

in focus

708 West Main Street

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AHLSTEDT ENTERS MONASTERY

There has been a winding road between the day in 1978 when Dick Ahlstedt, with no church affiliation, met Father Dorsey at a funeral and next June 23, when he leaves to become a seminarian at Holy Trinity Monastery in Maryland.

Almost everyone in the parish knows Dick as that cheerful and helpful young man who does everything. If a window won't work, if someone in a nursing home wants Holy Communion or a friendly visit, if a St. Vincent de Paul call needs to be made, Dick Ahlstedt is the person to fill the need. His activities are countless. Some that he lists are: St. Vincent de Paul Society, Knights of Columbus, CRHP Continuation Committee, ad hoc Building and Grounds Committee, C-U Winter Emergency Shelter, lector, and Eucharistic minister for church, hospital, and nursing homes. He has actively participated in four of the men's Christ Renews His Parish teams, once as a participant, twice as a witness, and once as lay director. At Father Dorsey's invitation he acted as host to two catechumen classes after his own confirmation on October 30, 1979.

This future Trinitarian was born on March 7, 1943, in Pasadena, California. Ten years later his family moved to Kansas to be near his father's family, then in 1956 to the C-U area to be in touch with his mother's parents, Peter and Hartha Chodera, and their seven other daughters. Dick served in the Marine Corps from 1961 until 1964, when he went on permanent retirement because of health problems. In 1978 he earned a B.S. in business administration at the University of Illinois. However, somewhere along the line, through all those years, he has also learned how to do almost anything that helps to keep a community tied together. (He says Father Hennessy has guaranteed him heaven for opening the church every morning for the 7 o'clock mass.)

The happiest anticipation is apparent when Dick Ahlstedt talks of his future as he becomes a candidate for the priesthood. His address will be Order of the Most Holy Trinity, Holy Trinity Monastery, Grey Rock, Garrison, Maryland 21055. Letters will be welcome, but most particularly he asks for prayers from all of us. What a pleasure to oblige!

"He who forgets the language of gratitude can never be on speaking terms with happiness." Daily Walk

BISHOP O'ROUKE CONFIRMS 24

After more than a year of preparation, training and in-depth soul searching, 24 St. Patrick's teenagers were confirmed by Bishop O'Rourke on Sunday, May 12. This was the first confirmation by the bishop at St. Patrick's in five years, the delay having been occasioned by the change in Church regulations that advance the age at which children are to receive the sacrament.

Those who were confirmed were: Becky Berns, Troy Cunningham, Jim Dorning, Sharon Dow, Julie Gast, Beth Gatsche, Matt and Melinda Gremer, Phil Holden, Denise Kissaw, Mimi Kuhs, Jeff Mahannah, Vince Mendoza, John Zola, Dennis Miezio, Melissa Miller, Tammy Molnar, Mark Osmond, Rose Panepinto, Jay Roedl, John Rutledge, Mary Tavis, Tammy Thorne, and Vicky Vabic. Chris Hughes and Cathy Minogue also participated by choice in the year of preparation although they had been confirmed when they were in grade school.

An outstanding feature of the program was the intensive participation of sponsors in all the events leading to confirmation day. They joined their confirmands frequently for instruction and faith sharing and also took active part in the two required weekend retreats that opened and concluded the preparation. Students and sponsors alike expressed satisfaction with the increased emphasis on community building and enjoyed the experience of growing together throughout the year. Some sponsors liked it so well that they volunteered to repeat their services for next year's confirmation class, which is now forming. Karen Suever had major responsibility for the confirmation program.

JOIN THE SUMMERTIME FUN

Two summertime activities are planned for St. Patrick's Parish. The first is an ice-cream social on July 24 at Crystal Lake Park pavillion. On this occasion we will also celebrate with Fr. Doug Hennessy the twentieth anniversary of his ordination. Ice cream and pastries will be served, and entertainment is planned. Be sure to come!

Grass skirts and leis are the appropriate attire for the second event, St. Patrick's Polynesian Paradise Luau--on August 20 (rain date, August 27) at the Windsor Swim Club from 8-12 p.m. Plenty of food, music, and swimming (with lifeguards on duty) will mark this as an unforgettable occasion. Tentative plans include a contest for the best Hawaiian outfit. So "go Hawaiian" and join the fun!

BITS AND PIECES

Father Kinder said it . . . "If I never return, know that I am resting happily at Hotel Las Piramides (Fuengirola, Spain). Order of the day: Rise and shine at nine, breakfast in back patio at 9:45. . . ." Then he takes us through a leisurely day that concludes with dinner about 10:30 and bedtime around 1:00 a.m. He concludes his note with "It was nice knowing you!!!" Urbana welcomes him back though even if it is a let-down for him.

Time (will have to) tell . . . Questions are frequent about where the belongings of various parish groups will be stored once the rectory is gone. All that can be said to date is that experience with using our new quarters will determine how storage space can best be allocated. Until those decisions are made, it will help if those who have clothing or other items to contribute can keep them for later.

Attention, gardeners! The more successful gardeners are, the more they bemoan having too much produce to use. Don't let that happen this summer! Anyone who has surplus foods of any kind is urged to carry them to the Parish Center kitchen for use by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Last year's summer bounty kept the Catholic Worker House and the Emergency Winter Shelter well provided with appetizing soups long after cold weather started. It would be great to be able to do it again. Call Sophia Zeigler (328-2671) for more information.

Rice and old shoes for Karen. Saturday, August 13 is the big day for Karen Suever and Bob Kimney. They will be married by Fr. Hennessy at 3 o'clock in the church, and a reception will follow at the Parish Center. If all the young people Karen has worked with were to show up for the ceremony the church would bulge. As it is, it will bulge with good wishes and with Bob and Karen's many friends.

Summer Days Together: It's not too late to enter your child in St. Patrick's summer program held in the Parish Center on Thursday mornings from 9 to noon. Classes meet for six weeks beginning June 16. Each unit is complete in itself, so if vacations interrupt attendance no harm is done. Call the Religious Education Office (344-3621) for details.

Friday abstinence for world peace. Bishop O'Rourke and many other American bishops have asked

their people to resume the practice of no meat on Fridays. This sacrifice is to be offered for the intention of peace among all nations. Catholics are also invited to participate in this Holy Year by attending special services at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria. Those who make the short trip to Peoria receive the same spiritual benefits as those who make the traditional (but infinitely more costly and time-consuming) pilgrimage to Rome.

Make a glad sound . . . is what members of the Social Committee and others working with them are doing. What with an ice-cream social, a luau, a parish picnic, a craft bazaar, and who knows what else on the calendar for summer and fall, parishioners will have ample opportunity to socialize and enjoy each other. At the same time they'll be helping to keep next year's budget out of the red.

Smile department. Twenty of Julie Peak's Sunday class of four- and five-year-olds made greeting cards for shut-ins who receive Holy Communion at home on Tuesdays. "Thinking of you," love symbols and little names in wiggly print delighted those who received the gifts.

A craft sale . . . is planned for this fall. For the event to be a success, many handcrafted items are needed. Every family in the parish is urged to make a few craft items to donate. Please help YOUR parish! For more information call Ellen Paul at 344-1614.

The Social Committee . . . needs many new members and volunteers to work on the numerous activities they plan. Your support is greatly needed, even if you can help only in a limited capacity. Please call Mary Healey at 344-7886.

Natalie Primeaux . . . exhibited three oils in the recent Champaign County Town and Country Amateur Art Show at Lincoln Square: "Stone Bridge" features a Michigan Scene in the Lansing area, "Twilight" is a memory recorded in paint, and "The Cliff" recalls an experience in Los Angeles. Natalie has been painting for about 13 years. She's enjoyed two semesters in the UI Continuing Education series, one with George Foster and another with Billy Morrow Jackson.

NURSERY

As the weather warms up, young children show renewed zest and enthusiasm for life. For the very young, the hour spent at Sunday mass can seem like an eternity, especially when they are expected to sit quietly, to watch and to listen.

For such children the parish nursery is a wonderful place to play with friends and to release some of that pent-up energy.

The parish nursery, for children up to 3 years of age, is staffed by loving and caring parishioners who

enjoy being with children. These volunteers see this service as a form of ministry to the young as well as to the worshipping community of St. Patrick's. While the children are being cared for in the nursery, parents and other parishioners can participate more fully and with fewer distractions in the liturgy.

More volunteers are always needed to help in the nursery. If you are interested in volunteering your services, even if only occasionally, please call the education office (328-2371) for more information.

Happy Fathers' Day !!!

WELCOME COMMITTEE

The Welcome Committee has nearly completed its work on assembling a packet of information for newly registered parishioners. This packet will include a letter of welcome and information about parish activities, committees, and organizations as well as pamphlets on the Catholic Worker House, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and other groups. Plans include having the packets delivered and reviewed with new parishioners by other members of the parish who live nearby.

The committee also plans to set up a welcome table during Sunday morning coffee shop for greeting visitors and newcomers to the parish.

The Welcome Committee is a subcommittee of the Social Committee. It is co-chaired by Maureen Newman and Kate Utermohlen, both relatively new to the parish, who feel strongly about the need for this service and are enthusiastic about its benefits for the parish as well as for newcomers.

Much of the groundwork for the welcome packet was done by Nancy Barrett, a member of the Social Committee.

BLOOD BANK HERE, JUNE 26

Sunday morning, June 26, parish blood donors will be able to "do their thing" at the Parish Center instead of having to go to the Blood Bank in the usual way. Appointments from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. can be made by phoning the office (367-8922) ahead of time, but walk-ins will be welcome too.

The Blood Bank is adopting this on-site approach to collecting blood from church and other groups whenever possible. Their experience shows that usually more than twice the ordinary number of donors respond when they can merely walk directly from services into a collection center. At the same time, the Bank's visibility calls attention to the community's great need for blood and gains the support of many people who may not have thought about giving blood before.

Blood Bank nurses, staff and equipment will be ready by the time 7:30 a.m. mass is over, and they will continue until donors from all masses have been processed.

YOU ASKED ABOUT IT

In *The New Question Box*, Father John Dietzen answers a question asked recently:

I have noticed in the Gloria of the mass it says "You take away the sin of the world." But in the Lamb of God it reads, "You take away the sins . . ." What's the difference?

The variation is deliberate; the words mean two different things. "Sins" refers to the actual offenses committed against God or our fellow man that are contrary to the law of love of God and neighbor that we are bound to follow.

"Sin" denotes more generally the "sinfulness" in the world, the disharmony, alienation and selfishness, and other tendencies under which human beings live and from which sinful actions come. Jesus came as Redeemer to heal that sinfulness and rebuild harmony within ourselves, our neighbor, and God. This redeeming restoration of order and love is what we acknowledge in the Gloria.

FAREWELL TO FR. TED

St. Patrick's has been blessed with the assistance of Fr. Ted Hochstatter, who came here last February from Rock Island. Since then we have come to appreciate many of his talents and special qualities: his warm, personal response to anyone seeking help or counsel, his devotion to Mary, and his dancing ability (which enhanced our Easter Vigil service), to name but a few. Fr. Ted leaves us in mid-June for St. Mary's at Kewanee.

Fr. Ted is thankful for the acceptance and kindness shown to him here, particularly for the environment provided by Fr. Doug Hennessy that enabled him to unwind from his last assignment and "wind up" for the next. He feels that God and people are most important to him and that he understands both more clearly through the Eucharist, Reconciliation, and the rosary: "For me, these three have been most helpful, and I encourage others to continue in our journey."

Our thanks and best wishes to you, Fr. Ted, on your own journey--and in your next assignment!

FIND ONE, FIND THEM ALL

Tracking down staff members will be easier for callers as the new Pastoral Ministry Center opens. All the offices, formerly reached only by climbing rectory stairs or wandering around the far reaches of the Parish Center, will be easily accessible for everyone, including those in wheelchairs.

The two secretaries will share an office and reception area between the north and south doors at the east end of the new wing. Since that area is glass-walled, they will have a 180-degree view of persons entering at either door. Fr. Hennessy's office is first on the south side, with Sr. Rosemarie's next to his at the southwest corner. At the northwest corner of that corridor is one of the Religious Education offices, shared by Gary Laumann and Doug Salokar; the other, beside it, is shared by Karen Suever and Jim Mayer. Closest to the secretarial office is the volunteer/general staff office.

As use of the new building stabilizes, the Religious Education offices in the Parish Center will revert to library use and provide space for some of the meetings formerly held in the rectory. Other meetings will shift to classrooms, the new general lounge, or other spaces, depending upon the size and purpose of the meetings. In any event, all groups should check with Nancy Steerman before planning to use any area in either Center. Eventually, standing reservations can be made for most recurring meetings; meanwhile, all will be posted outside the secretaries' office.

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SINCE YOU ASKED

Q: I recently attended the confirmation ceremony in our parish and noticed several changes from the way confirmation was administered when I was young. Those who were confirmed were high-school juniors and seniors, not fourth- and fifth-graders (as I was when I was confirmed). Also, the celebrant did not strike the confirmands on the cheek to remind them that they are "soldiers of Christ." Has the meaning of confirmation changed?

A: The Church's understanding of the sacrament of confirmation and of the relationship of that sacrament to the others has indeed undergone many historical changes.

In the very early days of the Church, when most persons received into the Church were adults, the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and first eucharist were regarded as sacraments of initiation. These were celebrated at one and the same time and initiated one into full eucharistic fellowship. Even infants were received into the Church in this way, receiving a drop of communion wine on the tongue as their first eucharist.

Through time, however, several changes occurred. Confirmation, the sealing of baptism, was a prerogative of bishops. With development of the doctrine of original sin in the fifth century, baptism was increasingly conferred in infancy, usually in local parish churches. Confirmation was delayed until parents could take the child to a mass at which a bishop presided so that confirmation could be administered. A further disintegration of the unity of these sacraments was effected by removing the communion cup from the laity, with the result that communion could no longer easily be given to infants. Distance and travel difficulties rendered contact with bishops less and less frequent; as a result, confirmation eventually became delayed until the child's thirteenth or fourteenth year. Meanwhile, concern about the decrease in lay reception of communion led the Church, in the early twentieth century, to set the age of first communion at seven years. Thus, what was once a

unitary celebration of baptism, confirmation, and first eucharist became separated in time, with each sacrament gradually acquiring new and different emphases and meanings.

Confirmation came to be seen as a kind of "graduation ceremony" into adult status in the Church. For many, unfortunately, this meant that religious education and growth ended in the eighth grade or earlier. Theologically, the gifts of the Holy Spirit received in confirmation were seen as fully equipping a previously ill-prepared recruit with the weapons and armor needed to defend the faith in a hostile world. (The slap on the cheek administered at confirmation was actually an ancient sign of peace and was never intended to make the new Christian suffer.)

In today's Church the catechumenate for adults clearly reflects the unified aspect of baptism, confirmation, and first eucharist as sacraments of initiation. Adults undergo a period of preparation, culminating in the Easter ceremony in which they are initiated through baptism and confirmation into their first full eucharistic fellowship with the Church. At this point they are at the beginning of a life-long process of growth and maturation in the faith.

Our parish's confirmation program is now based on the catechumenate model. For those baptized into the Church as infants who receive their first communion as children, confirmation represents a "deeper appropriation" of the gifts of the Spirit and of their baptismal promises. The sacrament celebrates an important moment in a continuing process of maturing and growing in adult Christian faith. Insights of modern psychology and other social sciences suggest that a very appropriate time for young people to celebrate this sacrament is in their junior or senior year of high school, following the adjustments of adolescence. Celebrating confirmation at this age allows the confirmand to assume more consciously the rights and responsibilities of eucharistic fellowship.

MARTELL CELEBRATION

This issue of in focus was in press during the time of the celebration described below.

The mass observing the golden jubilee of Father Martell's ordination to the priesthood was celebrated at St. Patrick's at 5:00 p.m. Friday, June 10, with Bishop Edward O'Rourke as chief celebrant and Father Martell and two nephews as concelebrants. A dinner at the Ramada Inn for the jubilarian, his relatives, and members of the clergy followed the liturgy.

Parishioners joined in festivities at the noon mass on Sunday, June 12, and a reception in the Parish Center hosted by the Knights of Columbus Urbana Council 5752. Women of St. Patrick's Guild assisted.

Father Martell was ordained June 10, 1933, in SS Peter and Paul Cathedral, Providence, R.I., with Bishop William A. Hickey officiating. Immediately assigned to the Peoria Diocese, Father served in various parishes until December 6, 1957, when he came to St. Patrick's as pastor. During his term the

Parish Center was built and dedicated (in midsummer 1965) and renovation of the church was undertaken (begun in 1976, ending with dedication May 21, 1978).

In 1973 the parish observed Father's 40th anniversary. He retired in August 1977 and now resides at St. Mary's, Pesotum.

A high point of the fiftieth year of his priesthood is the trip he will take early in July with 25 C-U Serrans and friends of the local chapter of the Serra Club for the 41st Serra International Convention in Rome, July 4-8. The group will be present at a papal mass before touring parts of Italy. (At the 1982 annual convention in Detroit, Father Martell received the second annual Archbishop William E. Cousins Chaplain of the Year Award, bestowed by the archbishop.)

Clergy, parishioners and friends congratulate Father Martell for five decades of dedicated service in the priesthood.