

in focus

708 West Main Street

Urbana, Illinois 61801

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The Spirit Of Family

For Father's Day we offer the reflections of a St. Patrick's father.

"O-u-c-h!" Molly screeched. "Dad, make Bobbie stop kicking me under the table."

"My name is not Dad," Bob Sr. snapped back.

Little faces with round wide eyes and open mouths stared in silence.

"What is your name?" Molly found the courage to ask.

"Mr. Short Fuse, which is about burnt out," he said--but in a calming voice easing the sudden tension. "Bobbie, try to get along with your sister and give me a little peace and quite."



Jeff and Lori Hately with their son, Doug.



Diana and Tom Beasley with their children (L-R) Thomas, Sean and Donata.

Kicking, whining, snapping, shouting, the fatigue of the day's tasks, the drain of energy in pointless bickering and the effort to meet seemingly endless demands. Although few of us actually do, there's an urge to buy a one-way ticket to Tahiti. Being family means heavy burdens at least as often as it means happiness. Most of us escape in shorter trips--to the chair in front of the TV or immersion in work that needs to be done. Our

actions say we want out as clearly as Bob's short outburst of temper.

But seeing rejection on a dear one's face or sensing the fear that a child is lost makes us realize that our deepest feelings are not in the wish to leave. Is God, our Father, sometimes a weary parent? His children have been quarreling for centuries, constantly rejecting His values, and seeming to thrive on division. He has also had the urge to abandon them to the loneliness they seemed to deserve. Yet in the end, He spoke the truth of the deepest spirit of family: "Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you." The bonds which hold us together are undeniable.

There are ways to soothe the tensions that may come along--the light touch of humor, the determination to be a little more patient, practicing the habit of forgiveness.

Our family life is a cup we share. It can be overflowing with our resentments dissolved by love if we can forgive. We can imitate our Father whose forgiveness is written in our history.



Linda and Mike Dorsey with their children (L-R) Rebecca, Rachel and Bill.



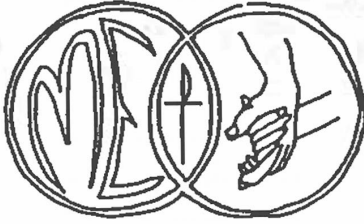
Donna and Jay Hoeflinger with their son, Christopher.

Could we reverse the usual order of things for just one week--consider Sunday our day of work and let our Mass last the next six days. Imagine ourselves as Eucharistic Ministers to one another. Bring to your children, spouse, mother, father, brother, sister, and yourself the bread of love and patience and offer the cup of your forgiveness. And who would Christ have us consider our family but anyone in need anywhere, and especially everyone in the family of our parish community.

Being a Christian family is not something extraordinary. God works through ordinary lives in continuous conversion, conversion of faith in, and in spite of ordinary, everyday situations, in our hearts, wherever we may be. Each day is a chance to see God anew in situations and people we come in contact with. St. Ireneaus said, "The Glory of God is a human fully alive." Our Christian vocation is to enjoy life, be human, have faith and reveal God's glory in our own individual ways.

In short, let our Brother Jesus live with us.

I am only one, but I am one!
 I cannot do everything,
 but I can do something!
 What I should do, and can do,
 By the grace of God,
 I will do!
 --Jo Petty, Seasons of the Soul



Marriage Encounter-- A Gift To Each Other

Marriage Encounter is a weekend you give to yourself and your spouse, a time to become reacquainted with each other. "M.E." (as Marriage Encounter is usually called) is not a sensitivity group, there is no group dialogue, and what is learned is applicable to everyday life.

Three couples from St. Patrick's (Nancy and Pat Bryant, Debbie and Mike Gardner, and Ellen and Joe Abell) gave the gift of Marriage Encounter to each other by attending the M.E. held in March at the LaSalette Retreat Center near Danville. The Gardners mentioned that the weekend gave them a chance to concentrate on letting down the barriers that get in the way of a better marriage, and that it was a weekend they will never forget. Pat Bryant said, "The weekend gave us enough time from our busy daily lives to talk about our concerns for each other."

The structure of the weekend consisted of talks in which the team members (three couples and a priest) shared their own experiences, covering such topics as "Encounter with Self," "Marriage in God's Plan," and "Christian Commitment." Except for the talks, breaks, meals and Mass, the weekend was devoted to private time for self and spouse.

Suggested questions were given for personal reflection and private couple dialogue. Joe Abell indicated that the M.E. showed how to dialogue honestly and with confidence in your spouse, and to know what your feelings are. The importance of personal reflection and couple dialogue for use throughout married life was stressed.

One of the highlights of the weekend took place during Mass, when couples renewed their marriage vows. Ellen Abell reflected that "The entire experience was geared to our unity, and the renewal of our marriage vows brought the weekend to a joyful end by affirming not

only our unity as a couple, but our unity with God."

A reunion followed the Marriage Encounter a few weeks later, giving the participants an opportunity to express their thoughts about the weekend, to get to know one another, and to learn how to form an "Image Group." Image Groups usually meet once a month, providing support to those trying to live their commitment to marriage in a world that seems to reject such values.

A parish Marriage Encounter is scheduled for St. Patrick's June 23-24. Tom and Diana Beasley, who recently joined the parish, and the Abells are coordinators. For more information concerning Marriage Encounter, phone the Gardners (351-1086), the Bryants (359-4294), the Beasleys (328-0211), or the Abells (367-5648). If you are interested in attending the parish M.E. or a diocesan-wide Marriage Encounter, call the parish office (367-2665).

Father Hennessy Travels To The Holy Land

A long, harsh winter to muse over the delights of a 1984 spring trip to the Holy Land, and to Rome. Finally, the day of departure for Tele Aviv, where Father Doug Hennessy disembarked May 11 with his companion Jim Shaw, seminarian from Pope John XXIII Seminary, Weston, Massachusetts. A group of 50 would study firsthand the story of the life of Christ under the tutelage of Fr. Stephen Doyle, O.F.M., Scripture scholar, author and lecturer.

As a tourist in the Holy Land, mingling with crowds of all faiths traversing the historic pathways where Christ once walked, you hear the oft-repeated phrase "the exact spot where . . ." and you say to yourself, "Yes, it's possible that he did touch this place or pass through it." Yet so many changes have come through the centuries--chapels built, chapels rebuilt--there's no certainty that "this is the exact place." You realize that it really does not matter. It's the Land of Jesus, and you are grateful that you are here.

Shrines under supervision of the Franciscans were especially clean and prayerful in atmosphere. The Franciscans consider the Holy Land to be the pearl of their mission life. In twelve days it's impossible to visit all the holy places, but many important ones were included on the tour: Nazareth, Cana, the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of the Transfiguration, the sycamore tree of Zachaeus, the Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem. "When all is said and done, the experience of the Holy Land gives you a sense of the world out of which the Scriptures grew."

Our traveler did not keep a written journal, but he did use tapes and now has a fairly good record of what he saw, the moods and thoughts captured. In the upper room of the Cenacle, as he saw pigeons fly in and out, he smiled to himself and thought of his Urbana parish. Then came a different kind of reaction when he later saw on a menu "roast pigeon"--said to be a delicacy.

The weather proved to be exceptionally favorable, accommodations were well above average, and the fine group of pilgrims contributed to the pleasure of the twelve days--study days and days of prayer.



Then in Rome, where in 1963 he finished his studies at the North American College and was ordained in the Church of the Twelve Apostles, Father Doug offered Mass in the church one morning. He had time to visit a few favorite spots or perhaps see for the first time some of the surrounding countryside. Assisi, Florence, Milan were mentioned.

The time went too quickly. Father Doug did not do all he had planned, but said it was a great experience. We hope to hear bits and pieces as he shares recollections with us in the months to come.

Riders For Life!

Cyclists Fighting Hunger —
A Harvard-Radcliffe Student Organization



Riders For Life

What do you think college students do in the summer? Work, go to summer school, lie around, travel, etc.? Some do these things, but this summer about 65 Harvard-Radcliffe students will bicycle from coast to coast to showcase the need to fight world hunger.

Leaving the United Nations June 12, they will arrive at the Olympics in Los Angeles on August 4. This "Ride for Life" has two fundamental goals: to educate Americans about world hunger and its potential alleviation; and to raise money for Oxfam America. Oxfam is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping members of Third World countries. It differs from many such groups in that it not only feeds the hungry but also educates them to become economically self-sufficient. It is not affiliated with any political or religious organization.

The Riders will be at St. Patrick's the night of Wednesday, June 27 for a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. Some of them will speak to us on their purpose and also solicit donations to Oxfam. Our groups of high school juniors and seniors plan a "share-the-ride" bicycle trip to Monticello with the Riders the morning of Thursday, June 28. Before their round trip they will seek mileage sponsors to raise money for Oxfam.

Look for more information in the bulletin. If you would like to help with the Wednesday evening potluck or the Thursday morning bike ride, please contact Rodger Adams soon at 328-3980 or call St. Patrick's and leave a message.

Let's help make the C-U visit of Riders for Life a real success!

Bits And Pieces

There's no service more appreciated (or less touted)--than the one provided by the women who prepare and serve the meals following parish funerals. For years about ten women, called together by Betty Conerty and Mary Sleeter, have been the Marthas who make the sympathy of the parish tangible to those who have had deaths in their families. All that's needed to take advantage of this service at such a crucial time is to let one of the group know that a lunch or brunch is desired and they take it from there. Families need only provide whatever meat they wish to have served and the team does the rest, including cooking the meat. The same group will also "do" wedding receptions but for a fee which benefits St. Patrick's.

There isn't space to name all those who help with this grand service, but we hope they know how much they are appreciated. Incidentally, if you are new and would like to lend a hand you'd be welcome.

Caution! Leaven at work. The Spirit moves in lovely ways at St. Patrick's this spring--witness our statistics since March. At the Easter vigil service 11 catechumens made their formal entry into the church, receiving the sacraments of Baptism and/or Confirmation. On Easter Monday, April 24, Bishop O'Rourke confirmed 16 high school students who have now embarked on their year of service to the parish community. The "littlest angels"--42 of them--made their First Holy Communion on Sunday afternoon, May 6. Well-attended receptions at the Parish Center followed each of these significant events, giving families, sponsors and friends welcome opportunity to socialize and share their joy.

We did lose Father Hennessy, but only for a little while, and we expect to share with him as beneficiaries from the inspiration and new insights he gained from his sojourn in the Holy Land and Rome.

A final positive statistic, 43 new families or single members came into the parish from March through May, while only 29 moved away.

It's Blood Bank time again! Please be sure to circle Monday, June 18, on your calendar as the date to go to the Blood Bank. For parish newcomers, St. Patrick's, like most other churches in the community, has a particular day every three months when parishioners give blood for local hospitals and emergencies. Call the Blood Bank (367-2202) or Ruth Bowman (367-2665) for an appointment any time between 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. June 18. If that date isn't convenient, plan to go in another day but be sure to mention St. Patrick's, Unit #94. During the summer months our help is more important than ever since C-U loses many donors when university students and faculty leave town.

The Catholic Worker House . . . needs people who can prepare and deliver a simple, nourishing meal for 12 to 15 persons once a month. Pay: the gratitude of the homeless recipients of your culinary products. For further details, call Barb Adams (328-3980) during the evenings or weekends.

Catechists needed. Summer's when the planning gets done for all those religious education programs and classes for hundreds of parish youngsters. So that's when it helps to know who would be willing to serve as a teacher or aide for the 84/85 school year. If you are interested in kids (from nursery age to high school seniors), if you've taught before, would like to be a teacher's helper or want to learn, please leave your name and phone number at the parish office. Gary Laumann, Karen Kimmey, or Jim Mayer (367-2665) can tell you all about requirements for these jobs.

Going away this summer? Please don't forget to see that your weekly contributions keep coming. The parish depends upon our financial assistance 12 months a year.

Have you a garden to share? During the summer months St. Vincent de Paul members cherish every pound and bunch of produce our gardens can provide. This is how they prepare ahead of time for the heavy demands in fall and winter for frozen soups for the Winter Emergency

Shelter and the Catholic Worker House. Whenever you have some to share please bring them to the Parish Center and let the office know you're doing so.

Are you a crafty one with your hands? If you are you're one of the ones the Craft Sale Committee is looking for. The sale won't be until next fall but the various skill groups are working together now to accumulate lots of handmade things for the sale. Call the office if you're interested, and be sure to check the weekly calendar in each bulletin for meetings of particular craft groups.

One to be missed. Summer Days Together, our summer program for children, won't be offered this year, unfortunately. However, in its place there will be Children's Liturgies on the third Sunday of each month from June through September. These services will be held as usual at 10:40 a.m. in the multi-purpose room.

We need a thank-you scroll . . . or a back-patting machine! Each time an issue of in focus is being written the editorial staff is reminded that space limitations preclude our mentioning by name all the people who do so much to make this parish a real community. We're sorry not to be able to single out each one of you--but we can tell you how grateful we are to be part of a faith group that has so much to give to each other.

The Luau is planned for Saturday, August 4 at the Windsor Swim and Tennis Club, 8:00 p.m. to midnight. It's a social as well as a fundraiser. Nancy Barrett (344-9214) has details and will accept volunteer help.

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

--Ambrose Bierce, Devil's Dictionary

The Nursery At St. Patrick's

The nursery at St. Patrick's, which is available during the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses on Sunday for children of six months to three years, is a place where parents can leave their children under the supervision of two adults while they attend Mass.

The nursery provides a place for children to release their extra energy, while learning to get along with their peers. It provides a place where children can express themselves freely, while the adults give guidance and comfort when needed.

Nancy Delanty is the current coordinator of the nursery with this responsibility rotating every three months. Other coordinators are Nancy Barrett, Peggy Mersch and Jame Lawrence, to mention a few who help with the project. "The goal in providing nursery service is to make Mass more enjoyable and more beneficial to the parents," explains Nancy Delanty. "I really believe we add to the liturgical richness of the service by providing the nursery," adds Nancy Barrett.

The nursery is a great asset to our parish. However, volunteers are needed to keep it running. Each volunteer works an average of one Sunday every three or four months. If interested in being a volunteer or if you would like more information about the nursery, please call Nancy Barrett (344-9214) or Nancy Delanty (367-6726). Help us to maintain a fine facility within the St. Patrick's community. Incidentally, it's also an opportunity for the junior and senior high parishioners to provide needed service for their community.

The parish picnic will be sometime in October. No plans have yet been made.

Money buys everything--except love, personality, freedom, immortality, silence, and peace.

--Carl Sandburg

New Members Elected To Parish Council

Three persons with widely varying backgrounds won election to St. Patrick's Parish Council April 29: Anne Britsky, a resident of the parish for 32 years; Leon Mayer, a member for six years; and David Riddle, with five years at St. Patrick's, were chosen from among eight candidates.

The trio joins Council members Helene Kacich, Mary Lou Menches, Lenore Nagele, Frank Nasca, Margy Palmisano, Natalie Primeaux and Bob Rettig, along with appointed trustees Cathy Rutledge and Martin Zeigler on the Council that oversees operations at St. Patrick's. Father Doug Hennessy, pastor, is also a voting member of the Council.

Anne Britsky believed that her age would work against her. Surprised to be elected, she now realizes that her years in the parish counted for something. "I guess there's hope for the over-50s crowd," she laughed. A major goal is to tap the big reservoir of talent. Biographical information on newcomers may help in celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, and making people feel closer. "Commitment cards" may be a method to find new volunteers, to encourage people to offer their gifts or talents, or give advice for short spurts of time.

Anne has witnessed many changes in the parish in 32 years. She likes what she sees: "the cross section we have. I was happy to run for the Council. I'll do whatever I can to help." Before starting the three-year term, Anne and her husband Nick, artist-sculptor of "The Rising Christ" hanging in our church sanctuary, are traveling in the Ukraine--Nick's native country.

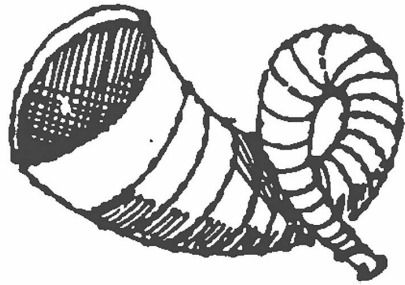
Leon Mayer, with experience in other parishes--St. Anne's in Dixon and St. Anthony's in Effingham--was a natural to join the Council at St. Patrick's. Happy over the election, he sees his major goal to be development of greater participation of parishioners in the work of the parish. "I'm excited over the potential for bringing out capabilities in people."

A professor of vocational education at the University of Illinois, Leon is busy; but his family promises support of his efforts. He hopes to learn as much as he can quickly and thus become involved in the Council and all its concerns.

David Riddle, a parishioner for a relatively short time, has accomplished much: work with the Guild in last year's Cellar-to-Garret sale; service as a lector, Eucharistic minister, and as a staff member on the Pre-Cana Conference. Dave's wife, Nancy, recently completed three years on the Council. Surprised to learn of his election, he looks forward to the next three years as an interesting challenge.

Dave is credit manager at Collegiate Cap and Gown in Champaign. He brings his skills of diplomacy as umpire on the summer softball field into play on our parish Council. He's a member of K. C. Council 5752.

The new members were officially seated at the meeting May 17 Council meeting, at which new officers were elected: Mary Lou Menches, president; Lenore Nagele, vice-president; Helene Kacich, secretary.



Long range planning does not deal with future decisions, but with the future of present decisions.

--Peter Drucker

You Say You Are Lonesome, Having Trouble Getting Acquainted?

Nothing to do? No one should be able to make that complaint at St. Patrick's unless he or she is really trying to be bored. As you know, each Sunday's bulletin tells of the many activities, ministries, committees, special events and the like that are open to all parishioners, young, old or in between. What the bulletin doesn't tell is how much work is done by fairly limited numbers of persons, nor does it tell how much each of these groups would welcome new members.

For instance, consider the Social Committee. They provide pleasure for the whole parish all year long and also assist others planning special events. But they need new members who would enjoy sharing the fellowship as well as the responsibility and satisfaction of putting on one event or another. Since January 1 we've had the New Year's Eve dance, the Mardi Gras, three major receptions (for Confirmation, First Communion, and the catechumens) and a small coffee after Mass on Memorial Day. Still to come are the Luau in August, the parish picnic in September, the Italian dinner in November, the Advent celebration in December, and three more informal coffees to celebrate July 4, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving.

Apart from things social, there are big annual affairs like the Cellar-to-Garret Sale or the Craft and Bake Sale (major fund raisers), each requiring many hours from many people. At the other end of the time scale there are the parish's special days at the Champaign County Blood Bank which require only 30 minutes and a unit of blood several times a year.

Items mentioned here only skim the surface of things to do at St. Patrick's so if you'd like more information please leave your name and phone number at the parish office (367-2665) and you will be contacted promptly.

An Italian dinner, chaired by David Palmisano, is planned for November. Frank Costa will do the food preparation. He hopes for 1000 people to attend.



Something For Everyone In Parish Library

Books for adults and children as well as cassette tapes for adults are available in the parish library, with new titles being acquired regularly. Materials may be checked out for two to four weeks by any parishioner. It's on the east side of the main room of the parish center. Hours: Sunday mornings, 8:30-11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Other times, by request.

Collections include material on the Bible-- from popular paraphrases to scholarly works. Books of prayer and about praying are plentiful. Do you sometimes wonder about our beliefs and values as Catholics from a modern or historical perspective? Our library has a wealth of material for exploring these issues. Books and tapes can help in passing on the faith to the next generation. How-to books can help to understand holidays and holydays; lives of heroes, heroines, and saints can inspire you. Especially for children are books on biblical themes and stories "just for fun."

Stop by to browse over a wide variety of topics. And check the bulletin from time to time for a list of new titles.

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Editorial Board: Ellen Abell, Joe Abell, Helen Barrymore, Ruth Bowman, Helene Kacich, Mary Lou Menches, Melissa Miller, Ellen Paul, Rose Sisco.

Layout: Jerry Barrett
