

Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2010
By Rebecca Enney

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven."

Barabas and Elizabeth and Running Chairs and Sam are all having a religious discussion.

Running Chairs is going on and on about what she has given up for Lent.

"Like, you know, I decided that I will give up, you know, candy bars, for Lent. They are not good for you anyway and so I will get more healthy AND I will be doing something religious at the same time! Like, you know, I'm feeling really good about such a smart idea!"

Elizabeth responded "I think that if you give something up for Lent, you are not supposed to brag about it."

And then Sam asked "What does that mean anyway – give something up for Lent?"

"I think it means that because Jesus gave up so much for us, that we should give up something for Him. Is that right Barabas?"

"Um huh." (yes kind of sound)

"So giving up candy is religious?" asked Sam.

"Oh yes!" said Running Chairs.

"I'm not so sure," said Elizabeth. "I think you have to say more prayers to be religious."

"So if I don't eat candy during Lent and say more prayers, is that religious?" asked Sam.

"Kind of," said Elizabeth.

"And then, like, on Easter morning, you get like lots of candy, the answer to all your prayers!" laughed Running Chairs.

"I don't think that is the point," said Barabas.

"Well, like then what IS the point, Barabas?" asked Running Chairs.

"Well, Mrs. Potato Head told me," said Barabas, "that if I give up candy for Lent, then every time I think to myself *'hmmmm, I'd like a piece of candy about now,'* that instead of getting a candy bar you should say a prayer instead to thank Jesus for all that he has given to us."

"Yes," said Elizabeth. "It is like wanting to eat the candy is a reminder that Jesus . . . died . . . on the cross . . . for us."

And they all looked at the cross called a crucifix. And they were quiet, even Running Chairs.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." THE END