

Voters Needed For Council Elections

"It's time consuming, and you take a lot of flak," says a Council member, and yet as of this writing ten parishioners have either volunteered or accepted the invitation to become candidates for election to election to the Parish Council. Why?

"Because I love St. Patrick's." "Because I want to help." "This parish has been good to me." "If my parish needs me, I'm ready to serve."

Since their responses are ones of sincere willingness to serve, we need to back them up with our votes.

Members of the Parish Council Election Committee were heartened by the generous responses of parishioners this year to the call for candidates for election to four seats on the Council. The committee found a good sense of commitment to the parish and a generous response to whatever personal sacrifice might be called for in serving on the Council.

Rick Gammache, chairperson of the election committee, said that some parishioners responded to the call for candidates in the weekly bulletin and others presented themselves at the urging of friends who had seen the notices in the bulletin. The names of others were submitted to the committee, who called all nominees to be sure they understood what is involved in Council membership and were willing and able to make the commitment to all that membership entails.

Committee members sought, hoped for, and found a balanced representation of male and female candidates, younger and older, and long-time as well as newer members of the parish. They insist that they refrained from serious persuasion of any kind because they wanted as candidates only those parishioners who felt disposed to take on the job. The only screening of candidates was imposed by the basic requirements of membership--for example, a parishioner who expects to leave the area in the near future, who chooses not to work with standing committees or who cannot attend Council meetings regularly is unable to

carry out the duties of a Council member.

Members of this year's Parish Council Election Committee are Nick Britsky, Jack Fonner, Rick Gammache (chairperson), Connie Shaw, Carol Subick, and John Wavering. They have earned the thanks of the entire parish for their earnest and dedicated efforts on behalf of the Parish Council and thereby of the parish as a whole.

Meet The New Parish Trustee

Cathy Rutledge, our new trustee, regards every role in the operation of the parish as significant. When everyone works together the parish continues to be vital.

In working with people there are points of view of others to be considered, stands to be taken, frustrations to be met and unexpected challenges. "This parish has a heart and a soul. People care deeply about St. Patrick's." Cathy Rutledge cares, too.

For ten years, 1964-74, Cathy participated in St. Patrick's religious-education program; some of her sixth-grade pupils are now parents. She helped with the relocation of Vietnamese refugees in this area and their resettlement. She has had a hand in programs for the aged. She understands the problems of the lonely, the alienated and the downtrodden.

Commitment best describes Cathy's attitude about trusteeship--it's a privilege, a trust to be working in and serving the parish community.

She counts the trusteeship as an honor, an opportunity to give back to the parish what the parish has given her and a chance for personal growth.

In Focus Staff

Editorial Staff: Helen Barrymore, Jerry Barrett, Ruth Bowman, Carolyn McElrath, Mary Lou Menches, Maureen Newman, Ellen Paul, Karen Suerer.

Editor: Frank Nasca

precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you."--Isaiah 43:4

In his brief time at St. Patrick's Father Ted has engaged the hearts and minds of parishioners.

His background is not unlike that of many priests--rural setting, a two-room grade school and a family with religion as its vital force. The oldest of six children from a farm in the LaSalle-Peru area, Father Ted speaks of his German-French parents with great love and respect. Early in life Ted developed devotion to our Blessed Mother and to St. Francis. At a Catholic high school, he considered the Franciscan priesthood. After graduation, however, his strong interest in dance took him to Chicago, where he studied for two years at the Ruth Page School of Dance.

Destiny next took him to Cleveland, where he spent two and a half years as a child-care worker, responsible for twenty

youngsters, in a home for youths released from juvenile court. He supplemented his income by working as choreographer for a local theater. Among his credits in that position is the theater's production of "Jesus Christ, Superstar." With the idea of religious life still a real consideration, he entered the Cleveland seminary to study for the diocesan priesthood.

Following a year's training there, the Diocese of Peoria wooed Fr. Ted, and he transferred to St. Meinrad's Seminary, where he completed his study for the priesthood. He was ordained on May 24, 1980, at St. Mary's Cathedral, for the Peoria diocese. He enjoys all phases of parish life: families, children, the old and the young. St. Francis remains both a model and Fr. Ted's favorite saint.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Committees Plan Busy Schedules

The various committees and organizations of the parish keep busy.

The Social Committee provided coffee and cakes after the Easter morning sunrise service and hosted a reception on April 17 for the children receiving First Communion and their families.

On April 24, there will be a pancake breakfast after all the morning masses for the entire parish. This is the Sunday parishioners vote for the new Parish Council members.

The committee will also have a reception for Confirmation candidates and their families in May.

St. Vincent de Paul Society has been busy all winter making soup for the Winter Emergency Shelter.

During the past year the Society has spent \$5,970 helping many needy families. During the past three months it has made 53 home food deliveries.

On April 17 the St. Vincent de Paul Society celebrated its 150th anniversary. Members attended the 7:30 a.m. mass together. Throughout the morning there were exhibits and slides in the Parish Center explaining the history of the Society and what members they are doing now.

The Revenue Committee recently finished many long and frustrating hours developing projections for next year's revenue. They will now concentrate on short term fundraising plans.

The Education Committee reminds everyone that the parish's lending library is always available. Many of the books were on display during Lent to help make us aware of the library's fine selections.

The Social Action Committee will sponsor a forum on war and peace on April 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Panelists will discuss the technical and economic implications of nuclear war and the Catholic response to these issues as the basis for the Catholic Conference of Bishops' pastoral letter on War, Armaments and Peace. Everyone is invited to attend.

Ida Rolf, originator of a curious sn-called therapy known as "rolfing": "Word's going around that Ida Rolf thinks the body is all there is. Well, I want it known that I think there's more than the body, but the body is all you can get your hands on."

Elaine Partnow, in *The Quotable Woman*

Catechumen - More Than Church Word

At St. Patrick's "catechumen" has become a synonym for a new friend, a new person to greet, new hands to clasp, new helpers for our many activities. It is a far cry from that old term "convert." It also means new Catholics entering the Church only after a long but comfortable period of learning, questioning and sharing about Roman Catholicism--not only with religious professionals but with qualified lay parishioners as well.

At sunrise mass on Easter with the Rite of Christian Initiation, St. Patrick's welcomed seventeen catechumens into full Church membership after their preparatory journey which started last September. They are Greg and Susan Ashbaker, Allen Booth, Cheryle Fairbanks, Lee Fischer, Gail Johnson, Holly Korab, Ken Morrison, Jim Padish, Jim Pierce, Sam Reese, Art Schmidt, Betsy and Jim Smith, Susan Timoney, Linda Wilson and Annette Yapp.

Early on, parish sponsors were assigned to each catechumen to share their weekly learning route and to "be present" to them whenever wanted for one-on-one contact, whether that meant answering questions, attending parish events or praying together. Not long ago sponsors were merely persons who "stood up" with new Catholics at Baptism and Confirmation, and as such they might be well acquainted with each other, they might transmit considerable knowledge of the Church, they might know well where the newcomer was "coming from." Or they might be--and often were--virtual strangers. Under our present system both catechumens and sponsors claim personal gain from their relationships, and both groups look forward to next year and a chance to serve or serve again in the role of sponsor.

GROW Cares, Supports And Challenges

"We think that society is basically good and potentially wonderful, but partly bad, partly mad, more than a little sick, and very immature. Just like us and pretty well everyone we know. We want to do something about it--starting with ourselves!"

And do something about it they have. GROW had its beginning in Australia in 1957 when several former mental patients, inspired by what AA had done for alcoholics, formed a self-help group to tackle their problems of recovering after mental breakdown. Many people now attend these groups for prevention instead, learning how to cope with painful life problems.

GROW describes itself as a program for "growth in personal maturity, or mental health, through mutual-help groups in a caring and sharing community." Anonymity is both respected and protected, with members sharing first names only. Groups of 3 to 15 members meet weekly for 1 1/2 to 2 hours, sometimes with the cooperation of a doctor or social worker or minister of religion, but often on their own. The meetings observe a routine or structure that includes personal sharing of problems and progress reports, with emphasis on encouragement and motivation to take action.

Although there are explicit references to God in its meetings and literature, GROW is nondenominational and open to all regardless of religious belief or unbelief. Membership is free--there are no dues because those who need this kind of help are often those least able to afford dues.

Gene Smith, a mental-health worker at the Andrew McFarland Center in Springfield, Ill., writes: "Unlike psychiatry [GROW] provides a social outlet and friendship for those who are often most isolated and feel unloved." One GROW member adds: "In GROW I met friends who encouraged, supported, and accepted me. What helped most was their acceptance." Another wrote: "The genuine caring, support, and challenging in GROW has resulted in visible development of my self-reliance, increased willingness to help others, and the ability and confidence to cope with life and a job."

Two groups meet weekly at St. Patrick's Parish Center, one at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and the other at 10:00 a.m. Thursdays. For information call, write, or visit GROW, 403 W. Springfield, Champaign, 359-3109.

There is no such thing as conversation. It is an illusion. There are intersecting monologues; that is all."
Dame Rebecca West, in *The Quotable Woman*

Since You Asked

Q: Why do we have to attend a class before we can have our baby baptized? I thought all we'd have to do is arrange for godparents and make an appointment with a priest for the baptism.

A: The Christian home is the first place a child comes to know God. A meeting with parents, and godparents when possible, is arranged to remind them, at a time when their own faith is strong and committed, that baptism is a sacrament--that is, an effective sign of God's grace--and the beginning of membership in the Church.

At St. Patrick's we encourage the celebration of this sacrament, the child's initiation into the People of God, during Sunday mass so that the congregation may express its joy in accepting this new member and pledge its support to parents and godparents in the task of rearing the child in the Catholic faith.

Many parents are concerned about details of the baptismal ceremony, requirements for godparents, and other matters. This meeting provides the opportunity to have these matters explained and other questions answered as parents' own understanding and appreciation of the significance of this sacrament are deepened.

Mayer Ministers To Youth

The teen years can be the best and the worst for those living them. It is a time when actions speak louder than words; a time of questioning values, actions and faith; a time for dealing with ambiguity and putting it all together. Jim Mayer, Junior High Minister at St. Patrick's since fall '82, focuses his efforts on these parishioners.

Jim was born in Effingham, Ill., but soon afterward he and his family moved to Dixon. When he was eleven, they moved to Nigeria and spent 4 1/2 years in that African country. The next stop was Rome where, as a highschool freshman, Jim studied under the Holy Cross brothers at Notre Dame boarding school. Back in the U.S., Jim continued highschool first in Dixon and then in Urbana, graduating in 1979. He has since completed 3 years' study in the U of I College of Engineering. For the present he is reconsidering his career goals, attending a class or two at Parkland College and exploring more

people-centered career choices-- education, religious education or therapeutic recreation.

The first twenty-one years of Jim's globe-trotting life have produced a young gentleman with a warm and engaging personality. His interactions with teenage parishioners are calm, reassuring, caring and motivating. They in turn appear to reflect these traits.

His typical work week includes preparation and planning for the Junior High Discovery Group; working out details for service activities; attending staff meetings and providing guidance and continuity to the junior-high peer ministers, adult volunteers and teens in general.

Under Jim's guidance and with the help of adult volunteers, the junior-high groups have accomplished service projects for the parish --staffing the games for Mardi Gras and making and providing candy for the Family Advent Celebration. More recently they have expanded their activities to the larger parish community and the local community.

Jim also participates in meetings and training sessions with catechists, facilitates reconciliation preparation for teens and volunteers to assist with the noon meal once a week at the Catholic Worker House.

Jim responded to questions about the parish, people and staff by saying that he felt "extremely lucky to work with the parish community. There is tremendous support and vitality among [our] parishioners." His biggest frustration is "not having all of my time to devote to my job."

Jim Mayer, truly provides a model for St. Patrick's teenage parishioners. In no small way his efforts help to smooth the oft-time bumpy road of adolescence.

Pass It On With CHRP

What is the experience of being on a Christ Renews His Parish team? It is a process that makes sisters and brothers of the participants.

Throughout the weeks of preparation for the Renewal weekend, team members participate in history giving, faith sharing, and affirmation, all of which brings them closer together. The Lord speaks to each of us uniquely.

When the Renewal weekend arrives at last there is a remarkable bonding between the members of the team and a desire to "pass it on" as it was so graciously and lovingly passed to us.

New Guild Officers Installed

At the April 4 meeting of St. Patrick's Guild, the new officers were presented: Barbara Peckham, president; Alice Dunn, vice-president; Lenore Nagele, secretary-treasurer; Mary Ann Luedtke, sacristan.

The program for the past year looked at *The World Around Us*. The discussions concerned "Who We Are, From Whence We Came"--particularly regarding liturgy and family religious customs. Looking into her Hungarian heritage, Maria Stoll Tucker shared her experiences with the group, and

also brought some items for display during the social hour.

The Guild's annual Mother and Daughter Communion Breakfast is set for Sunday, May 15, following the 7:30 a.m. mass. As in the past, a group of men directed by Charles Halpin will prepare and serve the breakfast, a courtesy gratefully acknowledged. Sister Christine Athans, BYM, of the Newman Foundation and visiting assistant professor in religious studies at the U of I will speak on "Roles of Women in the Church Today."

Social Action Committee Focuses On Peace

The Social Action Committee spent most of the past year discussing goals, reviewing the budget and discussing topics of interest and concern. The feelings expressed at the meetings, which are open to all, reflect a desire to become individually more knowledgeable in areas of need and service and to share this awareness with the community to effect a Christian response.

Because of a felt need to increase its commitment to local Christian action, the committee added the Champaign-Urbana Peace Initiative to the list of local groups receiving support from St. Patrick's. CUPI is an ecumenical group formed two years ago to encourage and challenge one another and the Church to pursue those things that make for peace. In August 1981 Mark Nation was hired by CUPI as a half-time general

coordinator-educator. His masters degree in peace studies and unbounded energy provide strong impetus to CUPI and the community--he has spoken over 75 times at nearly 50 different churches in Champaign-Urbana. Five of these appearances were at St. Patrick's. He is the resources person for CUPI and editor of "Peace Notes," a newsletter mailed to nearly 350 local homes and congregations.

CUPI monthly meetings are open to the public with the goals of discussing current issues, sharing peace concerns and encouraging and supporting peace activities. Recent meetings included discussion of "Parenting for Peace and Justice," and "Spirituality and the Arms Race." Members and friends participated in memorial services for Archbishop Romero and Peace Pentecost Services.

Committees Respond To Freeze

"They put aside individual program preferences and worked together on this financial problem," said Bill Subick, parish financial officer, describing the responses to the freeze the parish council imposed in January on committee budgets. Before the end of February, the committees had reevaluated their activities and come back to the council with cuts of at least 20 percent.

"By revamping the format of in focus, publicity reduced costs 30 percent and may have improved readability too," Subick asserted. He pointed out that not all committees could restructure their programs or activities so far into the fiscal year, but all tried to trim program elements while minimizing harm to overall programs.

"The council committees responded to a difficult situation in a cooperative and responsible manner." The council set a goal, a 20 percent reduction, and each committee examined its programs to make cuts of that magnitude. Each group respected the others' roles in the process. "They recognized a common problem and did what they had to do together."

"There's no point in burying the hatchet if you're going to put up a marker on the site."
Daily Walk

"Suffering is either a misfortune or a discipline; it all depends from which side it is viewed."
Daily Walk

The Costa's Celebrate Anniversary

Fifty years ago, on February 26, 1933, Frank Costa and Goldie Wilson exchanged marriage vows at Holy Cross. On the same date this year, they renewed their vows with Father Doug Hennessy "standing in" for Father William Frawley, who performed the original rite.

Seldom are women of St. Patrick's Guild involved in a golden wedding anniversary. This party had a flavor of its own: accent on family togetherness, with several generations present and children of all ages enjoying themselves.

An excellent dinner for 110 family members was prepared by two devoted grandsons, professionals in restaurant and catering in Florida and North Carolina. Frank Costa, a retired foods purveyor, witnessed a tradition of fine foods being carried on by these young men.

Following the dinner, Guild women prepared the tables for an afternoon reception for friends and neighbors. A handsome three-tiered cake, created by a niece in Waukegan, graced the refreshment table.

Had You Noticed???

Our "junior citizens" are something else. Karen Suever and the Activities Director at Americana Nursing Home, Diane Flanagan, tell of the modest but heart-warming accomplishments of an involved group of about ten high school students and Young Adult members. They help one of their group who was seriously injured last summer in a car accident and who is trying to regain the ability to speak and respond to verbal stimuli. These young people, with special coaching from the professional staff at Americana, individually visit their injured friend and classmate for 20 to 30 minutes each week. They read to her, describe things going on at church or school, and generally strive to restore her contact with her own age and interest group. It's grand to see progress being made.

Jim Mayer tells another tale of youthful support for the community. In March, 23 junior high students and seven adults with cars signed up to share a workday doing chores for elderly persons whose names were provided by Helen Dorning of Telecare. They were snowed out, but that service or another will be done at a later time. Their jobs included raking yards, washing windows, taking down storm windows and preparing garden plots. Now on the docket will be assisting with clean-up work around the parish center and other indoor jobs that do not depend upon weather conditions for completion.

Father Kinder has been back rather regularly to participate in the celebration of weekday masses. We count our blessings!

Karen Suever recently completed studies necessary for her to be named a qualified trainer for persons going into peer ministry. Congratulations!

The parish library has gained visibility since Sr. Rosemarie and Gary Laumann accepted responsibility for publicizing it. This is a year-round--not just for Lent--resource, with something for everyone regardless of specific interests or needs. The library habit is a good one to develop!

There's a pleasant trend developing in the age blend in parish groups. Look around you. At the ministry training sessions, meager meals, the Seekers, the catechumens' meetings, the parish Renewal weekends, and other events. You will find persons from all age groups sharing those experiences and offering each other new perspectives and understandings. The best of "family" feeling has the chance to blossom across generations; friends don't pay attention to vintages.

Our day at the Blood Bank, March 14 saw a modest number of donors from St. Patrick's. Twenty-three appeared; we had expected 40 to 50. The goal for participating churches is ten percent of each congregation. That would mean about 120 donors for us.

Our ministry to the homebound, new a year ago, has become a welcome service, and requests for inclusion in the route are increasing. Every Tuesday morning two Eucharistic ministers take Communion to Fontana, Urbana and Americana nursing homes and to eight private residences. Usually about twenty persons receive Communion and most look forward to the lift the Blessed Sacrament gives them. To be added to that service one need only phone the rectory and ask to be included.