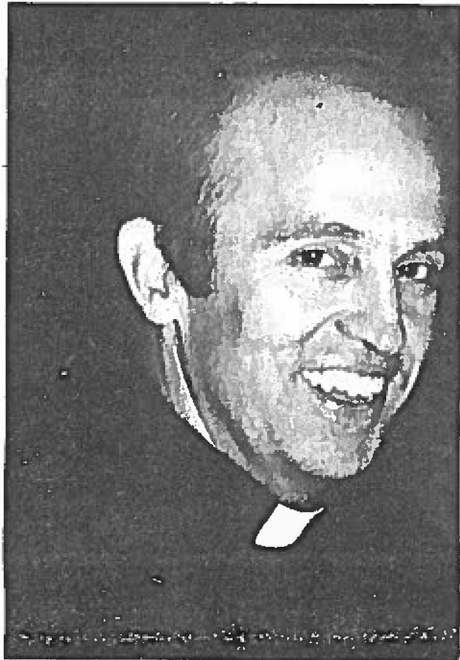


You Can Depend on Mel

by Father Doug Hennessy



Father Douglas Hennessy

Making the vision of St. Patrick's parish community a real, functioning human experience depends on each of us. We are called to share our time, talents, skills and money. We share these God-given gifts because we love God and our parish neighbors. We share these gifts because to do so is to grow in our Roman Catholic faith and to insure the growth of our parish community. To share is to be involved in meeting the spiritual, temporal, social and developmental needs of our parish community. To be involved is to actively proclaim the greater glory of God. By such active stewardship we prove to him—"You can depend on me!"

We are called to make a personal commitment to worship God through prayer and the sacraments, to study the Word, to serve his will through love and service to our neighbors. By our active commitment and involvement in parish stewardship we re-emphasize to God and our co-parishioners, "You can depend on me! I love You!"

God calls us to worship, to faith, to service and to community in-St. Pat-

rick's Parish. Ours is an emerging, expanding and developing community with a vision. Ours is a tradition of ever-increasing involvement. Those parishioners who are involved give their talents, time and money to support the development of our parish community life and to live our vision. These active stewards have accepted God's challenge and answer clearly, "You can depend on me! I love You and you!"

The challenge for involved, active stewardship is made to those from nine to ninety, to those who were involved yet are no longer involved, those not yet involved and to those who are new to our community. Through this commitment our parish vision comes alive and continues to grow.

Reflect upon God's gifts to you. Offer him a portion of your resources. Each of us must decide what we will give to God. There is no set formula. Yet, no gift is too ordinary, too little or too much. Only through sharing can we answer in strong unison God's call with, "You can depend on me, I love You and you!"

Call to Stewardship

Parish Council President Martin Zeigler appointed a task force on stewardship to serve from July, 1982 through June, 1983. Members of the task force are: Jim Auten, Ed Buhnys, Tom Delanty, Tom Nagele, Frank Nasca, Ellen Paul, Margaret Vanderholm and Bill Sahford, chairperson.

The task force is charged with the responsibilities to: examine a variety of approaches to stewardship, prepare a schedule for developing and implementing the program for this fiscal year, prepare a budget, and recommend to the council the approach which is felt will most effectively meet our parish's financial and human resources needs. The task force will assume overall responsibility for implementing, coordinating and administering the program throughout the fiscal year.

Parishioners are invited and encouraged to contact task force members with suggestions and ideas which they have regarding the call to stewardship.

Reflections on an Open Meeting One Person's Views

by Frank L. Nasca

On Wednesday, August 18, I attended an open meeting in the parish center where bids for the proposed Pastoral Ministry Center building were opened.

For over a year I had been aware that the Parish Council's Long Range Planning Committee had been working with architects to plan this new building. In truth, I knew very little about the proposed building. Then I remembered hearing informal discussions by committee members, council members and other parishioners. They had taken the opportunity and shown care by taking advantage of other open meetings on this topic.

"My nose was a bit out of joint!" I thought, "I've not been officially notified." "My opinion has not been solicited." "Surely, there will be a fundraising drive." "Surely there will be an insert in the bulletin." But honesty would not allow me to continue along these defensive and destructive lines. What I squarely faced was that I had not bothered to take advantage of opportunities to get the information.

As I listened at that open meeting, I observed that fewer than fifty parishioners were there. This was discon-

cerning to me. We all know how a reformed non-participant can be. I was particularly concerned when bids approached \$555,000. That is a lot of money for a parish to borrow! I learned that the remainder could be financed by a loan from the Diocesan Loan Fund at 7% interest for ten years. This fund is supported by diocesan parishes which contribute any excess funds to it for just the purpose of meeting a parish's needs for low interest building loans. The thought about such sparse attendance at the meeting returned. I thought, "Silence yields consent. Does it hold true for absence?"

I learned of the time, effort and the energies spent by the Council and Long Range Planning Committee. "I had the opportunity to vote for them. They are my representatives." They had, from all reports, entered into their deliberations prayerfully, seriously and carefully.

I also heard the concerns of parishioners who urged caution with such a large project. I heard caution, and a call for parish consensus. I heard that this is the most opportune time to

embark on a building project because of the status of our nation's economy. I heard ... the bids are good for thirty days, ... the bids are firm and thus we will not be faced with cost overrides, ... the Bishop must be approached for permission to execute the contracts and confirmation of the loan. Much to think about and digest!

What will this mean to me and my family over the next ten years? My thoughts were, "... there are about 1100 families in our parish, ... the cost of the building is under \$550,000." Some quick arithmetic showed me that my family's share would be about \$500 ..

I said a quick prayer for courage, guidance and inspiration; raised my hand, was recognized and spoke my feelings.

I do not remember the exact words. The gist dealt with the prudent study by the Council, and the Long Range Planning Committee, ... their recommendations. I emphasized my sense of trust in our elected parish council, the efforts they "made to keep us informed. I promised my prayers, my efforts and my money toward the success of this project. I heard Father

Hennessy's prayer for guidance, especially his reference to our parish as a pilgrim church. My mind's eye envisioned 1100 pilgrim families of St. Patrick's Parish community-undaunted, appropriately fearful, strong in our faith and community.

I talked with my family later and they support the project.

Will you join us in our prayers, efforts, and contributions to the success of this parish community project?

ST. PATRICK'S WELCOMES 71

From early May through Aug. 11 this parish added 71 new members, 41 couples and 30 individual members. This number will grow materially now as new students and faculty join the university community.

Parishioners are reminded that it isn't always easy for new persons to feel at home when they move to a different church, so your friendly efforts to get acquainted can help.

Introducing New Parish Council Members



Margy Palmisano responds to the warmth and love she has received from St. Patrick's parish community by finding ways to share it. Her stated goal as Council member, for instance, is to give voice not only to her own views but to the feelings and opinions of parishioners she knows who may otherwise remain unheard from.

Margy herself, a convert before marriage, felt somewhat like an outsider until coming to St. Patrick's parish, but once here "the warmth and love of the people at St. Pat's drew me in, and the renewal weekend (Christ Renews His Parish) helped me realize what had been missing from my life—it is a good feeling to be a part of the giving love of the parish!"

One way that Margy has found to express this "giving love" has been to share her natural enthusiasm in the re-forming and revitalizing of the Social Committee, whose functions she sees as a first step for newcomers to participate in our parish community.

Margy and her husband, Dave, have three young children: Rachel, Jennifer, and Matthew. They own The Country Market in Urbana and have been giving and sharing members of St. Patrick's parish family for fourteen years. Margy enjoys needlework (most of her handiwork becomes gifts), reading magazines for ideas about decorating and stitchery; and collecting antiques.

Day Care Proposal Undecided

The Parish Council at its meeting on August 19 made no decision about Carle Foundation's inquiry concerning leasing part of the parish center on week days for a day care center.

Many facets of such a plan would have to be worked out both at Carle and here, and are being thoroughly investigated before any decision is made about its feasibility. A group of parishioners signed and submitted a petition requesting consideration of certain aspects of such an arrangement. These, and a number of other matters, are already being looked into. For the present, Carle Day Care Center is viewed as "being on the back burner."

Bob Rettig, with quiet determination and gentle persuasion, has been a moving force behind the recognition of a "Catholic presence" in the St. Joseph/Ogden area. He and his wife, Sharon, have helped to nurture this "presence"—this bonding of the spirit of community we all share as members of Christ's Mystical Body—through celebrations of the Eucharist, social gatherings, an expanding religious education program, and mutual support and encouragement.

Bob is "very interested in helping the St. Patrick's parish family in any way I can"—and so he agreed to serve on the Parish Council, to help in making necessary and sometimes difficult decisions confronting Council members. "It's important to me and my family," he said, "that our parish maintain its vibrant stance in this community."

Members of St. Patrick's community for five years, Bob and Sharon have four children: John, Stephen, Carey, and David. They spend many an hour at baseball, basketball, and track events—but for fun. Bob insists not for "the thrill of victory, the agony of defeat." Bob enjoys yardwork ("nurturing the seed"), reading, and hours of silence in a boat with a fishing rod in his hands to keep up appearances. It seems that quiet times are important to Bob too.

Christ Renews His Parish

Have you made a Christ Renews His Parish Weekend yet? If not, you are missing an opportunity to experience spiritual renewal and growth in faith.

Qi, a renewal weekend the participants and a team made up of fellow parishioners spend Saturday and Sunday together sharing faith, prayer, and fellowship. Team members address the participants on such themes as Christian awareness, renewal, and community, relating these themes to their own life experiences; participants reflect on and discuss these themes.

Ample time is provided for private prayer and reflection. Mass is celebrated, and the sacrament of reconciliation is available.

Parishioners who have made renewal weekends have developed new friendships and a greater sense of parish community.

This fall the CAHP weekends are October 23-24 for women and November 13-14 for men. You are invited and encouraged to share in this unique Christian experience. Simply contact any member of the team or call the rectory for information.

The women's team for this fall includes Carina Kearney (367-7530), Françoise De L'Eprevier, Faith Hauer-sperger, Mary Lou Menches, Susan Reese, Nancy Delanty, Ellen Paul, Paula Strong, Linda Weber, Theresa Kamicker, and Rodger Adams.

The men's team, at press time, was still in formation. Names of team members may be obtained from Fr. Hennessy.

Natalie Primeaux thought her decision to run for election to the Parish Council was a simple yes-or-no affair. "But the more I think about it," she says, "the more I realize that before this I wasn't really involved in our parish community even though I've been very busy in it."

As a Council member Natalie now finds herself more deeply involved, committed to listening to and presenting at Council meetings the views and needs others have expressed to her. Her involvement is shared vicariously by her husband, Walter, as he discusses Council matters with her and offers his own ideas and suggestions.

Natalie is "particularly concerned with planning for growth in the parish and ... the religious education program." Perhaps motivated by her Christ Renews His Parish weekend, she has continued to benefit from opportunities at St. Patrick's for deepening her faith, growing in prayer, and increasing her appreciation of scripture.

Natalie and Walter have been members of our parish family for eight years. Three of their eight children, Joan, Cathy, and Michelle, still live at home and one, David, is a priest. An abortive attempt at learning to play the guitar Walter purchased for her in Mexico has convinced Natalie that she has little talent for music. Instead, she takes great joy in painting with oils and acrylics—her seascapes and flowers grace their own home and the homes of their children.



Helene Kacich shares her "parish connection" with her entire family. She and her husband, Tom, are a good team, according to Helene: with both actively engaged in parish programs, they are a source of support, encouragement, and understanding for each other—and for their children as well.

"It's really nice when the whole family can be involved in the church community," she says. "When both parents are involved, even the children pick up on it so that all share the same interest and there isn't that conflict that results sometimes when only one person in the family is active and involved."

Helene cites their base community as another very important source of support and spiritual growth for the entire family. As members they learn from one another, sharing experiences with prayer and scripture and their understanding of God's influence at work in their lives. "We depend on each other for baby-sitting, for help with work on the house, for prayer support—we grow from sharing."

Helene and Tom have two young children, Matthew and Bobby, and have been members of our parish family for five years. They all enjoy tent camping, and Helene finds that she is reading more fiction these days—catching up on all those years in school when there wasn't enough time for mystery and adventure.

What's New in the Box?

by Msgr. Pauf Kinder

Several things are new:

1. The box (confessional box, that is) has happily been relegated to the use of inanimate things. At St. Patrick's it is used for storage of votive candles, collection boxes and such. In my childhood, it was a spooky place (watch your step, please!), dark, and offering excellent audibility to any who might wish to "listen in." The new "reconciliation room" now used in most churches offers pleasant surroundings, good lighting, peace, and the option of confessing our sins anonymously behind a screen, or while comfortably seated to receive God's forgiveness and encouragement from his minister, the priest.

2. The Sacrament of Reconciliation ("reconciliation" is the important thing, rather than "confession." God knows our sins much better than we!) ideally begins with a greeting and sign of the cross made by both penitent and confessor. If time permits, the priest or penitent reads something relevant from sacred scripture. After the acknowledgement of faults or sins, both may discuss what could be a suitable penance, something useful and productive for the person seeking spiritual renewal.

3. If the sacrament is received face to face, the priest will likely stand up while proclaiming God's forgiveness. He may place his hand on the penitent's head to symbolize God's loving welcome to his prodigal son/daughter who has come home (belatedly perhaps) to the Father's house and joyfully discovered that the Father was hopefully looking down the road for that familiar face he loves. The new "box" is not confining; it is beautifully liberating and filled with hope.



Parish Committee Capsules

Building and Grounds. The Building and Grounds Committee, as its name suggests, is responsible for the maintenance and appearance of St. Patrick's parish buildings and grounds. Its most recent projects have included the razing of the building next to the rectory and repairs to the church steeple. Twice a year the committee makes a thorough walk-through inspection of all the buildings to check for problem areas. The committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the parish center.

Education. The Education Committee considers the educational needs of the parish for both children and adults and assigns priorities to them. Members have also been evaluating programs that have been offered to provide a better understanding of these to the staff and Parish Council and to establish an appropriate budget.

The programs offered by the committee include the children's religious education classes, the Sunday morning adult education classes, and scripture study. Registration for these programs will be held in October.

The Education Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center. The committee requests at least a three-year commitment to membership.

Finance. The Finance Committee advises the Parish Council on budget matters and business policies. It is currently examining the parish's business practices to clarify and standardize them. One of the ways it is doing this is by studying the financial reporting system and trying to make the information clearer to parishioners.

The Finance Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center. Anyone interested in helping the parish in financial matters is encouraged to attend.

Publicity. The Publicity Committee's primary goal is to serve as a two-way channel of information to deepen understanding and appreciation among parishioners by reporting parish services; and activities in the Sunday bulletin and the quarterly newspaper. Its secondary goal is to communicate information about St. Patrick's to the community at large through such means as the *Catholic Post*, the *News-Gazette*, and *WILL*.

Parishioners are invited and encouraged to submit information about parish activities to the committee for publication. Please contact Ruth Bowman at 367-8922.

Revenue. The Revenue Committee advises the Parish Council on ways of producing and increasing revenue to support parish programs, services, building maintenance, etc. It also provides information to parishioners on the revenue status of the parish with regard to weekly collections.

The Revenue Committee is now reorganizing and is in need of many new members. Anyone interested in joining this committee or learning more about its functions should contact John Foster (367-3463).

Worship and Prayer. The Worship and Prayer Committee has two main functions. The first is to coordinate the various ministries that serve the liturgy. These include lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, servers, and the sacristan, as well as liturgical arts—that is, the appearance and general environment in the church. The committee also strives to enrich the faith of parishioners through education on worship and liturgy.

This fall the committee will be offering to the parish the opportunity to study the mass. Participants in this study will look at the mass in general and the liturgy at St. Patrick's in particular.

The Worship and Prayer Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center. All those interested are welcome to attend.

Social. The Social Committee plans and directs social activities for the parish. This committee recently held the ice-cream social in August and has many other events planned for the future. For information call Mary Healey at 344-7886.

Social Action. The Social Action Committee is devoted to serving the needs of our community, both inside and outside St. Patrick's parish. It serves as a coordinating committee for other social-action groups in the parish; it also serves a mission function to those near to and far from our parish.

The Social Action Committee is a member of the Council of Congregations, which is a Champaign-Urbana ecumenical group involved in education and service in this area. The Council provides some hospital-related services as part of its responsibilities.

The committee is being regrouped at this time—new members are needed to form an active committee prepared to work on a variety of projects to aid our community. All interested parishioners should contact Rodger Adams, in the evenings or on weekends, at 328-3980.

Time to Share

Would you like a place to ask questions about faith, church, scripture? Would you like to share your faith and your questions with a diverse group of adults? Would you like to experience praying with and getting to know other Catholic adults? If you are a questioning, prayerful Catholic adult or trying to become one, join us on Sunday mornings from October through May.

This year we will focus on the sacraments, the liturgical year, and the Gospel of Luke. Other topics may also be chosen by the group during the year. Through prayer, readings, lecture, and discussion, we hope to offer a challenging and interesting atmosphere for adults growing together in faith. Please call Gary Laumann (328-2371) if you would like to attend or to receive further information.



Ground Breaking on Labor Day

Building Program Given Green Light

On August 23 Bishop O'Rourke approved plans, and the necessary diocesan loan, for the long anticipated addition to the parish center.

The contract for construction went to the Dean Evans Company, lowest of seven local contractors who bid for the job. With amendments to the original plan, the total outlay will be \$506,300.00 which is well within the limits set by the parish for the project.

Under construction will be multipurpose space to include offices, meeting rooms, an enlarged kitchen, and a full basement (with a lift for

access) to be used for storage now and later for added meeting rooms.

In recent years as the need for newer facilities was discussed, a rectory was included in the plans. That part of the project was dropped because it is not needed at present. The new wing, however, will replace all the space now used in the old rectory for offices and meetings. In addition it will enlarge and modernize the center's kitchen, and provide two multipurpose rooms for both small and large gatherings that cannot be accommodated now. In either the rectory or the center.

Father Kinder to Speak at Guild's-First Meeting

Endearing himself more and more each day to the people of the parish, Father Paul Kinder will surely add an inspiring touch to the first meeting of St. Patrick's Guild as members convene Saturday morning, Sept. 25, 9:30-11:30 a.m., for another year of service and commitment to St. Patrick's parish. Because of the interest and enthusiasm generated last year, the theme for this year continues to be THE WORLD AROUND US.

Father's talk, "Historical Overview of the Liturgical Renewal 1960-80," will serve as a springboard for monthly meetings. Several parishioner/Guild members, in a kind of show-and-tell format, will share thoughts and recollections of their ethnic heritages pertaining to the understanding and appreciation of liturgy.

Two board meetings were held during the summer. The agenda for the business session Sept. 25 will include a report of issues of concern at this time in the Guild's history.

The women-who are very much "on call" all through the year had a busy summer with weddings and with funeral meals after cemetery services. It is our good fortune that the "regulars" who know their way in these matters are usually successful in recruiting help to prepare food, to serve it and to clean up. This kind of support to a family in bereavement is proof of the love felt and expressed at a time of

sorrow, loss, and confused thought. Last year's principal fund-raiser, the Cellar-to-Garret Sale, brought in substantial returns to the Guild treasury. Apart from the success of the event and the hard work that accompanies that success, the knowledge that items of worth and wearability are available to purchasers, sometimes with limited means, is a satisfaction to the Guild and to those who work in the many areas vital to putting the sale together. This year's sale will be Oct. 28-30; Lucille Kocher (367-2821) will chair the enterprise.

Officers for the 1982-83 year are Helen Barrymore, president; Barbara Peckham, vice-president; Nancy Jarrett, secretary; Lenore Nagele, treasurer; Mary Ann Luedtke, sacristan. Mary Ann's principal helpers are Pat Ebeling, Ruth Jacobs and Tony Zwertter.

Dues are still \$3 a year. The monies continue to help to support care of the altar and sacristies in terms of laundry, candles, flowers, and occasionally replacement of linens, vessels and vestments. St. Patrick's Guild is open for membership to both women and men. With continuing felt needs in so many directions, the officers hope that more men in the parish will consider joining the group this year.



St. Patrick's CALENDAR

- SEPT. 20 Confirmation Meeting for Parents and Candidates (optional for sponsors)
7:00 p.m., Parish Center
- 21 Young Adults-"Solitude: Being Alone Without Being Lonely"
6:30 p.m., Rectory
- 22 The Way of Roman Catholicism Basic Inquiry Class
7:30-9:30 p.m., Parish Center
- 23 Area Coordinators of Religious Education (A.C.R.E.) Catechists' Training "Junior High Ministry"
7:30-9:30 p.m., St. Matthews'
- 25 The Way of Roman Catholicism (repeat of Sept. 22 session)
9:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
St. Patrick's Guild
Msgr. Paul R. Kinder
9:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
- 26 Parish Picnic
2:00-6:00 p.m., Crystal Lake Park Pavilion
- 27 Divorced, Widowed, Separated (D/S/W) "Jesus: Good News for Broken People" Fr. Terry O'Brien
7:00 p.m., Rectory
- 28 Scripture Study
9:00 a.m., Parish Center
Young Adults 4th Birthday Celebration
6:30 p.m., To be arranged
- 29 The Way of Roman Catholicism Basic Inquiry Class
7:30-9:30 p.m., Parish Center
- 30 A.C.R.E. Catechists' Training, "Using Prayer in the Catechetical Process"
7:30-9:30 p.m., St. Matthews'

- OCT. 1 Junior High Kick-Off
To be arranged and scheduled
- 2 Children's Catechists' Workshop
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Champaign
The Way of Roman Catholicism (repeat of Sept. 29 session)
9:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
- 3 Adult Education
9:00-10:00 a.m. and
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Rectory
Children's Programs
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
Senior High Kick-Off
6:00-9:00 p.m., Parish Center
- 4 Education Committee
7:00 p.m., Parish Center
St. Patrick's Guild
7:30 p.m., Parish Center
- 5 Diocesan Regional "Sacraments and liturgy," open to all adults and catechists
7:30-9:30 p.m., St. Matthew's
Young Adults
6:30 p.m., Rectory
- 6 St. Joseph Religious Education Program
6:45-8:00 p.m., St. Joseph Elementary School
The Way of Roman Catholicism Basic Inquiry Class
7:30-9:30 p.m., Parish Center
- 9 The Way of Roman Catholicism (repeat of Oct. 6 session)
9:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
- 10 Adult Education
9:00-10:00 a.m. and
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Rectory
Children's Programs
9:00-10:00 a.m. and
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Parish Center

- OCT. 10 Children's Liturgy
10:40-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
Junior High Discovery Night
6:30-8:00 p.m., Parish Center
Senior High Families
6:30-8:00 p.m., Homes of couples
- 11 O/S/W
7:00 p.m., Rectory
Baptism Preparation
7:00 p.m., Parish Center
- 12 Scripture Study
9:00 a.m., Parish Center
Young Adults
6:30 p.m., Rectory
- 13 St. Joseph Religious Education Program
6:45-8:00 p.m., St. Joseph Elementary School
The Way of Roman Catholicism Basic Inquiry Class
7:30-9:30 p.m., Parish Center
- 16 The Way of Roman Catholicism (repeat of Oct. 13 session)
9:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
- 17 Adult Education
9:00-10:00 a.m. and
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Rectory
- 17 Children's Programs
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
Junior High Discovery Night
6:30-8:00 p.m., Parish Center
Senior High Forum
6:30-8:30 p.m., Church
- 18 Ministry Training
7:30-9:30 p.m., Church
- 19 Young Adults
6:30 p.m., Rectory
- 20 St. Joseph Religious Education Program
6:45-8:00 p.m., St. Joseph Elementary School
The Way of Roman Catholicism Basic Inquiry Class
7:30-9:30 p.m., Parish Center

Newspaper a Permanent Feature

With this issue, *St. Patrick's Parish In Focus* becomes a regular adjunct to parish life. Scheduled to appear four times a year, the paper will cover fall events first, then Advent and the Christmas season, then Lent and Easter, and finally a wrap-up edition in late May.

The Publicity Committee, chaired by Frank Nasca, is responsible for the paper's publication. Karen Suever shares the editorship with him, and committee members provide the necessary editorial work. The editorial staff hopes that parishioners will feel free to write or phone the rectory with their suggestions and ideas as to content of the paper. (No anonymous material will be considered for publication, but if contributors don't want their names used, that request will be respected.)

The paper's name, *In Focus*, was decided upon by popular vote, outdistancing the other two titles by more than a three-to-one margin.

Bulletin Copy Deadline

The new four-page, two-color, printed Sunday bulletin will have a deadline for receiving copy at noon on Mondays. Since this publication is printed in Michigan, copy has to be mailed to the printers on Tuesdays in order to be back in time for Saturday distribution. For this reason all parish groups and committees are urged to get their news of forthcoming meetings and events in to the rectory office on time.

Following the trend now common in many other churches, the cost of publication will be borne by advertising of parish and local businesses thus saving the parish budget considerable expense. Because their sponsorship is greatly appreciated, the advertisers should be kept in mind by parishioners when planning for goods and services.



Since You Asked

Q: Why is face-to-face reception of the sacrament of reconciliation now encouraged? I am more at ease confessing my sins to God while kneeling in darkness than I am while seated in a face-to-face conversation with the priest.

A: God so loved the world that he gave us his son so that we might know, *in human terms*, the dimensions of God's love for us. When Jesus gave us the sacrament of reconciliation, it was not simply that we might be forgiven but also that we might know of God's having forgiven us—that forgiveness might be accompanied by human words, warmth, facial expression, and gestures to convey something of the great joy experienced by the father in receiving his prodigal son, as related in the gospel parable.

Face-to-face reception of the sacrament is also easier for many persons—for the elderly, children, and converts to Catholicism, for

example. Actually, it was the normal way to receive this sacrament until the introduction of "confessionals" just a few centuries ago.

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.

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.

in focus

- 23 Christ Renews His Parish (C.R.H.P.)
Weekend for Women
8:00 a.m. Oct. 23-4:00 p.m. Oct. 24,
St. Thomas, Philo

The Way of Roman Catholicism
(repeat of Oct. 20 session)
9:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center
- 24 Junior High Activity
To be arranged and scheduled

Senior High Families
6:30-8:00 p.m., Homes of couples
- 25 D/S/W
7:00 p.m., Rectory
- 26 Scripture Study
9:00 a.m., Church

Young Adults
6:30 p.m., Rectory
- 27 The Way of Roman Catholicism
Basic Inquiry Class
7:30-9:30 p.m., Parish Center
- 28-29-30 Cellar-to-Garret Sale
Parish Center
- 30 Diocesan Youth Rally with
Fr. Don Kimball
8:30 a.m.-11:00 p.m.,
Peoria Civic Center

The Way of Roman Catholicism
(repeat of Oct. 27 session)
9:30-11:30 a.m., Parish Center

- 7 Adult Education
9:00-10:00 a.m. and
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Rectory

Children's Programs
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

Junior High Discovery Night
6:30-8:00 p.m., Parish Center

Senior High Activity
To be arranged and scheduled
- 8 D/S/W
7:00 p.m., Rectory

Baptism Preparation
7:00 p.m., Parish Center
- 9 Scripture Study
9:00 a.m., Parish Center

Young Adults
6:30 p.m., Rectory
- 10 St. Joseph Religious Education
Program
6:45-8:00 p.m.,
St. Joseph Elementary School
- 12 Beginning Experience Weekend
Camp Greisheim, Lincoln, Illinois
- 13 C.R.H.P. Weekend for Men
8:00 a.m. Nov. 13-4:00 p.m. Nov. 14
St. Thomas, Philo
- 14 Adult Education
9:00-10:00 a.m. and
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Rectory

Children's Programs
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

Junior High Discovery Night
6:30-8:00 p.m., Parish Center

Senior High Families
6:30-8:00 p.m., Homes of couples
- 16 Young Adults
6:30 p.m., Rectory
- 17 St. Joseph Religious Education
Program
6:45-8:00 p.m.,
St. Joseph Elementary School

- 21 Adult Education
9:00-10:00 a.m. and
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Rectory

Children's Programs
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

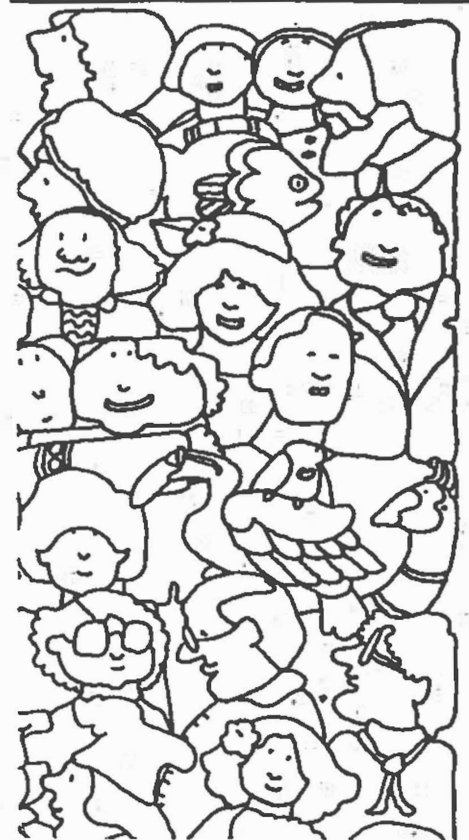
Junior High Activity
To be arranged and scheduled

Senior High Forum
6:30-8:30 p.m., Parish Center
- 22 D/S/W
7:00 p.m., Rectory
- 23 Scripture Study
9:00 a.m., Parish Center

Young Adults
6:30 p.m., Rectory
- 30 Young Adults
6:30 p.m. Rectory

- NOV. 1 Education Committee
7:00 p.m., Parish Center

St. Patrick's Guild
7:30 p.m., Parish Center
- 2 Young Adults
6:30 p.m., Rectory
- 3 St. Joseph Religious Education
Program
6:45-8:00 p.m., St. Joseph
Elementary School
- 6 St. Patrick's Guild Day of
Aecollection
Sr. Audrey Cleary, OSB
9:30 a.m.-2:0 p.m., Parish' Center



Father Martell

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At the reGent Serra Club convention in Detroit, former pastor Fr. Charles H. Martell and Chaplain Emeritus of the C-U Serra Club, received the prestigious Archbishop William E. Cousins Award for 1982. The honor was conferred "In appreciation for dedicated commitment to Serra International and its objectives of fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life, assisting Serrans to fulfill their own Christian vocations to service."

Archbishop Cousins made the presentation to Father Martell, who was instrumental in starting two Serra clubs: the Serra Club of Champaign-Urbana and the Serra Club of the Illinois Valley.

Next year, to celebrate his 50th anniversary of ordination, Father expects to attend Serra's International Convention in Rome, to take place July 4-6, 1983. For those who are interested, a leading travel agency, specializing in overseas conventions,

will handle all air travel, hotel accommodations, pre- and post-convention pilgrimage travel, and all other arrangements for the journey to Rome.

"Experience is what causes people to make new mistakes instead of old ones."

SUNDAY MORNING SCRIPTURE

St. Patrick's Sunday morning scripture sharing sessions, which meet from October through May, provide an opportunity for adults to come together for reflection on the Sunday mass readings. As insights and experiences are shared, participants become increasingly conscious of the many ways in which the Word touches and inspires daily life. If you are interested in participating or would like further information, please call Gary Laumann at 328-2371.

Steeple Repair- Underway

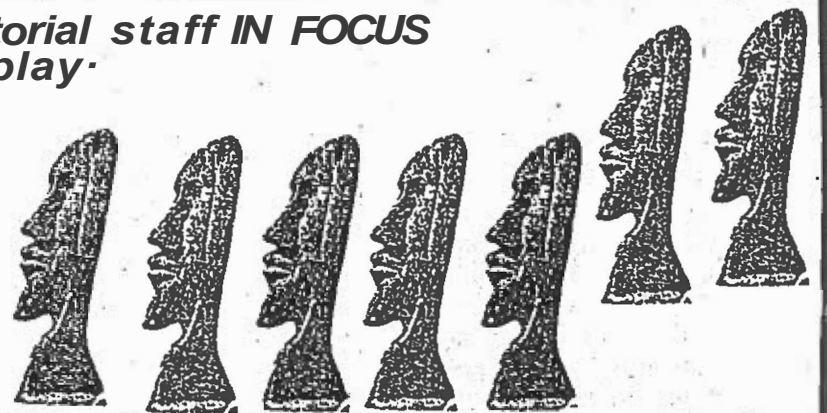
During the past year the church steeple has been shedding shingles. The Building and Grounds Committee conducted an initial inspection in the early summer and ascertained that the underlying structure is sound.

Two bids were received. The contractor will repair the steeple and cornices; scrape, brush and paint metal portions; install wire mesh over openings; clean up at the end of each day's work; and cease work during any church services. Bids also included repairs to the rectory and garage roofs.

The committee recommended awarding the contract to EXCO, Inc., for \$28,549. EXCO, Inc. was selected because of its thorough examination of the structure, the method proposed for repairing the six metal cornices—they will be repaired or replaced by identically designed cornices—and no subcontractors were to be used.

Bishop O'Rourke approved a resolution to spend this money. Bob Chamberlin, Building and Grounds Committee, expects the work to take six to eight weeks and to be completed by the end of October.

editorial staff IN FOCUS at-play



Workshop Offers Know-How, Guidance

Many knowledgeable parishioners answered questionnaires as to what topics they felt should be covered in a leadership workshop for the parish. Specific subjects have not yet been pinpointed, but Gary Laumann expects the broad coverage to deal with two major areas. These are the place of lay leadership in church affairs today, and a clarification of the roles of council, committee, and staff members at St. Patrick's.

Saturday, September 18 is the date agreed upon, with the workshop running from 9:30 AM until 4:30 PM in the Parish Center.

All persons engaged in any service to the parish whatsoever are urged to attend (if a stronger word could be used it would be), but all parishioners are welcome. More information will appear as soon as plans are set.

Shut-ins Welcome Communion

The number of our parishioners and others who enjoy receiving communion at home or at their nursing homes on Tuesday mornings has grown to about 20 persons. At present, visits are made to Fontana, Urbana, and Americana nursing homes as well as to a number of private residences.

This service is available to any parishioner who needs it and may be arranged for by phoning Ruth Bowman or by leaving word at the rectory for her to call. Short-term as well as longer-time shut-ins are equally welcome and will be told when to expect the Eucharistic ministers at their residences.

In recent weeks three persons have joined the original group of Eucharistic ministers who perform this service - Beth Anderson, Loretta LaFave, and Sister Rosemarie. The other ministers are Helen Barrymore, Ruth Bowman, Helen Godfrey, Lu Pillar and Ruth Shaw. (For informal, easy identification, the group thinks of itself as the Circuit Riders.)

Choirs Invite New Members

Did you know that musical prayer has such deep roots in our Christian traditions that the scriptures mention making music more than 2,500 times? That's more than once per page in most modern translations! Many and varied are the ways of "making a joyful noise unto the Lord," and at St. Patrick's there are plenty of opportunities to do so.

The Folk Choir, which provides musical leadership at the 9:00 a.m. mass on Sundays, invites anyone who enjoys singing or playing an instrument to join them. Rehearsals are in the church at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

St. Patrick's Choir contributes a great deal to the festive character of the 10:00 a.m. Sunday mass. The choir is open to any interested adult or high school student who enjoys singing and appreciates the satisfaction of working toward excellence in a wide variety of choral music. Choir rehearsal is at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. No audition is necessary. The Brass Choir also enlivens the 10:30 a.m. mass on Sundays. If you play a

Blood Bank's Goal 125 Donors

Parishioners have responded enthusiastically to the Champaign County Blood Bank's program which involves all area churches in blood collections at regular, three-month intervals. It's a source of pride at St. Patrick's to know that during May, June and July 66 persons donated blood, and a total of 86 presented themselves at the Blood Bank for that purpose. Totals for the month of August are not available yet but will show a marked increase since August 23 was our last official "day" to contribute.

The Blood Bank is trying to reach a donor goal of ten percent of the membership of each participating church. Consequently, while our performance in recent months has been excellent, we still need many more volunteers if we are to reach our parish goal of 110 to 125 donors. Anyone who would like to share in this life-saving community program, or learn more about it, may do so by phoning Ruth Bowman at 367-8922. Your calls will be welcome whenever you want to make them, not just in time for our official donation date.

A sidelight on the Blood Bank involves a human interest story. One parishioner has been asked by the Bank to "save" herself for special needs. Some of the components of her blood are quite rare so she is asked when need arises to go in and donate on call for particular persons, some of whom are high risk babies. Knowing this gives her a brighter than average glow.



St. Vincent de Paul Society to Use Food Bank

Dick Baker and Sophia Zeigler attended the annual North Central Regional meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in June, at Bradley University, Peoria. They returned home greatly inspired by the fine programs and interchange, particularly by a new phase in the work of the Society - a food bank.

A group such as ours now has access to a food bank for bread and staples priced at 12¢ per lb. Food processors nationwide lose money when they have surpluses or "rejects" because of errors in labeling, or packaging, or for any number of reasons. We are not dealing with spoiled food or items of low quality.

Two years ago, on a national level, patterns began to change, and suppliers were directed to storehouses to which surpluses could be sent. Almost every state in the U.S. has a food bank in operation for one purpose or another. Illinois became a member of the group just recently, with a bank set up in Springfield.

Thus far our own St. Vincent de Paul Society has not drawn upon this source, but members of the Society are enthusiastic over the opportunity afforded them to have their monies go that much further in the purchase of staple items. It requires coordination all down the line: a truck and a driver to go to Springfield, with persons accompanying to make selections and to bring the items here to be stored. But at this point there is still no truck! Champaign-Urbana may eventually become a depot for other groups in this area for quick availability of food items.

70 Are Eucharistic Ministers

St. Patrick's parish is fortunate in having a dedicated group of men and women serving as Eucharistic ministers in our community. On any given Sunday, twenty-seven ministers are scheduled to help in distribution of Communion. Approximately seventy persons in all are currently engaged in this important service to our parish, but more are needed, especially for the mass at 5:00 p.m. Saturday and for the noon mass on Sunday.

The Liturgical Training Program of the Archdiocese of Chicago, in *Liturgy With Style and Grace*, has aptly characterized the nature of this ministry: "The Eucharistic Minister's Ministry has to do with helping . . . Those who take on this ministry must, above all else, be individuals who know how to be truly present to others in the moment they have. They are not dispensing machines, but brothers and sisters in this very body and blood they are sharing. They not only speak their own faith in saying 'The Body of Christ,' but they call forth the faith of the communicant."

Anyone interested in becoming a Eucharistic minister for our Sunday masses should contact Beth Anderson at 344-2373. In addition, our Eucharistic ministry to Carle Hospital needs volunteers to carry the sacrament to the sick on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; Ann Britsky (367-0854) schedules the hospital ministry.

"Every individual has a place to fill in the world and is important in some respect Whether he chooses to be so or not." Hawthorne

St. Joseph Program is Lively, Meaningful

Information contributed by Sharon and Bob Rettig tells of an active, enthusiastic religious education program this fall and winter for the St. Joseph branch of our parish.

The celebrations of mass on fourth Saturdays at 7 p.m. will continue in the St. Joseph Methodist Church, courtesy of that congregation. Sign-up for all ages for participation in the religious education program was on August 28 and again on September 1 at the opening class session. If anyone missed those registrations or needs more information about the program, a call to the Rettigs, 469-2063, or the Religious Education Office, 328-2371, will provide it.

Classes are scheduled for the first three Wednesdays of each month from 6:45 until 8:00 p.m. Each meeting will start with a family prayer session and will include all participants, after which the group will separate into suitable classes. Incidentally, all parents of children eligible for classes are encouraged to attend the family sessions even if they are not involved in the adult education program.

Guest speakers will be featured in the adult program, and the year's studies will begin with a course on marriage, divorce, and mixed marriage. Scripture study will begin after Christmas.

Lectors Needed

Lectors, according to the Documents of Vatican II, "exercise a genuine liturgical ministry" that includes proclaiming "the treasures of the Bible" as well as the General Intercessions.

These ministers are responsible for an important part of the mass-proclaiming the first and second readings-from which we learn so much about our God, our early church, and the period before Christ's time on earth. They also lead our parish community in the General Intercessions where we pray for the needs of the church, public officials, the oppressed and those members of our parish in need of Christ's help.

The lectors also lead the parishioners in more practical things, such as introducing hymns and welcoming people to mass. Being a lector requires some training, a desire to hold an important role in the liturgy, and preparation and reflection before each mass.

Most lectors minister at two or three masses every two months. Lectors are always needed and welcomed at St. Patrick's and are especially in demand at the 5 pm, 7:30 am, and noon masses. Anyone interested in becoming a lector is asked to contact Tom Kacich at 344-6760.

St. Patrick's group of lectors includes 40 men and women; recent additions are Anne Auten, Cessaria Lancaster, Mary Lydon, Mike Nagele, Sue Shaw, and Helene Kacich.



Youth Ministry Stresses Variety

What do roller skating, Spring cleaning for shut-ins, learning about the Sacraments, picnics, carwashes, and lock-ins have in common?

They are all aspects of Youth Ministry here at St. Patrick's. A program, according to Karen Suaver, Senior High Youth Minister and Jim Mayer, Junior High Youth Minister, which is concerned with the total person in their growth as a member of a faith community.

First of all, what is a faith community? How on earth does one go about making it happen? And, what is meant by growth as a total person within that community?

For Junior and Senior High youth at St. Patrick's, faith community begins by becoming a group of friends who get together often enough and do a wide enough variety of activities together that we feel at home with one another. Next we find ourselves sharing about common experiences in our lives and helping one another become more aware of God who's been there all along. Soon after follows a challenge to one another to grow, to change, and to be proud of the faith we're experiencing in a new way every day. Out of this comes a call to each other to reach out to others and together walk with Christ.

And it's a well balanced combination of social, spiritual, and service activities that help make this whole idea of faith community happen.

Social activities such as parties, dances, bowling, picnics, sledding and softball games bring us together and help us feel comfortable with one another. We get to know other people and become involved in each other's lives in a way we never did before. Soon we find that trusting relationships and lasting friendships begin to grow between adults and youth, between youth and other youth, between adults and other adults. And in the process of all this, we experience what that word "community" is all about.

Spiritual activities, such as home masses, discussions, reconciliation services, and paraliturgies, give us the opportunity to share, to learn, to challenge. As we take time to share stories from our lives and to share stories from Scripture, we learn, sometimes quite surprisingly, how the two fit together. We also get the chance to learn more about the basics of our Catholic faith, to celebrate that faith together, and to challenge one another to be better members of our faith community. And in the process of all this, we find out we aren't so much "learning" about God as we are becoming more "aware" of a faithful God who never leaves our side.

And after we feel comfortable with the other members of our faith community and have shared our faith in a way that's helped us grow, we begin to be able to reach out to others. Service activities such as doing household chores for the shut-ins of our parish, helping at the Catholic Worker House, and being a part of parish-wide events, give us the opportunity to do just that. And in the process of all this, as we enter our roles as Christian servants by reaching out to others, we learn that all of us can together walk with Christ.

Junior and Senior High persons... come, be a part of our faith community here at St. Patrick's. We have a lot to offer. find so do you.

The Senior High Youth Group at St. Patrick's is a community of young people in the tenth through twelfth grades, along with a faithful, dedicated volunteer staff of adults and young adults. We usually gather on Sunday evenings and spend the time together doing a wide variety of activities.

On the second and fourth Sundays of each month, beginning at 6:30 p.m., Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors will all gather separately for what we call "Families." This is your chance to belong to a "new" family, one in which your peers become your brothers and sisters and your parents are a married couple from St. Patrick's.

What do you do during these times together? Get to know one another, have discussions on some pretty serious things like what it's like to grow up, pray together, share good times together, talk about things important to you, etc.... just like a family. This year, Anne and Jim Auten will be taking the Sophomores, Juniors will gather in the home of Jill and Bob Shoda, and Seniors will have the same "parents" as the last two years—Jane and John Miller.

Forum nights, our opportunity to share, to discuss, to pray with and for each other, and to learn from one another what it means to be Christian and a Catholic will be held on the third Sunday of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sophomores, along with a staff of Young Adults, will gather in the rectory for a discussion series on the sacraments. Juniors, in preparation for Confirmation, will be learning more about the basics of the Catholic faith. They, along with their sponsors and the Seniors, will be meeting in the Church.

The first and fifth Sundays of each month will be other types of activities such as social events, service projects, and even some parish-wide activities. These will be planned on a monthly basis. You are encouraged to come to these activities and use them as opportunities to get to know everyone in the Senior High community better.

Senior High persons and their parents are invited to help us begin our year together at our traditional annual kick-off to be held the evening of October 3rd from 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. Among the evening's activities will be a potluck (please bring a main dish and a salad, vegetable or dessert as well as your own table service; we'll provide the beverages) and an opportunity to meet the young adults and adults who'll be a vital part of our Senior High community this year.

As one can see, there are many facets to Senior High Youth Ministry here at St. Patrick's. We invite you to be a part of it.

The Junior High Youth Group at St. Patrick's is for young people in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. It includes a volunteer staff of about ten parishioners and a coordinator, Jim Mayer, who is a member of the parish education staff. We might also add that we are a group of people who like being together and growing in faith together.

Our group gathers about four times each month, usually on Sunday evenings. During the first half of each month we gather on two consecutive Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for what we call "Discovery Nights."

Discovery Nights are when we discover what it means to be members of a Catholic Christian community and we try to challenge one another to live up to that.

After "discovering": during the first half of each month, we gather two or three times during the second half of each month for service and social activities. These are the activities where we grow further as a community in ways that we couldn't if we met only for Discovery Nights. Christmas caroling at nursing homes, Spring cleaning for shut-ins, and working at parish social events are all possible service activities for us.

Social activities might include roller skating, canoeing, miniature golf, volleyball, and bowling. Our social and service activities are usually on Saturday or Sunday.

We would like to stress the fact that our social and service activities are a vital part of our youth group set-up and together with our Discovery Nights make our Youth Group a Catholic Christian community which is alive and well.

We would like to welcome with open arms all Junior High age youth at St. Patrick's parish to join us this year at youth group. Please keep a close eye on the parish bulletin in the months ahead, and especially be watching for news of the exciting kick-off activity which will be occurring on the weekend of October 2nd and 3rd.

Confirmation Means Community at St. Patrick's

When the subject of confirmation is brought up, most people remember very similar experiences. The program currently being carried out at St. Patrick's is different from most of our memories of confirmation.

St. Patrick's confirmation program is referred to as the confirmation community because it is made up of 23 candidates for confirmation, 23 sponsors (each sponsor is paired with one candidate), and the coordinators of the program, Gary Laumann and Karen Suaver.

The candidate/sponsor relationship is a vital part of our community because there is a great deal to learn in this interaction. Both the sponsor and the candidate have so much to offer each other. The building of this relationship between the candidates and sponsors has been the main focus of the program so far.

In addition to the candidate/sponsor relationship, and just as important, is the relationship between all the candidates and all the sponsors. Sponsors are intended to be examples of people who have made an adult commitment to their faith. People are different, the commitments they make are different, and the way they make commitments is different. The process by which the confirmation community is developed allows the candidates the opportunity to interact with many different sponsors, giving them a broader view of what a commitment to faith can be.

Part of the confirmation process is learning about faith, and candidates and sponsors must be comfortable with each other in order to be open to this learning process. The confirmation community is currently building this rapport by being together in a variety of situations. These situations

include interaction on a social basis, a spiritual basis, and a service basis.

So far, this summer's activities have included: two picnics, an outdoor home mass, an overnight retreat at East Bay camp, scraping old paint off the Catholic Worker House, a pancake and sausage breakfast (this was the most popular event with 26 members of the confirmation community helping serve, some arriving as early as 6:00 a.m. to set up, a total of 250 people), and a car wash at Wikoff's Speedy Lube and Oil Changer. The pancake breakfast and car wash earned \$150 and \$100 respectively; this will go towards covering the expenses of confirmation community activities.

As mentioned earlier, learning about faith is an important part of the process of preparing for confirmation. This learning, which actually began

with the building of community among the candidates and sponsors, involves a certain amount of factual information. This particular part of the program will begin in October with Forum nights. Here the candidates and their sponsors as well, will learn some of the basics of their Catholic faith and what it means to be Catholic. How many people could satisfactorily explain that to another person?

These Forum nights will run until next Spring, at which time the candidates and their sponsors will again go on retreat. After that, candidates who have satisfactorily fulfilled the program requirements will be confirmed, followed by a year of service to the parish in some aspect in their new role as adults committed to their faith community.

Sister Rosemarie, Adds N4'w Warmth, Depth to St. Patrick's



Sister Rosemarie
Tomlianovich

Sister Rosemarie Tomlianovich joined the staff on July 6 as Pastoral Associate. After an allowance of about thirty minutes for orientation, she is already thoroughly into many phases of parish operation. With her multi-dimensional background in parish ministry as well as education, Sister is proving a rich source of inspiration and information for the many committees and persons with whom she is already working. Thanks to being on hand after most masses each Sunday, Sister is fast getting acquainted with parishioners, and she is regularly in touch with our hospitalized and homebound members. In fact, she seems like someone who has been here for years.

As Sister told us on her first Sunday here, she is a Franciscan Sister of the Immaculate Conception Convent in Peoria. As such, she is proud to be celebrating the 800th anniversary this year of St. Francis of Assisi. A native of Canton, Illinois, she was the youngest of nine children, eight of whom were girls. She entered the convent

after high school, received her B.A. in education from St. Ambrose College, an M.A. with emphasis in English and social studies from Notre Dame, and another M.A. in religious studies from Winona College. Some of her post-graduate work has included studies at Mundelein Seminary in religion, scripture, morality, and the annulment process; up-dating in scripture at the Benedictine Monastery in Collegeville, Minnesota; work in English and film-making at Webster College, St. Louis; and study of transformational grammar at Fort Hayes State College in Kansas.

After twelve years of grade school teaching, three years as mistress of novices at her convent, and fifteen years of high school teaching, Sister decided to take the plunge into the unpredictables of parish ministry. Thus for the past six years or more she has been deeply involved in such service at Sacred Heart Church in Moline.

One of her greatest interests and concerns is to promote family life and

enrichment. Toward that end, among her activities she developed a group of about thirty volunteers to minister to the homebound with monthly communion; she co-coordinated a Quad-City area program for divorced, separated, and widowed persons which has now been picked up by individual parishes and smaller support groups; and she was responsible for baptismal instruction for young parents.

In talking about St. Francis, the Poverello, Sister emphasizes his devotion to the pursuit of peace, poverty, joy, and service to all God's creatures. She could be a page from his book.

BLESSING OF THE POVERELLO,
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

May the Lord bless you
and keep you;
May he turn his face to you
and have mercy on you.
May he show his countenance
to you and give you
Peace!

From Sr. Rosemarie, Sister of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception

Catechumenate: Experiencing the Way of Roman Catholicism

by Deacon Rodger Adams

Shortly after St. Luke spoke of early Christians as followers of the "Way" in the Acts of the Apostles, new persons joining those Christians already on the Way began to be called "catechumens." Our word catechumen, derived from two Greek words, means "one who is taught orally by means of questions and answers," a method reminiscent for us of Baltimore Catechism instruction. However, catechumens joining the early Christians gained a great deal more than merely intellectual information about the "Way." They lived the community experience with others on the Way. In recent years, joining the Catholic Church as an adult has again become a process that emphasizes experience as well as instruction.

Joining the Way of Roman Catholicism at St. Patrick's includes several steps: a fall instructional series, a winter segment of selected topics, and a Lenten period of growth in community and preparedness. fol-

lowed by entry into the Church at Easter, and a series of post-Easter continuation meetings. The fall series focuses on basic concepts and practices of Roman Catholicism, and is designed not only for non-Catholic inquirers but also for those Catholics who wish to recall and update their knowledge of the faith. All are invited to learn and to discuss modern Church doctrine and practice. The winter sessions deal with the historic development of Catholic theology and practice and are primarily directed toward those who may wish to join the Catholic Church and their sponsors.

Between these two instructional periods the catechumens are introduced to the parish community at a Sunday mass, and at this time sponsors are asked publicly to assist the catechumens in their preparations for baptism and/or confirmation. The importance of sponsors in this process is one of the rediscovered and still expanding elements of modern Catholic practice. Because some

people new to St. Patrick's parish wish to join the church but do not have Catholic friends or relatives to guide them, parish sponsors are used to introduce them to our community and sometimes to serve as sacramental sponsors too. Sponsors are expected to provide personal companionship and guidance and to help the catechumens become integrated into the Christian community they are about to join. On the first Sunday of Lent, those who desire to join the Church are formally enrolled in the Order of Catechumens. During this ceremony the congregation is asked to accept and support them on their Lenten journey. At the Lenten meetings catechumens develop community, share scripture, and study the mass and the sacraments of initiation, i.e., Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. They and their sponsors are encouraged to participate in parish activities, spiritual as well as social, with special emphasis on Holy Week services. On Easter morning the catechumens gather at the Easter

Vigil Service to enter into full membership in the Catholic Church.

Last Easter the parish welcomed eighteen adults into St. Patrick's community. About half were baptized at the service, and all were then-confirmed and received the Eucharist for the first time. A similar group is expected for this year's Way of Roman Catholicism.

After Easter the former catechumens continue to meet until Pentecost in order to share their new experiences as Catholics. Additional instruction forms part of these sessions, and catechumens from previous years are invited to share their reflections with the newcomers on their remembered experiences as new Catholics.

The Catechumenate offers exceptional opportunities for parishioners to welcome, support, and nurture new members and to grow in faith themselves.

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