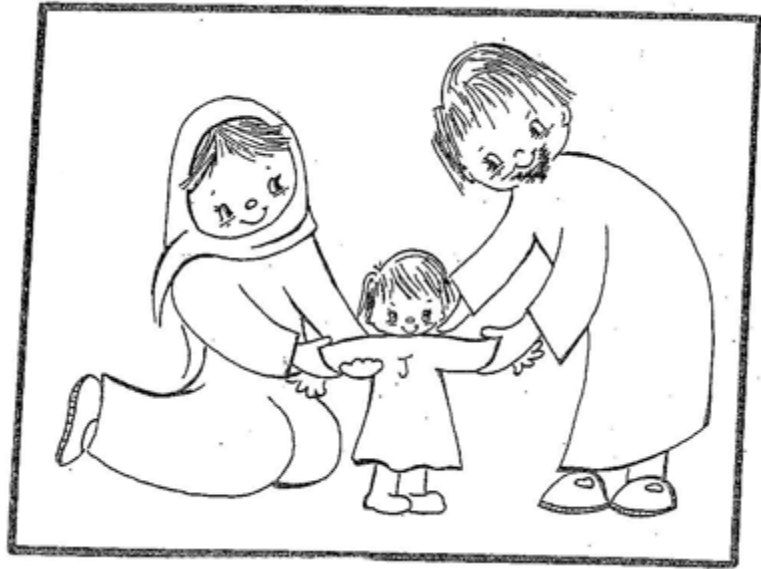


This is the model of the activity of the III Sunday of Lent

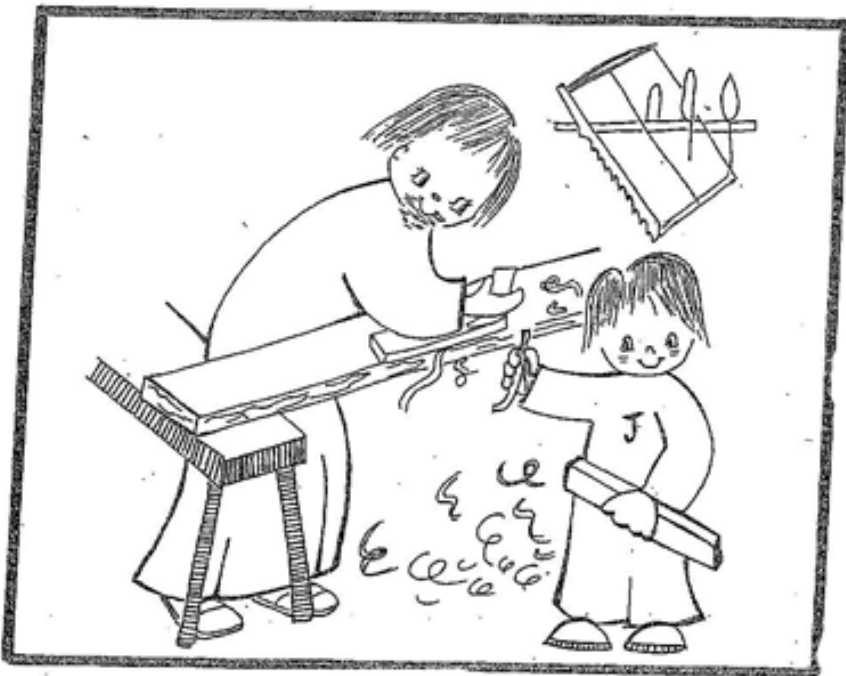


# Saint Joseph protector of the church

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Saint Joseph took care of Jesus while Jesus was growing up.  
Saint Joseph took care of the holy Virgin Mary, too.  
Jesus and Mary were his family.  
He worked hard for them. He was a carpenter. He made things out of wood and sold them.



## Prayer for wednesdays

To Saint Joseph

Good Saint Joseph, I love you as the foster father of Jesus, as the holy husband of the Virgin Mary, as the head of the Holy Family, and as the patron of the whole Church. Be my father and guide on my way to heaven. Take care of me as you took care of Jesus. Be the head of our family and lead us close to God. Saint Joseph, give us peace and blessing from heaven and, above all, love.

Saint Joseph showed Jesus how to make things, too. He wanted Jesus to learn so he would know how to work when he got big. Joseph showed Jesus how to saw the wood and how to hammer nails without bending them or hitting his fingers.



# Paul traveling for god

Acts 13-21

Paul traveled wherever God sent him. Sometimes he traveled over sea by boat. Sometimes he traveled over land. Everywhere he went, he spoke words of encouragement to the people. He told them about Jesus Christ. Paul offered hope to the people as they decided to commit their lives to following Jesus.

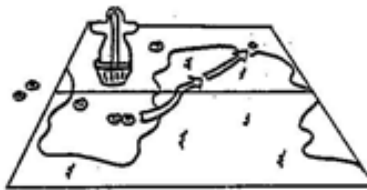
Here is a map for you to color. Trace the arrows in red then make a toy figure of Paul. Color the picture of Paul and glue it onto a craft stick. To make the boat provide clean plastic bottom of a milk carton or a can. Decorate it. Put some cereal in the bottom of your toy boat. Stand Paul in the boat. Then, give Paul a ride around on the map, following the arrows from Jerusalem.

Think of ways you can encourage someone, as Paul did.

Also, remember that Jesus loves you.

He traveled ... Speaking many words of encouragement

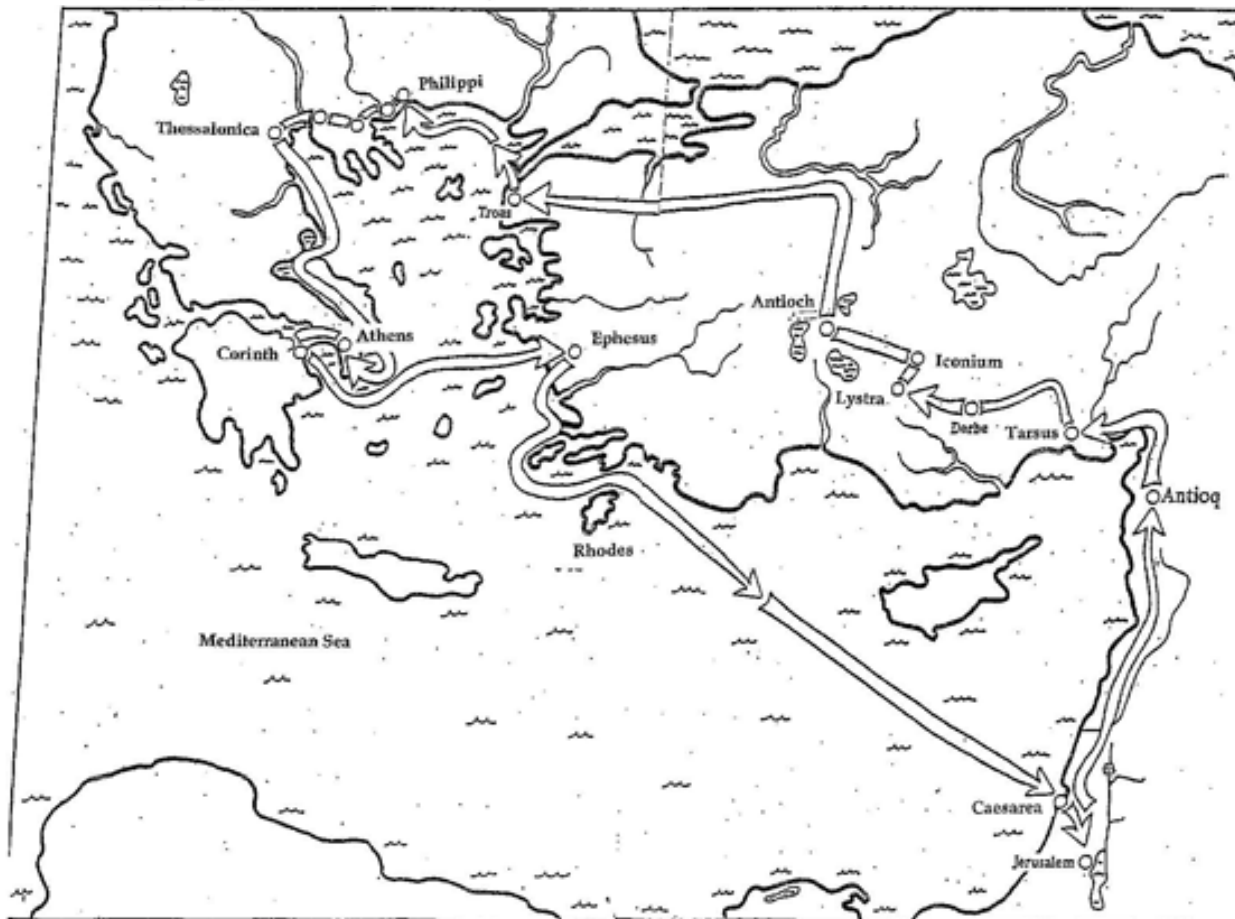
Acts 20:2



Maps of the complete trips of Saint Paul

**Note:**

You can enlarge this map for better view





# Friends of Jesus and Mary

Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 22, 2009

Readings: 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23 Psalm 137: 1-2, 3, 4-5,6 Ephesians 2: 4-10 John 3: 14-21

## *Jesus will be lifted up*

*Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God. (John 3:14-21)*

## Reflection

God always showed compassion

despite the unfaithfulness of the people.

God lifted up Christ so that we could all

be saved. God's love is so great!

What do you want to ask Jesus about Moses,

the serpent and the people who were sick?

Have they ever realized that the symbol in many doctors' offices is a snake wrapped around a pole? Is the symbol of the doctors, based on this bible passage.

Have they ever heard of any sickness that was healed by just looking at something?

In this story everyone who looked at it was healed. Jesus says that by looking at him we get strength for the difficulties of life.

What troubles would you like to tell Jesus about?

## Activity

Show the drawing to the children.

Prepare a big cardboard cross.

Have ready for them small pieces of paper

Ask them to write some sickness or problem that need to be healed.

Each child will then stick his or her piece of paper on the cross. When all had stick their paper all together said this prayer:

"Jesus, you are our health"

## Prayer

Lord, spiritual illnesses are

sometimes more painful than those

of the body. Let us always look at you

in order to face the difficulties of life


with courage, strength and peace. Your

presence heals us, Jesus. Amen



Text: Sr. Beatriz, SHM  
Drawings: Br. Gregy, SHM

# Blessed ALBERTO MARVELLI




LIFE IS ALSO LIKE A MOUNTAIN. GOD IS THE PEAK THAT I WANT TO REACH AND TO BE ABLE TO DO SO, WE HAVE TO CLIMB UPWARDS, ALWAYS CLIMB UPWARDS.



MOTHER, WHY IS THERE SO LITTLE FOOD TODAY?

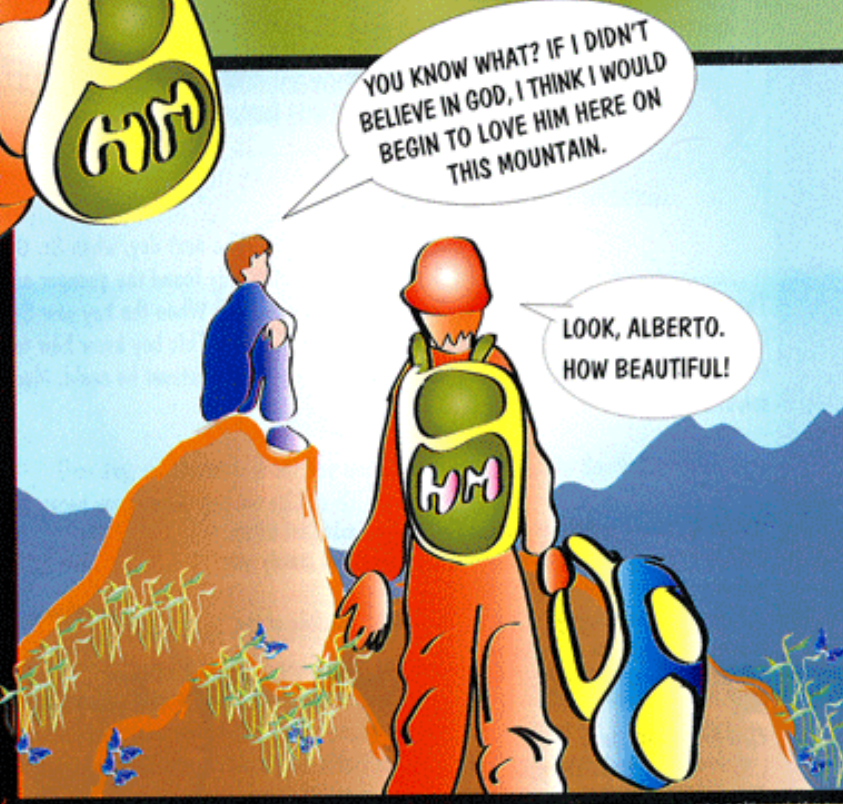


WELL, JESUS CAME BY AND WAS HUNGRY AND WE GAVE HIM SOMETHING TO EAT.

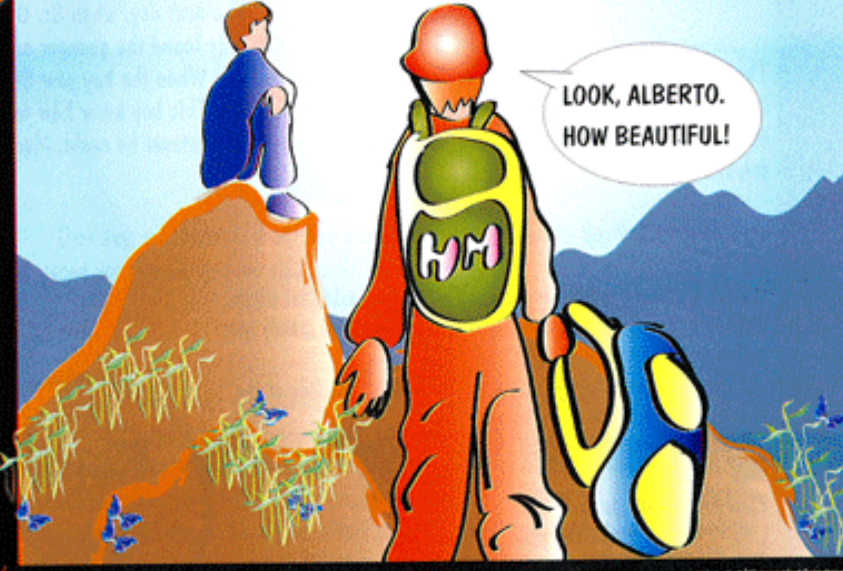


MOTHER, I AM GLAD THAT YOU ARE SO GENEROUS WITH THE POOR.

ALBERTO MARVELLI WAS BORN IN FERRARA, ITALY ON MARCH 21, 1918. AT AGE 12, HE MOVED WITH HIS FAMILY TO RIMINI. HIS PARENTS WERE AN EXAMPLE FOR HIM AND FOR HIS FIVE SIBLINGS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH AND CHARITY, TEACHING THEM TO SEE JESUS IN THE POOR.



YOU KNOW WHAT? IF I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN GOD, I THINK I WOULD BEGIN TO LOVE HIM HERE ON THIS MOUNTAIN.



LOOK, ALBERTO. HOW BEAUTIFUL!

ALBERTO LOVED SPORTS. HE PLAYED TENNIS, VOLLEYBALL, TRACK AND FIELD, CYCLING, SOCCER, SWIMMING, SAILING... BUT MOST OF ALL, MOUNTAIN CLIMBING.

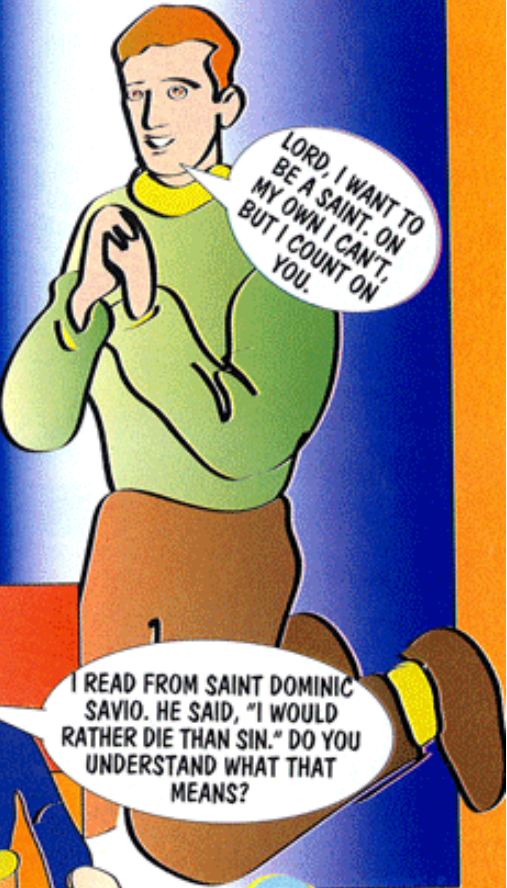


IF YOU WANT, I CAN HELP YOU.

I NEED HELP WITH THE KIDS...

HE ENTERED INTO THE GROUP CATHOLIC ACTION. HE WAS A JOYFUL YOUNG MAN, SYMPATHETIC, ALWAYS READY TO HELP EVERYBODY. DURING THESE YEARS, ALBERTO MADE AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

HE BEGAN TO STUDY IN THE UNIVERSITY. HE WANTED TO BE AN ENGINEER, BUT GOD WAS ALWAYS FIRST...AND HIS APOSTOLIC WORK.



LORD, I WANT TO BE A SAINT. ON MY OWN I CAN'T, BUT I COUNT ON YOU.

I READ FROM SAINT DOMINIC SAVIO. HE SAID, "I WOULD RATHER DIE THAN SIN." DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS?



THE EUCHARIST, IT IS AS THOUGH A FIRE BURNS WITHIN ME. AND IT MAKES ME SO HAPPY...

A SHORT WHILE AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH, HE BEGAN A DIARY.

WORLD WAR II BREAKS OUT. OVER 400 BOMBS DESTROY THE CITY OF RIMINI.



DO YOU WANT TO PRAY?

ALBERTO IS AMAZING! HE IS ALWAYS IN THE MOST DANGEROUS PLACES.

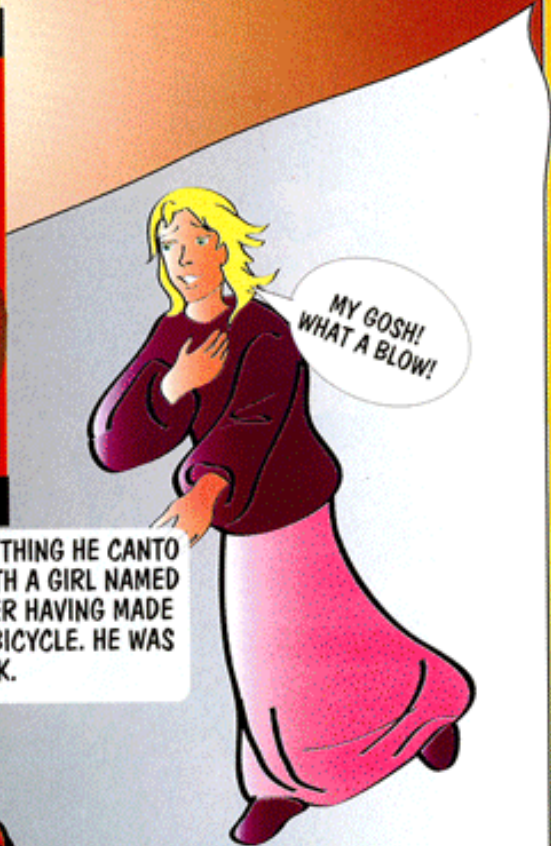
IT IS TRUE. HE NEVER TIRES. HE ENCOURAGES THE SURVIVORS, RESCUES THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BURIED UNDERNEATH THE RUBBLE, HE HELPS THE WOUNDED...

AT THE END OF THE WAR, THE CITY HAD TO BE RE-BUILT. ALBERTO SAW THE PEOPLE'S SUFFERING AND HE GAVE OF HIMSELF TOTALLY. ONE DAY, HE WAS MADE AN OFFER...



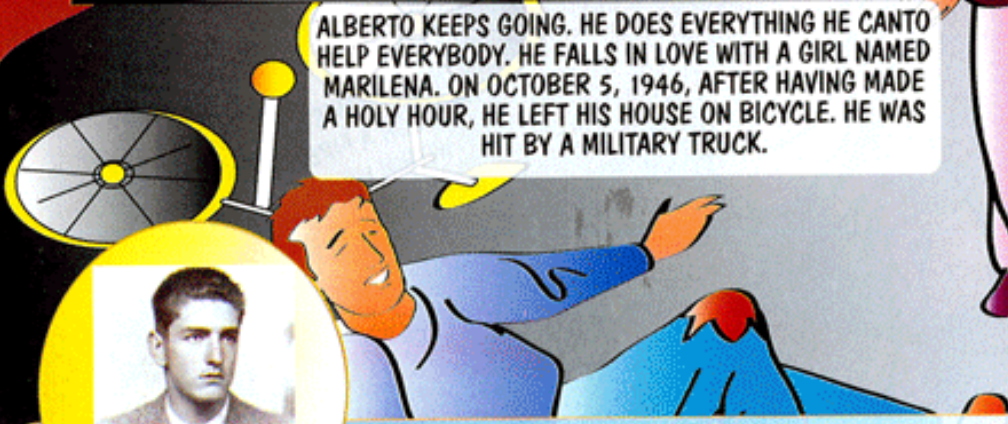
I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ENTER A POLITICAL PARTY. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I THINK THAT THE LORD WANTS YOU TO ACCEPT. WE NEED TRULY CHRISTIAN POLITICIANS.



MY GOSH! WHAT A BLOW!

ALBERTO KEEPS GOING. HE DOES EVERYTHING HE CAN TO HELP EVERYBODY. HE FALLS IN LOVE WITH A GIRL NAMED MARILENA. ON OCTOBER 5, 1946, AFTER HAVING MADE A HOLY HOUR, HE LEFT HIS HOUSE ON BICYCLE. HE WAS HIT BY A MILITARY TRUCK.



HE DIED IN THE HOSPITAL TWO HOURS LATER. JOHN PAUL II BEATIFIED HIM AND SAID THAT HE WAS TRULY A MODEL FOR ALL YOUNG CHRISTIANS.



# Friends of Jesus and Mary

Fifth Sunday of Lent - March 29, 2009

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13,14-15; Hebrews 5:7-9 ;John 12:20-33

## *Jesus is the good seed*

*Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Phillip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Phillip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, 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. Whoever loves his life loses it and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me." I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? Father saves me from this hour? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die. (John 12:20-33)*

## Reflection

Jesus' death, like that of a grain of wheat, is not the end of the story. Jesus' death is a source of abundant fruit which is produced for the good of all.

Talk about the seeds. Have they ever planted something? Did they have to wait a long time until it grew? Do the children understand the meaning of sacrifice? Do they see the sacrifices their parents make for them?

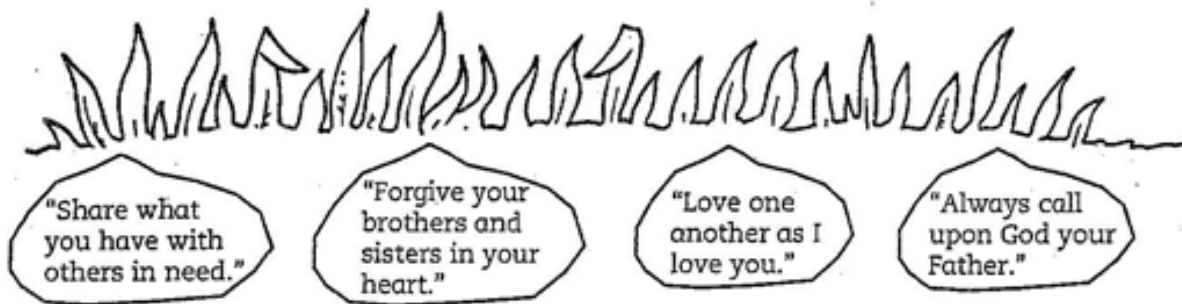
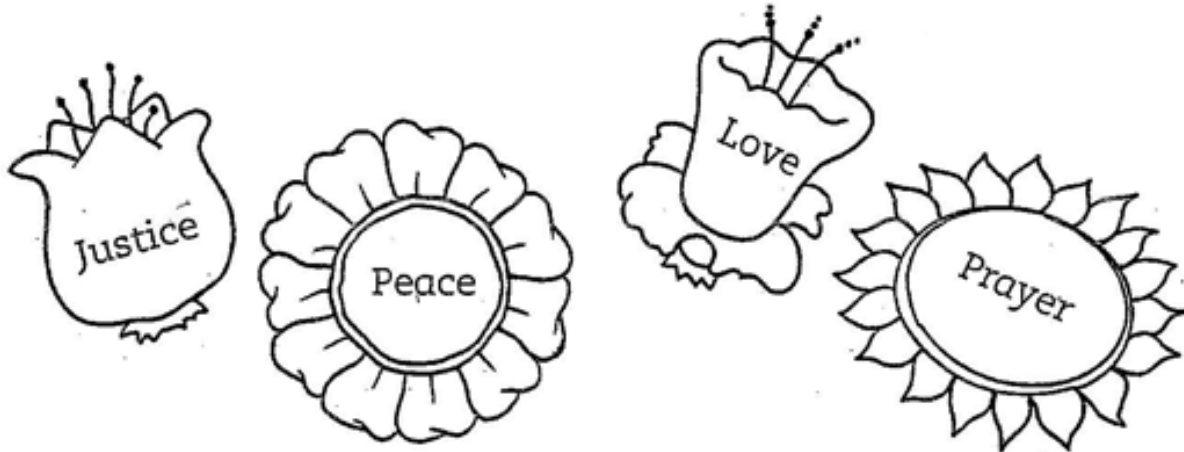
## Prayer

Jesus you are always attentive to the Father. Your love for our Father gave you the strength and courage to carry out your mission. Give us your Spirit so that we may always work for the good of others. Help us to produce fruits of life. Amen



## Jesus teaches

*The Bible is the book of God's good news.  
Here are some seeds of God's words to us*



*What will grow if you listen to God's word?*

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*Connect the seeds and its flowers by drawing a stem and some leaves.*

*How can you leave out each message?*

# Saint Catherine of Sweden

Text and Drawings: Sr. Virginia, S.H.M.

I am Saint Catherine's guardian angel, and I am going to tell you a story. Pay attention!

She was born, as God so willed, in Sweden between the years 1331 and 1332 into a big family of strong Christian faith. She was the fourth of seven children.

Gu gu.

Thank you, my God, for this little girl.

For the Virgin.

She enjoyed playing with her brothers and sisters on the shores of Lake Boren.

During the winter, they would spend hours warming themselves by the fire, listening to stories of the saints read by their mother.

Saint Agnes died very young defending her faith.

What courage!

I want to follow Jesus when I grow up.

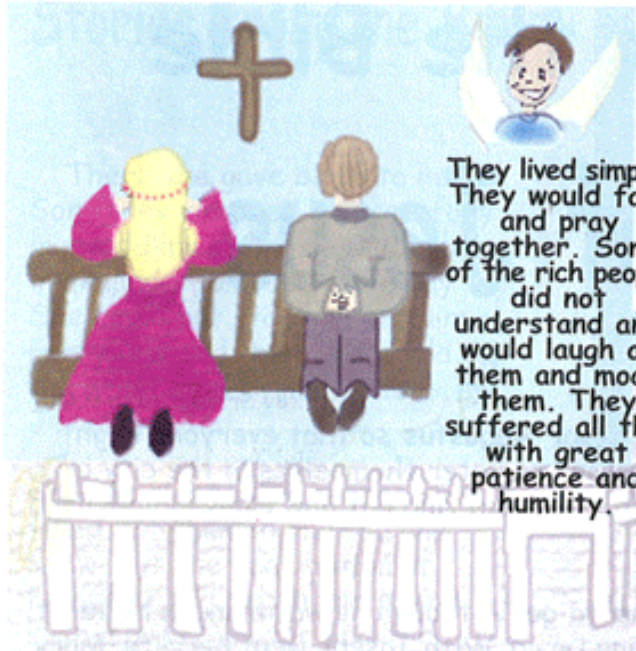
As soon as she turned twelve, she was given as a spouse to Eggard Lydersson, according to the custom at that time. They lived a holy Christian marriage.

She used to accompany her mother visiting the sick and poor. She treated them with great love. She would wash them, heal them...

Don't forget that God loves you a lot.

I know, I know.

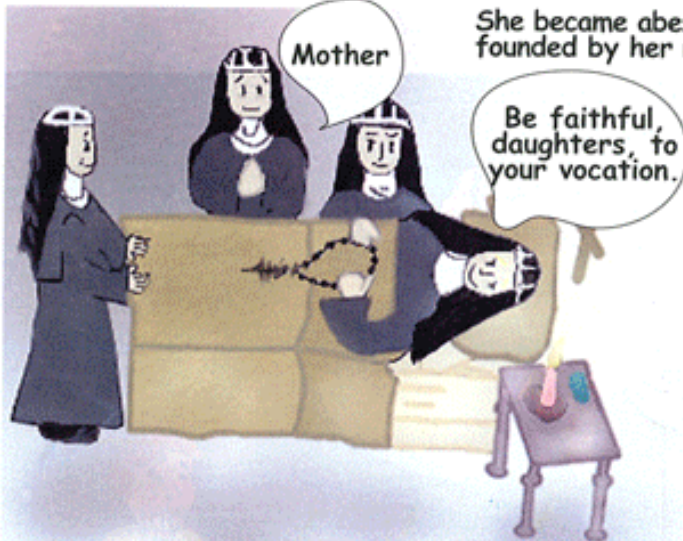
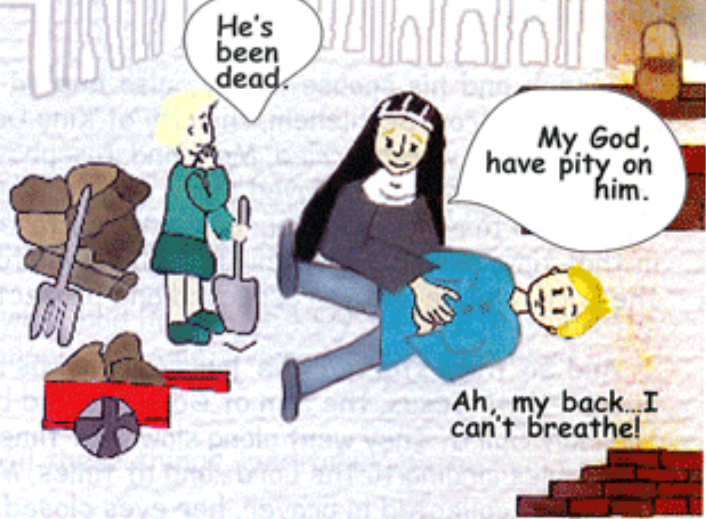




They lived simply. They would fast and pray together. Some of the rich people did not understand and would laugh at them and mock them. They suffered all this with great patience and humility.



Following the death of her father, her mother left for Rome and she went with her. While she was there, her husband died. Years later, her mother died as well. While she was still alive, she performed miracles. Among them was the healing of a worker who had died.



She became abbess of the Bridgetine monastery founded by her mother in Vadstena (Sweden).



She became very ill. Her tongue became paralyzed and only by her gaze was she able to show her love for Jesus in the Eucharist.



She died March 24, 1381 at the age of 49. The Virgin said of her, "Blessed is she for freely renouncing the goods of this earth. All those who love her will progress, on the path that leads to God, thanks to her. Love her!"

# MERCIFUL VIA CRUCIS

Hi there, kids! Did you know that Lent begins on February 25? I'm sure that it rings a bell. Lent is a time of preparation for Holy Week. You could say that it is a "sales" time that the Lord gives us. It is a period of forty days to come closer to Jesus, to think more about what He suffered for us on the cross and how much He loves us. It is time to change and to become more like Jesus. Isn't it a bargain?

Here you have a merciful Via Crucis. As you can see, there are 14 drops of blood, each one of them is a station of the cross. At each station you have to read the bible passage and pray an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be. If you live the work of mercy, you will be able to take away one of the thorns from Jesus' crown of thorns each day. What do you think? Are you ready to console Jesus?

You have to go around three whole times in order to reach Holy Tuesday. Everytime you go around you alleviate the wound of one of the nails that pierced Jesus. You can keep track of the days that you make the station of the cross by drawing a heart around that day on the calendar. Each time you go completely around the crown draw a heart around one of the nails.

Instruct the ignorant.

**FIRST STATION**  
JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH  
Matthew 27: 22-23, 26

February 25  
March 11  
25 March

Counsel the doubtful.

**SECOND STATION**  
JESUS CARRIES THE CROSS  
Matthew 27: 27-31

February 26  
March 12  
March 26

Admonish sinners.

**THIRD STATION**  
JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME.  
Isaiah 53: 4-6

February 27  
March 13  
March 27

Forgive offenses.

**FOURTH STATION**  
JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER  
Luke 2: 34-35, 51

February 28  
March 14  
March 28

Bury the dead. You can pray for the dead.

**FOURTEENTH STATION**  
JESUS IS BURIED.  
Matthew 27: 59-61

March 9  
March 23  
April 6

You can treat people that live on the street with respect and affection.

**THIRTEENTH STATION**  
JESUS IS DOWN FROM THE CROSS AND GIVEN TO HIS MOTHER.  
Matthew 27: 54-55

March 8  
March 22  
April 5

Visit the imprisoned. You could offer up a program.

**TWELFTH STATION**  
JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS  
John 19: 19-20

March 21  
March 7  
April 4

Clothe the naked.

**TENTH STATION**  
JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHING  
Matthew 27: 31-36

March 6  
March 30  
April 3

Feed the hungry. You could give your allowance to the poor.

**NINTH STATION**  
JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME.  
Lamentations 3: 21-32

March 5  
March 19  
April 2

Give drink to the thirsty.

**ELEVENTH STATION**  
JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS  
Matthew 27: 37-42

April 7<sup>th</sup>  
Third nail.

Visit the sick. If you can't visit someone, maybe you could write a letter to a sick or elderly person.

**EIGHTH STATION**  
JESUS COMFORTS THE WOMEN  
Luke 23: 28-31

March 4  
March 18  
April 1

Pray for the living and the dead. Pray a mystery of the rosary for those who have no one to pray for them.

**SEVENTH STATION**  
JESUS FALLS FOR THE SECOND TIME.  
Lamentations 3: 1-3, 9, 16

March 3  
March 31  
March 17

Bear wrongs patiently. Don't talk bad about anyone

**SIXTH STATION**  
VERONICA WIPES JESUS' FACE  
Isaiah 53: 2-3 and Psalms 76: 8-9

March 1  
March 15  
March 29

Comfort the afflicted.

**FIFTH STATION**  
SIMON, THE CYRENE, HELPS JESUS TO CARRY THE CROSS.  
Matthew 27: 32; 16; 24

March 24<sup>th</sup>  
Second nail.