West Wagga Wagga Catholic Parish Ashmont, Collingullie, Glenfield, Lloyd, San Isidore

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 135

Coming Events

Patricians: Fri 9 Reflection Day: *The Deep Well* of Your Life, Sat 10 Home of Compassion Auxiliary: Mon 12 Prayers for Healing: Fri 16 Riverina Catholic Men's Conference: Sat 17 Solemnity of the Our Lady Help of Christians: Sat 24 Novena to Holy Spirit Begins: Thurs 29 Feast of the Presentation of BVM: Sat 31

Solemnity of Ascension: Sun June 1

Congratulations:

Presentation Sisters

Diamond Jubilarians Srs. Patricia Barry, Patricia Sydenham, Margaret Hickey

Golden Jubilarians Srs. Rosemary Terry, Frances Walsh

> **40th Wedding Anniversary** Colin and Anne Johnston On their special occasion.

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Wag Contacts

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The due date for the next Wag is: **Sunday June 1 st.**

Go make disciples...

"Go therefore and make disciples... I am with you always."

The latest devotional art piece in the Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist Church, San Isidore is the placement of the image of Jesus Christ mounted upon the reverse of the front wall of the

church above the entrance doors. It is an image of the glorified Christ as he ascends back to the Heavenly Father.

The eleven Apostles are looking on and bidding him farewell, though they have hearts mixed with joy and trepidation, for as yet the Holy Spirit has not descended. The final words of Jesus are recorded

from St Matthew's Gospel: And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all

Mother's Day

The story of Mother's Day is a long one. It is neither a recent phenomenon as many people believe it to be. Nor it is the creation of card and gift marketers syndicate as assumed by cynics of the Mother's Day festival. To the surprise of lot many people Mother's Day celebrations are first said to have taken place in the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans hundreds of years ago. Even Mother's Day celebrations in the UK began long before the tradition saw the light of the day in US. Countless women have made remarkable contributions to further the cause of Mother's Day holiday.

Today Mother's Day is celebrated in more than 46 countries around the world though at different times in the month of May and in some countries it is celebrated in entirely different times that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." [Mat 28:18-20] The image is a gift from the Carey family and it was affixed by Josh Crimmins who did the art work and placement. Additional spot lighting will

be added soon. The image of the

A CONTRACTOR

glorified Christ was originally a gift to the parish from the Carmelites Sisters of Wagga Wagga. It was firstly affixed to a side wall of the church and later mounted as the corpus on the wooden cross behind the altar. The artwork is a fitting farewell as we leave the church after Mass, for it reminds us to be disciples of Jesus that

we need not fear for he is with us, moreover he desires us to spread his words of peace, mercy and everlasting beatitude. Or as the priest at the end of Mass proclaims;

'Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life'.

of the year. In the present time Mother's Day has come to be internationally recognized as the day to honour all mothers and thank them for the services they impart for the benefit of their children and consequently to the development of mankind. Thanks Mum!



May 2014



Mary's Month

The best thing anyone can do this month is to pray the Rosary for peace - in the world, the family, your heart. On May 13, two days after Mother's Day, we commemorate the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. The Blessed Virgin Mary is our spiritual mother and loves all her children (John 19:27). It is now 97 years since the Blessed Virgin Mary proclaimed to the world through three children (two of whom are now Blessed), in apparitions affirmed by the Church, that for there to be peace in the world we need to have devotion to her Immaculate Heart. To obtain a time of unprecedented peace, all need to pray the daily rosary.

It was the third apparition that had the most to say about world peace. This third encounter took place just three days before the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 16th. The Blessed Virgin asked the children to pray the Rosary in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary, and said that only She could bring an end to World War I. She promised to work a miracle to lead all to believe in her appearances at Fatima and to confirm her requests. This took place on October 13, 1917 in front of 70,000 people.

To those who asked for bodily cures or conversions of loved ones, Mary promised 'they would receive these graces if they prayed the Rosary'. Then She said to the children: "Sacrifice yourselves for sinners, & say many times, especially whenever you make some sacrifice: O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, & in reparation for the committed against sins the

pastor's page Immaculate Heart of Mary."

Then Our Lady after reassuring the children that they were destined for heaven, opened Her hands and the light that was God's streamed forth. In this light they were given a vision of Hell so horrible and gruesome that the children shrieked aloud with fear. After showing them Hell Our Lady said to the children: "You have seen Hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end." (The Great War came to an end at 11 o'clock in the morning of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918). But the Blessed Virgin warned if 'people did not cease offending God, a worse one would break out during the pontificate of Pope Pius XI' (i.e. February 6, 1922 until February 10, 1939). This indeed happened because although World War II was declared on September 3, 1939, in fact during 1938 Hitler had managed to take all of Austria and had already annexed Sudetenland without a shot being fired. And as 1939 began, Hitler had finally orchestrated his absorption of the state of Czecho-Slovakia and had created a Bohemian Protectorate, as well as a puppet state in Slovakia. He had confirmed a pact with Russia to occupy Poland. All this happened before WW II was proclaimed. Pope Pius XI died February 10, 1939. And Our Lady had also prophesied "When you see a night illumined by an unknown light (i.e. the phenomena of aurora borealis; the northern lights took place on August 21, 1939) know that this is the great sign given you by God that He is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father". "To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to My

Immaculate Heart, & the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays (On Dec 10, 1925 this too happened). "If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars & persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, &

various nations will be annihilated. In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, & a period of peace will be granted to the world. In Portugal the dogma of the Faith will always be preserved . . . " "When you pray the Rosary, say after each mystery: 'O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of Hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are most in need of your mercy.'"

When we consider our world today with the proliferation of wars and the humanitarian disasters that such wars create, prayers for peace should be included in every serious person's As repertoire. prayer an encouragement to be more prayerful, a Goggle search relates the sad tale that there are in total 60 countries involved in wars at present in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and in the Americas. Moreover, there are known to be 534 militias-guerrillas. separatist groups, anarchic groups & drug cartels fomenting these wars.

On 29 April 1965 Pope Paul VI wrote an Encyclical on The Month of May, in which he exhorted Prayers for the Preservation of Peace. He wrote: 'peace, is not solely the work of man. It is also, and primarily, a gift from God. Peace comes from heaven. It will truly reign among men when we have finally proved ourselves worthy to receive this gift from Almighty God. Just as the happiness & destiny of nations are in His power, so also are the hearts of people. And so we shall obtain this lofty benefit by praying to God; by praying with constancy & watchfulness, as the Church has been wont to do from her very beginning; by praying, in particular, for the intercession & protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who peace' (10). is the Queen of

Fr Gerard



Kids' Quotes

Home is where the house is. --Age 6

Often, when I am reading a good book, I stop and thank my teacher. That is, I used to, until she got an unlisted number. --Age 15

It would be terrible if the Red Cross Bloodmobile got into an accident. No, wait. That would be good because if anyone needed it, the blood would be right there. --Age 5

Think of the biggest number you can. Now add five. Then, imagine if you had that many Twinkies. Wow, that's five more than the biggest number you could come up with. --Age 6

The only stupid question is the one that is never asked, except maybe "Don't you think it is about time you audited my tax return?" or "Isn't it morally wrong to give me a warning when, in fact, I was speeding?" --Age 15

If we could just get everyone to close their eyes and visualize world peace for an hour, imagine how serene and quiet it would be until the looting started. --Age 14

I don't know about you, but I enjoy watching paint dry. I imagine that the wet paint is a big freshwater lake that is the only source of water for some tiny cities by the lake. As the lake gets drier, the population gets more desperate, and sometimes there are water riots. Once there was a big fire and everyone died. --Age 13

I believe you should live each day as if it is your last, which is why I don't have any clean laundry because, come on, who wants to wash clothes on the last day of their life? --Age 15

May Jokes

As you make your way through this hectic world of ours, set aside a few minutes each day. At the end of the year, you'll have a couple of days saved up. --Age 7

On Love and Marriage

HOW DO YOU DECIDE

WHO TO MARRY?

"You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming." Alan, age 10

"No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with." Kirsten, age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

"Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then." Camille, age 10

"No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married." Freddie, age 6

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

"Married people usually look happy to talk to other people." Eddie, age 6

"You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids." Derrick, age 8

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE

DO ON A DATE?

"Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough." Lynnette, age 8

WHAT WOULD YOU DO ON A FIRST DATE THAT WAS TURNING SOUR?

"I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns." Craig, age 9

WHEN IS IT OK TO KISS SOMEONE?

"When they're rich." Pam, age 7

"The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that." Curt, age 7

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

"It's better for girls to be single, but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them." Anita, age 9

"Single is better, for the simple reason that I wouldn't want to change no diapers. Of course, if I did get married, I'd just phone my mother and have her come over for some coffee and diaper-changing." Kirsten, age 10

HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

"There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there?" Kelvin, age 8

"You can be sure of one thing - the boys would come chasing after us just the same as they do now." Roberta, age 7

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

"Tell your wife that she looks pretty even if she looks like a truck." Ricky, age 10



Mora's New Calling

TRES RIOS, Costa Rica — On a warm spring day, Floribeth Mora was in her bed waiting to die from a seemingly inoperable brain aneurysm when her gaze fell upon a photograph of Pope John Paul II in a newspaper.

"Stand up," Mora recalls the image of the pope saying to her. "Don't be afraid."

Mora, her doctors and the Catholic Church say her aneurysm disappeared that day in a miracle that cleared the way for the late pope to be declared a saint on April 27 in a ceremony at the Vatican where Mora was be a guest of honour.

For Mora, the church-certified miracle was only the start of her metamorphosis from an ill and desperate woman into a symbol of faith for thousands of Costa Ricans and Catholics around the world.

Mora, 50, has been greeting a stream of local and international visitors in her modest home in a middle-class neighbourhood outside the Costa Rican capital, and accepts invitations to as many as four Masses a day. The faithful have given her so many letters to deliver to current pontiff Pope Francis that she has had to buy an extra suitcase.

Mora has suspended her late-in-life law studies and much of her work for her family security business to dedicate herself full-time to her role as a symbol of faith for many in Costa Rica.

Floribeth Mora now travels and attends Masses to give her testimony.

"With all of this going on I appreciate having my own business,

because if I had a boss, they would have already fired me for missing so much work," she joked.

She says she ignores skeptics who doubt she was really healed.

"Everyone can think what they



want," she told The Associated Press during a visit to her home. "What I know is that I am healthy."

Mora was diagnosed with a brain aneurysm and sent home to rest and take pain medication in April 2011 after doctors said the problem was inoperable. Mora, who thought she was simply returning home to await death, looked at the image of John Paul on May 1, the day of John Paul's beatification six years after his death.

Then, she says, it spoke to her.

She surprised her family by walking around, and, after her doctors declared her healed, word spread quickly to the local church, and from there to the Vatican.

Today, Mora says speaking about her experience has become her calling.

"I've got so much to do that I'm going to dedicate myself above all to telling the world the story of God's greatness and what it's done for me," she said.

She says people sometimes ask whether the experience was somehow imagined, or the result of mental illness.

"I have no reason to doubt what I

am. I am healthy and that's the most important thing," said Mora, the daughter of a shoemaker and a seamstress, born in a tough neighbourhood south of San Jose.

Grandchildren run through the narrow halls of the home she shares with her husband, a retired police officer. Images of John Paul, the infant Jesus and the Virgin Mary look down from the

walls of virtually every room.

The back garden smells of the oregano and rosemary she grows for cooking, and is shared by a pair of roosters, three rabbits and some ducks.

Mora is often overwhelmed by the petitions for prayer the faithful ask her to take to Francis.

"I have to buy a special suitcase for those letters, because some of them are big packages," she said. Mora said she is filled with excitement for meeting the pope, whom she admires for his humility.

While she looks tired, she says she feels great, and none of the symptoms that she felt brought her to the brink of death three years ago have returned. She has no doubt that she owes her life to John Paul.

"It's important for them to name him a saint, but for me he's already a saint," she said. "I never imagined I would become a part of all of this."

"True freedom is not advanced in the permissive society, which confuses freedom with license to do anything whatever and which in the name of freedom proclaims a kind of general amorality. It is a caricature of freedom to claim that people are free to organize their lives with no reference to moral values, and to say that society does not have to ensure the protection and advancement of ethical values. Such an attitude is destructive of freedom and peace." — Saint Pope John Paul II

ISSUE 134

Inspirational Father-Son Team Dick and Rick Hoyt Race Their Last Boston Marathon

For those of us who are runners or who follow running, Monday April 21, 2014, was not your average Monday: it was Boston Marathon Monday. And while thousands of runners gather to tackle the epic 26.2 miles, there are two runners who will be marking their last Boston together.

I remember the first time I heard about Team Hoyt several years ago. I was watching the coverage of the Hawaii Ironman which was interspersed with profiles of the runners, and that's where I first saw the story of father-and-son team Dick and Rick Hoyt.

Rick was born in 1962 to Dick and his wife, Judy. As a result of oxygen deprivation, Rick was diagnosed as a spastic quadriplegic with cerebral palsy. Told that Rick had no chance of recovery, his parents were advised to institutionalize him as he would be a 'vegetable'. But they refused. Instead, they brought him home and determined to give him normal childhood experiences. At age 12, Rick was able to begin

At age 12, Rick was able to begin communicating with the help of a speech device. One day, he told his



father that he wanted to participate in a 5-mile race to help a teenager who had been paralyzed in an accident. There was one big obstacle, though – Dick was not a runner. Nevertheless, he agreed to push his son's wheelchair for the entire race. After the race, Rick told his dad, "Dad, when I'm running, it feels like I'm not handicapped." With that race and that statement, Team Hoyt was born.

For the past 37 years, Dick has pushed, pulled, and carried his son through thousands of races, including marathons, duathlons, and triathlons – including the gruelling Ironman, made up of a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike-

ride, and 26.2 mile run. Along the way, Rick graduated from Boston University and moved into his own apartment. His wish? "Hopefully people will look at me as an intelligent person and look past my disabilities," he says. "I may be disabled but I live a very fulfilling life. I have showed to disabled people that they don't have to sit back and watch the world go by. They, too, can go to school, get a job, and be included in everyday life."

When called an inspiration, Dick's response is simply, "I just love my family and I just want to be the very best father I can be." The child who people said should have been institutionalized last Monday week "ran" his last marathon. It will be Team Hoyt's 32nd and final Boston Marathon. At 73 and 51, respectively, Dick and Rick will continue to compete in smaller races. Team Hoyt has shown the world the depth of a father's love and the absolute exquisite beauty of every life.

Grandma's Day

For some time I've had a church member provide me with a rose boutonniere to pin on the lapel of my suit every Sunday. Because I always got a flower on Sunday morning, I really did not think much of it. It was a nice gesture that became routine. One Sunday, however, what I considered ordinary became very special. As I was leaving the Sunday service a young boy approached and said, "Sir, what are you going to do with your flower?" At first I did not know what he was talking about, but then I understood. I said, "Do you mean this?" as I pointed to the rose pinned to my coat. He said, "Yes sir. I would like it if you are just going to throw it away." The little boy said, "Sir, I'm going to give it to my granny. My mother and father separated last year. I was living with my mother, but I could not stay, so

she sent me to live with my grandmother. Nan has been so good to me that I want to give that pretty



flower to her for loving me." When the little boy finished I could hardly speak. My eyes filled with tears and I knew I had been touched in the depths of my soul. I reached up and unpinned my flower. With the flower in my hand, I looked at the boy and said, "Son, that is the nicest thing I have ever heard, but you can't have this flower because it's not enough. If you'll look in front of the pulpit, you'll see a big bouquet of flowers. Different families buy them for the church each week. Please take those flowers to your granny because she deserves the very best." If I hadn't been touched enough already, he made one last statement and I will always cherish it. He said, "What a wonderful day! I asked for one flower but got a beautiful bouquet."

"I was a stranger and you welcomed Me"

This pamphlet represents a compilation of Catholic Social Teaching on migration and asylum from various sources.

For more information and a complete list of sources please visit www.acmro.catholic.org.au/ policy

Healing a global wound

The Catholic Church teaches that all people have the right to live a dignified life in their homeland.

Tragically, over 45 million people around the world are displaced. This festering wound typifies and reveals the imbalances and conflicts of the modern world. War, natural calamities, persecution and discrimination of every kind have deprived millions of their home, employment, family and homeland.

The right to seek asylum

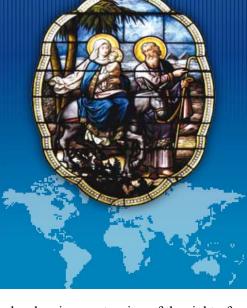
The Catholic Church teaches that anyone whose life is threatened has the right to protection. Whether because of persecution, armed conflicts, natural disasters, or economic conditions that threaten their lives or physical integrity. It is the element of persecution, threat or danger, or being forcibly displaced that gives rise to a right to seek asylum rather than to migrate through ordinary channels.

Human Dignity

The Catholic Church teaches that human life is sacred because each person is created in the image and likeness of God. Human dignity is inalienable. The human dignity and human rights of asylum seekers must be respected, regardless of their citizenship, visa status or mode of arrival.

Devotion to humanity

The Catholic Church teaches that all nations have a right to regulate migration across their borders. This right is coupled with the duty to protect and help innocent victims and those fleeing for their lives. The right of nations to regulate their



borders is an extension of the right of all persons to live a dignified life in their community. Borders are for the protection of people, not for the exclusion of people seeking protection.

Justice and Mercy

The Catholic Church teaches that the purpose of the law is to serve justice and mercy. Laws, which subject asylum seekers to arbitrary and prolonged immigration detention or banish them from seeking protection, fail to uphold justice and mercy and are immoral. It is not illegal to seek asylum. Many asylum seekers are survivors of crimes, torture and trauma. Indefinite detention adds further stress and suffering, impacting on their mental and physical health. The Catholic Church advocates the implementation of just and rapid procedures to determine each person's claim for protection.

Solidarity

The Catholic Church teaches that the most vulnerable people are not simply those who are in a needy situation to whom we kindly offer an act of solidarity, but are members of our family with whom we have a duty to share the resources we have. Solidarity towards migrants and refugees is inscribed in the common membership to the human family.

The right to be part of a community

The Catholic Church teaches that all people have the right to be part of a community. Asylum seekers who have been forced from their homeland have a duty to integrate into the host community. We must favour this integration by helping migrants to find a place where they can live in peace and safety, where they can work and take on the rights and duties that exist in the country that welcomes them.

The Catholic Church teaches that the demands of human dignity always come before the national interest

Love your neighbour as yourself (Matthew 22:39)

Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me (Matthew 25:40)

Welcome the stranger

Jesus identifies Himself as a stranger to be welcomed (Matthew 25:35). The Catholic Church teaches that Christ has in some way united himself to every person, whether or not one is aware of this. Christ will consider done to himself the kind of treatment that is reserved to any human person, in particular, to the least among them, the stranger. While the gospel compels us to welcome strangers it also presents the opportunity to practice the commandment to love God "with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength" and to love the other "as you love yourself" Mark 12:29-31.

St Pope John Paul II invites us to an ever deeper awareness of the mission of the Catholic Church: "to see Christ in every brother and sister in need, to proclaim and defend the dignity of every migrant, every displaced person and every refugee. In this way,

What the Catholic Church teaches on Asylum & Migration

assistance given will not be considered an alms from the goodness of our heart, but an act of justice due to them".

I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matthew 25:35)

The Holy Family in Exile

The exiled Holy Family of Nazareth, fleeing into Egypt, is the archetype of every refugee family.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph are for all times and all places, the models and protectors of every migrant, pilgrim and refugee of whatever kind who, whether compelled by fear of persecution or by want, is forced to leave their native land, their beloved parents and relatives, their close friends, and to seek a foreign soil.

For God decreed that His only Son

should experience the hardship and grief of exile. The firstborn among many of our brothers and sisters, and precede them in it.

For this reason, the Catholic Church seeks to look after and care for refugees and migrants in their trials and welcome the stranger who knocks at our door seeking refuge.

10-year-old escapes kidnapper by repeatedly singing gospel song

A 10-year-old US boy in Atlanta escaped a kidnapper in the most improbable way. Now, a number of organisations in the area are teaming up to offer a \$10,000 reward in the investigation. On the night of March 31, Willie Myrick was outside taking care of his pet Chihuahua. The boy spotted a few dollars near a tree. When he walked over to the money, a man grabbed Willie and forced him into a four-door Honda Civic.

"He was cursing at me, telling me to shut up, and didn't want to hear a word from me," Willie recalled to WSB-TV in Atlanta. "He said if I told anyone he would hurt me, like, in a bad way."

The man drove around for three hours before leaving Willie on the side of a road in East Point, Ga. According to the fourth grader, the reason the man



released him is because Willie irritated him with gospel music. Willie sang the track, "Every Praise" by Hezekiah Walker repeatedly until he was set free. Stranded miles from his home, Willie went door-to-door seeking help. After one person turned him away, an elderly man across the street called the police and contacted Willie's guardian.

Willie escaped the situation physically unscathed. He was examined at a hospital before returning home. Grammy Award-winning gospel singer Hezekiah Walker, the man who wrote

the song. Photo: 11alive.com Community leaders in Atlanta are now stepping up to help find Willie's kidnapper. According to WSB, a group of churches, civic organizations, and businesses are offering the \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the kidnapper. "Our concern is not just the city of Atlanta boundaries," said Michael Langford, speaking for the coalition behind the reward. "It's the society in general. It's metro Atlanta. We've seen a number of attacks." But as authorities continue their investigation, Willie's family is offering their own praise that his love of gospel music might have saved his life.

One day a tiger was hunting around in a forest. An unlucky fox was met and caught by the tiger. For the fox, the

inescapable destination was very clear -- death. Despite the danger, the fox thought hard to find a way out. Promptly, the fox declared to the tiger, "How dare you kill me!" On hearing the words the tiger was surprised and asked for the reason" The fox raised his voice a bit higher and declared arrogantly: "To tell you the truth, it's I who was accredited by God to the forest as the king of all the animals! If you kill me, that will be against the God's will, you know?" Seeing that the tiger became suspicions, the fox added: "Let's have a test. Let's go through the forest. Follow me and you will see HOW THE ANIMALS ARE FRIGHTENED OF ME." The tiger agreed. So the fox walked ahead of the tiger proudly through the forest. As you can imagine, the animals, seeing the tiger behind, were all terribly frightened and ran away. Then the fox said proudly: "There is no doubt that what I said is true, isn't it?" The tiger had nothing to say



but to acknowledge the result. So the tiger nodded and said: "You are right. You are the king."

