

St. John Neumann (1811-1860)

F E A S T
January 5

Man of Many Tongues

St. John Neumann was born in Bohemia in eastern Europe and couldn't wait to become a priest. But he was told his homeland didn't need any more priests. That didn't stop him. He learned English and left his beloved homeland for America, where the need for priests was great. At first he worked in western New York. There, he ministered to people anywhere he could—in their kitchens, on mountains, in villages large and small. The work was worthwhile but lonely. So John Neumann joined the Redemptorists, a religious community of priests and brothers.

He was sent to Philadelphia where, in time, he became a bishop. As bishop, he set up a Catholic school system, the first in this country. He was a pretty good student himself and taught himself six languages. Churchgoers were amazed when he heard their confessions in their native tongues.

It is said that St. John Neumann became caught in the rain one day and his shoes were soaked. A friend suggested he change them. "I would have to put the left shoe on the right foot and the right shoe on the left foot," he said. Why did he say this? Use this puzzle to find out. Two letters are done for you.



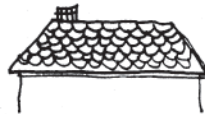
1 2 4



20 22 14 9



3 11 12



16 17 10 18



7 8 6



5 15 13 19

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 O 22 S.

21 23