

M. B.

The  
**BIG**  
Story



.....A PRIMER IN THE  
MYSTICAL BODY

PRICE THIRTY-FIVE CENTS





The purpose of this booklet will declare itself the moment you pick it up and glance through its pages. It aims to present to the mind of the child, as fully as possible, what it means to be a member of the Mystical Body of Christ. This is no easy task. Those who are blessed with the privilege and burdened with the obligation of teaching our children the profound and mysterious truths of holy faith will certainly welcome every available aid in performing this most important work.

Especially is this observation justified in regard to the doctrine of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ, a doctrine greatly emphasized in our time but yet too little appreciated even by many adult Catholics. While the stark simplicity of the method employed by the zealous author of this booklet is obviously designed to meet the needs of the very young mind, I venture to think that a better understanding of our total relationship to Christ and to each other as members of His Mystical Body would result from a thoughtful reading of this booklet by mature people. I am, therefore, happy to recommend it to those who have need of it and I am confident that they will find it helpful.

+ Leo A. Pursley  
Bishop of Fort Wayne

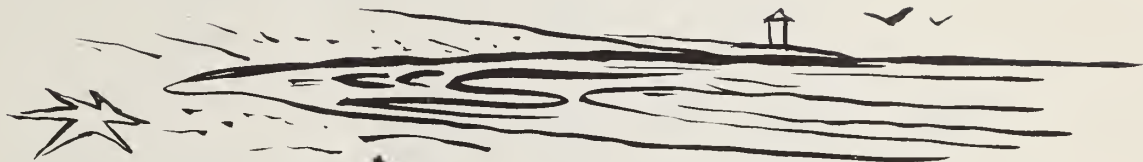
Nihil Obstat:  
Rev. Edward A. Miller  
Censor of Books

Imprimatur:  
+Leo A. Pursley  
Bishop of Fort Wayne

GOD is like the ocean.



WE are like a grain of sand.

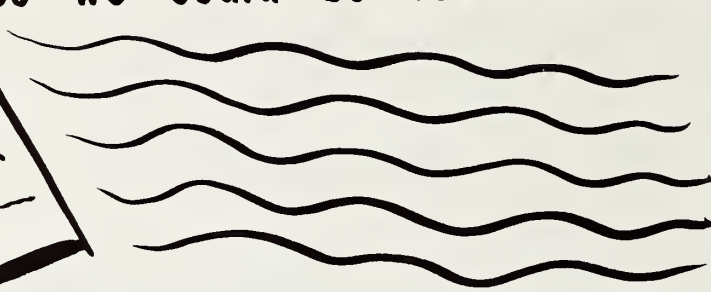


HE is so GREAT.



We are  
so small.

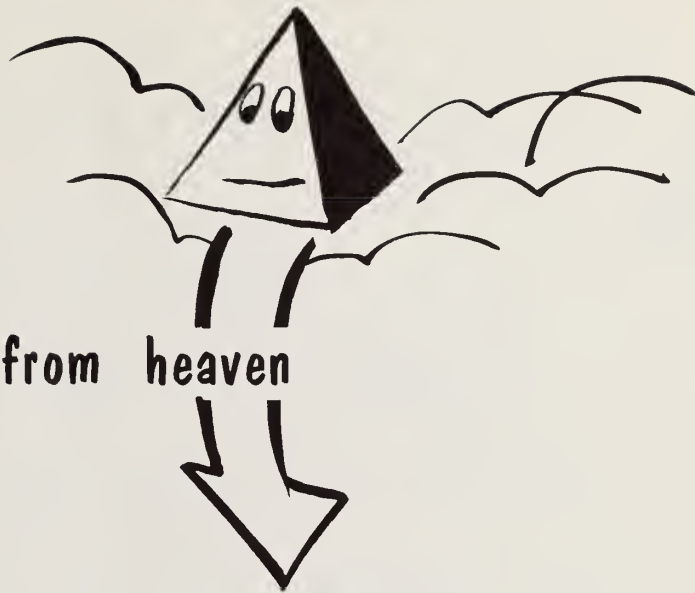
But He wanted to get real close to us,  
so we could be real close to God.



How could He do that  
when He was so great as the ocean  
and we  
so small like sand ?



He knew how!



He would come down from heaven

and become small like us,







and He would bring God's life down to  
earth and give it to people.

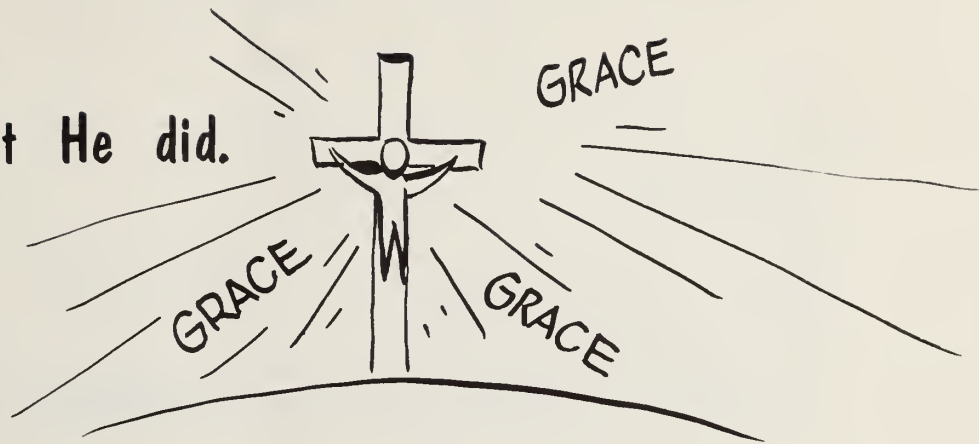
He'd call it GRACE.

It'd be God's very life!

EARTH



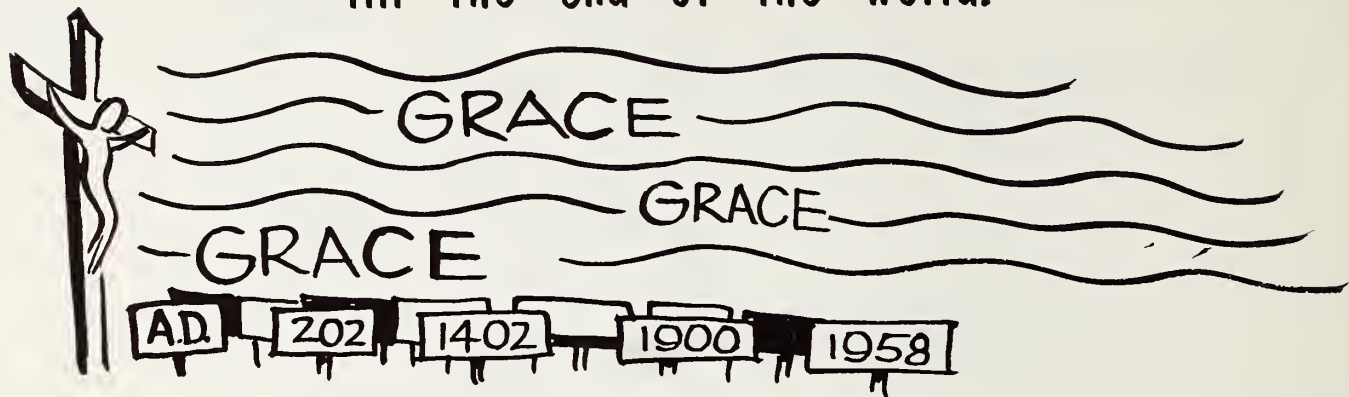
So that's what He did.



And when He was on that terrible cross,

He gave it out (nobody saw Him).

AND He's been giving it out ever since—  
till the end of the world.



To everybody  
who is sorry for his sins and obeys God.

So you see, some people have Grace  
(God's life).



Some don't.

Know how to get it ?

You must be BAPTIZED!



AND believe everything Jesus said, and His Church says.

From that time on,



know what you're like?



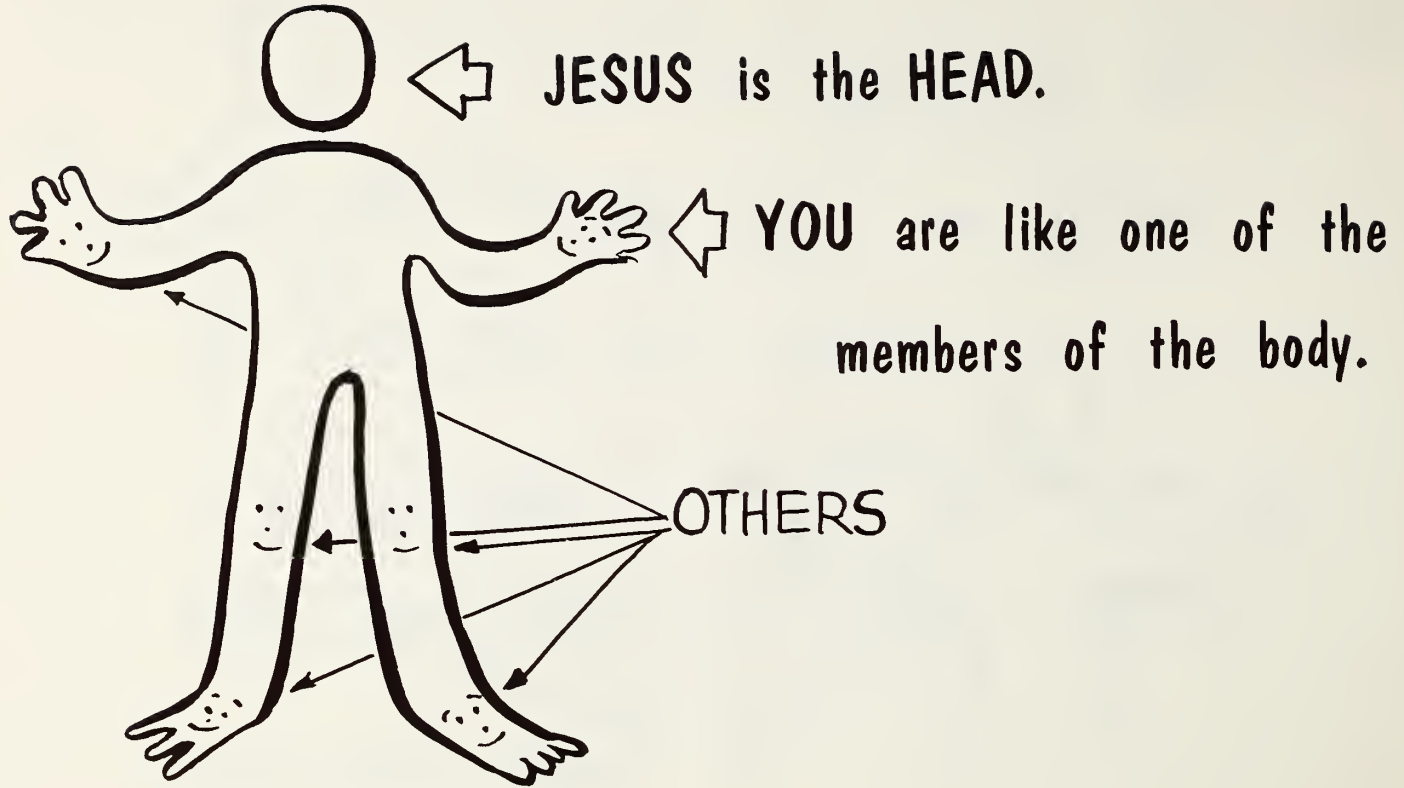
You're like part of a

**BODY!**

You, and Jesus, and others  
like you are like a body.



Let's call it a  
**MYSTICAL BODY**  
(MISS-TEA-CALL).



NOW - let's see

where we are so far-

\*God is great

\*We are small

\*Jesus made Himself small for us

\*He brought us a gift

\*It is God's real life

\*It is called GRACE

\*We get it when we are Baptized

\*It makes us part of a body with Jesus and others

\*It is called mystical (miss-tea-call) Body

\*Or - the CHURCH

\*It is like a Human Body

\*Jesus is the Head

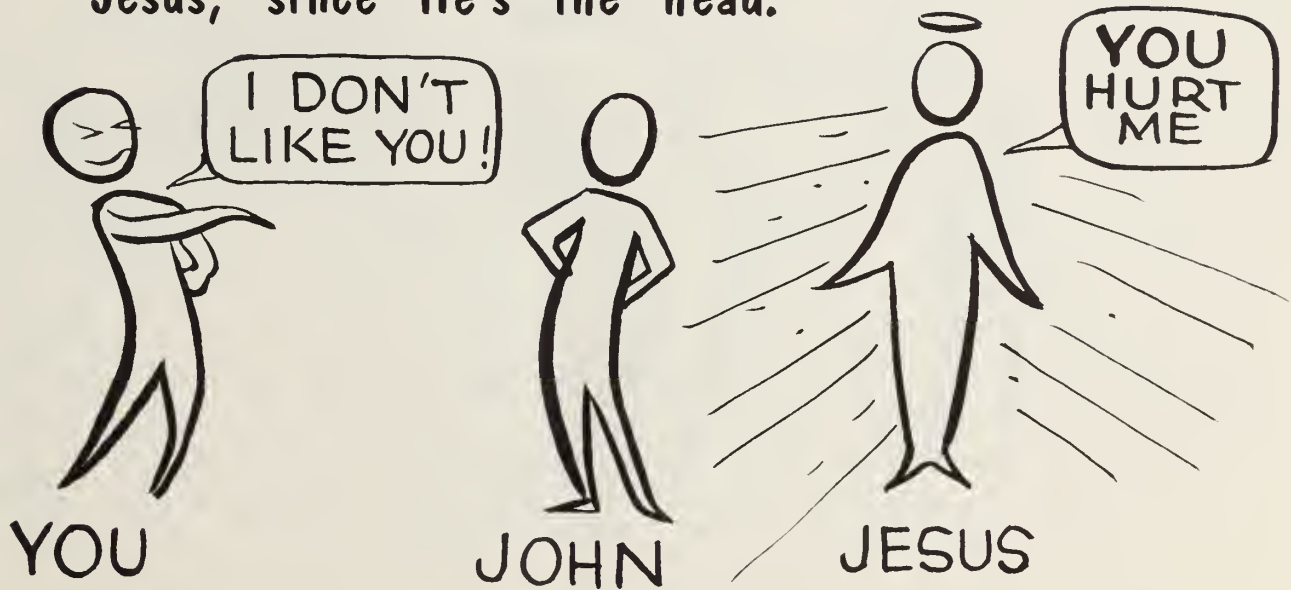
\*We are the Members



**NOW** - did you ever notice?  
When you hit somebody's foot,  
his **HEAD** is hurt.



The same is true in the Mystical Body.  
IF you hurt anyone of the members you hurt  
Jesus, since He's the head.

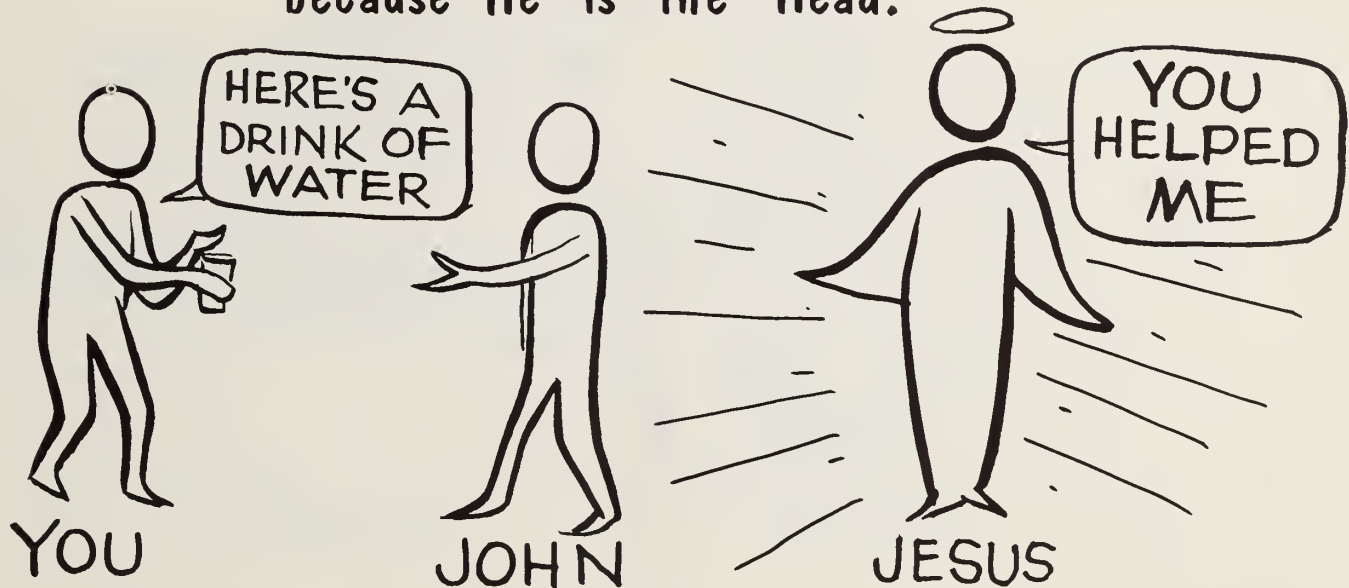


If you help somebody, his head feels good.

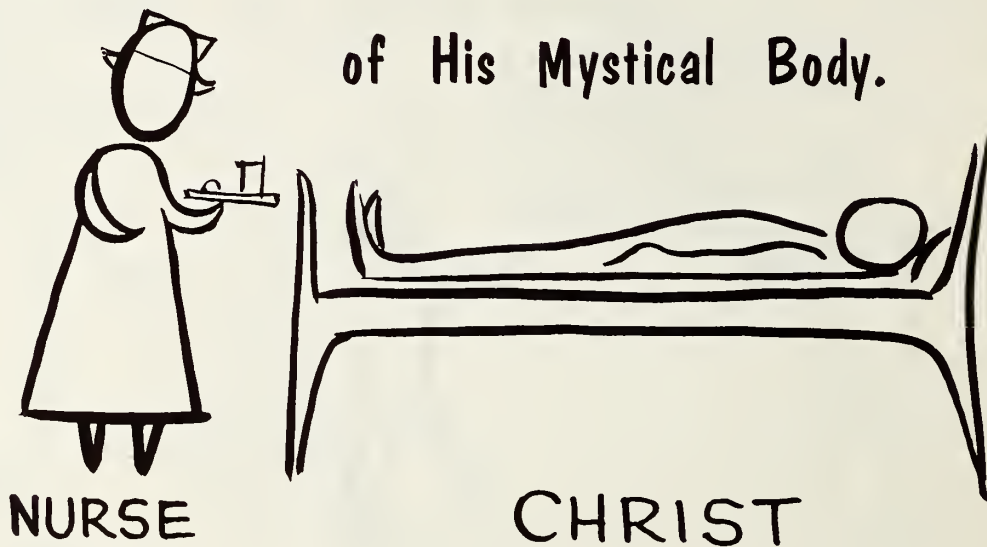


The same is true in the Mystical Body.

If you help someone of his members you help JESUS,  
because He is the Head.

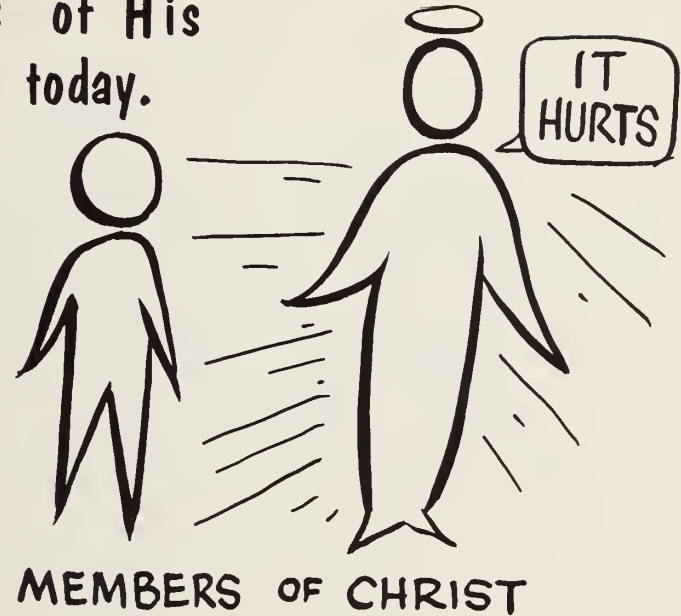


Isn't that wonderful? There are so many ways to help Jesus today because there are so many members of His Mystical Body.



But isn't it sad?

There are so many ways to hurt Jesus because there are so many members of His Mystical Body today.



So many ways to make Jesus  
feel good.



MOTHER & JESUS  
ARE ONE



But so many ways to make Jesus  
feel bad.



Jesus doesn't thank us or punish us now . He waits.

Especially till the end of the world.

The very last day

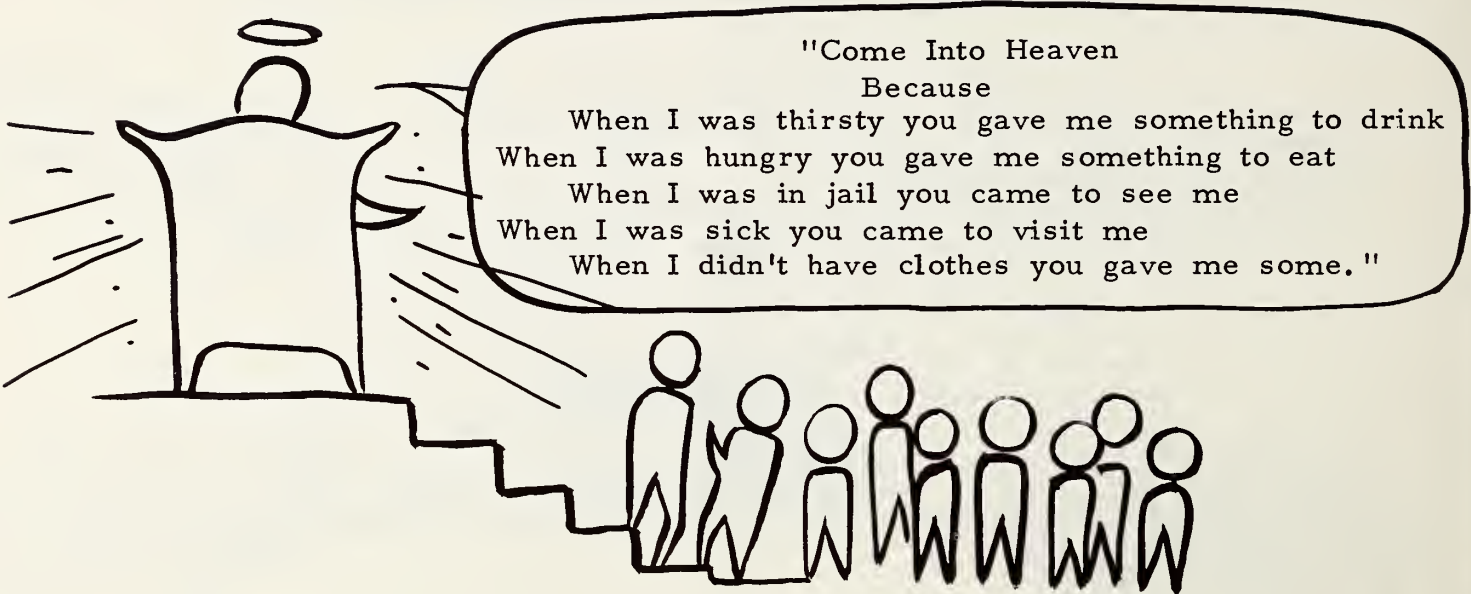
When the sun goes down the last time.



Then his angels will separate the good people  
from the bad people.



To those on his right side He will say:



"Come Into Heaven  
Because  
When I was thirsty you gave me something to drink  
When I was hungry you gave me something to eat  
When I was in jail you came to see me  
When I was sick you came to visit me  
When I didn't have clothes you gave me some."

Then the good people will say:

"Lord, when was it that we gave You  
food and drink and clothing and visited  
You when You were sick and in jail?"



# And then you know what JESUS will say ?

He will say:

"As long as you did it to Members of my Mystical Body the Church, you did it to Me."



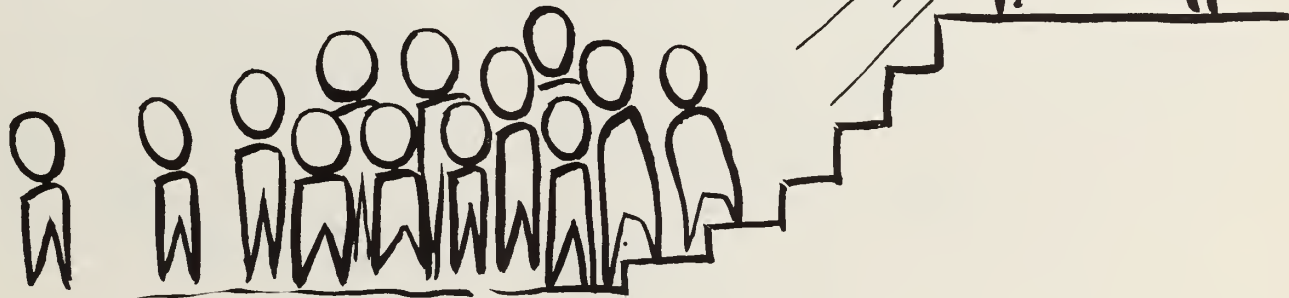
And they  
will go in.



To those on His left side He will say :

"Go away from Me forever  
Because.....

When I was thirsty you didn't give Me anything to drink  
When I was hungry you didn't give Me anything to eat  
When I was in jail you didn't come to see Me  
When I was sick you didn't come to visit Me  
When I didn't have any clothes, you didn't give Me any."





Then the bad people will say:

"Lord, when was it when we didn't give You food and drink and clothing, and didn't visit You when You were sick and in jail?"



And then you know what JESUS will say?

He will say:

"As long as you didn't do it to the  
Members of My Mystical Body the  
Church, you didn't do it to Me."

and they will go out!



HELL



And then the only happy ones will be Jesus  
and the good members of His Mystical Body.



Because they're the only ones who helped Jesus

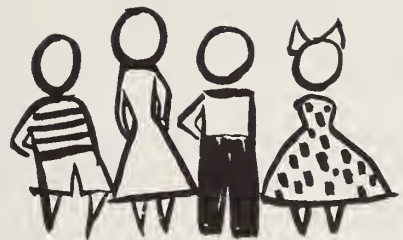
during this life,

not hurt Him.



Be careful what you do to Jesus during this life.

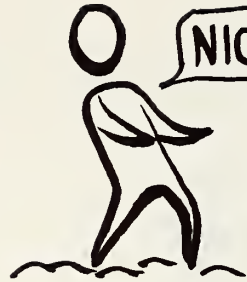




BROTHERS & SISTERS



TEACHERS



PRIEST



Everyone who is baptized and believes and follows everything Jesus and His church says is a member of His Mystical Body.




They have God's life which Jesus

came to bring us.



And each one is really another Jesus!

And it's all true,  'cause HE SAID SO!



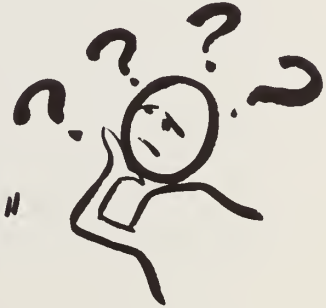
Now, let's play a game of "WHATSHALLITELLTHEM".

First, read the following stories;



then answer the question,

"WHAT SHALL I TELL THEM?"



(Answers on last page upside down)

1. John is playing a game of basketball in St. Mary's grade school. Another boy, George, trips him on purpose. John feels like waiting till George comes running by and then tripping him back. "He has it coming", says John.
2. Janie is sick in bed for a week. Joannie lives next door, but she says she is too busy to go and to see her. "Besides" she says, "I have a lot of other things to do after school."
3. The Thanksgiving Clothes collection is on at St. Michael's school. Clotilda has a pretty blue sweater, which is a little too small for her. When her mother suggests she give it to the collection for some little girl overseas, Clotilda says: "I like it very much. I want to keep it. Besides, nobody would ever know I was the one who gave it."
4. Joey saw a woman carrying a lot of packages down Main Street. He went over and said: "Can I help you?" She said "yes", so Joey carried five packages for almost three blocks. Afterwards, the woman took the packages back and didn't say anything. Joey was mad. "She didn't say even 'thank-you'" he said. "I'll never help anybody again."
5. Mr. John Q. Public, a member of the Mystical Body, committed a mortal sin. "Didn't hurt anybody" he said.

1. "Don't hurt Christ, John. Remember, George is a member of Jesus' Mystical Body like you are, and whatever you do to George you are doing to Jesus."

2. "Joannie, if you visit Janie, it will be counted as if you did it to Jesus Himself."

3. "Clotilda, Jesus needs clothes, and anyone with Jesus' life like you should be ready to give up something she really doesn't need. If you are giving it for Jesus' sake, He will know it."

4. "Joey, you should have had a better reason for helping her in the first place. You should have helped her because you wanted to help Jesus who was loaded down with packages, not so the woman would thank you, or give you money, or something like that. You would then get your thank-you from Jesus on the last day."

5. "Mr. Public, you did too hurt somebody, even if no one saw you do it. You hurt Jesus and all the members of His Mystical Body, the Church. You are like a sore thumb or a sick stomach which makes the whole Body feel bad, and it won't feel good again till you are sorry and have made a good confession and have Jesus' life again."

1. "Don't hurt Christ, John. Remember, George is a member of Jesus' Mystical Body like you are, and whatever you do to George you are doing to Jesus."
2. "Joannie, if you visit Janie, it will be counted as if you did it to Jesus Himself."
3. "Clotilda, Jesus needs clothes, and anyone with Jesus' life like you should be ready to give up something she really doesn't need. If you are giving it for Jesus' sake, He will know it."
4. "Joey, you should have had a better reason for helping her in the first place. You should have helped her because you wanted to help Jesus who was loaded down with packages, not so the woman would thank you, or give you money, or something like that. You would then get your thank-you from Jesus on the last day."
5. "Mr. Public, you did too hurt somebody, even if no one saw you do it. You hurt Jesus and all the members of His Mystical Body, the Church. You are like a sore thumb or a sick stomach which makes the whole Body feel bad, and it won't feel good again till you are sorry and have made a good confession and have Jesus' life again."

1. John is playing a game of basketball in St. Mary's grade school. Another boy, George, trips him on purpose. John feels like waiting till George comes running by and then tripping him back. "He has it coming", says John.
2. Janie is sick in bed for a week. Joannie lives next door, but she says she is too busy to go and to see her. "Besides" she says, "I have a lot of other things to do after school."
3. The Thanksgiving Clothes collection is on at St. Michael's school. Clotilda has a pretty blue sweater, which is a little too small for her. When her mother suggests she give it to the collection for some little girl overseas, Clotilda says: "I like it very much. I want to keep it. Besides, nobody would ever know I was the one who gave it."
4. Joey saw a woman carrying a lot of packages down Main Street. He went over and said: "Can I help you?" She said "yes", so Joey carried five packages for almost three blocks. Afterwards, the woman took the packages back and didn't say anything. Joey was mad. "She didn't say even 'thank-you'" he said. "I'll never help anybody again."
5. Mr. John Q. Public, a member of the Mystical Body, committed a mortal sin. "Didn't hurt anybody" he said.

the End  
of the  
**BIG**  
story

Copies of this booklet may be ordered from:

Grail Publications, St. Meinrad Abbey  
St. Meinrad, Indiana.





