

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



[www.stpaturbana.org](http://www.stpaturbana.org)

September 2023

## Held together

**W**e at St. Patrick's are a community. What makes this so? What are the factors that hold us together?

First of all, there are the beliefs that we hold, together. We, together, hold the faith in God as taught to us by Jesus. We hold his teaching about love of God and love of neighbor. We hold his example of reaching out to people on the margins. We hold the treasure of his presence in Eucharist, in Word, one another.

And because we hold these things, we hold on to one another. When someone is burdened by doubt, illness, or personal tragedy, we hold

onto them. Do we always manage to do this well? No, but we are trying to learn to do so, and this too holds us together.

We are held together by our welcome. When new people come to us, our warmth can draw them in. When we celebrate the characteristics that make us distinct individuals, our acceptance of one another holds us together.

We are held together by our shared worship of God. More than anything,

this is what draws us physically together, Sunday by Sunday. When we come together with our prayers, our listening, our songs, and our responses, we draw closer together even when – especially when – we speak different languages and have different customs.

We are held together by our shared activities. We work together on the Cellar-to-Garret Sale, or to feed the hungry, or to study the Bible, or to provide music for liturgy, or to

celebrate parish events. As we do so, we are drawn together.

Behind each of these activities that draw us together is the

wisdom and love of God. God knows that we need community. He knows that we need support. He knows that faith grows in community. He knows that love can be practiced here.

If you are new to our community, welcome! We hope you find in us a supportive community. If you've been kind of on the edges, we invite you to participate more. We are held together by the wisdom and love of God, and we need you.



## Welcome to St. Patrick's Catholic Church!

**M**y mom would often tell friends on the second day of staying at our home, "You're not guests anymore. This is your home. The coffee is in this cabinet and food is over here."

Well, this is your home! Before time existed, God had in mind that you'd be part of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. God knew the graces you'd bring and the graces you'd receive. God saw the struggles you'd go through and the risks you'd take to grow deeper in your parish friendships. Remember, Jesus has a great adventure for you here!

My prayer for you is that you actively make this parish your home. It's as easy as four simple steps:

Step One: Place an image of St. Patrick, our patron, on your refrigerator to remember his prayers for you.

Step Two: Register. This helps us, but it's also a gesture of your fellowship with this parish and its community of faith.

Step Three: Review the parish website (<https://www.stpaturbana.org/parish-life>) for information



see **Welcome!** on page 8

## Parishioners making a difference



In this issue of *In Focus*, two more parishioners explain how they put their faith into action in the community by sharing their time and talents. By making the world around them a little fairer, a little kinder, a little healthier, they share their faith through their actions and sometimes through their words.

### Maryknoll Lay Missioners

By Susan Nagele



The Maryknoll Movement was begun by the United States Catholic Bishops in 1911 with the founding of the Maryknoll Priests and Brothers. In 1912 the Congregation of Maryknoll Sisters was founded.

From the beginning, lay people assisted priests, or Brothers and Sisters in mission outreach to other countries and cultures. I joined Maryknoll in 1984 to work as a family physician in Tanzania. Catholic Social Teaching drew me to this Catholic community to serve in countries with significant medical needs. Over the next 36 years I also worked in Sudan, Kenya and the USA.

In 1994, the Association of Maryknoll Lay Missioners was founded within the Maryknoll Movement to give full membership and participation to couples, families with children, and to single men and women.

Their Vision is **Justice, Compassion, and Dignity for all Creation.**

Their Mission: **Compelled by faith to engage with people across cultures and ethnicities, we live, love, and work with communities on the margins to promote active nonviolence and healing.**

The core values include **simple living, community, joy, inclusion, and humility.**

The crosscutting focus of all ministry is **Creative Nonviolence.**

Currently 50 lay missioners serve in nine countries throughout the world. Ministries focus on:

1. Education and leadership development
2. Faith formation and pastoral care
3. Health Care and Health Promotion
4. Justice and Peace
5. Sustainable Development

Applications are accepted from people motivated by faith to participate in a cross-cultural mission in the context of a Catholic community. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, age 21 or older, with prior experience in volunteer service. The initial commitment is approximately three years.

This group focuses on developing deep mutual relationships, which take time and knowledge of another language and culture.

This was a great fit for me as a family doc who took the long view of accompanying others in health care while learning and growing in my own faith journey. I stayed longer than most people, but many have found the grace of deeper cross-cultural relationships developed over time



at some point in their life's journey.

Joining this group is a big step that requires serious discernment and reflection. You can begin the process at <https://mkml.org/apply/the-application-process/>.

My own personal journey is recorded via my blog: <http://healthministryinkenya.blogspot.com/>. Anyone who would like more info is welcome to contact me there.

The Maryknoll movement is committed to fostering cross-cultural ministry for all vocations and has a long and well-established history. We have learned so much during our years of service about what works and what needs to change to respect the dignity of each person more fully in building relationships.

This journey offers a road less traveled, one that will challenge and deepen your faith commitment if it is the right fit for you. If you're feeling a nudge, please check it out!

### Parish Nurses

By Roxane Lowry



The Parish Nursing Program was established at Carle in 1997. In 2005, the American Nurses Association drafted and approved Faith Community Nursing Scope and Standards, and the name was changed to Faith Community Nursing. Faith Community nurses volunteer time and service to their individual communities of faith. They give care to the body, mind, and spirit by focusing on health promotion, illness and injury prevention, and chronic disease education.

Parish Nurses help members of the parish navigate the healthcare system and connect with available community resources. If a parishioner has a health-related question or would like to speak to a parish nurse, they can contact the parish office (217-367-2665) and leave a message with Patricia Fowler, the parish secretary. The parish nurses do not provide direct patient care but are available to identify resources and to be the first point of contact for health-related questions and concerns.

see **Parish Nurses** on next page



## Parish Nurses from page 2

There are currently eight parish nurses that volunteer in this ministry at St. Patrick's. Some are still employed, and a few have retired from full-time employment. Blood pressure screenings are offered the second Sunday of the month in the parish lounge between the 8 and 10 a.m. Masses.



The parish nurses recently facilitated an education series related to heart and cardiovascular issues. Our intention is to sponsor an education program in the fall that focuses on another chronic health condition topic.

The parish nurses also have collaborated with the parish's safety committee. We monitor the first aid supplies and check the three AEDs in the church and parish center.

I learned of the Parish Nurse ministry through the annual Time and Talent event and completed the training course in 2005. I received my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at Loyola University in Chicago in 1978. Pediatric Nursing has been the primary focus of my nursing career. When I relocated to Champaign-Urbana, I worked at Carle Foundation Hospital on the pediatric floor as well as the evening and weekend pediatric walk-in clinics, prior to the era of convenient care.

From 2002-21 I served as a care coordinator and then a hospital liaison at UIC Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC). DSCC provides care coordination for children with specialized medical care needs as well as children needing in-home technology dependent care.

I have been retired since March 2021. In my retirement I have served as a point of contact for the parish nurse ministry. If another parish ministry or parishioner identifies a need, the parish secretary will contact me, and I consult with the other members of our ministry to provide an appropriate resource or intervention.

Parish Nurse training is offered twice a year and includes about seven weeks of independent study and four days of classroom work. The training is facilitated by the Faith Community Nursing Network, sponsored by Carle. You must be a registered nurse with a current license or a student in a baccalaureate nursing program and have at least two years of experience in health assessment and problem solving.

If you are interested in parish nursing, you can contact me (rmlowryster@gmail.com); I can connect you to the training program through Carle. There is a class scheduled for this fall.

## Parish Council news



At the July Council meeting plans for the Council's annual retreat were firmed up. The retreat will be held Saturday, August 26, in St. Joseph, with discussion to focus on four of "the five foundations."

A booklet with up-to-date information about parish ministry opportunities is being prepared, to be printed by Diocesan Publications, with the goal of having it in parishioners' hands before the Time

and Talent weekends, September 16-17 and 23-24 (perhaps another on a weekend in October).

Pat Justice, one of the parish trustees, reported that the Finance Committee is looking to organize a parish fundraiser, perhaps next spring, to pay for changes to the parish center. They are working on a strategic plan for what's to be done (e.g., tear it down and replace it, replace portions of it, add spaces to the building, etc.). They are looking for a unique, major fundraising event that would involve the local community as well as parishioners. At their next meeting members hope to have refined plans for what is to be done and how it is to be financed.

Work is proceeding on the International Festival, to be held

September 30. This year thirteen countries will be represented. In addition to ethnic foods and entertainment, an art exhibition of various ethnic representations of Jesus and Mary and an art show for children are planned.

Please pray for our Parish Council members; they shoulder sometimes weighty responsibilities on our behalf and look for our prayerful support.



The Parish Council members are on their annual retreat this weekend (August 26)—learning together, praying together, growing in faith together. Please pray for them!



## International Festival: Encountering Christ across cultures

Perhaps we can best prepare for this year's International Festival, on September 30, by reminiscing a bit about last year's celebration. Some of the people who hosted a table,



worked to organize, or attended have agreed to help us do this by writing a brief account of their experience.

"Helping to organize the festival allowed me to meet so many wonderful people and to make some on-going friendships. I was overwhelmed with the enthusiasm of the volunteers. The attendance surpassed our expectations, and feedback was extremely positive. We identified some ways to improve the festival this year and so hope it will be even better this year." – Frank Rosser (Parish Council)

"The International Festival was an amazing opportunity for three generations in my family to participate. Some family members traveled to town and helped show grandchildren how to make a couple of dishes to share at the festival. We devoted a whole day to talking about our culture and educating younger generations while preparing. Then we all attended the festival and continued our learning experience with other cultural backgrounds and tasting other foods!

It was a wonderful experience for all ages!" – Angelika Wordach (Poland)

"One of the things that struck me last year was the pride and effort that went into showcasing the ethnic backgrounds shared by our parishioners. Whether it was sampling food, listening to music, watching dancers, looking at maps, being greeted in someone's native tongue...well, it was an awesome experience beyond words. It demonstrated that "we are many parts, but all one body" – Anonymous

"I volunteered as a table host for Kenya during the 2022 international festival celebrating Christ. It was a very fulfilling experience having an opportunity to share my country's Church, culture, and food. I was able to learn about and enjoy other country's food and culture, and I made some new friends. These are the reasons I will host a table again this year. St. Patrick has become my family, and this event is a 'family meeting' not to be missed!" – Mary Ndungu (Kenya)

"Participating in the International festival allowed my friends and me

to enjoy our time together at St. Patrick. We had the opportunity to share our cuisine, learn about different cultures around the world, and connect with Christian brothers and sisters of all ages. I will describe it as a successful activity of our parish." – Sofia Isabel Gonzalez Martinez (Panama)

Last year 17 countries were represented, from all continents except Antarctica (maybe this time). This year we are adding some interesting attractions. One will be an Art Gallery featuring various artists' renderings of Jesus and Mary. We will feature contributions of original artwork by our parishioners, both young and



old, on a Christ-centered theme. We are also planning ethnically focused Offertory processions at the Masses leading up to the event.

There is something here for everyone; perhaps there is an experience awaiting you that will leave a lasting impression. There are still ways to help make this a success, but the very best way is for you to attend. May God bless your participation!





# Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen pilgrimage

Thirty-nine enthusiastic parishioners of St. Patrick's embarked on a one-day pilgrimage to the Peoria diocesan headquarters and sites sacred to Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen on Tuesday, July 18. The committee originally formed for the Eucharistic Revival organized the pilgrimage in an ongoing effort to maintain momentum for the national movement and diocesan goals.

In preparation for the pilgrimage, committee leaders Mary Long and Mary Tate prepared a booklet on the history of Bishop Sheen and held planning meetings with the committee and the participants. The group boarded a Peoria Charter bus and headed first to a tour of the Cathedral of St.

Chapel. His tomb is marked, JMJ, as he had wished.

The first Bishop of Peoria, John Lancaster Spalding, arrived in Peoria in May of 1877, and the

at the noon Mass and briefly visited with the group, telling us of his ongoing work as a National Eucharistic Preacher and his own little personal miracle with Bishop Sheen.

The final stop was a box lunch and movie about the life of Bishop Sheen at the Sheen Museum and gift shop. The movie, entitled Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen: Servant of All, is a one-hour documentary of his life and includes



original St. Mary's Church was named a Cathedral. A new gothic stone structure replaced the original building and was dedicated in 1889. Since then, the Cathedral has undergone several renovations under the guidance of various bishops and has expanded to include a collection of art and numerous relics. Relics, including those once held by Bishop Sheen, are displayed in the St. Thomas More Chapel, which honors St. Thomas More and his fellow martyrs, John Fisher, St. Oliver Plunkett, and Father Gabriel de la Ribourde. Our Lady of Perpetual Help is the Patroness of the Diocese of Peoria and titular patron of the Lady Chapel, which houses Bishop Sheen's tomb and includes sculptures and stained glass windows devoted to St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Anne, Our Lady, St. Therese of Lisieux, Eve, Ruth, St. Clare of Assisi, Judith, St. Joan of Arc, Esther, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

numerous interviews with friends, family, and admirers. He was a close friend to St. Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa, among many others. Bishop Sheen was beatified on December 21, 2019, but the ceremony has been postponed, as a request from the U.S. bishops has delayed the process.

The Eucharistic Revival committee plans to continue its work to keep alive the spirit of Eucharistic veneration and to help fulfill the goals of Bishop Louis Tylka, the ninth bishop of Peoria, including the cause for canonization of Bishop Sheen. More activities in keeping with these goals will be forthcoming.



Mary of the Immaculate Conception, where two diocesan tour guides provided history and led the group through this beautiful structure, which was also the home parish of Bishop Sheen. He received his First Holy Communion there, was an altar server, and now rests in the Lady

The second stop on the pilgrimage was Sacred Heart Church, where Fr. Luke Spannagel officiated







**Q:** I went to the baptism of a friend's infant daughter recently and expected that the baptism would take place using the font located near the doors of the church. Instead, it was done using a font that stands beside the sanctuary. I

wondered about the change.

**A:** When the church was built, in 1903, baptisms were done in a small room beside the doors to the church. The room was designed for that purpose, with stained-glass windows reflecting the room's intended use, and a large marble baptismal font in the center.

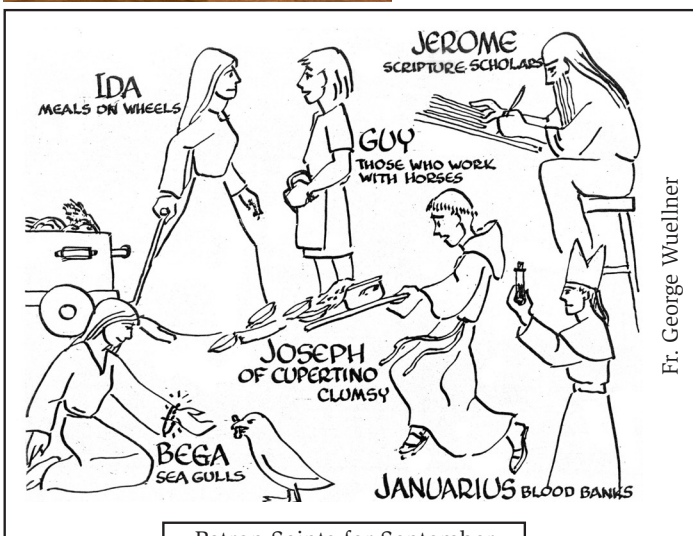
Due to one of the renovations following Vatican II a new, larger baptismal font was constructed and placed in a small area adjacent to the sanctuary. Maybe you remember it—it was made of walnut, with a stainless-steel removable bowl. The marble font was moved to a corner of the parish center lounge for safekeeping, and the small room built for it was used for Reconciliation.

With the church's recent expansion, the location of the new font is very symbolic of entering the church through baptism. Since on some occasions baptism takes place during Mass, to make participation easier, the marble font



was restored to its original use and was placed adjacent to the sanctuary, near the wall graphic (crafted many years ago by parishioner Nick Britsky, RIP) that represents Jesus' baptism by John,

Some of the marble holy water fonts from the original St. Patrick's church were placed at the doors of the expanded church. Have you noticed them?



Patron Saints for September

## St. Januarius

The patron saint of Naples, Italy, St. Januarius, also known as San Gennaro, is believed to have been born in the third century in Benevento, Italy, to a rich patrician family. At age 15 he became priest of his local parish in Benevento, which at the time was mostly pagan. When he was 20, he became Bishop of Naples and befriended St. Sossius, whom he met during his priestly studies. During the one and a half year-long persecution of Christians by Emperor Diocletian, he hid his fellow Christians, but while visiting Sossius in jail, he too was arrested. He and his colleagues were condemned to be thrown to wild bears in the Flavian Amphitheater at Pozzuoli. The sentence was changed due to fear of public disturbance; they were instead beheaded at the Solfatara crater near Pozzuoli, c. 305. Some legends say that the wild beasts had refused to eat them or that Januarius was thrown into a furnace but came out unscathed.



In 1497 his body was brought to the cathedral in Naples. A richly decorated crypt, the Succorpo, was commissioned beneath the cathedral to house the reunited body and head, which had previously been interred separately. Finished in 1506, his Succorpo is considered one of the prominent monuments of the High Renaissance in Naples.

St. Januarius is famous for the annual liquefaction of his blood, which, according to legend, was saved by a woman called Eusebia just after the saint's death. His blood is kept in a sealed glass ampoule.

Thousands of people come to witness this event in Naples Cathedral three times a year: St. Januarius's Day, commemorating his martyrdom (September 19th), a celebration of his patronage of Naples (December 16), and a commemoration of the reunification of his relics (the Saturday before the first Sunday of May).

The blood is also said to spontaneously liquefy at certain other times, such as at papal visits. It supposedly liquefied in the presence of Pope Pius IX in 1848, but not that of John Paul II in 1979 or Benedict XVI in 2007. On March 21, 2015, Pope Francis venerated the dried blood during a visit to Naples Cathedral, saying the Lord's Prayer over it and kissing it. The Archbishop then declared that "The blood has half liquefied, which shows that St. Januarius loves our pope and Naples."

In the United States, the Feast of San Gennaro is celebrated on September 19 by a number of Italian-American communities. Italian immigrants in the Little Italy neighborhood of New York City held the first such festival in the 1920s and it is the most famous, but in recent decades large events honoring this feast day are held in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, the Jersey Shore, Long Island, and Seattle. The festival has been included as a plot element in a number of movies, as well as TV dramas and sitcoms.

## Precious Body, Precious Blood

For the past three years, even though we have been unable to share in the cup of the Lord's Precious Blood, we have often sung about it. And in singing, we have remembered.

Of course, we know that anyone who receives the Body of Christ or the Blood of Christ receives all of Jesus and everything he wants to give us. And yet, Jesus gives himself in the forms of both bread and wine. Jesus' gift is so vast, so rich, that he invites us to consider him in different ways at different times, and the form of wine gives us different images than does the bread. So what have we been singing?



*Christ, our Redeemer, God's eternal Son,  
has by his cross and blood the vict'ry won. (Gather #935)*

When we think of the Precious Blood, it is easy to connect Jesus' gift of the Eucharist with his gift of salvation, given on the cross.

*Take and drink, take and drink,  
This is my blood given up for you. (#950)*

When we "take and drink," we remember that the passion and death of Jesus was for each of us, individually, personally, and also for the good of all the world.

*Saved by Christ's Body and his holy Blood,  
with souls refreshed we give our thanks to God. (#935)*

Bread strengthens, but wine refreshes. If you've ever come to church heavy-hearted and left feeling better, you know the refreshment that Jesus gives.

*Lifegiving Bread, saving Cup,  
we offer in thanksgiving, O God (#926)*

Remembering what Jesus has done for us moves us to give thanks. Accepting his gift is a way of saying thank you.

*Bread that is broken, wine that is poured,  
love is the sign of our Lord (#937)*

We put our thanks into action by reaching out to others in love.

In the coming months, we will again be able to share in the cup of Jesus' Precious Blood. At St. Patrick's, this will happen gradually as Eucharistic ministers can be trained in new procedures and new EMs can be called. How wonderful this will be for our experience of Jesus in all the ways that he wants to be present.

## My experience this summer at Emmaus Days

by Jonathan Kaap

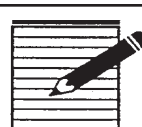
Hi, my name is Jonathan Kaap, I want to thank this parish for sending me to Emmaus Days. It was an experience I will never forget; I enjoyed my time there. My favorite thing about it was the mix of fun activities; dodgeball, swimming, water balloons, and the small group competition, and prayer; the liturgy of the hours, adoration, the rosary, and Mass with the Bishop. Therefore, I think anybody looking for an enjoyable experience with God and friends should go to Emmaus Days.



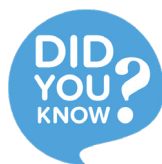
*Noah, Drew, Sam, and Jonathan.*

### Vocation Prayer

Loving Father, we ask you to send your Spirit to us so that men and women among us, young and old, will respond to your call to service and leadership in the Church. We pray especially, in our day, for those who hear your invitation to be a priest, sister, or brother. But we pray also for all of us, that we may discern your call to service in the Church in whatever way we are needed.



Deadline for submission of articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* (July-August) is **Sunday, Sept. 10.**



After the 12:10 Mass on Wednesdays the Sacrament of Anointing is offered to all who approach to receive it.



## Welcome! from page 1

about ministry opportunities. If something in your heart stirs when reading it, follow up by emailing or calling the coordinator.

Step Four: Go on a retreat. The Cursillo retreat is a slam dunk in the spiritual life. It's my personal gift to you. If not now, when?

My prayer is that we walk with each other in faith. We are a diverse community, and your new best friends are waiting, looking for you.

May God bless you!

*Fr. Anthony Co, Pastor*

## Praise God with singing and instruments

"No barriers!" That's the most important message that our new Music Director, James Rossi, wants us all to hear. There's a place for everyone who wants to take part in the music of our shared worship.

James is bringing some new opportunities to aspiring musicians. The new Youth Choir has already begun to rehearse. The instrumental ensemble that has been playing at the 4 p.m. Saturday Mass is being renamed as the Contemporary Choir and expanded to involve singers as well as instrumentalists. The Handbell Choir has been active all through the summer and would welcome new ringers. Our Cantors are also active throughout the year, with individuals scheduled when they are available. The Adult Choir which usually sings at 10 a.m. Mass is resuming rehearsals in late August. The Funeral Schola is active year-round, whenever a funeral is scheduled, usually on weekday mornings.

It is wonderful to see fresh vigor being brought to our sung praises! There is room for people of all ages and people who enjoy a variety of musical styles. Singers are welcome whether they can read music or not. All kinds of instruments are needed.

Are you worried about the time commitment? There are groups that rehearse and sing most weekends, but there are also musicians needed for special occasions. Are you worried about having to audition? Don't be! James welcomes singers of all abilities and doesn't do auditions. Are your weekends jam-packed with family activities? Maybe you could sing with the Funeral Schola one or two weekdays a month.

Not sure what is the best way for you to serve? Talk to James after Mass, phone him (321-505-6725), or email him (james.rossi@stpaturbana.org). He'll be happy to help you find a way to share your talents. Remember, "No barriers!"

## St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

**St. Patrick's Parish In Focus** is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by the first weekend of the month for an upcoming issue. Materials must include the name and telephone number of the person submitting them.

Please send news items to infocusstpats@gmail.com. You may also send them to any Communications Committee member (listed with contact information below). All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. Bylines are generally omitted.

### **Editorial board:**

Connie Bell-Mayers  
cbmayers@gmail.com

Judy Fierke, 352-7670  
j-fierke@comcast.net

Elizabeth Hendricks, 328-2184  
elizabethwalkend@gmail.com

Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125  
mmenches@illinois.edu

Alia Rdissi, 281-382-1623  
aliardissi@yahoo.com

Cathy Salika, 367-7861  
csalika@illinois.edu

**Associates:** John Colombo, Rachael McMillan, Rick Partin, Tyler Sassine, Shirley Splittstoesser, Jim Urban, and Jerry Walsh.

**Articles, information, and photos** for this issue were provided by Fr. Anthony Co, Elizabeth Hendricks, Jonathan Kaap, Liza Kaap, Roxane Lowry, Mary Lou Menches, Roxanne Munch, Susan Nagele, Carl Nelson, Alia Rdissi, Frank Rosser, James Rossi, Cathy Salika, and Mary Tate. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Rick Partin; page layout was prepared by John Colombo.

## Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

### The Windsor of Savoy

#### No-Bake Cookies

- 1/2 c butter
- 2 c sugar
- 1/2 c milk
- 1/4 c cocoa
- 1 t vanilla
- 1/2 c peanut butter, creamy or crunchy
- 3 1/2 c rolled oats, old-fashioned or quick



Measure out rolled oats, peanut butter, and vanilla into a mixing bowl; don't mix. Mix butter, sugar, milk, and cocoa together in a heavy saucepan and bring to a boil for 1 minute; remove from heat. Quickly stir into the saucepan the rolled oats, peanut butter, and vanilla. Return saucepan to heat and, while stirring, cook on low for 1 more minute. As quickly as possible drop by spoonful or cookie scoop onto cookie sheets lined with parchment paper or wax paper. Cool 20-30 minutes.