The Catholic Tugboat

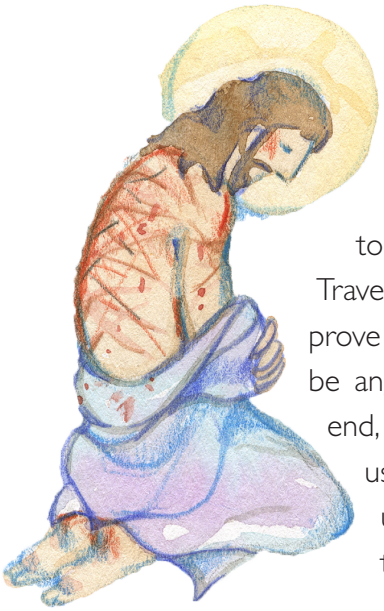
A Children's Guide to God

November 29, 2020 Cycle B, First Sunday of Advent Volume VI, Issue 1

Buried Treasures

Welcome to Year B, a year spent with the evangelist, Mark! Mark's Gospel is the shortest of the four Gospels. His Gospel is very similar to Luke's and Matthew's, but there are differences: **1.** Jesus doesn't talk as much in Mark's Gospel, but he expresses more emotions, **2.** Matthew's Jesus was seen as 'the Messiah,' and Luke's Jesus is viewed as the 'King of the World,' but Mark's Jesus is the 'Suffering Servant.' The only sign of royalty is Jesus' Crown of Thorns and the purple robe a soldier puts on Him to mock Him.

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7
Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37



Traveling with Mark this year will prove to be a bumpy ride. We will be angry, we will cry, but, in the end, we will see all Jesus did for us and how much He loves us. This is a journey worth taking!



Catholic I.D.

As we enter Advent we are told to be alert and prepare. How do we prepare? We prepare by acting on what we believe. If we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, then we try to follow the example that He left for us. We join with others in love to live in the Holy Spirit. *(CCC 1699)*



This means that we live our lives by noticing other people. Being ***compassionate*** means to *suffer with* another. How do we do this? Work with an adult to read Isaiah 58:7, 10 and Matthew 25:34-40. Also, read paragraph 2447 in the Catechism. List all the 'Works of Mercy' you can find.

Walking with Mark

Year B focuses on the Gospel of Mark. Symbolized by a lion, He roars the point he wants to make in the first sentence, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (1:1) Mark is passionate about Jesus Christ and wants us to know this same love. He is impatient with those who don't seem to 'get it.'



Because Mark loves Jesus so much, he wants us to love Him too. To do this, we must first answer for ourselves the question Jesus kept asking, "Who do you say I am?" Once we answer this, we are ready to journey with Mark.

Witness: You!

Mark emphasizes personal responsibility. He is impatient with the slowness of the Apostles, and he recognizes how great Jesus is. Mark calls each of us to model ourselves on Jesus Christ, the Son of God.



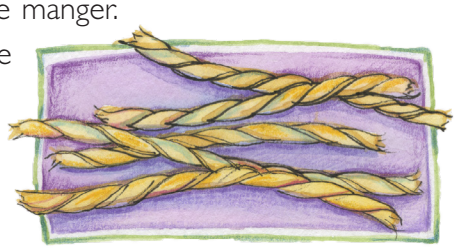
In today's gospel, Mark tells us to be alert and watchful. ***We*** are being called to ***witness*** and give ***testimony*** *(what we know to be true)*. Is Jesus the babe in the manger in Bethlehem? Is Jesus the one who will come again on a cloud? We must recognize Jesus however and whenever He appears, at the end of time or in the eyes of another.

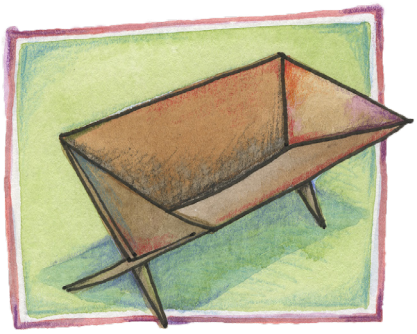
Did you know that 'Bethlehem' means 'house of bread'? Do you think that it is a coincidence that Jesus, "The Bread of Life," was born in the town named, 'the house of bread'?

There are many hints that will help us answer who Jesus is. We will get clues from Scripture and from great witnesses who will point to Jesus. Yet in the end, each of us must decide who Jesus is for ourselves.

Tugboat Challenge

We prepare for company at Christmas by cleaning our house. We prepare to receive Jesus Christ in our hearts by making it clean and soft. Each time you complete one of the 'Works of Mercy' (*CCC 2447*; see below), put a piece of straw in the manger. Hopefully, there will be a comfortable bed of clean straw by the time the baby Jesus arrives.





Making a place for Jesus: Work with an adult to cut a piece of construction paper 4"X 3". Fold it lengthwise into a "V". Then, cut two slits, each one about ¾" in from end from the fold in the "V" up to the top. Stop cutting about ¼" of an inch from the top.

Cut two additional 'squares' of paper about 2" x 1½". Slip these two pieces of paper into each slit before gently opening the top. Now you have a place to put 'straw.' You can make 'straw' by cutting pieces of yellow yarn. You can make a Baby Jesus out of a clothes pin or cloth and paper. Now you are ready!



Corporal Works

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick & imprisoned
- Bury the dead

Spiritual Works

- Correct the sinner
- Teach the unknowing
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive injuries
- Pray for living and dead

Imprimatur: Most Reverend Richard F. Stika, Bishop, Diocese of Knoxville, October 29, 2020. The Imprimatur ("Permission to Publish") is a declaration that the work is considered to be free of doctrinal or moral error. It is not implied that those who have granted the Imprimatur agree with the contents, opinions or statements expressed.

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