

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 189

November 2018

Coming Events

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Trinity
- 6 to 7am daily;
- overnight from 9pm Friday through to 7am Saturdays

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	Fri 9
St Leo the Great	Sat 10
St Josaphat	Mon 12
St Gertrude	Fri 16
St Elizabeth of Hungary	Sat 17
The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Wed 21
St Cecilia	Thu 22
St Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions	Sat 24
Jesus, King of the Universe	Sun 25
St Andrew the Apostle	Fri 30

Monthly Cuppa, after 9am Mass on last Sunday of the month.

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The date for submissions for the next Wag is: Wednesday Nov 28th.

November is Holy Souls Month

**November Challenge -
pray at a grave every day.**

If you're new to this or you're pressed for time, what about doing something more than you did last year? You can visit a cemetery



on your own, with your family or a friend or two,



or with your parish.



The souls in purgatory are counting on us!



PASTOR'S PAGE - ALL HALLOWTIDE!



You may know what Halloween is, and even that it really means the evening ("een") before All Saints Day ("All Hallows" cf. the Our Father - "Hallowed be Thy Name"). All Hallows' Eve means the three days of October 31, November 1 and November 2. They are a time of rejoicing for us and for the Holy Souls in Purgatory: for us because we have helpers in heaven, even relatives of ours who were saved; for the Holy Souls, because we do not forget to help them with our prayers.

It is a good time for our souls because it reminds us about the most important facts: that we are in this world to prepare for the next; that after our bodily death, our souls live on forever; that our souls will one day be in heaven, or hell, for eternity. We will be awake, aware, for unending joy or unending despair; and we can do something about it now. We call this topic "the last things".

Is it healthy to think about these? Yes, because they are true. It is unhealthy to live in denial, and certainly denial doesn't help us to reach heaven. The Devil is most keen that we live in denial, painlessly heading towards destruction. The Bible speaks of this, being like people boating on a river, careless that it is heading towards a waterfall. It would be disturbing to find out about the danger, but certainly a better prospect. But remembering the Last Things also cause of great hope and joy: to think that God loves us so much that He wants to have us with Him for eternity! To share unending happiness, compared with which any holiday or circus or adventure is totally boring and dull; that is what we are called to.

Heaven is worth it! It is worth the effort of getting up for Mass each week. It is worth giving up some pursuit of money, and even giving up some extra cash if the money making method is against the commandments. Think of a Newsagent who chooses to follow Christ instead of selling pornography. Heaven is worth giving up some immoral relationship, popularity. Who will care what a few people on earth thought about us, when we have all the really wonderful people in heaven to love and care about us? Heaven is worth the effort to pray daily, to learn about our Faith, to read the Bible, to put into practice Christ like charity. Why, heaven would even be worth dying for! St Paul said that he considered this world as so much rubbish, if only he could have Christ; he said that the troubles of this world are nothing compared with the joy we will have in heaven. "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has it entered into the mind of man to conceive the joys God has prepared for him."

There is another amazing thing to think about, besides heaven being worth our sacrifices. It humbles me to think that Jesus considers me worth His sacrifice.

"Only with difficulty does one die for a just person ... But God proves His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." (Rom 5)

God made us in His own image and knows what we can be like through grace; and He loved me and died for me so that He could see me one day having the greatest time (if it can be called that) in Heaven. I didn't deserve it, but He gave His life for me. This is the best motive for me to seize the day (or rather, Seize the Grace), and make getting to heaven my number one priority.

A Reminder about Purgatory from St Pio

Padre Pio is known for his many mystical experiences during prayer, often piercing the heavenly veil while on earth. One such

experience involved an unexpected encounter with a soul from purgatory.

One day while praying alone, Padre Pio opened his eyes to see an old man standing there. He was surprised by the presence of another person in the room, and later said, "I could not imagine how he could have entered the friary at this time of night since all the doors are locked."

Seeking to unravel the mystery, Pio asked the man, "Who are you? What do you want?"

The man responded, "Padre Pio, I am Pietro Di Mauro, son of Nicola, nicknamed Precoco. I died in this friary on the 18th of September, 1908, in cell number 4, when it was still a poorhouse. One night, while in bed, I fell asleep with a lighted cigar, which ignited the mattress and I died, suffocated and burned. I am still in purgatory. I need a holy Mass in order to be freed. God permitted that I come and ask you for help."

Pio comforted the poor soul by saying, "Rest assured that tomorrow I will celebrate Mass for your liberation."

The man left and the next day Pio did some investigative work and discovered the truth of the story and how a man of the same name died on that day in 1908. Everything was confirmed and Padre Pio celebrated a Mass for the repose of the old man's soul.

This was not the only appearance of a soul from purgatory asking Padre Pio for prayers. Pio claimed, "As many souls of the dead come up this road [to the monastery] as that of the souls of the living." Many times the souls would ask for a Mass to be said for them, highlighting the spiritual weight of a Mass and how it can lessen the time a person spends in purgatory before embracing the glories of heaven.

Fr Thomas Casanova
CCS

November Jokes

Lego military planning attack on parent's foot



Why are snakes hard to fool?
(You can't pull their leg!)

What has eight legs and eight eyes?
(Eight pirates!)

How does a frog feel when he has a broken leg?
(Unhappy!)

What do you call a pirate with two eyes and two legs?
(A rookie!)

Why did the clown wear loud socks?
(So his feet wouldn't fall asleep!)

Why did the one-handed man cross the road?
(To get to the second-hand shop!)

Why is your nose in the middle of your face?
(Because it is the scenter!)



What makes music on your hair?
(A head band!)

What's the most musical bone?
(The trom-bone!)

What did the skeleton order for dinner?
(Spare ribs!)

How do you make a skeleton laugh?
(Tickle her funny bone!)

What do you call a fossil that doesn't ever want to work?
(Lazy bones!)

What smells the best at dinner?
(Your nose!)

What has no fingers, but many rings?
(A tree!)

What do you call a dinosaur with no eyes?
(Do-ya-think-he-saw-us!)

What do you call a fish without an eye?
(fsh!)

What's the best thing to put in a pie?
(Your teeth!)

What do you call a bear with no teeth?
(A gummy bear!)

What kind of flower grows on your face?
(Tulips!)

What kind of hair do oceans have?
(Wavy!)

What did the left eye say to the right eye?
(Something between us smells!)

Why can't a nose be 12 inches long?
(Because then it would be a foot!)

What did the hurricane say to the other hurricane?
(I have my eye on you!)

What has one eye but cannot see?
(A needle!)

Someone's son was excited to find daddy in his new LEGO kit



Why couldn't the snake talk?
(He had a frog in his throat!)

Why did the viper viper nose?
(Because she added handkerchief!)

What has a hundred heads and a hundred tails?
(One hundred coins!)

Why don't you wear a cardboard belt?
(That would be a waist of paper!)

I don't think I need a spine. It's holding me back!

What do you call a bear with no ear?
(B!)

Why shouldn't you tell a secret on a farm?
(Because the potatoes have eyes and the corn has ears!)





Maura Roan McKeegan

Pier Giorgio Frassati smiled and laughed so freely that he was called “an explosion of joy.” His ready laughter and adventurous spirit were fountains that sprang from a well of holiness. Pier Giorgio was so filled with virtue that Saint John Paul II, who beatified him in 1990, called him the “Man of the Beatitudes.” Joy of life and love of God coursed readily through his veins. Could anyone who knew him in the sunshine of his youth, in the early twentieth century in Turin, Italy, have believed that he would die before the age of 25?

In her beautiful memoir *My Brother Pier Giorgio: His Last Days*, Luciana Frassati—Pier Giorgio’s only sibling—tells the story of her brother’s final week on earth, and of the veil that was lifted from the eyes of his family as they discovered two truths about him that they had not dreamed possible: that he was dying, and that he lived a life of immense charity that touched thousands of lives.

Pier Giorgio’s wealthy father was an important senator and owned one of Italy’s most prestigious newspapers, but Pier Giorgio was always broke and often begged for money from his family and friends—not for himself, but for the poor, whom he visited and served daily, and to whom he gave every cent he could find.

To his family, he was merely an engineering student—an average one, who worked hard but for whom learning never came easily.

Pier Giorgio Frassati’s Hidden Life

They saw him come and go from their large estate, where the discord between his parents created an atmosphere of constricted love, and where no one fully knew or understood Pier Giorgio, and they never guessed where he actually went.

It was as if a veil had been placed over their eyes, and it remained there until his very last days on earth. Until his death from poliomyelitis—a disease he most likely contracted while serving the poor—at the age of 24.

When Pier Giorgio first began to feel sick, he tried hard to hide it. His grandmother was on her deathbed upstairs in the Frassati home, and he did not want to bother anyone with his own ailments. Every time he came in the door, he inquired about his grandmother and went to visit her room. As his sickness progressed, he became less and less able to move, yet he still pushed himself out of his bedroom and down the hall to pray at his grandmother’s bedside. One sleepless night followed another, as he stumbled down the hall and back again, unable to rest, unwilling to complain.

His family, consumed by his grandmother’s illness, believed he had the flu. A doctor who came to examine him diagnosed him with rheumatism; and so, the veil remained. While his grandmother approached her death, no one knew that a few doors away, death was coming for her grandson, too.

Pier Giorgio wouldn’t have wanted it any other way. He prayed his heart out for his grandmother, and exhorted others to pray, too. “Go to Grandmother,” he told Luciana. “Pray for her because her condition is very serious,”—and then he broke down and sobbed.

When his grandmother passed away, polio was ravaging Pier Giorgio’s body and beginning to paralyze him—yet every two hours throughout the night, he made his way to his grandmother’s room, where he stood and prayed, or knelt and prayed, each time more exhausted, less able to rise again.

All the while, his family thought

what an inconvenient time he had chosen to get sick.

“You’re letting yourself go,” his mother told him, not knowing that he would be dead two days later. “If you want to get well, you must get hold of yourself.”

As Pier Giorgio—a daily communicant who strived to live the Gospel with every breath he took—was misunderstood by his loved ones as his death came near, so was his Lord misunderstood by His loved ones as His death approached, as well.

Two days after Pier Giorgio’s grandmother died, the doctor who had diagnosed him with rheumatism returned and, deeply grieved by what he found, called for a second doctor, who called for a third, to confirm the sad diagnosis: poliomyelitis.

His family reeled in shock and grasped for quickly unravelling threads of hope while the paralysis moved into his lungs. As they struggled to comprehend the first hidden truth—that he was dying—the second hidden truth came to the surface as well: that he had been surreptitiously serving the poor in the manner of a saint.

Pier Giorgio took his last breath on July 4, 1925. At his funeral, thousands of people from every part of the city flooded the streets.

“The letters we began to receive and even more what was said about Pier Giorgio by unknown friends and all the strangers who turned to us constituted a revelation so imposing and so sublime that it overwhelmed us at least as much as his death,” Luciana writes. Only then did his family realize the impact he had made and the lives he had touched in the name of Jesus. Only then did they begin to understand the truth about Pier Giorgio. Only then did the lifted veil reveal that they had been living with a person of extraordinary grace.

On his feast day, July 4, and always, let us ask Blessed Pier Giorgio to intercede for us, that we, too, may live and die in humility, charity, and holiness.

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, pray for us!

Catholics launch high-octane faith-based video series for kids

Dorothy Cummings McLean



October 26, 2018 (LifeSiteNews) – A talented Catholic couple is launching a children's faith-filled video adventure series this week.

"The Opus Joyous Show", video brainchild of Jason and Marie Taylor of Opus Joyous Studio, is a high-action catechetical series featuring 3-D animation, puppets, original music, along with rockets, ships, pirates, and a time-traveling Bible. After a successful Kickstarter campaign, the Taylors have four 23-minute episodes ready to roll out.

A Catholic catechetical show for children "has been on my heart for years," writer and director Jason Taylor told LifeSiteNews.

"In 1999, fresh out of college, I was hired ... in downtown Toronto to create a new website for kids featuring hockey based videos, animation, and games," he said.

"It was leading edge at the time. And it had a wide reach. About the same time, I was really on fire with my faith. I think that was where the idea really started to take shape. I asked myself, 'How do I do something like this but faith-based? How do I use my creative and technical skills for God?'"

Taylor had studied Multimedia at Toronto's Humber College, and his puppet career began when he was working as a full-time camp director at the Canadian Diocese of Hamilton's "Camp Brébeuf".

"During this time I purchased

puppets as a fun way to engage the campers during all camp skits, songs, etc. At the same time I heard about a puppet-based video contest online which I decided to enter and won first place," he said.

Later while working for the Archdiocese of Denver, Taylor collaborated with people who inspired him with their own creative approaches to evangelism. They included Catholic media pioneer Greg Willits; Kevin Knight, founder of newadvent.org, Jason Evert, Chris Stefanick and the priest-podcasters of "Catholic Stuff You Should Know". Taylor also met people who worked at the Augustine Institute, now responsible for formed.org.

"They really set the bar high in terms of Catholic media production," Taylor remarked.

According to the Opus Joyous website, the new show features "characters with character"-- some children, their family and their friends, among them a priest and a nun--who "work together with the grace of God to try and stop the evil villain Captain Barnacle and his shady plan for utter darkness upon the entire world."

Opus is the little boy hero of the series and Joyous is his dog. There are also tall ships--one sporting Vatican flags as sails.

As did G.K. Chesterton with his sleuth-detective Father Brown, Taylor modeled his priest-character on a real-life cleric.

"The priest is actually based on Fr. Steven Szakaczki," he said. "Fr. Steven came forward with a generous pledge at the beginning of our initial fundraising campaign, and we named a puppet character after him."

"In fact," Taylor added, "the token phrase 'Shocking! Simply shocking! Shocking indeed!' often heard in the 'Opus Joyous Show' was directly inspired by the real Fr. Steven."

The Taylors have five children, and although Jason Taylor says he likes "Veggie Tales", he felt the lack of



Catholic children's entertainment.

"I like 'Veggie Tales': the music, the funny voices, and story-based faith content," he said. "It's a lot of fun and a great faith-based Christian show."

"That being said, as a Catholic parent, I also longed for a show that I could play for my kids that would encompass uniquely Catholic values and lessons that I'd like [them] to learn," he explained.

"This was a big motivator in my decision to finally produce a Catholic video series for kids."

Being a father, Taylor is keenly aware of the issues around children's use of electronic media. As parents put on the brakes, are children going to want to watch a faith-based show in the screen time they're allowed?

"That's my goal, to create an authentically Catholic video series for kids that they are really going to enjoy watching," Taylor said. "We took this to heart when we created the show."

"My wife [puppeteer Marie] really was integral in this regards," he continued. "At one point as I was reading an initial script, she looked at me and said, 'You need more action.' This was a turning point in the scriptwriting process, and hopefully kids and parents will appreciate the edge of your seat scenes!"



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Our True “Identity”

Fr Jeffrey Kirby

The American writer Mark Twain once quipped, “God made man in his own image and man is forever trying to repay the favor.” The preeminent and observable sign of humanity’s fallen nature is our constant drive to refashion, redefine, or – in popular jargon – “reboot” God, into our own image and according to our own sinful and broken worldview.

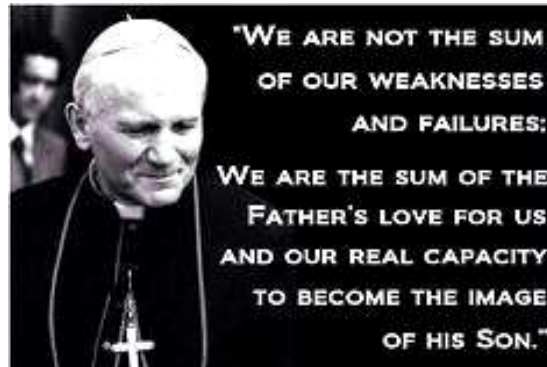
Shouldn’t God be allowed to “self-identify”? Shouldn’t God, infinitely perfect and blessed in Himself, be allowed to be Himself – “I AM who I AM” – and shouldn’t He be permitted to speak and act in reference to Himself – “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob”? Who are we to change God?

And yet, the drama of remaking God continues. Ironically, at a time when every interest group wants the power to self-identify, we rob this ability from God.

This is irony at its highest. Irony, by definition, is something that is deliberately contrary to what is expected. Irony abounds in this oddly cultural phenomenon. Why?

God is Absolute Being, which means His essence is His existence. That’s the philosophical definition that basically means that nothing and no one makes God Himself. He relies or depends on nothing to be Himself. He is perfect and, therefore, completely knows Himself. In light of this understanding, God is the only being who could realistically and accurately “self-identify.”

Every human person is a “contingent” being, which means – again philosophically – that we are unable to hold ourselves in existence. We rely on a bond with Absolute Being to sustain us. We have insufficient knowledge to self-identify since we do not possess a complete grasp of ourselves. We are a mystery even to ourselves and, to the degree that we want to



grow in an authentic knowledge of who we are, we must turn and seek enlightenment from God (and not our own isolated selves).

Such an enlightenment requires us to broaden and mature our own interiority and emotional preferences and assume a more universal understanding of ourselves and of the human family.

And so, such an enlightenment from God, which is eminently practical, comes through a discernment and respect for God as Creator, from our essence ... as human beings, from nature and its laws, from our bodies and their male/female complementarity, and from our responsibility to one another and the common good.

This elementary logic shows us that only Absolute Being can self-identify. And yet, Westerners are completely convinced that it’s just fine to refashion God in ways contrary to His self-identification.

These observations indicate the intellectual sources of cultural chaos, gender confusion, social tension, and the false sources of credibility for homosexual or transgender ideology and the politically correct public policy that comes from them.

Such a state of affairs is not doomed to a continual downward spiral. It can be remedied by divine revelation, which is the unveiling and disclosing by God of His own divine knowledge of Himself to the human family. Simply put, it’s God sharing of Himself with us.

The very assertion of a divine revelation manifests several truths, some of which include: God is real; He is perfect and able to

communicate with us; He does not need us to improve or update Him; We can know Him and transmit His self-communication to others.

The challenge in any age, especially in our own, is to leave our small enclosed world, discard our incomplete or mistaken views of God – “We know and have come to believe” – and to integrate these truths into our own life of faith and then teach them to others. As Saint Paul writes: “But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.” (1 Thess. 2:7)

The rub, therefore, is whether we will surrender our cultural obsession with radical autonomy, with what the philosopher C Taylor calls the “sovereign self,” and accept God’s revelation. The challenge is whether we will acknowledge reality and seek enlightenment beyond ourselves. The pressing question is whether we will turn to God.

Summarized biblically, we would ask: Will we make an obedience of faith or will we worship the idols of our self-identification?

Revelation is a spiritual gift and a practical necessity. Its importance can be seen in the activity of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. In the Day Books of the Second Vatican Council, the entire arena of revelation was at the heart of the debates and discussions. These efforts culminated in *Dei Verbum*, the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, which is one of the most extensive summaries of revelation in our theological tradition.

Vatican II emphasized revelation because it is precisely what’s most needed today. In seeing God as God, we can realize His intimacy and love, as well as His desire for us to know Him (and ourselves), and hear

Our True “Identity” continued ...

His call for us to accept who we are in His image, and enter into a personal relationship with Him.

The bottom line, therefore, is

whether we will surrender to the revelation of God, and allow Him to change us and save us from our own fallen efforts to self-identify ourselves, or whether we will rebel

against God, shape Him into our image, and self-identify ourselves into oblivion and chaos. The choice is ours – as are the consequences of our decisions.

When Catholics are told to stop passing the faith on to their children



Padre Pio's “Secret Weapon Prayer” that Brought Thousands of Miracles



Fr Richard Heilman

When someone asks you to pray for them, why not pray with “Padre Pio Power”? When I heard that the prayer below (written by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque) was the one Padre Pio would use when people asked him to pray for them, I needed no further encouragement for choosing this prayer in the same way. Padre Pio has tens of thousands of miracles associated with him, including the healing of a very good friend of Saint Pope John Paul II.

When you use this prayer, keep a journal to record these special intentions. Keep in mind this type of petition is for specific needs such as gainful employment, healing from an illness, etc.

After some time has passed, refer

back to this journal to record the amazing way God answers these prayers. Due to our limited view and God's eternal view, it is important to always trust that He knows far better what is really needed in these situations. Be open to seeing how sometimes He answers our specific prayers in a way that does not always match exactly with what we asked. When looking back on these petitions, see how His way is better.

Padre Pio's Sacred Heart Novena Prayer

O my Jesus, You have said: “Truly I say to you, ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you.” Behold I knock, I seek and ask for the grace of (here name your request). Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

O my Jesus, You have said: “Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in My name, He will give it to you.”

Behold, in Your name, I ask the Father for the grace of (here name your request). Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

O my Jesus, You have said: “Truly I say to you, heaven and earth will pass away but My words will not pass away.” Encouraged by Your infallible words I now ask for the grace of (here name your request). Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have pity on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of You, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Your tender Mother and ours.

Say the Hail, Holy Queen and add: “St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, pray for us.”

The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



Serving: Ashmont,
Collingullie,
Glenfield, Lloyd,
and San Isidore

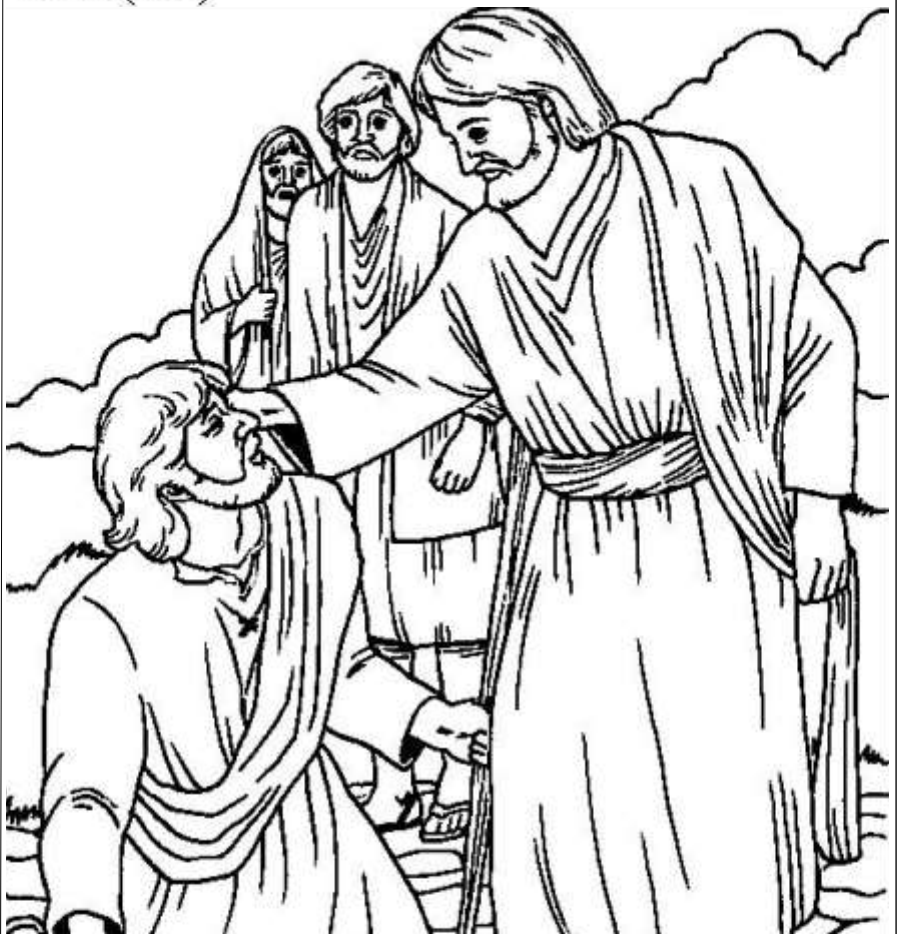


**Find the words below
hidden in the 225 letters
to the right.**

BARTIMAEUS	SHOUT
FOLLOWED	CHEER
ROADSIDE	QUIET
DISCIPLES	BLIND
BEGGING	JESUS
JERICHO	FAITH
HEALED	SIGHT
JUMPED	RABBI
CROWD	CITY
MERCY	FEET

Blind Bartimaeus

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." Mark 10:51 (NIV)



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