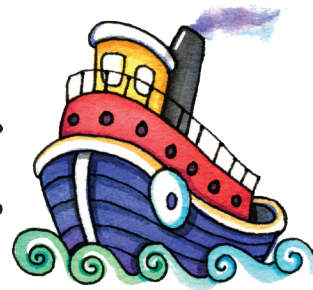


The Catholic Tugboat

A Children's Guide to God



May 3, 2020 Cycle A, Fourth Sunday of Easter

Volume V, Issue 23

Buried Treasures



In today's First Reading, Peter baptizes 3000, and, by doing this, he is being a Good Shepherd like Jesus taught him. He is gathering God's flock and teaching us how to do the same: "The gathering of the People of God begins with Baptism; a church must have a place for the celebration of **Baptism** (*baptistry*) and for fostering remembrance of the baptismal promises (*holy water font*)..." (CCC 1185)



Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
1 Peter 2:20b-25
John 10:1-10



In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us that He, The Good Shepherd, is the New Authority. How does He do this? He does this by using the word, "Amen." Teachers at this time used this word at the end of a teaching to show they agreed with a previous teacher, "Truly!" But Jesus is the true teacher. He begins His teaching by saying, "Amen, amen, I say to you..." Claiming this kind of authority is just the kind of thing that began to get Him into trouble. As a matter of fact, Jesus' words in today's Gospel came just a few months before He was to die.



Catholic I.D.

A Sacrament is made up of an outward sign and an inward action. The word 'sacrament' emphasizes the outward sign, and the word 'mystery' emphasizes the inside grace that is given by God through the sign. (CCC 774) Our human eyes can see the 'sacrament' (e.g., pouring water at Baptism), but our soul's eye must learn to see the 'mystery': God's grace strengthens, heals, educates, and more.

When we use the word 'mystery' here, it is important to remember that it means *a reality that we can partly know*. Like swimming in cloudy waters, we gradually come to make out shapes when our eyes adjust. God never leaves us totally in the dark.

From Your Lips to God's Ear

The Mass is considered "the source and summit of the Christian life" (CCC 1324), and "the sum and summary of our faith." (CCC 1327) It is the greatest prayer of the Catholic faith. And, the heart of this prayer is the Eucharistic Prayer because, in it, Jesus is offered up for us.



The Eucharistic Prayer is made up of many parts: 1) the Thanksgiving, or Preface, 2) the Acclamation, 3) the Epiclesis, 4) the Institution Narrative, Consecration, 4) Anamnesis, 5) Offering 6) Intercessions, and 7) Final doxology.

We will look at each of these parts in the weeks to come so that you can identify them when you hear them.

Our Salvation History: The Baby in the Basket?

As time went on, the new rulers of Egypt forgot the relationship that Pharaoh had with Joseph and the Hebrew people. Fearing their growing numbers, the Egyptians worked the Hebrews to the bone, enslaving them more and more. The Hebrews cried out to God, but Pharaoh worked them harder still.

Exodus, the book that follows Genesis, brings us stories of another giant of the faith and the one who would lead God's people to freedom, Moses. By the time Moses was born, several hundred years from Joseph's time had passed. Pharaoh was so afraid of the growing number of Hebrews that he ordered all firstborn sons to be drowned in the Nile. But one mother made other plans. She hid her newborn son for three months

and, when she could do this no more, she put him in a basket and floated it onto the Nile among the tall vegetation that grew there. His sister stayed close by, watching.

When Pharaoh's daughter and her handmaids bathed in the river in the morning, they found the babe in the basket. Just then, the sister ran up and asked if they wanted her to find someone to nurse the baby. Pharaoh's daughter agreed, and, lifting the

basket from the water, named the baby, 'Moses,' which meant "to be drawn out," just as Moses had been drawn out of the Nile. This boy would be the answer to his people's prayers.



Tugboat Challenge

Read the following accounts of the conversion of St. Paul: Acts 9:1-19, Acts 22:6-21, and Acts 26:12-18.

Now, look at the picture at the right: What's wrong with this version of events? (Hint: What is in this picture that is not found in any of the accounts found in Acts?)



Answer: Scripture never says that Paul fell from his horse, or that he even had a horse with him!

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