

in focus

708 West Main Street

Urbana, Illinois 61801

VOL. 3 1

STEWARDSHIP A WAY OF LIFE

What does "stewardship" mean to you? We have heard the word a lot during the past few years, but do we really understand what it means? The Lord has given all of us many gifts, and we are responsible for using them wisely. He expects all of us to do our share. We cannot judge one another, but we must judge ourselves--are we truly acting as wise and responsible stewards of God? We must look into our hearts and see if we are living up to God's expectations.

Giving money to our church is one very important responsibility. It is an offering to God, a symbolic thank you for His gifts. It is also an economic necessity for the parish. Money is needed to continue the many programs that enrich our lives, both individually and as a parish community.

Money is not our only asset, however. We all have time to give and talents to share. These are a vital part of an active parish. We are all members of a community here, a family, and everyone must pitch in.



You will be hearing more about stewardship from the altar and receiving newsletters in the mail during the next few weeks. Listen. Read carefully. Think about what you hear and see. The Lord is calling--are you listening?

WAY OF ROMAN CATHOLICISM BEGINS

September 28 will mark the beginning of St. Patrick's increasingly popular joint program for Catholics who want to update their knowledge of the faith, and for non-Catholics who want to learn more about catholicism. Meetings will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 ~~and the following Saturday mornings from 9:30 until 11:00 for those unable to attend the earlier sessions.~~ Both will meet in the Pastoral Ministry Center under Father Hennessy's direction.

Persons who served as parish sponsors for last year's catechumens and those who may be interested in doing so this year are especially invited to attend, with the thought of perhaps serving in that capacity again this coming winter when the more

formal program begins.

Traditionally the fall portion of the program is fairly broad and general in scope and is devoted to such matters as Church history and current developments of interest to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The second part, beginning after New Year's, goes into more depth about beliefs and practices. Then, when Lent starts the "Ashes to Easter" final segment begins and is directed more specifically toward the interests and concerns of non-Catholics who think they may wish to join the Church later. Parish sponsors usually attend many of these meetings with their catechumens. The program concludes with the formal Rite of Christian Initiation on Easter, a ritual which increases the solemn beauty of the sunrise service at St. Patrick's.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOURISHES FAITH

Religious education staff members and volunteers are readying for fall, anticipating continued growth in programs and in enrollment. A basic goal of all St. Patrick's religious education offerings is to provide for faith development and religious instruction within a content of a growing awareness of community, leading to increased service of others by participants. The program offerings are for parishioners of all ages with a variety of formats and activities available.

The children's program, for pre-schoolers through 6th graders, meets on Sundays at 9:00 and 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Center. A class for two- and three-year olds meets for the 9:00 a.m. session only. Themes for this year include "The Jesus Story," "Jesus Lives," "Our Church," and "Sacraments." A most popular feature of Sunday mornings is the children's liturgy at 10:40 a.m. which is specially designed for children's participation and understanding. Integrated with the children's program are the sacramental preparation programs for Eucharist and Reconciliation. These include parents and help them prepare their youngsters for reception of the sacraments.

The junior high youth group is for 7th, 8th and 9th graders. These groups gather on Sunday evenings for "Discovery Nights" which provide the formal educational content of the program. Social and service events are also scheduled and include such activities as spring cleaning for shut-ins, playing bingo with nursing home residents, and helping at parish social events.

The senior high youth group is for 10th, 11th and 12th graders. On two Sundays of each month sophomores, juniors and seniors gather separately for "Family Nights," meeting in the homes of volunteer couples for discussion about such topics as faith or Christian living. "Forum Nights" are held on the third Sunday of each month and provide the more formal educational content of the program. Other Sundays of each month are reserved for social and service activities.

Integrated with the senior high program is the parish Confirmation program. Juniors, in preparation for Confirmation, stress early the basics of the Catholic faith on Forum Nights. The Confirmation program involves many volunteers as parish sponsors for the candidates who share with them the faith journey to Confirmation.

Programs are also available in the areas of adult education and family ministry. Adult education groups meet at 9:00 and 11:30 a.m. on Sundays in the Parish Center. This year's program will begin with a six-week exploration of the Gospel of Matthew. Overall goals are to foster communication of faith among the participants, to contribute to strengthening prayer, and to contribute toward building community among parishioners.

The Young Adults of St. Patrick's Parish (18-35 years) meet each Tuesday evening for social, spiritual, and personal growth activities. Participants share actively in leadership and planning of activities for this program.

The DSW Support Group meets the second and fourth Monday of each month. Its goal is to provide support for the divorced, separated and widowed within a Roman Catholic framework (but open to all who wish to attend), and to assist them in working through and accepting their own feelings concerning their situation and those of others.

The baptismal preparation classes for parents (and godparents) are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. Families anticipating the arrival of new babies are invited to attend.

A great number of volunteers are needed to keep the religious education programs vital and growing. If you can share your talents in any of the areas suggested, please get in touch with any member of the religious education staff at 367-2665.

Dedication of the Pastoral Ministry Center . . . came one year to the day after ground breaking ceremonies. Labor Day, after the 9 o'clock holiday Mass, Father Hennessy led many grateful parishioners in a brief but meaningful service of dedication. Afterwards participants shared refreshments in the Parish Center, and those who cared to were welcome to inspect the new wing and get acquainted with the offices and gathering rooms replacing all the old rectory spaces and the Parish Center education offices too. Those who use the new building have nothing but praise for the comfortable, convenient new facilities. St. Patrick's many busy groups will find added satisfaction in the time they spend on parish activities. Gratitude goes to everyone who has helped to make this dream a reality and to those who will continue to do so in the future.

SOME GOOD COMMITTEES CAN USE YOUR HELP

The Building and Grounds Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Parish Council and the pastor and is responsible for the maintenance, repair, and custodial needs of parish buildings and grounds. Chairperson: Kenny Newman (359-4801).

The Communications Committee serves as a conduit for information in order to deepen understanding and appreciation among parish groups and individuals. The parish publication *in focus* is one of this committee's responsibilities. Chairperson: Ellen Abell (367-5648).

The Education Committee has as its primary function the discernment and implementation of religious educational needs of the parish community. Chairperson: Carolyn McElrath (328-4063).

The Finance Committee proposes and monitors the annual budget and oversees the budgeting process, advises the pastor and Parish Council on financial matters, recommends sound business policies, and seeks to improve parish business practices. Acting chairperson: Bill Subick (344-0921).

The goal of the Revenue Committee is to insure the generation of funds needed to meet monetary requirements of the parish. Chairperson: Dave Riddle (384-8972). The ad hoc Stewardship Task Force, an arm of the Revenue Committee, is charged with development, implementation, and coordination of a program designed to increase the level of income from weekly collections and to encourage participation of parishioners in current or new activities of interest to them. Chairperson: Bill Sanford (367-1776).

The goal of the Social Committee is to initiate, promote, and implement social activities and special celebrations, with the objective of encouraging Christ-like unity, communication, and interaction among parishioners. Chairperson: Maureen Newman (359-4801).

The goals of the Social Action Committee include educating parishioners on issues related to social justice, with the intention of fostering response in the light of the gospel, and serving as parish liaison with such church and community organizations as the Council of Congregations, the C-U Peace Initiative, and the Christian Health Services Committee. Acting chairperson: Rodger Adams (328-3980).

The Special Personnel Committee is charged with formulating comprehensive personnel guidelines for Parish Council approval, overseeing and implementing personnel procedures, and conducting thorough analyses of present duties and levels of compensation for each paid parish position. (Members are selected from staff and key committees most directly affected by personnel policies.) Chairperson: Paul Doebel (367-0629).

The Worship and Prayer Committee serves the parish by promoting and providing liturgical celebrations and personal prayer opportunities that express and nourish the faith of our community. Chairperson: Carol Subick (344-0921).

"The early worm gets eaten by a bird."
MINIMS

"You'll catch more flies with honey than you care to." MINIMS

(Minim, n. A statement expressed in proverbial or sentential form but having no general application or practical use whatever.) Compare: (Maxim, n. Concise saying that is a rule of conduct.)

BITS AND PIECES

Weekday Masses have been moved . . . for the time being to the multipurpose room in the Pastoral Ministry Center, where both priests and parishioners have found relief from the dog days of summer. Many have expressed appreciation not only for air-conditioned comfort but also for the heightened sense of community fostered by the more intimate atmosphere in celebrating the Eucharist.

The Parish Picnic . . . is this coming Sunday, September 18, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the Main Pavilion, Crystal Lake Park. (The Main Pavilion is located near the Park Street entrance.)

Fried chicken will be provided by the Urbana Knights of Columbus; the Social Committee will provide coffee, iced tea and lemonade. The rest of the goodies are to be furnished by those attending (A-H: salad; I-O: vegetable; P-R: chips, snacks and rolls; S-Z: desserts). Bring your own table service. Lawn chairs are optional, but blankets are recommended due to the limited number of picnic tables available.

There will be games for the children and the egg toss game for adults will be back by popular demand. Come and enjoy the fun, fellowship and good food.

Now is the time to start those future heirlooms . . . November 19 sounds like a long time away, but it's coming up soon for those who plan to make special items for the craft sale. Handwork of all kinds is invited, and so are homemade jams, jellies, pickles and similar specialties. For more information about how you can help most call Peggy Mersch (344-4860) or Cathy Howey (344-4521).

The Social Committee . . . is gearing up for a year packed full of events. Past experience tells us that these events will be fun for people of all ages. One of the more recent events this group organized was the Ice-Cream Social combined with Father Hennessy's 20th anniversary celebration (described elsewhere in this issue).

This is one example of a celebration the Social Committee has organized and executed. If you would like to give your talents to this hard-working and enjoyable committee as a full-fledged member or just to help on a specific event, such as the forthcoming parish picnic on September 18, please call Maureen Newman at 359-4801.

Joining this committee is a good way to be an active part of an active, God-loving parish.

KAREN AND NANCY--BACKUPS FOR EACH OTHER

Changes for the better have come with the concentration of secretarial work for the parish and for religious education into a single office in the Pastoral Ministry Center.

The merging of the two offices, including moving of files, furniture, and much more, was a time of turmoil, but our newcomer Karen Meeks proved calm and totally adaptable to new persons, places, and events. Our long-time secretary Nancy Steerman took all in stride. With a central communication system, the workload can now be handled more efficiently and smoothly. Karen and Nancy know each other's job and can take over the other's duties when occasion demands.

Antique, n. An object that wouldn't be wanted by anyone if there were more of it. Unknown.

Zeal, n. A certain nervous disorder afflicting the young and inexperienced. A passion that goeth before a sprawl. Devil's Dictionary

Spiritual Note: Explained in a Sunday School bulletin: "Little white lies are truth decay." Shelby Friedman, Wall Street Journal

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CHILDREN'S CORNER

BRINGING UP THE GIFTS

At each Sunday Mass a family or a group of friends is asked to bring up the gifts. They bring these gifts of bread and wine to the altar. These are very important because later in the Mass they become for us the body and blood of Christ. The gifts are brought up just after the prayer of the faithful when we say together "Lord, hear our prayer." Since God gave us grapes to make the wine and wheat to make the bread, the gifts we bring are a sign of God's working with us. Also, since God gave us the talents we use to earn money, the money we give at Mass is also a sign of God's working with us and our offering our work to God. That is why the collection basket is sometimes brought up with the gifts. In some countries people bring part of their crops or something they have made to offer as gifts at Mass. Gifts of food, money and other things show our thanks to God for all we have. They also show our caring for other people too since they may be used to help the poor. We sometimes sing an offertory song as the gifts are being brought up.

SINCE YOU ASKED

[The following is from the Wise Man's Corner, *St. Anthony Messenger*, April 1981, p. 47.]

Q: When do thoughts and feelings become sins?

A: Indeliberate, passing thoughts and fantasies are not sins. They come and go. We all have them. When we have been abused, deceived or mistreated, feelings of resentment and anger are not sins. They are human reactions--feelings we all have.

Even to act in anger is not a sin if our anger is just and the action we take is appropriate and just. So if attacked on the street by a mugger, we feel anger and indignation and strike back in self-defense, there is no sin. And it would be no sin to ask the police to prosecute or to initiate a civil suit for damages.

Thoughts and feelings are not in themselves sins. Thoughts become sinful if we recognize they will lead us to morally wrong actions or if they become acts of the will that are morally wrong.

For example: While comforting her child who has bumped his head, Mary accidentally burns her husband Joe's toast. He criticizes her cooking. Mary is indignant, feeling the criticism was unfair. She resents what he has said. No sin. She is angry and tells him he was being unfair. No sin.

During the day she keeps rehashing not just what he said this morning but all the other grievances she has against Joe. The thought occurs that she would like to "punch him out" or get even somehow. She hopes he loses his job (really hopes it, consents to the thought and makes it an act of the will). She has sinned. She thinks a good way to get even would be to tear up his favorite suit or break his leg and she decides to do it. This is a sin. She changes her mind. Good, but she has already been guilty of sin. The degree of guilt depends on how serious the evil she wishes.

On the other hand, if when she gets angry she stops and thinks of all the love Joe has for her, or if when she feels like breaking his leg or tearing up his suit she says to herself, "No, that's wrong. I don't want that. I won't do it," there has been no sin.

SOME BACKWARD GLANCES AT A BUSY SUMMER

Busy summer? You can say that again...

It all started with the move from the rectory to the new building on June 8, when parishioners did an army ant act shifting belongings piece by piece. A few rectory inhabitants kept a degree of sanity during that time mainly by disappearing periodically. Not long after the mass evacuation it was time for all the remaining rectory furnishings and equipment to go on sale at the house, and for St. Vincent de Paul to clear some of its stored possessions by sales of what looked like tons of clothing and miscellaneous "stuff".

Some heroines and heroes saw us through those madhouse days, and stuck with it long enough and often enough to bring about traces of order in our parish facade. Many thanks to all of them!

Goodbye to the old rectory... Eighty-two years of existence at the heartbeat of St. Patrick's Parish came to an abrupt, unceremonious end on Tuesday, July 26. At 8:00 a.m. the old building was there, scruffy looking to be sure, showing every year of its age, but there. At noon it was gone as completely as if it had never been, and no one to mark the passing of other generations, other cares, other victories or losses. Even young parishioners feel a sadness now, as if an old and tolerant friend has departed. But the memories are mostly good and viable, and we've already begun a whole new chapter in the life of this community. May we fare as well in our next 80 years!

Father Kinder came back... to a warmly welcoming parish on Sunday, June 19. It had seemed a long time since January 13 when a heart attack downed him. His recovery is a good lesson on how to roll with the punches.

And Father Hochstatter departed... It was "Hail and Farewell" that week as Father Ted Hochstatter left for permanent assignment in Kewanee's St. Mary's Parish. His friendliness and warmth while pinch-hitting for Father Kinder were treasured by all who knew him.

On-site Blood Bank a winner... On Sunday, June 26, the mountain came to Moham-med. The Champaign County Blood Bank set up a complete portable unit in the Parish Center. That was when St. Patrick's out-did itself with record contributions of 60 units of blood and many more willing donors unable to give at the time. (Our next date will be September 19 back at the usual location.)

Father Hennessy's 20th anniversary... celebrated on July 24, had to be the social highlight of the months just past. Combining it with the Ice-Cream Social, the conspirators who staged this extravaganza managed to bring off a four star celebration which obviously surprised (and delighted) our modest pastor and a full house of enthusiastic parishioners.

"This is Your Life, Doug Hennessy" was produced with faithful inclusion of unexpected family members and friends. The Young Adults cleverly altered excerpts from such musicals as "Hello, Dolly" and "Fiddler on the Roof" to tease and please Father. The baseball team converted "Casey at the Bat" into a soggy saga of Father Hennessy's prowess on the diamond. And finally, the day's highpoint, parish representatives presented him a handmade stole (described elsewhere in this issue) and a take-a-trip-if-you-like purse. By the time the afternoon ended, faces were tired from smiling and hands from clapping--and no one there would have missed it for anything.

Hukiki in southeast Urbana... For many who were fed up with August doldrums and heat the Luau held August 20 at the Windsor Swim Club came just in time. Casual costuming, swimming (both planned and unplanned), water volleyball and superb food made the evening fun for everyone. Prizes for best tourist costume and best native costume went to Howard Anderson and Nancy Riddle. Door prizes were fresh pineapples awarded to eight guests. The Luau Committee did a great job of organizing, gathering contributions, and preparing the food for this joyful affair... and the parish will benefit too from the net profit of about \$500 realized from the fun.

PARISH RECEIVES \$7,500

Theresa A. Johnson of Urbana, who died last year, left a bequest of \$7,500 to St. Patrick's parish. Her gift--timely, much appreciated, and typical of her caring nature--was left with no restrictions on how the parish might use it. Mrs. Johnson is remembered with affection as a long-time parishioner who was never too busy to help with St. Patrick's needs.

CELLAR-TO-GARRET SALE GOES PARISHWIDE

After years of being the domain of the Guild only, this year's Cellar-to-Garret Sale is to be the responsibility of the entire parish and the Guild. Work and proceeds will be shared equally, and it is hoped that more helping hands will increase income from this popular annual event over that of previous years. This major fund raiser will take place in the Parish Center on Friday and Saturday, October 28 and 29, with a preview sale on Thursday evening (for which \$1.00 admission will be charged).

Start now to make contributions. This year's sale will offer a much wider variety of items, including furniture, glassware, and home equipment as well as the usual clothing and miscellany. The parish is ready to receive your contributions from now on. Please bring clean, unbroken, usable items to the garage in back of church for storage until the sale. Also please tag the clothing with the sizes of the garments and your name.

SCRIPTURE WORKSHOP SET FOR OCTOBER 25

Under the sponsorship of the Diocesan Office of Religious Education an all-area workshop is to be offered at St. Matthew's School on Tuesday, October 25, 7:00-10:00 p.m. Under the general heading of "Scripture" there will probably be six different presentations from which to choose. Topics will be announced later in St. Patrick's Sunday bulletin.

GUILD KICKOFF SEPTEMBER 12

St. Patrick's Guild holds its first meeting of the fall season on Monday, September 12. A potluck supper will precede the meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. Members are asked to bring one covered dish of any kind to share with five or six others. Annual dues of \$3.00 may be turned in at that time.

CALL IT A LABOR OF LOVE

A dozen young women in the parish came up with the idea as long ago as last February to make a special stole for Father Doug Hennessy's twentieth anniversary of ordination.

Nineteen symbols, including the seven sacraments and additional Christian designs, were embroidered in a counted cross-stitch technique, the threads of soft multicolors blending harmoniously to give off a pale turquoise hue.

An imported damask material, obtained from an Urbana shop, had four-inch circles imprinted into the fabric. The symbols were embroidered right into the circles.

Inside the stole Father's full name, date of ordination (July 14, 1963) and the date of the parish celebration (July 23, 1983) complete this lovely work of art.

EIGHT-WEEK PEER MINISTRY TRAINING PLANNED

Under the direction of Jim Healey, the Family Life Office will offer an eight-week course at St. Patrick's for a group of 12-15 people who want leadership training in some aspect of family life. These classes will take place in the lounge, 7:30-9:30 p.m., on the Wednesdays of October 5, 12, 19, and 26, and November 2, 9, 16, and 30. Gary Laumann (367-2665) can provide more information for anyone interested in the course.

ILLINOIS DRE'S FORM NATIONAL GROUP

Gradually the status of lay persons in the ministry of the Church is being clarified, and advances are being made toward professionalizing the concept of coordinators and directors of religious education. After two years of planning, Illinois has become the third state to form a recognized organization for such professionals, whether paid or volunteer. The founding congress of the infant I.P.C.D. (Illinois Parish Coordinators and Directors of Religious Education) will be held in Peoria, October 27-29. Gary Laumann, Director of Religious Education at St. Patrick's, helped to organize this association and is vice-chairman of the state-wide executive committee. All who are interested in learning more about the group or attending the congress should call Gary at 367-2665.

CRAFTY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN BUSY

Don't forget Grandma when you do your Christmas shopping! Save time and shop at St. Patrick's craft sale on November 19-20. There will be many different handmade items to choose from as well as a country kitchen. Also available will be the first edition of St. Patrick's three color, spiral bound cookbook. Those who have worked with Carol Bosley on this project are enthusiastic over the quality and variety of the recipes they'll offer in this two hundred page publication. Bring the whole family--don't miss the Sale of the Year!

RETREAT FOCUSES ON SCRIPTURE

Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Mahomet, will be the setting for the first retreat this year sponsored by A.C.R.E. for men and women. The retreat, to be held on Sunday, September 11, will begin with a potluck at 5:30 p.m., followed by Father Michael Schaab's presentation on "The Use of Scripture in Adult Spirituality."

St. Patrick's catechists for junior and senior high will attend not only this meeting but a day-long workshop at LaSalette beginning with Mass at 7:30 a.m.

Also sponsored by A.C.R.E. are workshops for teachers of children, to be held on September 22 and November 17, 7:30-9:30 p.m., at St. Matthew's School. Teachers may select the on-going age-level tracks they wish to attend at these meetings and at the final one on January 19.

Diplomacy, n. The ability to do the unpleasant thing in a pleasant way. Unknown.

SAD SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Every day the matter of security becomes more pervasive in our community, and St. Patrick's--church property notwithstanding--is not immune from the problem.

With the move to the new wing of the Parish Center it has become much more necessary for persons using any part of the Center to really think about locking up, closing windows, generally securing the premises before leaving. With the old rectory in use our hazards were divided between the two buildings; now everything could be at stake in the one location. So it's for this reason that Council and other

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Some dates have been set for a number of events to be held during the next few months. Detailed information for some of these events appears in this issue. Be sure to check the Sunday bulletins for further information.

Sept. 11: Regional retreat for adults and catechists (religious educators), 5:30-9:30 p.m. with Father Mike Schaab, Our Lady of the Lake, Mahomet.

Sept. 18: Parish Picnic at Crystal Lake Park, 1:00-5:00 p.m. (Main Pavilion).

Sept. 24 and 25: Women's CRHP weekend.

Sept. 28: The Way of Roman Catholicism beginnings, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 2: Commitment Sunday (Stewardship). Religious education classes and children's liturgy begin.

Oct. 5, 12, 19; Nov. 2, 9: Reconciliation preparation (first confession).

Oct. 21, 23: Pre-Cana Conference.

Oct. 22 and 23: Men's CRHP weekend.

Oct. 25: Workshop for adults and religious educators at St. Matthews, 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 28 and 29: Cellar-to-Garret Sale.

Nov. 19 and 20: Craft Sale.

RECONCILIATION PREPARATION CLASSES START

Children at least eight years of age and their parents will participate in a series of five required classes in preparation for receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. The classes will be held in the Parish Center, 7:00-8:30 p.m., on Wednesdays, October 5, 12, 19, and November 2 and 9. If enough junior-high students or their parents express interest in having such a program too, the Religious Education staff will be glad to plan one.

persons responsible for our welfare emphasize the need for every committee or group using the premises to take responsibility for leaving everything locked, in good order and safe. Please cooperate.

Along this same line, because of repeated thefts, the box for offerings covering votive candles in church has had to be done away with. Now there is a supply of envelopes where the box used to be. People are asked please to use those for their offerings, placing them either in the collection basket on Sunday, or leaving them at the parish office during the week.