

in focus

708 West Main Street

Urbana, Illinois 61801

Vol.4, no. 1

Stewardship: Shared Ministry

As Christian stewards all, we are called to share our gifts through the ministries of prayer and worship, service, faith development, and community.

Each of us has been blessed with talents, skills, and abilities we may take for granted. Because we consider them ordinary, we may not see their value for our parish. But no ability is insignificant in God's work, whether it be weeding the grounds, stuffing envelopes for mailing, sharing the word or body of the Lord in our liturgies, carrying Christ to shut-ins, distributing food baskets, cleaning the votive candle holders, painting the classrooms, singing or playing the guitar at Mass . . .

Our parish community is made up of dreamers, full of ideas and plans, and doers, who implement the dreamer's vision. Both are necessary to the growth of God's kingdom here at St. Patrick's. Whether you are a dreamer or a doer, whether you can sing or sew or spend time with a lonely shut-in, there is a real need for you and what only you can do--now, today.

As you read here and elsewhere about the wide variety of possibilities for giving life to our vision as a parish, choose the ones that interest you. Find the ways you can help to sustain our life together in a wise steward's acknowledgment of the Giver of all good gifts.

Making Music: Discovering A New Dimension In Worship



Among the many signs and symbols used by the Church to celebrate its faith, music is of preeminent importance. Music should assist the assembled believers to express and share the gift of faith that is within them and to nourish and strengthen their interior commitment of faith. The quality of joy and enthusiasm which music adds to community worship cannot be gained in any other way. . . . It imparts a sense of unity to the congregation and unveils a dimension of meaning and feeling which words alone cannot yield.

*--American Bishops,
"Music in Catholic Worship"*

The bishops' phrase "a quality of joy and enthusiasm" certainly describes St. Patrick's Folk Choir, which provides musical leadership at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday. The choir

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"Hinc Illae Lacrimae" ("Hence These Tears")



Ruth Bowman, friend and counselor, set an example of caring concern, warmth, dedication, and love for us. Her joy for living and her faith show us His message. We miss Ruth; hence these tears. We admire and cherish her example; hence these tears even as we rejoice--for surely she has attained the Kingdom.

Growing In Faith Through Religious Education

The *children's program*, for preschoolers through grade six, meets on the first three Sundays of the month at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. (Please note the time change for the later session.) A class for three-year-olds also meets at 9:00 a.m. Themes for the year include "Something Special," "Our Bible Story," "Christian Community," "Christian Conscience," and "Growth in Spirit." Children in first and second grades meet in the Parish Center basement; all other classes meet in the classrooms and the library.

A popular children's program on Sunday

mornings is the Children's Liturgy (see separate article in this issue), designed to increase children's participation and understanding of liturgy. This liturgy is celebrated at 10:15 a.m. in the multipurpose room.

Also included in the children's program are preparation sessions for First Eucharist and Reconciliation. Sessions are also held for parents to help them prepare their children for reception of these sacraments.

The *junior high youth program* is designed for seventh-, eighth-, and ninth-graders. The seventh- and eighth-graders meet two Sundays of the month to learn about the history of the church. Ninth-graders meet on Sunday evenings, using the "Reverence for Life and Family" program. Social and service events are also planned. A junior high liturgy is celebrated every other month.

The *senior high youth program* is designed for high-school sophomores, juniors, and seniors. For sophomores and juniors, the focus of the year's program is "Introduction to the Catholic Faith." The first two Sundays of the month are content-based. On the third Sunday a liturgy is celebrated to which seniors are also invited. The fourth Sunday is reserved for social and service activities. The seniors' program follows a similar pattern, with the focus on marriage and family life, social concerns, and vocations in general.

Integrated with this program is the parish Confirmation program. During Lent sophomores and juniors meet with sponsors and volunteer staff to prepare intensively for Confirmation in the spring. A retreat opens and closes the year.

Adult education groups meet at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday in the Parish Center. This year's scriptural focus is the gospel of Mark. At various times during the year short modules (4-6 weeks) will be offered, during the day and in the evening, on Bible study and sharing, church history, Christian values, and conscience formation. Adult spirituality will be nourished through the PRAY program and through retreats. Special offerings in Advent are planned on Old Testament themes of covenant, promise, and fulfillment; in Lent, on Wisdom literature and the psalms. Adult religious education programs are designed to foster faith sharing, spiritual growth and maturity of faith, and community building.

Meet The New Religious Education Coordinators

Four new religious education coordinators joined the education program July 1 in a restructuring proposed by the Education Committee and enacted by the Parish Council late last year. All bring a commitment to the parish exemplified by past service and participation.

New coordinators are Carolyn McElrath, adult education; Barb Adams, religious education resources; Ken Kocher, junior high ministry; and Cathy Stierman, senior high ministry. They join Gary Laumann, Director of Religious Education, and Karen Kimmey, Associate Director. Karen coordinates the children's program and family life ministry.

Carolyn McElrath, a member of the parish for four years, has served on the Education Committee for three years, two of them as chairperson. She brings both experience and training to her task as Coordinator of Adult Religious Education. A year ago she was awarded certification in religious education, and on September 22 she completed a three-year program for religious education coordinators in the Peoria diocese. She has also worked extensively with St. Patrick's scripture study program.

Carolyn's plans for adult religious education include the PRAY program and Bible study. Her goals are to increase participation in adult education programs and to make classes challenging. Her hope is that adults will realize that they are called to continue growing and maturing in their faith and that they serve as role models for their children and other youths.

Barb Adams, parishioner for 13 years, serves as Coordinator of Religious Education Resources. Married to Deacon Rodger Adams, she has a master's degree in social service and works at the Champaign County Nursing Home.

Barb's goal is to increase parishioners' exposure to materials in the parish library, especially those for adults. She hopes to find ways to encourage increasing use of this parish resource for adult education. The library has a good base of reading materials that include children's literature.

Ken Kocher, a Parkland College student in secondary education, joins the staff as Co-

ordinator of Junior High Ministry. He is a veteran of St. Patrick's programs, both as a volunteer instructor and as a participant.

Ken hopes to impart Christian values together with church traditions as he tries to help junior high participants know themselves and one another better and become better acquainted with the rest of the parish community.

Cathy Stierman, known to parishioners as Cathy Rowan before her recent marriage to John Stierman, is a student in secondary education at the University of Illinois. A member of the parish since 1972, she is Coordinator of Senior High Ministry.

Like Ken, Cathy participated in parish programs as a high-schooler and as a volunteer instructor. She has also been both server and Eucharistic minister at Sunday liturgies. Her leadership and managerial experience will stand her in good stead as she works with volunteers in a program that has been restructured this year.

Silicon Parish

The parish has grown and so have the number of programs to serve our parishioners. The need for an improved information retrieval system to aid in program and financial planning has become acute.

Small businesses that have reached a comparable stage of activity are turning to micro-computers. So, too, are churches. St. Mary's, Bloomington, with a year's experience in using a micro-computer, has offered help to other parishes considering entering the computer age.

A subcommittee of the Finance Committee traveled to St. Mary's for a demonstration of the computer equipment and processing techniques used there. Favorably impressed, members are now studying our own parish requirements and checking on equipment available locally. The Finance Committee expects to make its recommendation to the Parish Council later this year.

Making Music (continued from page 1)

invites anyone who enjoys singing or playing an instrument to join them for rehearsals on alternate Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

St. Patrick's Choir, which leads the singing at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, is open to any interested adult or high school student who enjoys singing. If you appreciate the satisfaction of working toward excellence in a wide variety of traditional choral music, come to choir rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. No audition is necessary.

The *Brass Choir* is also looking for new members. If you play a brass instrument and are willing to give a few hours a month, join us!

Cantors, leaders of song, are needed at every weekend liturgy.

Don't be shy; come and share your musical gifts, however humble you think they are. If you'd like to participate in any aspect of the music program at St. Patrick's, come to the choir loft after Mass and talk with Doug Salokar, Music Director. or come to a rehearsal.

*How often, making music, we have found
A new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!*

*And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
When utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing for whom he won the fight.
Let every instrument be tuned for praise,
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise,
And may God give us faith to sing always!*

--From a hymn by F. P. Green

Some Fine Committees Need Your Help



Building and Grounds

Can you swing a hammer? Wield a paint brush? Pull weeds? The Building and Grounds Committee is responsible for the maintenance, repair, and operation of all parish property and equipment. Members save us thousands of dollars annually as they work together in their service of the parish. Currently members are working on installation of drop ceilings and insulation in Parish Center classrooms.

If you have an interest in caring for our parish "home" and can give your time and energy to its upkeep, call Ken Newman (359-4801) or Bob Rettig (1/469-2063).

Communications

Do you have a nose for news? Are you a "camera hound"? Can you write or copy edit, type or proofread? The Communications Committee seeks to deepen understanding and appreciation among parish groups and individuals and to publicize parish activities at home and in the wider community through such means as *in focus*, *The Catholic Post*, *WILL*, and the recently posted parish bulletin board.

If you have journalistic interests or artistic skills, enjoy gathering or disseminating information, or have ideas to share for improving communication, call Ellen Paul (344-1614) or Leon Mayer (344-2461).

Education

In its philosophy statement the Education Committee stresses the necessity of accepting individuals in their personal faith experience, challenging them with faith experiences of the Judeo-Christian tradition, and inviting them to respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Committee members discern religious-educational needs in our parish community, recommend and evaluate the effectiveness of St. Patrick's religious-education programs, and recommend resources needed to carry out program objectives. Last fall members took a demographic survey of the parish and re-

cently completed a needs-assessment survey of parishioners

If you have an interest or a concern to share, call Bill or Jane McClellan (352-1893) or Natalie Primeaux (344-7859)

Finance

It is the task of the Finance Committee to advise and assist in planning and preparation of the annual parish operating budget, to analyze actual expenditures in light of budgeted goals, and to prepare financial reports for the Parish Council and the pastor.

This committee is also responsible for making specific recommendations to the Council and the pastor for improving the business practices of the parish. Members are presently looking into trusts and the computerization of parish records.

Have you interest or expertise in basic business affairs or budget management? (If you've managed a household, you have budget experience!) Call Paul Hughes (356-6255), Margy Palmisano (337-5510), or Bill Subick (344-0921).

Revenue

The Revenue Committee seeks, as one of its main functions, to increase parishioners' awareness of the need and opportunities for their support of St. Patrick's through regular financial contributions as well as through the gifts of time and talents. The annual stewardship program is a major responsibility of this committee.

Other functions include planning for long- and short-term fund-raising projects and investigating opportunities for creating a more stable base of income in support of parish outreach programs.

If you can help by developing information about such income producers as bequests, memorials, tax benefits for gifts or loans to the parish, or other "could-be" revenue projects, or if you have a talent for helping others see how to use their talents in the service of our parish family, call Shirley Splittstoesser (367-3330) or Frank Nasca (384-8002).

Social

The Social Committee is at the heart of those special functions we remember with a smile long afterward. Members have a vision of the parish family as playing together as

well as praying and working together. They help us start the year with enthusiasm as they foster social interaction through planning, organizing, and carrying out such social events as the recent holiday coffee and parish picnic and the forthcoming Italian dinner.

Are you an organizer? A cookie baker? A planner? Do you like to wash dishes? (Some of us really do, you know!) Do you enjoy meeting and greeting newcomers? To offer your services, call Joan Fox (359-7179), Kate Utermohlen (367-8206), or Anne Britsky (367-0854).

Social Action

Membership in the Social Action Committee is open to any who wish to serve the needs of others and to educate parishioners about the Christian response to the needs of the poor, the sick, the oppressed or excluded.

This year members are exploring the feasibility of parish involvement in the Bread for the World organization, support for the sanctuary movement embraced by St. Mary's and other local churches, and cooperation with the diocesan Social Action Commission in promoting the Campaign for Human Development.

Challenged? Interested? Call Brendan McKiernan (384-5809) or Deacon Rodger Adams (328-3980).

Worship and Prayer

Members of the Worship and Prayer Committee serve the parish by promoting and providing liturgical celebrations and personal prayer opportunities that express and nourish the faith of our community.

Individual members serve by training and scheduling Eucharistic ministers, lectors, servers, and ushers, and by creating an aesthetic visual and musical environment for all our parish liturgies.

Some specific areas of study and activity have included the Seder Supper, the children's liturgy, wedding guidelines, and sacramental celebrations.

Through study, discussion, and prayer, as in all their work, members seek to deepen and enrich their understanding of the faith that finds expression in our liturgical celebrations. If you'd like to share in this work and in the personal growth in faith it nourishes, call Doug Salokar (367-2665), Mary Ann Luedtke (328-1143), or Dave Riddle (384-8972).

Children's Liturgy: An Experience Of Celebration

Ringling bells and clanging cymbals . . . flannel-board stories and filmstrips . . . themes of life, love, and being good to others . . . colorful balloons and live flowers to take home as a reminder of what was talked about at Mass. "Harmonious" singing and unique drama . . . a Eucharistic prayer complete with music and gestures . . . fun-to-sing songs . . . little people listening, watching, participating, and learning.

These are the sights and sounds, sensations and stimuli associated with the Children's Liturgy, a popular feature of the program of religious education for children at St. Patrick's.

This special liturgy was begun here several years ago in an attempt to provide younger parishioners with an age-appropriate experience of liturgy on a monthly basis. It continues to be targeted to children, primarily those between the ages of four and ten. It is now celebrated on the first three Sundays of each month beginning at 10:15 a.m. (note the change of time from last year) in the multi-purpose room of the Parish Center.

Children's Liturgy has become known for its fun, easy-to-join-in songs, and

creativity in presenting the scripture message for the Sunday. An attempt is always made to engage the children in what is being presented--for example, by a part in a play, gestures, a dialogue homily with the celebrant, or help in telling a flannel-board story. Children also bring the gifts to the altar and occasionally participate in the entrance procession. All is planned to increase children's participation in the liturgy and their understanding of it.

Parents, of course, do attend the liturgy. Parents of very young children are encouraged to be present--they are often a great help in reminding children of appropriate behavior standards during Mass. Those who do attend (it isn't compulsory) are invited to participate along with the children, setting a good example and encouraging children's participation as well.

Children's Liturgy . . . an experience of liturgy wherein little people listen, watch, participate, and learn. An experience of Eucharist that children can understand and talk about afterward. An experience of celebration.

Variety Of Programs Offered At Holy Cross School

Children of St. Patrick's parish have a parochial elementary school available to them through Holy Cross. Fifty-seven children from 39 families of our parish enjoy the privileges and benefits of Holy Cross School.

Religion is taught as a subject and is integrated throughout the curriculum as well. As a laboratory experiment for the School of Music of the University of Illinois, Holy Cross offers an excellent instrumental and choral music program. The school also provides an enrichment program in foreign language and access to and instruction in

the use of computers. A fine athletic program is another plus. The school may also soon offer a drama program, now actively under consideration.

Miss Marilyn Joseph has been warmly welcomed as the school's new principal, reporting to the Holy Cross Board of Education. St. Patrick's families with children enrolled in Holy Cross School are represented by Leon Mayer, who serves as informal (non-voting) liaison to the Board. The parish is also represented on the Board's public relations committee for disseminating information about the school.

Cellar-To-Garret Sale Set For Oct. 26-27



Again this year St. Patrick's Guild and the Revenue Committee together present the Cellar-to-Garret fund-raiser the weekend of October 26-27 in the Parish Center. A pre-sale is planned for Thursday evening, from

5:00 to 8:00 p.m., with an admission fee of \$1.00 per person.

Items may be deposited in the garage (south side) at the rear of the church. With space somewhat limited, we ask that you make your contributions as compact as possible. Clean, unbroken, usable items, with clothing tagged as to size, will assist the committee greatly.

Early in the week, Tuesday through Thursday, items will be sorted and marked in the Center. Guild members and others have always been generous with their time in getting this necessary work done. Lucille Kocher will supervise marking; David Riddle and Tom Delanty will share the general chairmanship.

Don't wait to be asked to help. Bring your items and pitch in to lend a hand. It's a great cause in terms of our treasury. It also provides an excellent opportunity for community people to find really good buys for their families and households.

A sales force is needed for Friday and Saturday and also for the pre-sale on Thursday evening. The schedule needs to be filled in with names of workers and times when they can help. And then, of course, there's cleanup!

Last year's sale was a big success. Let's repeat it this year.

Seeing Black (Instead Of Red) At The End Of The Fiscal Year

There is good news in the financial report for the parish's fiscal year which ended June 30. General Fund operations ended the year with a \$14,105 surplus. For the first time since at least 1980, weekly collections exceeded projections--by \$1,947. Miscellaneous receipts, which include bequests, memorials, profits from fund-raising activities, and other reimbursements, totaled \$19,222 (\$16,222 more than budgeted). Total income was \$313,278, well above the budgeted \$289,500.

Because income was higher and expenses lower than expected, the Parish Council authorized payment of an additional \$24,095 for retirement of our loan from

the diocese for the new wing of the Parish Center. Every dollar of this amount reduced the principal on the loan. The parish repaid \$97,434, reducing our debt by year's end to \$396,000.

In releasing this information, Bill Subick, parish financial officer, stated: "The year was successful because St. Patrick's parishioners responded so generously to the stewardship program of last fall." He added, "Father Hennessy and the Parish Council challenged us to stretch financially, and we did."

A complete copy of the 14-page financial report is available from the parish office

Mothers' Support Group Is Formed

A mothers' support group is being formed at St. Patrick's to provide a forum for sharing ideas for more successful parenting, providing mutual support, and suggesting ways to impart Christian values to children.

The informal group will meet twice a month on Thursday mornings to discuss such topics as the spirituality of motherhood, children's spiritual development, and praying with children. The group may occasionally take their children on field trips, invite a guest speaker to address them, learn about home liturgies for families, or even indulge a

craving for a craft session. The possibilities are endless!

The group will hold its first meeting on Thursday, September 27, at 9:30 a.m. in the lounge. Babysitting will be available; a donation of 50¢ per child will pay for the sitter.

Mothers, bring your children, bring your ideas, bring yourselves. We all have much to learn from one another.

Questions? Call Carolyn McElrath (328-3063) or Nancy Barrett (344-9214).

In The Busy Summertime

Summertime is a busy time of year for Building and Grounds committee members, and this summer has been no exception. With the charge of maintaining our physical plant and the surrounding grounds, they had to accomplish several tasks.

The roof over the classrooms, library, kitchen, and front of the Parish Center has been replaced. Drop ceilings with insulation above are being installed in the same areas.

The basement of the Parish Center's new wing is nearly complete. When work on the showers and restrooms there has been finished, the basement (already in demand for meetings) will be available for a greater variety of uses.

Walking around outside, you'll notice several changes that have taken place over the summer. A bicycle rack has been installed near the rear entrance to the new Parish Center wing, and stones have been put around the rack and along the front of the building under bushes and trees. Several young trees have been planted on the new lawn between the church and the new wing. These will add grace and beauty to our grounds in coming years as they give comfort to our parish family.

Mark Your Calendars

- Sept. 30 Open registration for religious education classes
Young Adults 6th birthday celebration, breakfast buffet at the University Inn after 9:00 Mass
- Oct. 3 St. Joseph's religious education program begins, 6:45-8:00 p.m. at St. Joseph School
- Oct. 10 Way of Roman Catholicism (new series) begins, 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room
- Oct. 12 Pre-Cana
- Oct. 14 Pre-Cana
- Oct. 25-27 Cellar-to-Garret Sale
- Nov. 11 Italian Dinner
- Nov. 17 Craft Sale

Watch the Sunday bulletin for more information as dates of special events approach.

in focus is a publication of St. Patrick's Parish, 708 West Main Street, Urbana, Ill.

Editorial Board: Communications Committee
Layout: Jerry Barrett