John Neumann was one of the founders of Catholic education in the United States. 

John Neumann was born in 1811, in Bohemia, now a part of the Czech Republic. His knowledge of eight languages helped him work with New York’s immigrants.

Isaac and Rachel had two twin sons, Jacob and Esau. The brothers were nothing alike. Each parent favored one son over the other.

Jacob convinced Esau to trade his birthright for some stew. Jacob also tricked a dying Isaac out of his final blessing. When Esau found out, Jacob had to leave home.

Jacob was tricked by Laban. He worked seven years in order to marry Laban’s daughter Rachel, but her sister Leah was substituted at the last minute. In order to marry Rachel too, he had to work seven more years.

Jacob’s story is a good example of Divine Providence, the way God’s wisdom and love influence all he has created.

God is able to bring about good results from bad choices.

Eventually God gave Jacob a new name, Israel.

Sometimes people count on God to get them out of trouble when they deliberately do something wrong. This shows disrespect for God’s love and patience.

Jacob is one of Jesus’ ancestors. Through the examples of Jesus and his ancestors, such as Abraham and Jacob, we can see that our choices and actions are part of God’s plan.