

# in focus

708 West Main Street

Urbana, Illinois 61801

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## Bits & Pieces

The Knights of Columbus are busy. Many are not aware of the extent to which they assist the parish and others. Every month they provide money for the Catholic Worker House to cover the cost of utilities and upkeep. The K of C also pays the electric bill for the lights in our parking lot.

Recently Jim Healy, a doctoral student, received a grant from the Knights for a work-study program at the U of I. Jim is studying the Young Adults Group from a sociological view.

Thanks for all your help, Knights!

The Social Committee is planning a pancake breakfast for St. Patrick's. Tentative plans are to have it sometime in March.

The committee has also been busy welcoming newcomers to the parish. With the help of

other parishioners, it contacts new registrants to give them a personal welcome and to provide information on the various activities of the parish.

## in focus now mini

In view of St. Patrick's program budget freeze, "in focus" comes to you in this new format. While it is by no means large enough to cover all of the news and views of our parish, the new look is done with considerable savings.

We would like to hear your thoughts, opinions and ideas. Please contact the "in focus" staff.

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## Why I Like St. Patrick's

The day St. Patrick's no longer needs people it will no longer be the parish it is today.

One of the younger generation terms St. Patrick's a friendly place. He enjoys helping in the preschool class on Sunday mornings; he passes out booklets, collects papers, runs errands. He added, "The education classes are OK."

A second youngster affirmed the friendliness of the parish. He likes the priests and the people. He likes the church building, the air conditioning, the red carpeting.

A young man in his late 30's commented thoughtfully, "A parish is more than the sum total of the people in it. It's the love that people generate for one another, and thus for God, that makes our parish so outstanding--more than just a group of people coming to the same church, Sunday after Sunday."

He continued, "It's a friendly place. You see God working through people with their various gifts and talents...using their gifts for the good of the parish and the people in it. St.

Patrick's provides opportunity to use your talents. Many talents or few...whatever you have, it's accepted."

A slightly older couple suggested that "There are many things about St. Patrick's parish that we enjoy and which make it stand out as the finest parish of which we have ever been a part. The priests in recent years--Fathers Dorsey, Hennessy, Kinder--are simply outstanding. They have brought a combination of warmth and competence, along with a sense of shared governance. The parishioners have responded in kind. The parish is characterized by caring, warmth and fellowship. Cooperation is the rule: it's a pleasure to take part in activities here. When we moved from Urbana to Champaign, we had no doubt that we would remain at St. Patrick's. It is quite simply, our parish."

And, a retired couple responded quickly as to "The friendliness of the people; the interest and understanding of the pastor for his congregation; the cooperation of the various committees with parishioners." The two agreed, "There is something for everyone who wishes to give time and talent to St. Patrick's."

## Since You Asked...

**Q:** I used to hear a lot about the regulations for fasting during Lent. Then I heard that "giving up" things was not as good as "doing something good." Now I don't seem to hear much about either--whatever happened to Lent?

**A:** Lent provides an occasion for us to look into our hearts to see how we need to change in order to become a more faithful image of our Father and follower of Jesus. We use fasting, prayer and almsgiving as ways of developing the strength we need for making such a change. By deemphasizing obligatory acts during Lent, the Church seeks to change our attitudes

about prayer, fasting and good works--such acts should arise from inner conviction rather than from dutiful observance of rules and regulations imposed by authority.

Change--and how we try to bring it about--is really a private matter between ourselves and God--we "wash our faces and comb our hair" as we go about the business of change. Mass, the stations of the cross, the rosary, benediction and evening prayer are some of the ways we can focus our prayer life while we try to change ourselves. And as we reach out in love and compassion to others, we raise our consciousness of who we are, all of us--the People of God.

## Music Minister Melds Liturgy

The congregation of St. Patrick's daily benefits from the efforts of Doug Salokar, Music Minister. He guides us to the "Full, active, conscious participation in the liturgy."

Salokar was born and received his early education in White Bear Lake, MN. Majoring in sacred music and choral conducting, he earned a Bachelor of Sacred Music degree St. Olaf's College--world famous for its curriculum in sacred music. After graduation he served as Liturgist/Music Minister at the Winona, MN Cathedral.

Since 1977 he has served on the professional staff of St. Patrick's as Music Minister. On his own time he has completed a master's degree in organ and liturgical music at the U of I. A dissertation remains for him to complete a doctorate in Musicology.

Most parishioners hear only the finished product of this intensely involved man's work. Before we celebrate the Eucharist, he must plan, arrange, research and occasionally compose the music for the liturgy. His work weeks do not include weekends off--they are his busiest times. His work load increases with liturgical seasonal demands--especially Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas. Special liturgies as First Communion, Confirmation, weddings and funerals demand special preparation, rehearsal and performance.

There is no typical week for Salokar--it is not nine-to-five, it demands evening time. In addition to Saturday's 5 pm mass, he participates in the liturgy at St. Joseph, IL monthly. On Sunday mornings he provides the music for the 7:30 mass, directs the Folk Choir at 9, directs and accompanies the choir at 10:30 mass and provides the music for the noon mass. On Monday mornings he meets with Fr. Hennessy, Sr. Rosemarie and others to plan the liturgy for the following Sunday. He begins to research and select the music in the afternoon. In the evening he directs the rehearsal for the bell choir. After he meets with the Worship and Prayer Committee on Tuesdays, he tries to keep the rest of the day fairly open for himself. Alas, he is

frequently unsuccessful! Wednesdays he attends staff meeting, prepares for choir rehearsal, individually rehearses the cantors between 2:30 and 6:45 pm and directs the rehearsal of the Adult Choir between 7:30 and 9:00 pm. Thursday evening he rehearses with the Folk Choir. Salokar keeps current with the sacred music field by reading several professional journals to which he subscribes.

His impressions of St. Patrick's center around people. "They are a very interesting, diverse community of very open, talented people who are seriously committed to the mission of the parish in a variety of ways."

In his scarce, spare time, Salokar pursues his doctorate. He writes fiction, travels occasionally to Chicago for an evening at the opera and attends concerts on the U of I campus. His favorite sport is water skiing. He is a serious language student and is proficient in French, German, Italian and Latin. As a need for his doctoral study he has just begun to study Dutch. He writes music and his composition *The Passion* performed during Lent last year at mass, was to this listener an exquisitely different, deeply moving experience of the passion of Christ.

Who is Doug Salokar? He is a quiet, talented, accomplished musician, organ virtuoso and scholar. He is a shy person who has some difficulty meeting people. He says, "I have made efforts to overcome this [shyness]. I feel it is part of my job to meet with people lest they think me standoffish.

What of his work? The director of a major symphony chorus after attending our liturgy remarked that he "...wished Salokar worked for me. The choir's tonal quality, precision and balance is the result of caring, expert direction."

How blest we are for the efforts, interest and talents of this gifted young musician! As the poet Symonds says: "In Paradise perchance such perfect noise/Resounds from angel choirs in unison."

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## Christ Must Have been There...reflections of a volunteer

I decided to join those who volunteer at the Winter Emergency Shelter for one night a month. This would satisfy my need to "do something"--beside putting a couple of dollars in the Feed the Hungry collection ["bums"?].

Who were the people I would find there? There were a few hitchhikers stopped off on their way to Texas to find work and one man was returning to find his family. But most were "street people" of Champaign-Urbana.

"So these are the 'poor,'" I thought. Some were dirty--did I expect Ivory Soap clean?, --a couple were crude, some were very gentle. Most surprising were the ones like me in personality but unlike me in life's opportunities.

When it was time, I thawed the soup, served it hot with two slices of bread--no butter--and pre-measured the generic oatmeal for morning. For several of the men this was their only meal. After "lights out" I chatted with the woman and man who also volunteered to staff the Shelter that night. Then I went to bed for four hours, having elected to take the second shift. I put myself to sleep saying over and over again,

"Lord, help these men and please forgive me my pride."

Getting close to the "poor" had made me discover my own need for acceptance, care and healing. Being among people without acceptance, care or healing helped me realize that I had an even greater need and that I must seek them from God instead of from others. I saw that I was holding the poor in contempt, that I was actively avoiding hearing or taking to heart Jesus' words about the poor.

Would God forgive me? Of course.

I've decided that I can do a little more. I don't have a big heart yet and doing more means that I will have to go against the feelings I have let grow in me over the years. But I can't allow these feelings to rule my heart. Now I am at peace, because I have decided to cooperate with grace and to stop running away from the poor.

All this happened to me that one night at the Shelter. Yes, Christ must have been there!

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## Children's Corner

### What Does Lent or Easter Mean to You?

The children attending the Sunday morning religious education classes were asked that question. The following are a few of their responses:

#### Lent

"...a piece of fuzz." Amy Mersch, kindergarten.

"Promise people you won't be bad." Teresa Howey, 2nd grade.

"It's when Jesus died for us and we celebrate." Jason, 3rd grade.

"Jesus died for us so that we could live." Aaron Lancaster, 4th grade.

"Lent means a day to celebrate with God." Michael Spangler, 5th grade.

"Lent means to me that you sacrifice something up to God until Easter." Barney Joyce, 5th grade.

"Lent is a time for sacrificing and preparing for Easter, and doing things for other people." Lori Hummel, 6th grade.

#### Easter

"The Easter Bunny brings eggs at Easter." Lola Reese, preschool.

"Have fun and eat," Chris Salisbury, 1st grade.

"Tacos, pizza, rabbits, eggs." Nathan Gammache, 2nd grade.

"Easter means that God renews our hearts." Gabe Gammache, 4th grade.

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## In Profile

### Frances Hudson

#### An Average Parishioner

To see her at a noon mass during the week, on a day when the weather is right for a walk from home a few blocks away, there's the feeling that "All's right with the world."

Frances Gaynor of Thomasboro came to Urbana to enroll as a student in the Mercy School of Nursing. In September 1939 she became the bride of Kenneth Hudson, in Thomasboro. The couple took up farming in the northeast corner of Urbana, in St. Patrick's parish.

Frances recalls earlier days in the Altar and Rosary Society. She served on many committees and chaired several. She spoke of the zeal of Father Walter Breuning in an annual bazaar held two or three times. The raffle of a Chevrolet brought in a tidy sum.

Interesting to hear the names of old friends now gone. She still sees Eleanor Kerns, Martha Miebach, Marie James. Father McGinn visited the Hudsons many times; he could enjoy the special foods prepared for a particular diet.

Ken died in February 1980. Frances is faithful in having masses said for him regularly.

As to changes in the church, she may not fancy all of them but does not oppose what she believes must be for the greater good of all.

A dear person, Frances Hudson. With her sweet smile and gentle voice, she makes an impact.

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## Diversity....our greatest strength

"My greatest pleasure in serving as a trustee was coming to know the people of our parish better," said Mary-Claire Uselding as she reflected on her completed term as parish trustee.

Mary-Claire and her husband, Paul, came to St. Patrick's parish in 1973. They have two children, Justin, 14 and John, 11 years old. Prior to beginning her term as trustee in February 1979, Mary-Claire served the parish for many years as a CCD teacher for the elementary grades.

The undertaking she recalls most vividly during her term as a trustee is the Pastoral Ministry Center project. "The decision to build and the processes involved in that decision, although painful at times for all involved, were beneficial. We really had to come to grips with what it means for the laity to make a decision in the modern Church. To come to grips with our diversity, with the whole spectrum of opinion, style, and background that our parishioners represent. It's in this diversity that I think we find our greatest strength as a parish."

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"In many ways," said Mary-Claire, "St. Patrick's parish has been pioneering for a long time in the whole area of lay decision-making. We make mistakes, sure, but we're becoming increasingly accepting of the inevitable conflicts and disagreements that occur whenever people care deeply. This is a healthy recognition. As long as we're praying, both individually and together, as long as we're really listening to each other, only good can come of it."

Mary-Claire views the immediate future as a kind of sabbatical. "I started back to school last year in business administration and find the program really eats up my hours." She added with a smile, "I sometimes fancied myself out there single-handedly trying to reconcile Christianity with capitalism, and still find time to do the family wash. But when the right time comes, I know I'll jump in again because I've received so much from St. Patrick's."

St. Patrick's parish sincerely thanks Mary-Claire Uselding for sharing generously of her gifts and talents during her term as a trustee.

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## Lay Decision Making In Holy Cross Policy

The recent revision in St. Patrick's parish policy regarding Holy Cross school serves as an effective example of lay decision making in today's church. More than 300 parishioners participated in this decision through interviews, telephone surveys and response at open meetings.

The Education Committee of St. Patrick's parish began its study and drafted a proposed policy over a year ago. The committee, along with numerous parishioners invited to assist in the study, observed classrooms at Holy Cross school, studied the school's philosophy, studied various documents on parochial school education and interviewed more than 150 parishioners including parents of current and past Holy Cross pupils. They also conducted a random survey of St. Patrick's parish attitudes toward the school.

Following evaluation of all the results gathered from interviews the committee drafted a policy. Parishioners responded to an invitation to an open Education Committee meeting

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and made further spirited contributions to the study at that meeting. The proposed policy and open meeting responses were submitted to the Parish Council in October 1982.

The Executive Committee of the Parish Council then drafted a proposal dealing with the financial aspect of the policy. The proposed policy was distributed to the entire parish via a bulletin insert. In addition, Parish Council members followed through by conducting a random survey of parishioners for their opinions.

The policy was adopted by the Parish Council in January, 1983. The entire process demonstrated an attempt to obtain as much and varied parishioner input as possible, recognizing that parishioners are called to be the responsible decision makers in today's church. St. Patrick's parishioners responded enthusiastically and generously with many diverse and informed ideas and suggestions, all of which ultimately shaped St. Patrick's parish policy toward Holy Cross school.

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### It's nice to note...

Although we do not have an official "Building Fund" several parishioners have made special contributions totalling \$4670 since July 1. These donations were designated for use in connection with the new building.

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Work on the Pastoral Ministry wing of the Parish Center has continued without interruption since ground was broken last fall.

St. Patrick's is being asked by other area parishes for information about our Christ Renew His Parish program. It seems we made strides early toward fostering the kind of parish renewal Bishop O'Rourke is asking for.

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