

in focus

20a West Main Street

Urbana, Illinois 61801

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Preparing The Way of The Lord

Sharing in the Advent liturgy with our families and parish helps us to recall what it is that we are really celebrating during this season, to focus our attention on the spiritual values at the root of our celebration, and to prepare for the coming of the Lord with greater charity, generosity, and service.

The Advent season shows a gradual crescendo of hope and expectation as we joyfully celebrate the coming of our savior; his historical coming to us in the Incarnation; his coming into our lives in the here-and-now, eucharistically and experientially; and his final coming at the end of time. As a season of preparation, Advent is also penitential, calling us to reflect on times when we have chosen darkness rather than light, when we have failed to recognize Christ's presence in our midst and his call to us. The Advent liturgy challenges us to conversion, to new birth in Christ, to open ourselves more fully to God's grace and love.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the theme of Christ's final coming at the end of time is emphasized, climaxing the end of one church year and the beginning of another. The Gospel reading from Luke is apocalyptic; these are times of expectant waiting in which we are challenged to be alert, to recall and recognize God's saving actions in our lives, and to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. The prophet Jeremiah describes in poetic language a day of perfection and complete oneness with God; this reading also situates Jesus

historically as a descendant of King David, son of Jesse. Thessalonians was written to a people awaiting Christ's return; we are exhorted to prepare for his coming, to make still greater progress in our spiritual growth.

In the readings for the second Sunday of Advent, the theme of preparation for the Incarnation event dominates. Luke focuses on John the Baptist as the forerunner of Jesus, the one who prepares the way for Christ's coming as we also are called to prepare in our own times. The prophet Baruch provides further poetic images of the perfect "day of the Lord," and Philippians exhorts us to readiness for Christ's coming.

The reading from Luke on the third Sunday of Advent continues to focus on John as one who points beyond himself to the greater one, the Christ, who was to come after him. Do our own beliefs and actions point beyond ourselves and truly reflect the faith which we profess? Zephaniah prophesies the saving action of God and the return of *Joy* to Israel, and Philip calls us to rejoice in the Christ event and in the coming of God's own peace into our hearts.

The mood of joyful hope continues in the readings for the fourth Sunday of Advent. Luke prepares us to celebrate Jesus' birth by noting the birth of his forerunner, John; the beautiful words of Elizabeth concerning Mary are included. In this reading, "Blessed is she who trusted the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled." The prophet Micah situates our trust and hope in

the one who is to come from Bethlehem. Hebrews clarifies for us the meaning of the Christ event we are celebrating. In the perfect obedience and offering of Christ, we have been brought into oneness with the Father, and we celebrate the realization that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God."

Family sharing in the Advent liturgy at home involves reading the Word of God, prayerfully reflecting on that Word, and then talking about what that Word is calling us to in our daily lives. Providing an atmosphere for such sharing during Advent could include displaying the Bible in a prominent place along with other appropriate symbols, such as a Jesse tree, an Advent wreath, or a manger scene. Various resources and ideas for Advent family celebrations are available through St. Patrick's religious education office (call any member of the religious education staff for information).

In a family sharing session, one family member would first read the Gospel aloud slowly and meditatively, followed by the first and second readings for the day. The readings could be paraphrased by parents for the children's understanding. Following the reading of the Word, family members would share what the stories said to them, the particular phrases or expressions they found meaningful, and the thoughts, images, and feelings evoked. Sharing ahead of time and then bringing these shared stories to our parish's Sunday celebration deeply enriches our Eucharist as these

Individual stories come to form part of our community expression of faith; it also enhances our hearing of the Word of God at the Sunday celebration.

In addition to family sharing, we might also wish to participate in sharing the Advent liturgy with other parishioners. Adult groups meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 and 11:30 a.m. in the rectory to reflect and share insights on the day's Scripture readings, and a group meets in church on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. to share reflections on the readings for weekday masses. Scripture study groups meet on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. to study the Gospel of Luke and on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. to study the Old Testament background of our faith, with a current emphasis on the prophetic and messianic texts;

Advent is a season of hope and promise. It is also a season of community and family traditions. What better way to prepare for the coming of the Lord into our midst than to begin and continue a tradition of Scripture sharing during the Advent season!

by Carolyn McElrath



Parish Profile ... Sophia Zeigler

It's tradition. Dinner at the Zeigler's begins with a cup of hot, homemade soup: Oven-warmed plates keep the entree and the variety of vegetables in prime state. Those many tricks up her sleeve help to make life pleasant for those with whom she has contact, at home and in our parish.

Of Polish ancestry and she's proud of it—Sophia Marie Golden was born in Wilmore, PA, the sixth of twelve children. Her father emigrated from Poland, got a railroad job, then some years later returned to his native land to marry a childhood sweetheart. Carefully planning a railroader's wages the couple soon bought some land and turned to diversified farming. Hard work and provisions for happy family members, all helping with hearts and hands, was the environment nurtured in the Golden family. Strong faith and high ideals were basic values.

Sophia Golden and Martin Zeigler met at Penn State. Married in 1944 in Harrisburg, PA, they moved to Illinois and finally settled in Urbana in 1963. They have three children: Martin, Jr., Robert and Cathy and three grandchildren.

Indefatigable Sophia, with generous help from her supportive husband, accomplishes much without fanfare. About five years ago—after service in other areas, when the St. Vincent de Paul Society assumed a more demanding role in St. Patrick's parish, Sophia became secretary-treasurer. Now, as president she is responsible for directing, and distributing parish funds and food for needy people throughout the community. With other members of the Society she spent most of recent weeks participating in the preparation and distribution of food baskets for Thanksgiving dinners. She seems to be on call at any time to minister to the needs of any down and out person who appears at the rectory door.

About four years ago the Catholic Worker House was established, and Sophia was one of those who helped put it all together.

Two years ago, dynamic Sophia spearheaded the food-processing activities in the parish on behalf of the Winter Emergency Shelter, a cooperative project of churches in this area to provide overnight shelter and hot soup for men in need and stranded

travelers

For all of these notable services Sophia recruits parishioners to help in the Parish Center kitchen to prepare hard-to-believe quantities of food. A twenty-gallon soup pot is a common sight there. Surplus from gardens, newly harvested crops and contributions from several generous and sympathetic Urbana merchants provide the raw materials out of which these people create their magic. Almost as miraculously, it is Sophia and company who find space to store everything for a week, a month or the rest of the winter.

An arts-and-crafts person, some years ago she launched The Trees of Christmas. In about three years the collection of life-sized trees, decorated in the traditions of many countries, grew to thirty-three. Although no longer an activity of the Alter and Rosary Society, this holiday special was presented to the public in the Parish Center during the first week of December. Area school children and teachers came by busloads to this culturally enriching show.



Sophia Zeigler

Advent. A Time To...

The air is crisp, the days grow shorter, thoughts turn to Christmas and quite often the four weeks before the Nativity slip by in a hustle and bustle, the buying and the selling, the planning, the baking, the exhaustion.

Advent can be a time to turn the rush and expectation into an individual, group or family preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth. It is a time to wait with anticipation for that great event. It is a time to practice patience as those around us become immersed in the pervading excitement: a time to hope, believe and renew ourselves in our faith and parish community: a time to grow in our commitment to God.

The material and commercial preparation for Christmas can sap our patience, erode our hopefulness and shake our resolve for renewed vigor in our faith. But there is a way to balance our lives during the season of Advent: Ask ourselves *why* we are so involved and refocus on the coming of the Messiah.

During this busy season we can take stock of the love, beauty and joy of God's gifts to us. We can be happy with those simple, human gifts that do not cost money. We can rediscover the simple joys of talking with each other, of listening and hearing the feelings as well as the words.

We can try to make Jesus part of our lives, all year long. We can prepare ourselves for the Messiah by prayer and by turning ourselves to love, faith, justice and kindness. We can accept and welcome God into our lives through our families and friends. We can reach out to those we do not know.

Dance Planned New Year's Eve

Plans are afoot for an all-parish adult New Year's Eve dance. Billed as the "Generic No-Name, No-Nonsense, Sixties Stomp," the dance will feature tapes and records from the Sixties. Party-goers are encouraged to dress in costumes from the decade.

Festivities will begin at 9:00 p.m. There will be door prizes, games, a floor show, and prizes for best costumes. Food and mixers will be provided—BYO alcoholic beverages, if desired.

Tickets are now on sale for this event. They may be purchased in the Parish Center after the nine o'clock mass or by calling Mike Healey (344-7886) or Ron Hicks (328-3268). Until December 5 tickets will be \$5 per person; afterward the price will be \$7—buy early and save!

1-(ow) You Describe A Rainbow?



Ellen Paul attended a Christ Renews His Parish, weekend in October.

It seemed such a simple thing to do, to go on the Christ Renews His Parish week, and get holier. Maybe I might learn something new at the same time. But I was not prepared for what was to come. I returned home with my mind and soul filled to bursting. "How was it?" my family asked. How could I explain to them how I felt? It was wonderful—marvelous—exhilarating! I was overflowing with good feelings and floating on a cloud. But why? Was it the team's honest and courageous sharing of their lives? Was it knowing that common, ordinary people like me also had problems but found God to help them through? Was it the warmth, friendliness, and feeling of community? Was it the Holy Spirit bringing God's grace into my soul? I don't know. It was probably all of these things—and more. I knew I would never be able to explain it. You can't describe a rainbow, you must experience it! The next Women's Christ Renews His Parish weekend will be March 19-20, 1983.

by Ellen Paul

Family Advent Celebration

Prepare the way for the Lord (Luke 3:4)

The familiar sounds of the Christmas season will likely be heard throughout St. Patrick's as different groups prepare their contribution to a favorite parish-wide tradition—the Family Advent Celebration. "This year we're getting everyone involved," said Karen Seuer, coordinator of this year's program. "And there's been a tremendous response of enthusiasm from everyone."

The annual event will be Sunday, Dec. 12 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The first part will take place in the Church (a nursery provided by the St. Patrick's Guild will be available in the Parish Center) and involves everything from brass to bells, singing to silence.

This part, hosted by the Young Adults, will revolve around the traditional Christmas Story, performed by a cast of third through sixth graders co-directed by parishioners Mary Thompson and Madonna Wojtaszek. Helping, with singing, to tell this familiar story will be all the children

in the Sunday Morning Religious Education Program (two-years-old through sixth grade).

In addition, there will be lots of carolling by the congregation "so they too can feel part of the first Christmas." And there to enhance all of this will be members from three of St. Patrick's choirs: the 10:30 choir, the brass choir, and the newly formed hand bell choir, all under the direction of Doug Salokar, parish music minister.

The Celebration will continue in the Parish Center with the lighting of a tree decorated by the Senior High Youth Group. A movie, "A Cosmic Christmas," a fast-moving, animated story of spacemen who come to earth and discover the real meaning of Christmas, will then be shown, followed by a feast of snacks and refreshments. Each family is asked to bring a "healthy" snack to share (such as holiday breads, fruit, assorted cheeses, etc.); the Over 50 Club will provide the punch, as well as host the second part of the Celebration. And

all of this will take place in a festively decorated atmosphere created by the Social Committee.

Each child is asked to bring one shoe to leave at the Parish Center during the first part of the Celebration. In case, like last year, St. Nicholas decides to make a visit (with a little assistance by the Junior High Youth Group).

The Parish Center will be open at 5:30 p.m. that evening to enable families to drop off their goodies prior to going over to the Church; children can also leave their shoe in the main room. Cast members will gather at 5:30 in the main room of the Center; the other children will meet their teachers in their classrooms by 5:45 p.m.

This will be an event all ages can enjoy. And it'll be an opportunity for the whole community to gather and celebrate the Christmas Season together.



"Go placidly amid the noise and haste. And remember what peace there may be in silence." Ehmann, Dealderata



StPatrick,s Parish Calendar

DEC,

- 1 SL Joseph Religious Education Program 6:45-8:00 p.m., St. Joseph Grade School
 4 Over 50 Get-Away Weekend 8:00 a.m., Christmas House, Our Lady of Snows
 In-Depth Scripture Study 9:00 a.m., Parish Center
 5 Children's Program 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. and 1:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Parish Center
 Children's Liturgy 10:40-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 Adult Education 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Rectory
 Junior High DISCO'fery Night 6:30-8:00 p.m. 7th & 8th grade, Parish Center
 9th grade, Rectory
 Senior High Activity 2:00 p.m., meet at Parish Center Catholic Worker House
 6 Reflection on Dally Scripture Readings 11:00-11:50 a.m, Church
 Education Committee 7:00 p.m., Parish Center
 7 Scripture Study 9:00-10:00 a.m., Parish Center
 Young Adults 6:30 p.m., Rectory
 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
 SL Joseph Religious Education Program 6:45-8:00 p.m., St. Joseph G-grade School
 9 Seekers-Group I 10:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 Seeke'8-Group II 7:00-8:00 p.m., Parish Center
 11 In-depth Scripture Study 9:00 a.m., Parish Center
 Jr. High Service Project 9:00-10:30 a.m. or 10:30-noon: Parish Center
 Young Adults Christmas Party 6:30 p.m., Colony West Clubhouse
 12 Children's Program 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Parish Center

- Children's Liturgy 10:40-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 Adult Education 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Rectory
 Family Advent Celebration 6:30-8:30 p.m., Church
 13 Reflection on Daily Scripture Readings 11:00-11:50 a.m., Church
 Divorced, Separated, Widowed Support Group (D/S/W)
 Baptism Preparation 7:00 p.m., Parish Center
 14 Scripture Study 9:00-10:00 a.m., Parish Center
 Young Adults 6:30 p.m., Rectory
 15 Minisfry Training 7:30-9:30 p.m., Parish Center
 St. Joseph Religious Education Program 6:45-8:00 p.m., St. Joseph Grade School
 16 Parish Council 7:30 p.m., Parish Center
 18 In-Depth Scripture Study 9:00 a.m., Parish Center
 19 Children's Program 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Parish Center
 Children's Liturgy 10:40-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 Adult Education 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Rectory
 Jr. High Advent/Christma Party 6:30-8:30 p.m., Parish Center
 Sr. High Forum Night 6:30-8:30 p.m. 10th grade, Rectory
 11th & 12th grades, Church
 20 Reflection on Daily Scripture Readings 11:00-11:50 a.m., Church
 Communal Penance Service 7:30 p.m., Church
 21 Scripture Study 9:00-10:00 a.m., Parish Center
 Young Adults 6:30 p.m., Rectory
 Communal Penance Service 7:30 p.m.; St. Matthew's.

- 22 Communal Penance Service 7:30 p.m., Holy Cross Church
 23 Seekers-Group I 10:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 Seekers-Group II 7:00-8:00 p.m., Parish Center
 24 Christmas Eve
 25 Christmas Day
 27 Reflections on Daily Scripture Readings 11:00-11:50 a.m., Church
 D/S/W Christmas Party 7:00 p.m., Pam Morrow's (2412-E. Green)
 28 Scriptures Study 9:00-10:00 a.m., Parish Center
 Young Adults 6:30 p.m., Rectory
 31 New Year's Eve SO's Dance Parish Center

JAN.

- 1 New Year's Day
 3 Reflection on Daily Scripture Readings 11:00-11:50 a.m., Church
 Education Committee 7:00 p.m., Parish Center
 4 Scripture Study 9:00-10:00 a.m., Parish Center
 Young Adults 6:30 p.m., Rectory
 5 St. Joseph Religious Education Program 6:45-8:00 p.m., St. Joseph Grade School
 8 In-Depth Scripture Study 9:00 a.m., Parish Center
 9 Children's Program 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Parish Center
 Children's Liturgy 10:40-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 Adult Education 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Rectory
 Jr. High ofsccovery Night 6:30-8:00 p.m. 7th & 8th grade, Parish Center
 9th grade, Rectory
 10 Reflection on Daily Scripture Readings 11:00-11:50 a.m., Church
 D/S/W 7:00-10:00 p.m., Rectory

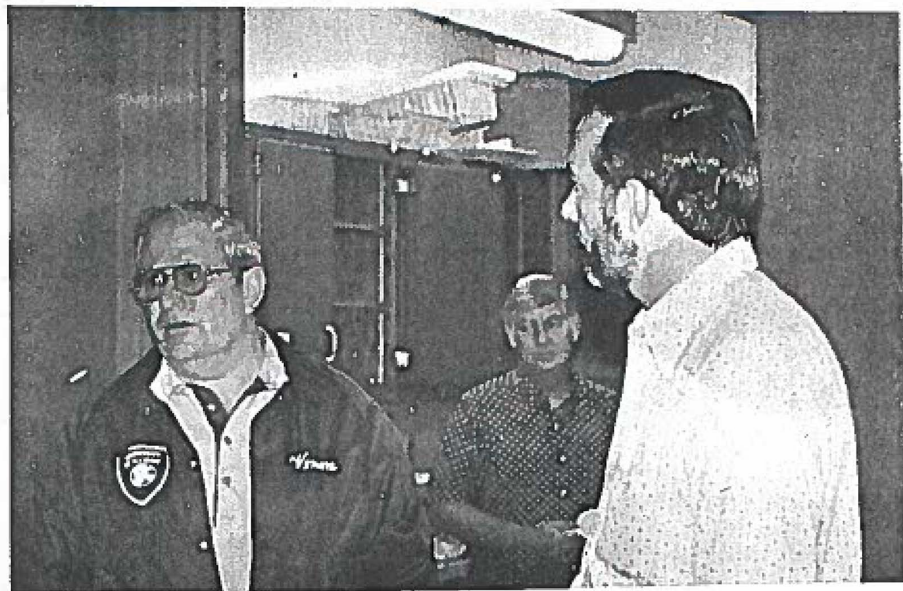
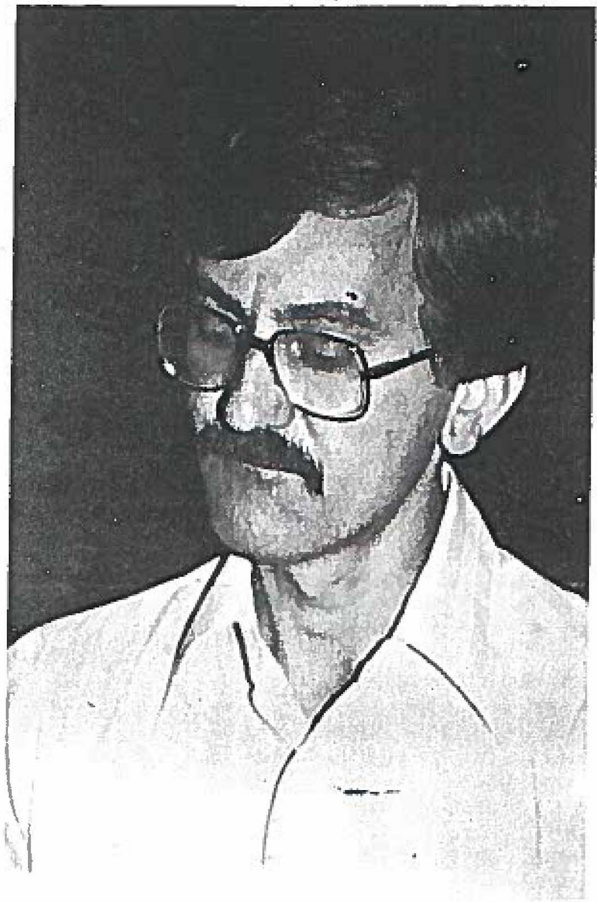
- 11 Scripture Study 9:00-10:00 a.m., Parish Center
 Young Adults 6:30 p.m., Rectory
 Reconciliation Preparation 7:30 p.m., Parish Center
 12 The Way of Roman Catholicism 7:30-9:30 p.m., Parish Center
 SL Joseph Religious Education Program 6:45-8:00 p.m., St. Joseph Grade School
 13 Seekers-Group I 10:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 Seekers-Group II 7:00-8:00 p.m., Parish Center
 15 The Way of Roman Catholicism (repeat of Jan. 12 session) 9:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 In-Depth Scripture Study 9:00 a.m., Parish Center
 16 Children's Program 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Parish Center
 Children's Liturgy 10:40-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 Adult Education 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., rectory
 Jr. High Discovery Night 6:30-8:00 p.m., Parish Center
 Sr. High Forum 6:30-8:30 p.m. 10 grade, Rectory
 11th & 12th grades, Church
 17 Reflection on Daily Scripture Readings 11:00-11:50 a.m., Church
 18 Scripture Study 9:00-10:00 a.m., Parish Center
 Young Adults 6:30 p.m., Rectory
 Reconciliation Preparation 7:30 p.m., Parish Center
 19 The Way of Roman Catholicism 6:30 (potluck)-9:00 p.m., Parish Center
 SL Joseph Religious Education Program 6:45-8:00 p.m., St. Joseph Grade School
 Parish Council 7:30 p.m., Parish Center

- 22 The Way of Roman Catholicism (repeat of Jan. 19 session) 9:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 In-Depth Scripture Study 9:00 a.m., Parish Center
 23 Children's Program 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Parish Center
 Children's Liturgy 10:40-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 Adult Education 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Rectory
 Jr. High Activity To be arranged and scheduled
 Sr. High Families 6:30-8:00 p.m., Homes of Couples
 24 Reflection on Daily Scripture Readings 11:00-11:50 a.m., Church
 O/S/W 7:00-10:00 p.m., Rectory
 25 Scripture Study 9:00-10:00 a.m., Parish Center
 Young Adults 6:30 p.m., Rectory
 Reconciliation Preparation 7:30 p.m., Parish Center
 26 The Way of Roman Catholicism 7:30-9:30 p.m., Parish Center
 27 Seekers-Group I 10:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 Seekers-Group II 7:00-8:00 p.m., Parish Center
 29 The Way of Roman Catholicism (repeat of Jan. 26 session) 9:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 In-Depth Scripture Study 9:00 a.m., Parish Center
 30 Jr. High Activity To be arranged and scheduled
 Sr. High Activity To be arranged and scheduled
 Over SO Club 6:30 p.m., Parish Center
 31 Reflection on Daily Scripture Readings 11:00-11:50 a.m., Church

FEB.

- 1 Scripture Study 9:00-10:00 a.m., Parish Center
 Young Adults 6:30 p.m., Rectory
 Reconciliation Preparation 7:30 p.m., Parish Center

- 2 St. Joseph Religious Education Program 6:45-8:00 p.m., St. Joseph Grade School
 5 In-Depth Scripture Study 9:00 a.m., Parish Center
 6 Children's Program 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Parish Center
 Children's Liturgy 10:40-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 Adult Education 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Rectory
 Jr. High Discovery Night 6:30-8:00 p.m. 7th & 8th grades, Parish Center
 9th grade, Rectory
 Sr. High Activity To be arranged and scheduled
 7 Reflection on Daily Scripture Readings 11:00-11:50 a.m., Church
 8 Reconciliation Preparation 7:30 p.m., Parish Center
 Young Adults 6:30 p.m., Rectory
 9 SL Joseph Religious Education Program 6:45-8:00 p.m., St. Joseph Grade School
 10 Seekers-Group I 10:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
 Seekers-Group II 7:00-8:00 p.m., Parish Center
 12 In-Depth Scripture Study 9:00 a.m., Parish Center
 13 Mardi Gras Parish Center
 14 Valentine's Day
 Reflection on Daily Scripture Readings 11:00-11:50 a.m., Church
 Baptism Preparation 7:00 p.m., Parish Center
 O/S/W 7:00 p.m., Rectory
 15 Scripture Study 9:00-10:00 a.m., Parish Center
 Young Adults 6:30 p.m., Rectory
 16 Ash Wednesday
 St. Joseph Religious Education Program 6:45-8:00 p.m., St. Joseph Grade School



Who Are You? What Do You Do?

by Sr. Rosemarie Tomlianovich

In the past four months I have heard these and other questions about my being a "pastoral associate." To all of you I offer some of my thoughts and convictions on the subject.

Who am I? I am a Peoria (Heading Avenue) Franciscan, gifted by God to engage in parish ministry at St. Patrick's. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to share with Fr. Hennessy, Fr. Kinder, Deacon Adams, a fine staff and countless others who truly show love for God as they worship him and serve their neighbors so wholeheartedly and joyfully. I am a religious, a pastoral associate, privileged to minister to and with adults after many good years of teaching grade- and high-school students.

What do I do? With God's strength I try to "be present to" and to affirm and support every person I meet. I especially hope to call forth in adults a greater desire to grow as they worship God and serve others. I believe that there is a great need for adult religious education and that in God's good time more persons will seek it. Presently I am helping with the parish catechumenate program. On Sunday morning after the masses and at coffee shop I share simple and profound realities with many persons. I attend weekly staff meetings and many other meetings, and I regularly visit men and women confined to

their homes, to hospitals and to nursing homes. Those who wish come to my office in the rectory for help or spiritual reflection and guidance. I lead a group in daily Scripture readings on Monday at 11:00 a.m. in the church. On the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, in the Parish Center at 10:30 a.m. we Seekers think and talk about such Vatican II ideas as contemplative prayer, freedom and accountability, conversion and God's word. It is a delight to witness the freeing that persons experience in the true, the good and the beautiful!

I try to "be present to" God as well-some time, of course, belongs entirely to him. At 7:00 a.m. or at noon, I celebrate mass with others who have come to share in this great Act of Thanksgiving: the Eucharist. At 8:30 a.m. I join other members of the staff in praying the Liturgy of the Hours (which we used to call the Divine Office). And I try to spend a half hour or so each day in quiet prayer. In all these daily acts I unite with others who worship, I thank the Lord, I ask for God's best gifts for all at St. Patrick's and the whole human family, and I seek reconciliation with God and others.

I am happy to be Sister Rosemarie Tomlianovich and to be the Pastoral Associate at St. Patrick's parish!

Guild Visits CCNH.

Shifting gears quickly from a successful Cellar-to-Garret Sale, St. Patrick's Guild offered members and parishioners a Day of Recollection on Nov. 6. Sr. Audrey Cleary, Benedictine from St. Mary's Priory, Nauvoo, gave a prayerful and informative program of religious exercises and discussion. Those who chose to attend this "Prayer-Journey Within" were well rewarded. Refreshments and lunch were provided and Msgr. Kinder shared the day with the Guild and offered final prayers.

The Guild provides various services for the Champaign County Nursing Home. For many years the women of the parish have visited the home twice a week. On Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. the rosary is recited with the Catholic residents, after which all residents receive cookie treats. Helen Godfrey, chairperson for cookie solicitation often has the opportunity to explain the project to newcomers in the parish or to others unaware of this program. On Fridays at 10:30 a.m., mass is offered in the multipurpose room. Priests of our parish commit themselves to this ministry once a month. Fr. Frank Wueller, Tolono, visits the home on the

maining Fridays to celebrate the Eucharist with the residents.

St. Patrick's women are in touch not only with parishioners who are residents at the CCNH, but also with other men and women who may not be visited regularly by relatives or friends.

Another commitment of the Guild is the work of the sacristan. From very early in its history the Guild assumed this responsibility and lists it as its number one priority. Weekly—usually on Friday—the sacristan and two assistants take care of the altars and sacristies in preparation for the weekend.

Continuing the theme for the year, THE WORLD AROUND US: Who We Are, From Whence We Came, the Dec. 6 meeting of the Guild will feature ethnic foods—cookies, candles and small sandwiches to name but a few.

Invitations were sent to all those who paid Guild dues in September. This meeting is open to all interested parishioners. In the spirit of the feast of St. Nicholas, those attending may also wish to bring wrapped gifts marked "woman," "boy," or "girl" which will be contributed to A Woman's Place. They will distribute these gifts before Hanukkah and Christmas.

Smith/Steerman To Wed



"St. Patrick's Parish—May I help you?"

If upon dialing the rectory you find the voice on the other end, most likely that of the parish secretary, sounding even more happy and cheerful than usual, it's probably due to her quickly approaching marriage. Nancy Smith, the bride-to-be, has been rectory secretary at St. Patrick's for the past five years.

Nancy Smith and Jerry Steerman will exchange vows on Saturday, January 8 at a 10:00 a.m. Mass celebrated by Fr. Hennessy; Fr. Dorsey and Deacon Rodger Adams. The theme of the liturgy which, according to Nancy focuses on "unity, family and caring," is Sing A New Song ... This is the Day that the Lord Has Made.

A reception/potluck in the Parish Center, hosted by the St. Patrick's Guild, will follow. Music for the first two hours will be provided by a German band, followed by St. Patrick's very own d.j.—Jeff Hatley.

According to Nancy and Jerry, all parishioners are invited to participate in their celebration. Nancy states; "We want everyone to share in our joy."

After spending a three-week honeymoon in the Hawaiian Islands, Nancy and Jerry will make their home, the proud parents of a combined total of 13 children, at 1507 Coler in Urbana.

For the past three years, Nancy and Jerry have been involved in ministry with the Divorced, Separated, Widowed Support Group, as well as participating in the Beginning Experience Program and Christ Renews His Parish. Nancy says their next step will be involvement in Engaged Couples or the Marriage Encounter Program. "We feel the need to share, to minister and to grow in our faith," she said.

Congratulations, Nancy and Jerry.

Children's Corner The Giver Of Gifts

December 6 is the feastday of St. Nicholas, who is also known as the giver of gifts. St. Nicholas lived a long time ago and grew up in a very rich family. His parents gave him the best of everything. Many people become selfish when they have so much and do not see that others need help. But that was not how St. Nicholas was. All his life he shared the blessings that God had given him. He felt that God wanted him to find and help needy people.

There was one story that people always told about St. Nicholas. Once there was a very poor man who had three daughters. The man was going to sell his daughters because he had no money to buy food for them. St. Nicholas heard about this and late at night threw a bag of coins into the man's house. He did this three times for each of the men's daughters. St. Nicholas liked to give presents in secret. He did this because he never expected anything in return—not even a thank you.

Ellen Paul



St. Nicholas

A father is someone who carries in his pocket where his money used to be.

"Every individual has a place to run in the world and it is important to respect whether he chooses to be, or not."

Medical Mission Carries On

Through the years, St. Patrick's Guild has generously assisted with missionary activities within the organization. In the fall of 1972, president Florence Chevalier gave the effort renewed emphasis by organizing the Medical Mission group.

Currently, five or six women meet for a sewing session once or twice a month in the Parish Center following the noon mass, to work until about 3:00 p.m.

The material goes to the New York office of the Catholic Medical Mission Board. That office forwards the items to missions in South America, Africa, Oceania, and south Asia.

Items needed for St. Patrick's women to continue this apostolic work are old sheets and similar materials (white and pastels) and men's shirts. Above all, workers are needed to make sheets into 10 ft. bandages. This phase of the work is done at home. Then, at the parish center, workers are needed to roll bandages at the meetings. Additionally, those who sew must transform men's shirts into hospital gowns; other parishioners might help to collect soap and other medical supplies.

Florence Chevalier, chairperson (367-5548), will be happy to hear from anyone with inquiries about the work, or anyone wishing to join the group. It's an opportunity to meet old friends or to make new ones.

"Belonging of heaven" rather than of this earth presupposes that we choose to serve on the relief squad instead of the leisure-time committee."

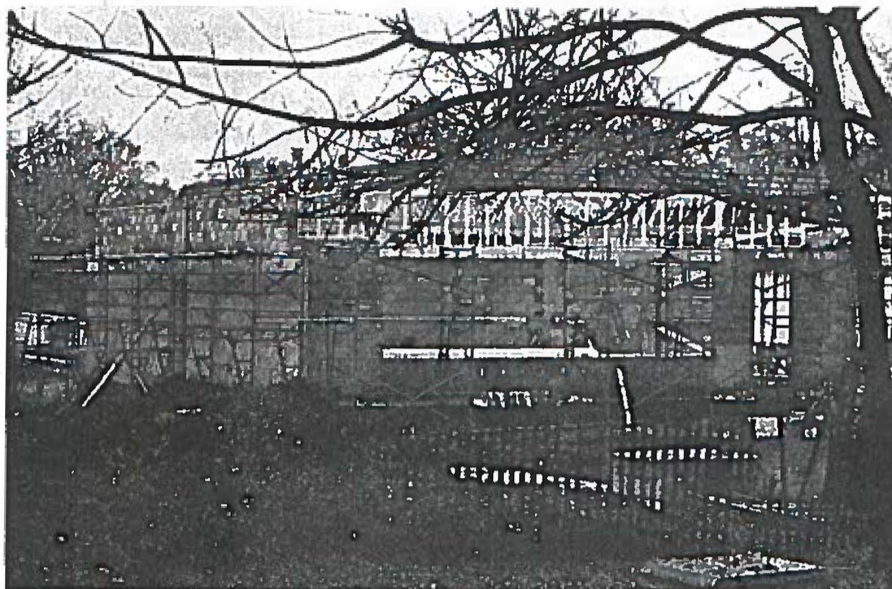
Evelyn, *That Man Is You*

Since YOU Asked

Q: Whatever happened to St. Philomena and St. Christopher and some of those other saints? Aren't they saints anymore?

A: Some Catholics thought that the Church disowned some of its saints in recent years when they were dropped from the liturgical calendar. Such is not the case, however. According to the Vatican weekly, *L'Osservatore Della Domenica*, the removal of a name from the liturgical calendar was not meant to suggest the non-existence of a saint or a lack of holiness. Many were removed simply because all that remains certain about them is their names. Other saints' feasts were removed because these lacked universal significance. In the 1969 reorganization of the liturgical calendar, the Church did not rule on the legitimacy of a saint's claim to sainthood; it simply moved the names of a few of the thousands of saints from the calendar, not from sainthood.

Questions concerning church teachings will be answered by phone (367-2665) or by mail. Because space is limited and only brief answers to one or two questions can be printed in a single issue of this newspaper, please include your return address when you send in your questions. These should be addressed to: SINCE YOU ASKED, St. Patrick's Parish, Box A, Urbana, IL 61801.



Pastoral Ministry Wing Ahead of Schedule

Almost perfect fall weather coupled with excellent coordination of work by the contractor, Dean Evans, have given the builders of the addition to the Parish Center about one month's headstart on winter.

Timothy Kerestes is the site architect for Isaksen and Matzdorff, who are overseeing the construction of the Pastoral Ministry wing. He credits several fortunate circumstances for the outstanding progress being made to date—the weather, fine management, availability of workers and supplies, the desire of contractor and subcontractors to keep as many men at work as possible, and the workers' own interest in the job.

Watching the work progress has

"Freely You Have Received, Freely Give"

The Stewardship Task Force was formed to make people aware of their responsibilities toward God and his church in matters of time and talent. These gifts are freely given by God to each of us. The bible tells us, in Matthew 10:8, "Freely you have received, freely give." Our money is needed weekly to continue God's work at St. Patrick's. Yet money is but one part of stewardship—sometimes time and talent may be even more important. It is the prayer of each task-force member that the Holy Spirit inspire all with the desire to share abilities and talents in a truly Christian manner. "Everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required." Luke 12:48

We hope everyone has read the pamphlet "Stewardship and You," which was mailed to all parishioners this fall. In a simple but effective way it outlines the meaning of stewardship. We also thank everyone who filled out and returned the pledge and activity cards. Of the cards returned, 118 were financial pledges and 149 were for activities. If the group or committee in which you expressed interest has not yet contacted you, be assured that they will do so soon.

The Stewardship Task Force meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Everyone is welcome to come and participate, to offer comments and ideas.

Bill Sanford, Chairman

"The door to happiness opens outward."

Soren Kierkegaard

been a revelation to those observing from rectory windows. Daily there may be as many as eight different subcontractors on hand to install masonry, plumbing, wiring, heating ducts, and the like, plus various suppliers, for an average of ten to fifteen men at work. The whole project has its own special upward thrust when the news of employment is so often gloomy.

It's also engaging to daydream about the people who will serve and be served in that new space being built with so much enthusiasm. It was good to hear Tim Kerestes, a parishioner, say this is a job where it gets late too early because what's going on doesn't seem like work.

Project Succeeds

The need was there, the dubious hope was there—and members of the St. Vincent De Paul Society were there, too. There to deliver many baskets of Thanksgiving food for hungry people, and to brighten, at least for a day, some otherwise dreary lives.

**\$1,690 was donated.
128 families feel.**

Thanks to its open-hearted parishioners and the nonstop work of St. Vincent de Paul members, St. Patrick's was again able to provide all the makings for traditional holiday dinners, this time for about 100 families. The total was more than last year's 84, but no matter the number, members of the Society were happy to be able to serve so many in this time of tightened budgets. Speaking for the members, Sophia Zeigler as president extends thanks to all who contributed in any way to this Thanksgiving success story.

Sign on a Warsaw ghetto wall:

I believe in the sun, even if it does not shine.
I believe in love, even if I do not feel it.
I believe in God, even if I do not see him.

Winter Emergency Shelter To Open

For several years Champaign-Urbana churches have cooperated in providing overnight shelter for men during the winter. The Shelter, located in the basement of McKinley Church (809 S. Fifth, C.), will open this year on December 20, two weeks earlier than in previous years. From 9:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. guests will find protection from the elements, coats and blankets, a supper of hot soup, and a simple breakfast. The facilities, food, and supervision are donated so that no fee must be charged those who come. (St. Patrick's own St. Vincent de Paul Society provides the nourishing soup.)

Volunteers are needed to staff the Shelter each night. Teams of three will welcome, serve, and supervise

the 8-15 guests—the man-of-the-street, the stranded traveler, anyone who comes for food and shelter for the night. Couples are encouraged to volunteer so that teams of two men and a woman can be formed, enabling women to participate this year.

December 20 may seem far off just now, but volunteers for staffing the shelter come forward now so that orientation meetings can be held and a schedule prepared. Individual preferences for specific nights will be taken into consideration in planning the schedule. If you would like to share in this rewarding service of love by offering to help one night a month, call St. Patrick's rectory (367-2665) or Roger Adams (328-3980).

St. Patrick's Parish

In focus is published four times yearly by and for members of St. Patrick's Parish, Urbana, Illinois. Suggestions and comments are welcomed, but no anonymous material will be used.

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