

Scripture Scholar Challenges Local Community

Father Bill Thompson, S.J.; of Loyola University, Chicago, brought his scriptural background, expertise, and experience as an international lecturer to St. Patrick's to illuminate the issue of *Holy Orders in a Time of Transition*. His presentation on January 28th was the first in a series of lectures on the sacraments sponsored by the Area Coordinators of Religious Education (A.C.R.E.)

Since his ordination in 1961 and his subsequent doctoral study in Rome, he has become aware of a serious conflict of values within the church. This conflict is a result of the drastic reduction in the number of priests and seminarians. Fr. Thompson noted that only 11 priests will be ordained in the whole Archdiocese of Chicago this year.

Our Diocesan Chancellor Fr. Meyers states that in 1970 there were 372 active priests. In 1982 there are 297. "This situation also exists," says Fr. Thompson, "in other parts of the world." In Indonesia, for example, a parish of 14 villages may be served by one priest with a deacon or catechist in each village. The people may see a priest only once a month.

Fr. Thompson defined the conflict with the following question: "Will the institutional church watch the Eucharist in its fullness become less and less available to her faithful throughout the world so as to preserve the ordained priesthood for celibate males?" He was very clear that "This is a crucial question for the church and will become increasingly crucial. What's going to happen in this conflict of values? Only time will tell and we will be part of the process."

Fr. Thompson offered what he thought were three different ways of looking at this conflict of values •

- 1) The church and its present ministerial organization as a divinely inspired blueprint from God: unchangeable.
- 2) An erector set mentality that would have us forget the past and create whatever forms of ministry would be needed dictated by today's needs and points of view.
- 3) A family heritage dialogue that would have us look at both the present needs and past "treasures."

Endorsing the third way as the one he espouses, Fr. Thompson continued by saying that now is the time to decide which family treasures should stay in the living room; which should be stored in the attic; which should be dusted off and reused after years of storage; finally, what "new furniture" needs to be bought (i.e. women's ordination, new orders of ministry). "Whatever we decide," he said, "we should take care to listen to all of our church family and not ram quick changes in practice down anyone's throat."

As a scripture scholar, Fr. Thompson offered some observations for our reflection:

- 1) There is no title of priest mentioned in the New Testament, except for Christ's High Priesthood in Hebrews.
- 2) There are many kinds of ministry that are mentioned in the New Testament. Among them are:
 - "Apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers" (Ephesian 4:11)
 - "Apostles, prophets, teachers, powers, charisms of healings, helpings, governings, kinds of tongues" (1 Corinthians 12:28)

• "Various charisms, prophecy, ministry, the one who teaches, the one who encourages, the one who has mercy" (Romans 12:6-8)

We do not know if these are designed "offices" or merely description of what was going on in any particular community.

3) One important category of New Testament reference to ministry centers on the quality of performance or the way to fulfill one's responsibility. These qualities seem to cluster around the image of Jesus. This "person seeks to evoke the best from people rather than exercise power over them."

Another important category of New Testament references centers on the relationship between the work of a responsible christian person - minister of Christ. The officers serve the mission of the church. Father reflected that the Resurrection accounts show the felt presence of the risen lord and a response to go out in mission ("go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations" Matthew 28:19).

A final category of references centers on warnings not to seek power, honor, titles. Father Thompson challenges us when he says, "I suggest then, that as we listen to God's word today in relationship to the conflict of values we are experiencing; we are to continue the trends implied in these references and make them applicable to today's problem. For the New Testament the questions are not "Are there priests in the New Testament... Are there bishops... Can women be ordained... How essential are elders?"

The New Testament questions are: "What kind of virtues should a person with church responsibility possess... How should ministry reflect the general ministry and the mission of Christ and the church... How can he or she avoid focusing attention or authority, wealth, power, and other trivia? Its concerns are not organizational but truth centered and value centered."

Gary Laumann
Religious Education Director

Eucharistic Ministers Are Needed

Eucharistic ministers are a sufficiently familiar sight on the altar at Sunday services that few people realize how many are needed to perform this vital function now that priests are in short supply.

One gets an idea of the need in realizing that seven ministers serve at each 5 / M. 9, and 10:10 AM mass and three each at 7:10, 10:40 (children's liturgy) and 12 noon. Each person is scheduled to serve about twice monthly; in addition substitutes are needed to replace those who are ill or away.

Presently about seventy persons serve in the program but more are needed, particularly to staff the 5 PM mass on Saturdays, the children's liturgy at 10:10 AM, and the noon mass on Sundays. In addition, our Eucharistic ministry to Circle Hospital can always use more volunteers to take the sacrament to the sick on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Helene Kacich (344-6760) is responsible for staffing the ministry; Anne Britsky (367-0154) schedules the teams to go to the hospital. Phone either if you would like to get into this satisfying program.

Twelve new volunteers became ministers in November after brief orientations by the chairpersons and an inspirational talk by Father Hennessy on the spiritual role of Eucharistic ministers. These are Dale Ainsworth, Anne Auten, Ruth Bowman, Phil Brown, Mary Frances and Jonathan Miller, Margie Palmisano, Karen Przybylski, James Shaw and Steve Vollmer.

At the recommendation of the Worship and Prayer Committee, commitments were sent to our Eucharistic minister in January. Now all are asked to plan to attend the next meeting of the ministers when an announcement appears in the Sunday bulletin. Apparently there was some misunderstanding when the last meeting occurred. Many of the "old timers" did not attend, in a sense defeating the purpose of the gathering, that is to make sure ministers have a common understanding of their roles at church, hospital, and to get acquainted and share ideas with others.

Mardi Gras Committee Plans Gala

St. Patrick's Parish Mardi Gras, one of the main social events of the year, will be held Sunday, Feb. 21, at the parish center.

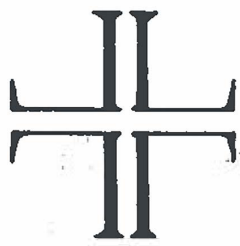
This year's Mardi Gras, the fourth annual pre-Lenten celebration, promises to continue a tradition of fun, food, games, entertainment and surprises that is hard to match anywhere - including the famous festivities in New Orleans.

Several parish organizations have helped to organize the event, and many individuals and businesses have contributed time and goods to the Mardi Gras.

The celebration, starting at 2 P.M., will feature game rooms for adults and children, artists, the Sweet Shoppe, the renowned Cafe New Orleans (with a salad bar, sandwiches, beverages, sundaes, popcorn and bagels) and a talent show with some of the biggest (and littlest) names in local entertainment. "We've got a tough act to follow," said Mardi Gras co-chairperson Margie Palmisano, "but we think we can provide just as much fun this year as we did in 1981."

Carol Bosley, the other co-chairperson, noted that planning for the event has been going on for some time and promised that this year's celebration will include some very special surprises that no one will want to miss.

This year's Mardi Gras also will feature a giant record fest in the evening, with songs from the 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s, so that all age groups can display their fancy footwork.



Carol Bosley, co-chairperson of this year's Mardi Gras, informs the members of the most festive details necessary to enjoy this popular St. Patrick's tradition.

Urbana, Illinois
February, 1982
Vol. 1, No. 3

Council OK's Parish Newspaper

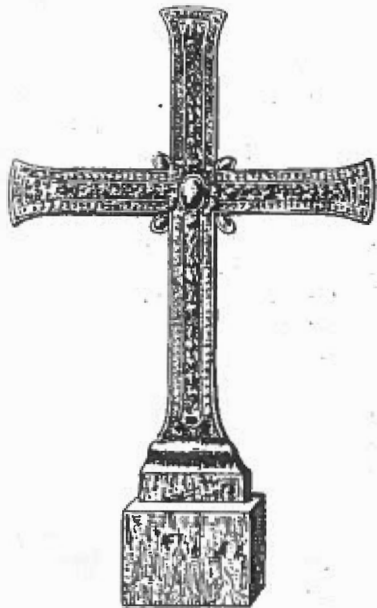
Four issues of the newspaper, which appeared on a pilot basis last fall, have been approved for fiscal '82-'83 budgeting by the Parish Council. As planned now, the presently unnamed paper will appear as an eight-page issue in late August and mid-February, followed by four-page issues... Karen Suever is the editor, Frank Nasca the associate editor. Incidentally, parishioners' suggestions for name and logo will be welcomed.

The newsletter will continue publication, appearing probably in six issues timed to amplify coverage provided by the weekly bulletins and the newspaper. Helen Barrymore will continue as editor.

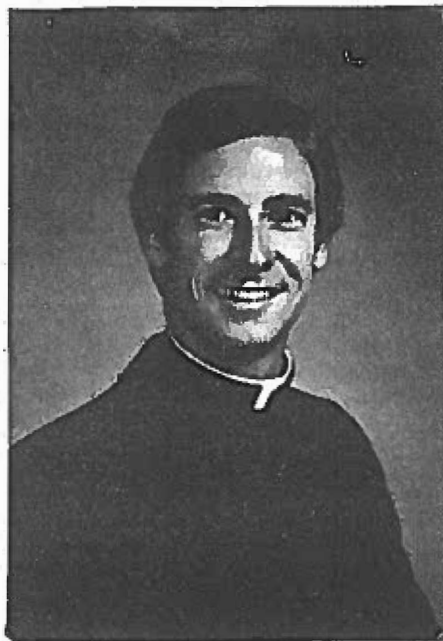
Recommendations for this change in communication policy were made by an ad hoc committee called by the council and composed of all the persons who volunteered to help with publicity last fall during the stewardship drive. Since making their recommendations to the council, the ad hoc committee has been reconstituted and will now serve regularly as the Publicity Committee. Members share responsibility for performing all editorial duties the editors and the associate editor can delegate to them, as well as the more mundane tasks of running errands, folding, labeling, and mailing the paper.

The Publicity Committee elected, Frank Nasca, its chairperson, Members are: Helen Barrymore, Ruth Bowman, Jeff Hately, Carolyn McElrath, Mary Lou Menches, Ellen Paul, Judi Rafaloski, Karen Suever, and Amy Vollmer.

The publications staff will welcome parishioners' contributions to both the newsletter and the newspaper.



St. Patrick's Guild Sponsors Day of Recollection



Father Terrance O'Brien of Holy Cross Church and St. Patrick's Guild sponsored the annual Day of Recollection during the month of November.

They came into the parish center that bitterly cold, windy, icy Saturday morning for the annual Day of Recollection sponsored by St. Patrick's Guild, - 67 sturdy souls, intent on a spiritual journey that would fulfill their every expectation.

Father Terrance O'Brien of Holy Cross Church began his first conference with the official prayer of the church: "Morning Praise," dividing the audience into two groups for recitation of the psalms. The topic, "The Crazy Master and His Dismal House: Reflections on the Insanity of Faith," had piqued curiosity, and it was obvious that it was a tongue-in-cheek title.

In the first few minutes of his presentation, Father moved into the world-shattering event of the birth of Christ and proved unmistakably that the seasonal celebration of nostalgia, down the ages, has drained Christmas of its real meaning. The sentimentality of "the little infant," "the adorable child," "the baby in the straw," carols, lullabies, angels... cry out in protest. Edna St. Vincent Millay's sonnet, "To Jesus on His Birthday," is pertinent to the topic.

For this your mother sweated in the cold,
For this you bled upon the bitter tree:
A yard of tinsel ribbon bought and sold;
A paper wreath; a day at home for me:
The merry bells ring out, the people kneel;
Up goes the man of God before the crowd;
With voice of honey and with eyes of steel
He drones your humble gospel to the proud.
Nobody listens. Less than the wind that blows
Are all your words to us you died to save.
O Prince of Peace! O Sharon's dewy rose!
How mule you lie within your vaulted grave.
The stone the angel rolled away with tears
Is back upon your mouth these thousand years.

The second conference dealt with God in the New Testament parables. The story of the good Samaritan proved to be a perfect vehicle to explain Jesus as the symbol maker for the kingdom. Father Terrance took the story apart, scene by scene, character by character, and made his points clear.

Christ's life was further unfolded through the use of TV screen, cassette and a recorder. Clips from the film "Jesus of Nazareth" were shown as the narrative progressed to the crucifixion.

Meantime, the aroma of fried chicken from the kitchen invited all to lunch, and everyone "fell to" with hearty appetite as it earned a long lime since the treat of the coffee social following the preceding Conference I.

Returning to the podium and to his audience, Father began Conference III with "Evening Praise," and then the closing dips of the film. A quiet moment; no applause was needed, but it came regardless. All 67 were enthusiastic over the fine conferences developed by a talented young priest.

The guild reached the high point of the year with its program that Jan. 23 "The World of the Spiritual" is a legitimate concern, as one looks at THE WORLD AROUND US (theme for the year). The world around us is surely important. No one can be helpful to neighbor without having resources and inner strengths to understand and deal with problems and concerns of everyday life.

The officers thank the women of Holy Cross parish for their generous support of the Day of Recollection. There were as many Holy Cross parishioners as there were St. Patrick's people in the group. St. Matthew's and St. Mary's were also represented. Sincere thanks to all who helped with arrangements. Beth Anderson, Connie Knake, Helen Morgan and Lenore Nagele hosted the social hour. Barbara Peckham ordered the chicken and coleslaw. Sweets came from several loyal supporters. Special thanks to a who stayed to clean up the kitchen!

Notes From The Society Of St. Vincent de Paul

Now that the holidays are over, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has resumed its normal winter pattern, a busy one. Members of the society have responded to an average of more than one call per day since Christmas. These calls, mainly for food, transportation, and lodging, are often referred from the rectory to a member of the society. Because of the generosity of parishioners, most of the local calls for help have been met.

Several members of the society make soup regularly for the Catholic Worker House as well as the Winter Emergency Shelter. (Incidentally, the society is in great need of two quart to one gallon plastic containers with lids in order to transport the soups they make.)

The Winter Emergency Shelter provides emergency shelter to local homeless men and transients during the coldest months Jan. through March. Society members prepare almost 20 gallons of soup weekly. The food is prepared at the parish center, and is later distributed to either the Worker House or the Winter Shelter by volunteers. The society is grateful for support given this part of the program by Dave's Country Market and Strawberry Fields. Their generous contributions of vegetables and produce make it possible for this help to be given to the needy people.

Over the last several months the society has developed an international flavor by being blessed with new members from Columbia, S.A., and Australia. The two men have been visiting the university in pursuit of their studies. One major difference between the society in

Columbia and ours is the composition of its membership. There the majority of members are very young people who look after the needs of the poor, the handicapped, and the elderly. Activities of the society in Columbia appear to provide challenging outlets for youth groups.

A recent letter from our "twin" society at St. Patrick's Church, Kingston, Jamaica, described their activities. They developed a self-help program for the needy in their parish using our modest contribution of \$50 per quarter to help sustain that effort.

Peoria will be the site of an eight-state annual regional conference of St. Vincent de Paul scheduled for next summer. We at St. Patrick's have been asked to assist the Peoria society to prepare the conference program. More information about that meeting will be released later.

Persons interested in learning more about the local group may phone Dick Baker (344-25394), or Sophia Zeigler (328-2671). According to Dick Baker the local society's definition is - happiness is when the poor box in the vestibule of the church is opened and we see your contributions for the poor.

Among the 17 present active members are our two from overseas: Basil Sheahan from Australia, and Hernan Serrano from Columbia as well as three new members, Karen and Rick Gammache and Loretta Lafave. New members are more than welcome - we need them.



EAT THIS BREAD
DRINK THIS CUP

Easter

Easter Sunday, April 11



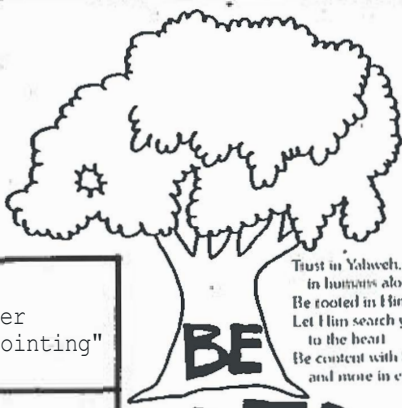
Sunrise Service - 5:15 a.m.

EACH DAY THE LORD
GIVES LIFE AND LOVE
EACH DAY A NEW
BEGINNING
EACH DAY A
STEP FORWARD



HOLY WEEK

April 7 Seder Supper 6:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer - 7 a.m. Holy Thursday, April 8 Service - 7:30 p.m.	April 10 Holy Saturday, April 10 Morning Prayer - 8:00 a.m. Easter Vigil - 7:30 p.m.	March 31 Evening Prayer, Meager Meal & Lenten Programs* 6:00 p.m.
April 6 Communal Penance Service 7:30 p.m.	Service - 7:30 p.m. Stations - 3:00 p.m. Good Friday, April 9 Morning Prayer - 7 a.m.	April 2 Stations & Benediction 7:30 p.m.	March 20 March 29
April 5 Passion Sunday, April 4	April 3	April 1	March 28 Fifth Sunday of Lent



Trust in Yahweh, not
in humans alone
Be rooted in Him
Let Him search you
to the heart
Be content with less here,
and more in eternity

BE
ROOTED
IN HIM

March 7 BEHOLD I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS	March 8 Fr. Ken Czillinger "Sacrament of Anointing" 7:30 p.m.	March 9	March 27 Women's Christ Renews His Parish Weekend
March 6 Men's Christ Renews His Parish Weekend	March 10 Evening Prayer, Meager Meal & Lenten Programs* 6:00 p.m.	Thursdny, March 11	March 26 Stations & Benediction 7:10 p.m.
March 5 Stations & Benediction 7:30 p.m.	March 4 Evening Prayer, Meager Meal & Lenten Programs* 6:00 p.m.	March 12 Stations & Benediction 7:30 a.m.	March 25 March 24 Evening Prayer, Meager Meal & Lenten Programs* 6:00 p.m.
March 3 Evening Prayer, Meager Meal & Lenten Programs* 6:00 p.m.	March 2 March 1	March 13 St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance 7 p.m.	March 23 Monday, March 22 Or. Bob Ludwig "Christian Marriage" 7:30 p.m.
February 27 Friday, February 26 Isaiah 58:1-9 Stations & Benediction 7:30 p.m.	First Sunday of Lent, February 28 "TURN AWAY FROM YOUR SINS AND BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS"	March 15 Tuesday, March 16 Today's Gospel challenges us to forgive one another from the heart Matthew 18:21-35	Fourth Sunday of Lent March 21 COME OUT TO THE GRASS! Sacrament of the Sick Anointing Service - 3 p.m.
February 25 Folk Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday, February 24	March 17 Evening Prayer, Meager Meal & Lenten Programs* 6:00 p.m.	March 20 March 19 Stations & Benediction 7:30 p.m.

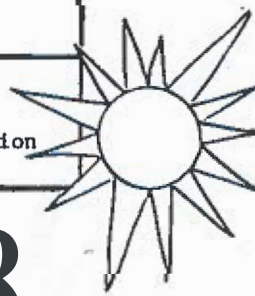
FOLLOW
GOD WHOLEHEARTEDLY
Daniel 1:25, 34-45



Ashes...

Turn to me with fasting and weeping and mourning.
Let your heart show your sorrow: tearing your clothes
is not enough. Come back to the Lord your God.
Joel 2:12-14

LENT 198



... Wednesday Evening Lenten Programs:

- First Communion Preparation (7:00-8:15 p.m.) --Choir practice (7:30 p.m. in the Church)
- Entering the way of Roman Catholicism - An Adult Catechumenate for those wishing to join the Catholic Church
- "Living Simply" - A Program that challenges us to look at our current lifestyles in light of Gospel values. For 12 years old-6th grad. Jr. & Sr. High, adults (a nursery will be provided).

New Approach To Sacrament Of The Sick Will Be Presented

Until recently the "last sacrament" was generally regarded as the exclusive domain of the dying; now that concept is fading as modern practice emphasizes its original intent. This was to hasten the recovery of the sick and to buoy up those who suffered chronic illnesses, as well as to assist the dying. No longer known as Extreme Unction, the sacrament is now titled Anointing of the Sick. New is the special rite in which ambulatory persons who can travel to church receive the sacrament in a group. The traditional administration at home or hospital continues.

In the interest of sharing knowledge about the changed approach to this misunderstood sacrament, St. Patrick's will offer a lecture on Monday, March 8, by Father Ken Czillinger in the parish center at 7:30 PM. Then, at 3 PM on Sunday, March 21 a film history of the sacrament will be shown, to be followed by administration of the sacrament to all parishioners who have reason to receive it.

Dinner Dance Planned

Plans are currently underway for the traditional St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance to be held Sat., March 13 at the parish center.

The "Coffee Shop Gang," planners of the annual event, will be serving the traditional menu of corned beef & cabbage, potatoes, green peas, and tossed salad. Set-ups will also be provided.

Dancing will be from 8:30-11:30 with the music being provided by The Variations.

A sellout crowd is anticipated, so watch the Sunday bulletin for details and ticket information.



Left: Lori Hill, recently widowed, and her husband, Tom Hill, in 1982. Right: Lori Hill, recently widowed, and her husband, Tom Hill, in 1982. Lori Hill, recently widowed, and her husband, Tom Hill, in 1982. Lori Hill, recently widowed, and her husband, Tom Hill, in 1982.

'Program' Provides Positive Support

"You are esteemed members of the Church. Esteemed especially because you carry what is the Lord's gift to his friends - a cross. Esteemed because, while your situation has deprived you of being a living, wedded sign of Christ's union with his church, your faithfulness to the teachings of Christ in your new state is a powerful witness of commitment to Jesus. Please God that, as you experience the hurt of a family divided, you also will experience a new sense of a larger caring family - your church, - and you will help that family in understanding and reaching out and supporting those who share your experience."

This address was given to a group of Catholics preparing to celebrate a liturgy by Bishop Edward A. McCarthy, Archbishop of Miami. It is because of the caring and openness of such clergy that the Divorced/Separated/Widowed Support Group as developed at St. Patrick's Parish. It was the result of a 'brainstorming' effort by the staff to develop a program for human development in an area of great need.

Early in 1979, Jenifer Mundy and Nancy Smith, together with Gary Laumann, were invited to discuss the need and probability of acceptance of such a program within this parish. Nancy recalls ... "We remember what it was like for us," - going through such pain alone, "...and how good it felt to find someone who understood and could identify with our feelings," - of loneliness, resentment, guilt, etc., "...because they had been there."

The group began in the Spring of 1979. Attendance was small, only seven

people, but has grown to a mailing list of over 40 members and community organizations. The need was real. Thus, the effort continues, to reach out, to share and to support those who are hurting. These goals are accomplished through communication. The DISIW publishes a six-page newsletter four times a year entitled CHRYSALIS. Articles include materials from the NACSDC'S (North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics) publication DIVORCE, such as a section called Person to Person written by D/S/W members, information on retreats with the Beginning Experience, various workshops conducted by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, poetry, and topics for discussion at the DISIW meetings.

The group meets on the second and fourth Monday of every month at 7:00 P.M. in the rectory. The responsibility of facilitating the meetings and leading the discussions is shared on a voluntary rotation basis by members of the group. Fr. Hennessy maintains spiritual support by attending as many of the meetings and activities as possible. He also celebrates a liturgy of the Eucharist with the group at least twice a year. (The DISIW Support Group has encouraged and achieved attendance on a nondenominational basis.)

There may still be people today who are confused or misinformed about the church's position on divorce. Divorced people have every right to receive the Eucharist, to practice their religion and be proud of being Catholics.

It is necessary, "while in darkness, to know that there is a light somewhere. To know that in oneself, waiting to be found, there is a light.

-James Baldwin My life can help.

Nine New Lectors Commissioned

St. Patrick's Parish is fortunate to have several men and women join a rotating roster of lectors at the Saturday and Sunday masses in recent months.

After a training session in October, the following persons became lectors: Howard Anderson, Gerry Barrett, Diane DiVall, Mary Frances and John Miller, Peter Stubbs, Martha Trescott, and Amy and Steve Vollmer.

A new training session for others interested in becoming lectors has tentatively been set for sometime in April. Lectors are especially needed at the 5 PM Saturday and 7:30 AM Sunday masses.

Lectoring requires no exceptional verbal skills. Only a commitment to proclaim the Lord's word in a sacred and spiritually fulfilling manner. It is one of the most important lay ministries in the church, established by the bishops at Vatican II.

Pope Paul VI stressed the importance of the ministry by saying, "The reader, although a layman, has his own proper function in the Eucharistic celebration, which he himself should perform even when ministers of a higher rank are present."

Lectoring - the presentation of God's love for us through the Scriptures - is an enormously significant role in the church for it allows us to pass on God's word to the entire parish community.

Anyone interested in becoming a lector is asked to phone Tom Kadach at 344-6760.



Parish Council Committees Have Busy Schedules

Worship and Prayer. Connie Shaw is the Parish Council's liaison to the Worship and Prayer Committee, which is chaired by Lori Hatley. The committee coordinates the activities of the ledors, servers, Eucharistic ministers, the music, liturgical arts and other aspects of the liturgy. Easter and Christmas are particularly important special celebrations.

Although the function of the committee is not rigidly spelled out, it offers support to all liturgical programs and is looking into implementing some new kinds of worship activities. The committee seeks new ideas and volunteers. Please call Connie (384-1191) or Lori (328-5894) in the evening, or the rectory during the day, if you are interested.

Education. According to Pat Lawhorn, the Parish Council's liaison to the Education Committee, this group keeps an eye on the ongoing programs and participates in developing new ones. Cheryl Black is chairperson.

This past year they have had a task force functioning to evaluate programs such as baptism and confirmation preparation classes. The committee feels that such evaluations are essential to the committee's function in maintaining and improving their programs. These also include bringing in outside speakers and coordinating some of the programs and masses at St. Joseph. Budget considerations will take priority for a while but soon the committee will resume its diligent evaluation and self-improvement efforts.

Revenue. The Revenue Committee, chaired by Ed Bubnys, has the responsibility of overseeing the intake of funds into the parish. However, its influence extends far beyond those bounds. The committee reports to the parish where the money goes and also assesses the resources available to St. Patrick's, both cash and human resources.

Out of this committee's recommendations the stewardship program, launched last fall, had its origin. According to John Foster, the Parish Council's liaison to the Revenue Committee, people might think the committee is concerned only with fund raising and other "dry" programs. On the contrary, the committee involves "lapping the resources of the parish community" and Foster believes that people are a much more essential resource than money.

"Some people feel helpless and powerless in our society, as if nothing they do or say could possibly change anything," says Foster, "but I believe that even one person on one committee can make a difference. Someone with no money, or

limited experience, can join our committee or any committee here at St. Patrick's and be able to see the fruits of his or her labor."

Finance. The Finance Committee is chaired by Bill Subick and has Ray Alane, a veteran of many years with the committee, as its liaison to the Parish Council. The committee's main function is essential to the running of all programs at St. Patrick's. As each committee comes up with its projected budget and details of forthcoming programs, the Parish Council then coordinates the projected programs and adds a dimension of perspective to the direction and priorities of the parish.

The Finance Committee plays a vital role in assembling the pieces of the financial skeletons which each committee has presented. It assures the fiscal validity and evaluates long term implications of proposed programs. It also continues to reassess these programs throughout the course of the year and lets various committees know where they stand financially.

Social Action. Deacon Rodger Adams heads the Social Action Committee. He states that this parish is involved in many areas of community service. It provides the Men's Winter Emergency Shelter with several volunteers as well as financial support. Parishioners also prepare soup for evening meals at the shelter.

The committee maintains membership in the Council on Congregations, a lay interfaith group in Champaign-Urbana which provides funds for distribution through an agency or Family Service.

Another council program needs volunteers to provide services to families of hospitalized patients. Temporary housing, transportation, and friendly visiting are the primary needs at present. Please phone the rectory if you would like to help with any of these programs.

Social. Nancy Riddle is both the Parish Council's liaison and chairperson of the Social Committee. This committee has been dormant for a few years but now is enjoying its rebirth. It functions by coordinating parish-wide social activities and works closely with the Religious Education Department in planning family activities.

Other projects it has had a hand in organizing have been the parish picnic, the 60s dance, Mardi Gras, and brunches after holiday masses.

Nancy is seeking especially new committee members who would be willing to help welcome newcomers to St. Patrick's. Call her at 384-8972 if you would like to serve.

Community Services Help And Need Us

Champaign County Blood Bank. According to Ann DesMarais, Public Relations Assistant for the Blood Bank, St. Patrick's parishioners have been donating blood regularly since Aug, 1979. At present there are about 44 donors active in the program. Mary C (Mrs. Charles V.) Miller is recruiter for this donor group, 94. Because of the contributions this group makes, members of the parish are eligible to receive blood when they need it at no cost.

Ms. DesMarais reports that there are 37 church groups participating in the donor program, most of whom go in groups of 10 or 20 persons one day a month.

Healthy adults between the ages of 17 and 65 may give blood every 56 days, or about five times a year. Some illnesses or medications may make a person ineligible to give blood. For this reason interested but uncertain persons may phone the Blood Bank before going there to be sure they are eligible to be donors. The Blood Bank phone number is 367-2202. Mary C. Miller's is 344-4537.

East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging sponsors *Peace Meals*, balanced congregate meals for older persons, which are served on week days at six locations in the county. In Urbana these meals are offered at noon at the First Methodist Church near Lincoln Square. Persons who participate in these friendly affairs make reservations 24 hours ahead, and, if they wish, they also arrange to be called for and transported to the site.

Eight parishioners drive for *Peace Meals* one day a month - Helen Godfrey, Ch., Jim Fleming, Ruth Jacobs, Lucille Moore, Leslie Rysath, and Sophia Ziegler. Usually drivers call for their riders at 11:45 AM and return for them at 1 PM.

Participants who can do so make a modest contribution to help defray the cost of the program, but more important is the companionship and pleasure of sharing a hot meal in different surroundings.

The coordinator of the *Peace Meal* program in this county is Barbara Seagren (469-2754). Call her if you would like to either share the meals or become a driver. Helen Godfrey (367-2796) can provide more information.

Telecare, a division of Family Service of Champaign County, offers *Meals on Wheels* providing hot noon meals to subscribers to this moderately priced service. It is welcome as a short term solution to meal preparation problems to recently hospitalized persons, and is just as popular among chronic invalids and those who live alone or can't always get out.

Teams of two volunteers carry the hot food to homes of subscribers, usually working from 11 AM to 1 PM. One person drives (personal car) while the other carries the trays to the persons being served. Each route involves carrying about 20 meals, 15 or more stops. Volunteers (who are exceptionally devoted to their service for its personal rewards) usually work every one or two weeks, while others serve as on-call help. Frequently volunteers elect to serve one month trial periods before taking in a longer term obligation. Call Telecare (384-5097) if you wish to receive or provide this service.

Driver Escorts is another Telecare service. Among the activities involved under this heading is a weekly driving/grocery shopping service for persons unable to do their own marketing. Volunteer drivers pick up grocery lists, do the shopping, and return change and charge for the service but those who use it are asked to have necessary funds ready in advance. We don't know if any of our parishioners either use or provide this service now, but we do know that the drivers are urgently needed. Call Telecare (384-5097) if you would like to register for the service or become a driver.

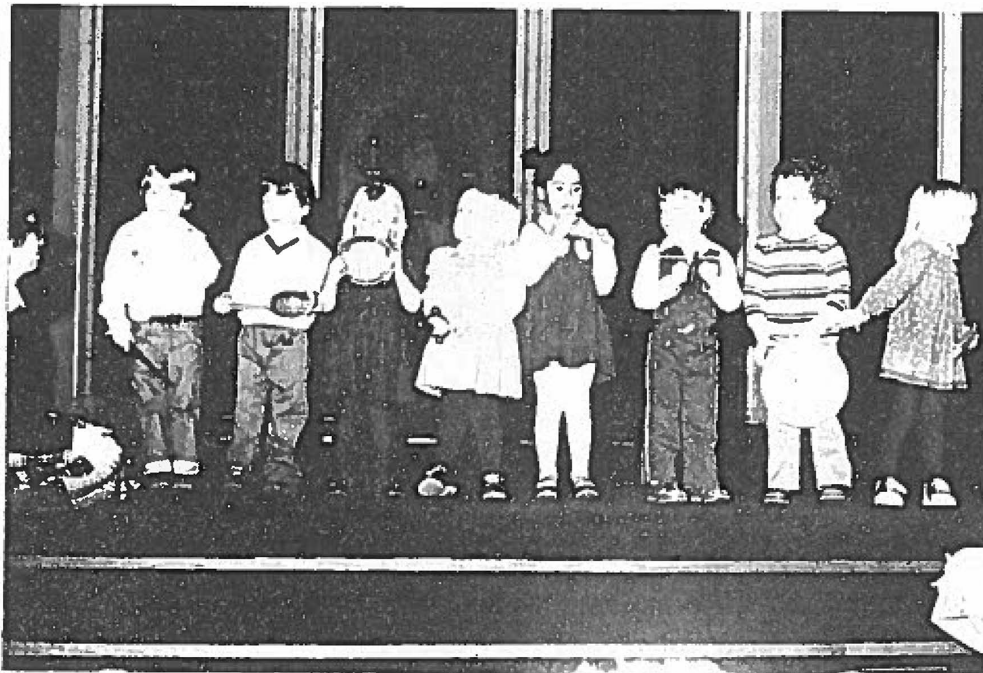
Flexible Program Responds To Junior High Needs

Religious education for junior high students takes on a flexible format: the first and third Sundays of the month are "Discovery Nights" when topics of social, spiritual or personal interest are brought up for discussion and reflection. The second Sunday usually involves a family activity (Advent celebrating, barn dance) and the fourth Sunday is set aside for a social activity such as skating, bowling, or a party.

Students have been discussing topics such as "The Church," "Our Gifts," and recently "Our Families." February's topic will concern "Sexuality."

Ron Hicks directs the junior high program and is assisted by several adult volunteers. Most recently, the parents of junior high students were invited to a discovery night where they met the staff, learned more about the program, participated in skits about family life (in which most adults acted out the students' roles and vice versa), and enjoyed a pot luck dinner.

Junior high students, grades seven, eight, or nine, are invited to join the group which usually meets in the parish center on Sundays from 6:30 to 8 PM. !



Two young boys from the Religious Education class recently performed at St. Patrick's Family Activity. The children drew attention for their festive, joyful spirit.

Parish Profile Paul J. Doebel Serves Exemplary Stewardship

For many years, almost a quarter of a century, Paul J. Doebel has been involved in parish life in the Urbana-Champaign communities. At various times Doebel and his wife, Pat, were parishioners in, or associated with, every parish in the twin cities. For the last 15 years, Paul and his family have been members of St. Patrick's.

As UIUC students, they attended St. John's Catholic Chapel and participated in programs and activities at the Newman Foundation. As newlyweds, they resided in Urbana and were parishioners at St. Mary's. A move to Champaign in 1959 took them to Holy Cross where they stayed until 1966. During that period, as Champaign grew and the need for another parish became evident, St. Matthews's parish was born, and the Doebels helped in the fund drive. This was somewhat unusual because the boundary lines for the new parish did not include their residence. In 1966, the Doebels moved to their rural Urbana home and affiliated with St. Patrick's.

In retrospect, Doebel noted that there was no plan or strategy to his family's interest in parish activities. "Our activities and concerns stemmed from our children's needs and our desire to be with them, sharing experiences as they grew up. Our involvement grew out of a sense of responsibility."

Doebel's stewardship focused around education. At St. Mary's he was a member of the parent-teacher council. When St. Patrick's and St. Mary's parishes formed a joint board of education in 1967, Doebel served as its first president. He sadly recalls the difficult decision of the board that St. Mary's School would have to close. But that decision led to later the opening of St. Patrick's and Holy Cross for the education of its young people.

For 1968-69, Doebel served on a parish steering committee which parented what is now the Parish Council.

He served on the Parish Council, on the Worship and Prayer, and Finance committees. He had to resign from council activities in 1972, when he was appointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council, because of possible conflicts of interest.

This appointment refocused his commitment upon the broader Diocese of Peoria and necessarily limited his day-to-day parish activities. He was also appointed to the Diocesan Board of Education in 1973. During these last ten years of work in diocesan functions he served several times as president of both the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Diocesan Board of Education.

The view of stewardship and commitment in the parish community expressed by Doebel stems from his participation in local and diocesan activities and programs. He believes that "the real work in today's church is done at the parish level. The appropriate roles for diocesan organizations and committees are to serve as resources, to identify successful approaches, to deal with concerns and problems throughout the diocese, and to give advisory assistance. They should do a minimum of regulating and overseeing." His conclusions, reached from observations around the diocese and his contact with Bishop O'Rourke, confirm reluctance by the diocese to add to its bureaucracy, and the conviction that the strength of the Catholic Church of the 80s' is at the parish level.

Doebel expressed positive feelings about his diocesan interests. He spoke of seeing a broader picture and of coming to a realization that change is an evolutionary process. He observed that our post-Vatican II church bears witness to changes: in liturgy, in personalized faith, and, in particular, in the parish stewardship. Most importantly, he believes that "change has positively influenced our striving for the Kingdom of God. Further, people need to understand who they are and what is expected in

order to reach the Kingdom. This is a slow process. We must reflect the goodness of the Lord. It requires patience and appreciation of what our places are in the universe and in God's plan. We seek to harmonize our lives in accordance with his divine will." Doebel commented that to these ends, more happens daily at the parish level than elsewhere.

Although his terms on the Diocesan Pastoral Council are longer than that of any other member (nearly 10 years), he expressed some regret in not having been more directly involved in recent changes in our parish. At the same time, he would not want to have missed the diocesan experiences.

Even with limited activity in our parish, Doebel leaves many of us breathless. He has served in evaluating fiscal matters, in fund raising, lecturing, and Catholic parenting. One hot morning last summer, he and his sons were painting the trim on the parish center.... A true example of humility, or just a family effort in harmonizing with the Lord's plan?

The entire Doebel family - all nine - is an enviable example for stewardship. Wife Pat has been involved, along with Paul, in parish educational activities. She also participates in St. Patrick's Guild, the Prayer Team, and in many endeavors requiring culinary skill. The seven Doebel children, Karen, Lynn, Martin, Jim, Sieve, Bill, and Mary, have either contributed to the parish as lecturers, choir members, kindergarten religious education helpers, or general parish helpers.

Doebel affirms that the parish is an integral part of his and Pat's life - religiously and socially. He views the parish as a social as well as a religious center. In a brief look to the future, he speculated that "The Doebels would certainly find making a decision to leave the community after retirement a difficult one. St. Patrick's people are ex-

cellent folks. They are friendly, informal, and they respect others' personal spaces. They are quick to help when help is needed."

Advice Doebel would give to the new or renewing parishioner is that "In parish affairs and activities, individual insistence upon a personal or pet preference can make continuing progress difficult." He reflected that especially when his own opinions and views differed from the parish consensus, he made them known, and then supported what the parish deemed best.

What is the role of the Catholic Church in today's social and political climate? Doebel expressed with conviction that, with government curtailing social programs, in an era of conservatism, the church, especially parishes, can provide the environment and catalyst for people-to-people activities. He believes that a parish team, equipped with a bureaucracy, makes for more direct approaches for people to help people. It minimizes the potential for mismanaging funds and programs. In a legitimate role at the grass roots level, it can effectively help where needs exist. It builds upon, and expands the role of stewardship. What better environment to match people, resources, and facilities with needs?

The key work in trying to summarize Paul J. Doebel is *involve them!* He is, exemplarily, a parishioner/steward who provides depth, adds dignity, and breadth to St. Patrick's parish. Thank you. God bless you.

Frank L. Nasca
Associate Editor

Since You Asked . . .

Question: *I was married for three years to a Lutheran and for two of those years we lived a happily married life. Four years ago we were divorced. I felt that I could never get an annulment and remarry in the church because we had married with good intentions and had lived a full married life for most of our time together. A friend of mine recently told me that an annulment might be possible. How can this be?*

Answer: An annulment is a declaration by the Church that no marriage ever existed. This can be true even though both partners were Catholic and several children were born of their union during the intervening years. There might have been a serious lack of proper intention for marriage such as permanence or fidelity; or a psychological inability to commit oneself to marriage.

In addition, marriage is a sacrament, in which two believing, baptized Christians commit themselves to one another in Christ. If one of the parties is not baptized, there is no sacrament. Each person's situation is unique and only by working with the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal can your particular case be considered.

The annulment process has been revised in recent years to provide healing and understanding to all those who have experienced the pain and difficulty of divorce. The process tries to be helpful even when the outcome may be a refusal to

grant an annulment. The only sure way to find out if your marriage can be annulled is to go through the process. We would be most happy to help you begin.

Note: Questions concerning diocesan teachings will be answered either by phone (328-2371) or by mailing your questions to:

Since You Asked ...
St. Patrick's Parish
Box 667
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Because we can only print answers to one or two questions please include a return address with your questions.

We've Got
Answers
- for You

Christ Renews His Parish Weekends Scheduled

Christ Renews His Parish is a spiritual process which calls together members of St. Patrick's to make unity and Christian community more and more a reality as an authentic sign of Christ's love for His people.

This weekend experience provides parishioners with an invitation to deeper conversion and renewal and a more intimate experience of our community of faith. It is an opportunity to know the Lord and members of our parish better.

The participants and a team composed of men and women from our parish, living from Saturday morning until Sunday evening, are invited to share faith, prayer and fellowship with one another as they reflect on the meaning of Christ in their lives.

Every parishioner is invited to participate in a Christ Renews His Parish weekend. The next Men's Weekend is March 6-7. Members of the team are: Roger Adams (Spiritual Director), Jerry Barrett, Arden Howey, Bob Kimmey, Jonathan Miller, Gerry Malsbary (Lay Director), Dale McElrath and Dave Riddle.

The next Women's weekend is March 27-28; members of the team are: Nancy Barrett, Bertha Berns, Fr. Doug Hennessy (Spiritual Director), Cathy Howey, Mary James, Mary Ann Luedtke, Cathryn Malsbary, Mary Miller, Mary Frances Miller, Maureen Moore, Karen Przybylony, and Nancy Riddle (Lay Director).

New Service For Housebound Adults

A new service for housebound adults is now under way on Jan. 12. Henceforth Eucharistic ministers will take Holy Communion to residents of nursing homes and residential units in Urbana on a prearranged schedule Tuesday morning. Residents who are able to do so meet the two ministers at particular places in their buildings. Those unable to leave their homes or apartments send word for the ministers to come to their quarters for the service.

Parishioners are invited to turn in their names, addresses and phone numbers of housebound persons they know who would like to receive the sacrament at home. Such names can be added to the Tuesday schedule either on a temporary or a permanent basis. If demand is enough, another day will be added. The necessary information should either be dropped into the Sunday collection basket, or phoned to the rectory to be given to Ruth Bowman. Please be sure to include your own name and number where you can be reached by phone during the day in case there are questions.

Periodically, Fr. Hennessy will visit on the telephone himself but not on a permanent basis.