

THE BIG STORY

As told by Rev. William Peil

GOD is like the ocean.

WE are like a drop of water.

HE is so GREAT.

WE are so small.

BUT...HE wanted to get close to us,
so we could be close to HIM.

HOW could He do that when He was as great as the ocean,
And we as small as a drop of water?

He knew how!

He would become like us.

He would join us on earth and build a new kind of church!

NOT a church made out of STONES or BRICKS,

But a church made out of...

PEOPLE.

It wouldn't even LOOK like a church.

But more like the people of God gathered together in
ONE BODY.

So that's what He did:

God was born into this world.

(He became a baby)

His name was JESUS.

His mother was MARY.

His stepfather was JOSEPH.

He used to help Joseph who was a carpenter.

One time his parents thought he was LOST!

He was 12!

But they found him in a church talking to priests and teachers.

Then He went home and grew up to be 30 years old.

He picked out 12 of His friends and said:

FOLLOW ME!

They went around with Him,

Heard what He said and saw what He did.

Jesus made the sick well.

He took away sins.

He loved people.

He listened.

He taught.

Some people didn't like Jesus.

They were jealous because most people liked and listened to Him.

So they went to Judas.

Jesus knew they were out to get Him, maybe even kill Him.

So, before they tried to find Him and put Him in jail,

Jesus had a Last Supper with His 12 friends.

He left them a farewell gift so they wouldn't forget Him. After supper he took bread and wine
and offered it to God and said...

THIS IS MY BODY AND BLOOD.

It didn't LOOK like it, but it WAS!

It WAS HIS REAL BODY AND BLOOD!

We call it "Holy Communion"
Then He gave it to them to eat and drink and they DID!
After that He said: "Do this in memory of Me."
Judas went out and told the people who didn't like Jesus where He was.
They put Jesus in jail.
Then they took Him out to a hill and NAILED Him to a cross!
And lifted Him up.
He hung there three hours,
UNTIL HE DIED!
He died for EVERYBODY,
Saints and sinners,
The weak, the strong, the sick,
Believers and unbelievers,
EVERYBODY!
All his friends were sad when He died.
They walked away sad.
But then on the third day God the Father brought Jesus
BACK TO LIFE!
Right away He went to see His friends.
Were they surprised!!
He told them that from now on they would take his place!
They were the beginning of His new church, with Peter to lead them.
He told them that wherever THEY were, HE would be, even if they couldn't see Him.
They wondered what to do next.
Then He went back to his Father in heaven, and sent the Holy Spirit upon them...
Filled with the Spirit, they went out that very day and told everybody
the GOOD NEWS about Jesus.
3000 were baptized that day, making his church even BIGGER, not just more stones and
wood, but more...
PEOPLE!
Jesus and His followers are like a body.
WE ARE THE CHURCH.
Jesus is the head.
We are the parts.
The Spirit of Jesus (the Holy Spirit) keeps it alive.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW TO RECEIVE COMMUNION

1. Knowing the Life of Jesus

- Jesus is the Son of God. Mary is Jesus' Mother.
- Jesus taught people how to follow God's rules of love.
- Jesus gave us the Eucharist at His Last Supper with His friends.
- He died on the cross out of love for us.
- He rose from the dead.
- Jesus is with God His Father. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to always help God's Family.

2. Know the Difference Between Communion and Ordinary Bread and Wine.

- When Mass begins the bread and wine are not Jesus.
- At Mass the bread and wine become Jesus at the consecration, when the priest says, "This is My Body" and "This is my Blood".
- The bread and wine do not seem different in any way after they become Jesus. They still seem to be bread and wine-they look, taste, and feel the same, but they are really Jesus.
- When you receive just the Host in Communion you are really receiving Jesus. Jesus is fully present in the Host. Jesus is also fully present when you receive Communion from the cup.

3. Show a Desire to Receive Communion

- Jesus gave us the Eucharist because he loves us.
- People want to receive Jesus because they love Jesus. They want Jesus to help them show love. They want to share in the meal of God's Family.

4. Fasting Before Communion

- In honor of Jesus we do not eat or drink anything unless it is water or medicine for one hour before we receive Holy Communion.