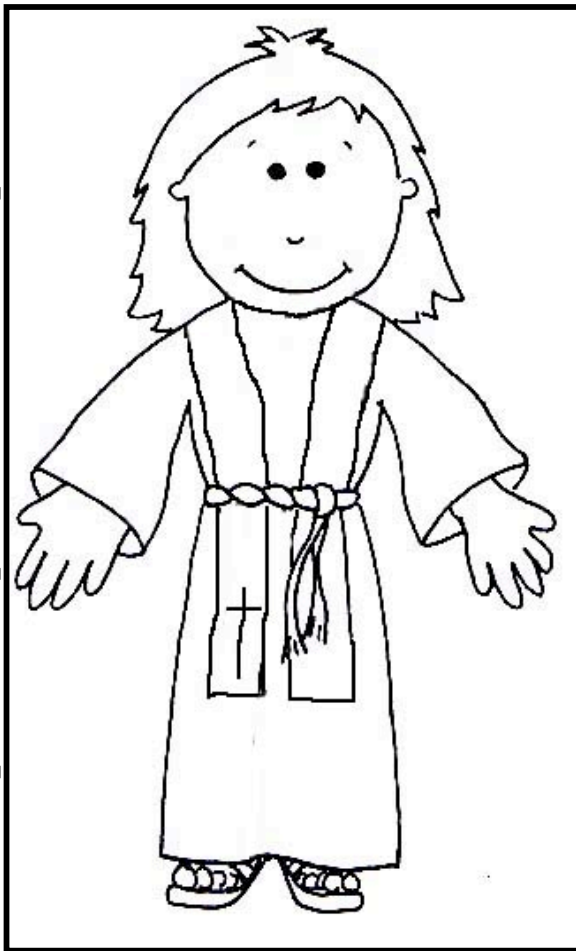


Do you know what a yoke is? Well, a yoke is the crossbar with two U-shaped pieces that encircle the necks of a pair of oxen or other draft animals working together, it looks like a big letter M. It helps the animals to be able to work in unison together, and to make the most of their shared strength. It is also a word for something that connects or joins together; a bond or tie. In today's story, (Matt 11:25-30) Jesus tells the people to take the yoke that he gives us. What do you think he means by this? Well, I think Jesus is telling us to get to know Jesus and to learn from him. And by doing this, Jesus can help us through our lives, particularly when hard times come along. Do you know why a priest wears a stole? It's that scarf-like thing around their necks? Well, it's because a priest is called by God to be a priest. The stole is to represent the priest's half of a yoke that is also worn by Jesus. When the priest wears a stole, it reminds them and us that what they do as a priest, they do with Jesus. But as we learned from the reading today, priests are not the only ones that Jesus is offering his yoke to, we are also able to have Jesus' help, we just have to say yes!!!

stoles and yokes



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