

in focus

708 West Main Street

Urbana, Illinois 61801

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Priest For All Ages

Fifty years in the priesthood have allowed Monsignor Paul R. Kinder to view the life of the Church in a special, realistic way. Celebrating the anniversary of ordination February 3 and 10 in St. Patrick's parish, he shares with us a few recollections.

First, as to Vatican II, "It served the Church well in light of the vast amount of scholarship that had been in process for at least a hundred years concerning liturgy, theology, Scriptures, freedom of conscience, and collegiality. I'm glad to have experienced the Church before Vatican II. Even more, to have experienced it since the Council. I consider it all a great blessing.

"Some unfortunate things have been attributed to Vatican II, but it's really not so. In the last fifteen years the world has gone around a great curve. Many negatives have happened in the Church, but had the Church not accomplished some updating--an updating several centuries overdue--there might be many more negatives than we find today."

Father Kinder has enjoyed every assignment he ever had, but the present one--semi-retirement--at St. Patrick's is almost his "favorite thing." Thirty-one years as a pastor in Danville and three years as an army chaplain in Munich during World War II stand out in his memory. From the liturgical renewal he receives great inspiration in seeing people worship in a language they understand, in participating fully, in sharing in ministry: social action, sacramental life, teaching, studying Scripture, praying the Divine Office.

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Celebrating Lent

No matter when Easter falls, in March or April, the end of Lent means the beginning of spring. The word Lent, in fact, comes from the Anglo-Saxon word lengtente, which means springtime--when the days are lengthening.

Many of the rituals and traditions of the lenten season are tied to ancient fertility rites celebrating the season of spring.

Eggs became the symbol of spring to our pre-Christian ancestors, who were amazed to see a new and live creature emerge from a seemingly dead object. In Christian times the egg became symbolic of the rock tomb from which Christ rose. On Easter the eggs were painted bright colors, blessed, and given as gifts. Children used them in games, such as an egg hunt or egg roll.

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Priest For All Ages (continued from page 1)

The shortage of priests, for whatever reasons (the culture of our times being a major factor), has encouraged greater participation than would be otherwise. The renewal has been useful in terms of the shortage. Pope John XXIII saw the deprivation of the rightful role of the laity and did something about it. Today, Fr. Kinder finds sharing ministry with the laity a most satisfying experience. He is particularly happy at St. Patrick's, where parishioners are so much a part of the Church, where they contribute their energy, ideas, talents, time, and training.



The several "ages" of the Church . . . another meaning of "ages" applies to the daily or Sunday liturgies, wherein Monsignor Kinder underscores the feasts and seasons of the year and makes us all aware of the rich heritage that is ours. There is something for everyone in these homilies: for the young, the old, those in between. He has great rapport with all. The bits of nostalgia, often included in a sermon, add a special touch.

Many parishioners know that the Kinder family came to Urbana from Bloomington when son Paul was five years old. They settled in the area that is now again "home"--the corner of Main and Coler, where the parish center stands today. Young Paul attended Lincoln Elementary School, Thornburn Junior High, then University High. Changes in the downtown and surrounding areas are intriguing as Father recalls incidents of days long ago, recollections that provoke a smile or chuckle from his listeners.

St. Patrick's Guild hosted a reception in the parish center following the late Sunday afternoon liturgy February 10 in the church.



Confirmation Class Active In Service Programs

On May 5, Bishop O'Rourke will once again administer the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Patrick's Parish. Enrollees in the confirmation class are guided to make a commitment of service to the parish and to the local community. During preparation for receiving this sacrament, our young people "learn by doing"--how to perform service to others and how to develop the good habit of serving others. Companionship and recreation are an important part of the program.

The confirmation class of 1984-85 has been involved in several activities:

- an introductory retreat in September
- the Telecare Project, a program for the elderly or shut-ins for cleaning windows and doing yard work
- the planning and operation of a haunted house for parish children at Halloween
- planning for and providing servers, lectors, gift bearers, and ushers for the parish Thanksgiving Day Mass
- wrapping holiday gifts for residents of the Americana Nursing Home in Champaign
- organizing the January pancake breakfast as a fundraiser
- offering a craft program for children whose parents were freed to do their holiday shopping

Additional activities in the planning stage include the Youth Rally in Peoria (April 13), confirmation retreat (April 20-21), a summer car wash, a trip to the Great America Amusement Park near Chicago, a Seder meal with the Over 50's group, and a ski trip.

Celebrating Lent (continued from page 1)

Bunnies emerged in pre-Christian fertility lore. The rabbit or hare was the most fertile animal known. In the early 1800s pastry and sugar bunnies first appeared in Germany.

Hot cross buns originated in England, where monks distributed them to the poor. The buns were considered blessed and powerful against sickness and danger, and eating them on Good Friday was thought to protect the home from fire.

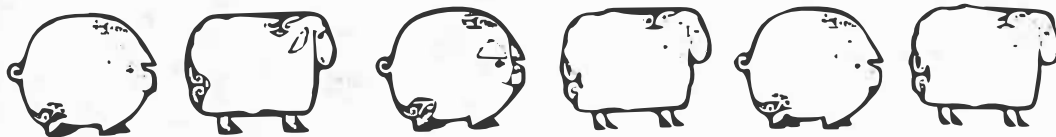
During Lent the Christians of the Roman Empire made a special dough of flour, salt, and water and shaped it into the form of two arms crossed in prayer to remind them of the season of penance and devotion. They called the breads "little arms" (bracellae). From the Latin, the Germans later coined brezel or prezel, from which came our word pretzel. Pretzels originally were available only during Lent.

The pig has always been a symbol of good luck and prosperity among Indo-Europeans, who were responsible for piggy banks. Ham and pork have thus been associated with many a festive Easter dinner.

Lamb is the most significant symbol of the lenten season. From the Hebrew word Pesach came Paschal Lamb, for the animal that formerly was sacrificed during the Jewish Passover. Christ is our Paschal Lamb.

The newly baptized in the early centuries wore white clothes of new linen. It became the tradition of the faithful to appear in new clothes, too. An ancient Irish saying is "For Christmas, food and drink; for Easter, new clothes."

The same Christians would take an Easter walk through fields and open spaces after Mass, usually led by a decorated crucifix or Easter candle. After the Reformation, the practice lost its religious character and developed into our Easter Parade.



The Gospel Challenges St. Patrick's To Social Justice

Social action is an important component of St. Patrick's Parish. Such programs and activities are organized and coordinated by the Social Action Committee, one of the standing committees of the Parish Council. The goal of the committee is to foster parishioners' responses, individually and collectively, on issues related to social justice in the light of the gospel.

Although the Social Action Committee is a small group, it has provided leadership to involve the parish in a wide variety of social-action activities. Some of these have been in the local area; however, the committee has also reached out to deal with national and international issues and problems.



The Social Action Committee has involved parishioners in planning, staffing, and funding the Winter Emergency Shelter, located at the McKinley Presbyterian Foundation, where homeless men receive a meal of hot soup and a place to sleep for the night.

The parish joins other local churches to support a Christian Health nurse for the Francis Nelson Clinic in north Champaign to aid low-income families. (continued on page 4)

Social Justice (continued from page 3)

St. Patrick's also participates in the Council of Congregations, an ecumenical church body that conducts the Homes of Hospitality Program, providing housing for out-of-town families with patients in local hospitals.

Although not directly involved in organizing and managing the Catholic Worker House, the Social Action Committee gives strong moral support to this project, and members of the committee join other parishioners who volunteer service there.

A major project of the Social Action Committee last fall was voter registration and presentation of local candidates during Coffee Shop on the Sunday before the November election.

Committee members also arranged an adult-education program on social justice, based on scripture.

The Social Action Committee has also been involved in several activities of an international nature. St. Patrick's Parish is enrolled as a member of the Bread for the World Covenant Church Program, which provides information regarding programs on world hunger. The parish also helped to sponsor a bicycle ride for hunger, conducted by Oxfam International, an organization devoted to agricultural development and human rights.

A panel discussion was held to discuss the Bishops' Pastoral on Peace and War. Beginning February 3, a seven-part series on Central America will be presented to provide information on the Sanctuary movement, which provides church sanctuary for refugees from El Salvador; parishioners will be asked to consider the question of parish involvement in the program.

Upon the committee's recommendation the parish has become a sponsoring member of the Champaign-Urbana Peace Initiative, an organization that disseminates information on a variety of peace and disarmament issues. The parish also participates in the Bread for Jesus Program, a venture coordinated through the local Empty Tomb ecumenical group, which builds furniture for low-income families in Champaign-Urbana and sends funds and food to Brazil.

Parishioners are welcomed and encouraged to become actively involved in the work of the Social Action Committee.



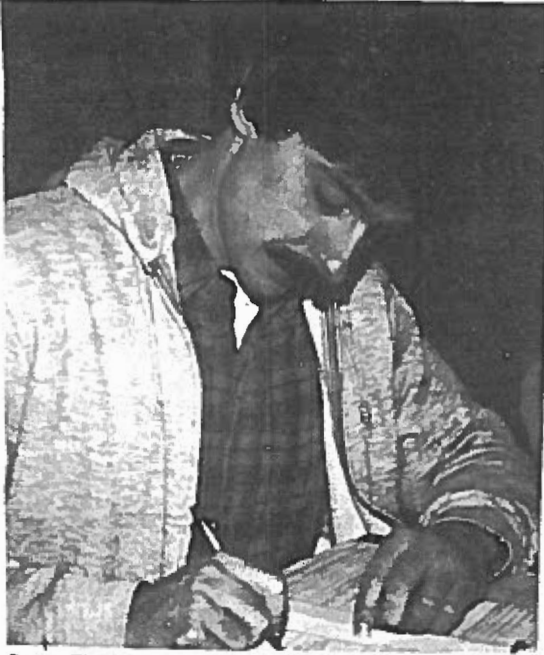
Barbara Burger and children

St. Vincent de Paul Continues To Help

"I was hungry, you gave me food. I had no place to sleep, you gave me a night's lodging. I needed transportation, you bought me a bus ticket. My gas tank was empty, you refilled it." Throughout the year, seven days a week, St. Vincent de Paul Society members respond to the calls of those in need. The memorable experiences as they deliver bags of food, help with processing soup for the Catholic Worker House, or come to the aid of a traveling construction worker having car trouble merit reporting.

A family on its way to live with relatives in another area where a job awaits the head of the house . . . a local woman trying to get three children to Danville so that the youngsters can attend school while a mother is hospitalized . . . three young girls stranded here, needing to get to Bloomington . . . there's no end to problems and troubles.

The Feed-the-Hungry collection envelopes from each third Sunday in the month and the contents of the poor box in the church vestibule are visible signs of the support given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.



Dave Thomas

The society's members are on call and trained to help. For Thanksgiving, 124 dinners were provided needy families. Parishioners sponsored several families. Special contributions also enable the mission to continue. Funds are used carefully, with every dollar stretched. Food is purchased from the local Food Bank: 12¢ per pound for butter, cheese, rice, etc.

At Christmas, the Urbana Knights of Columbus made it possible for poinsettia plants to be delivered to St. Patrick's shut-ins and to others in nursing homes. The SVDP Society coordinated the planning, purchasing and delivering. Nursing home residents are regularly remembered with birthday cards.

Adviser and treasurer Dick Baker had been active in the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Holy Cross parish for 33 years before he came to St. Patrick's. He quickly found his niche here, giving the project his earnest attention, enlisting new members, adding some new dimensions to the work. He has served as president and treasurer, and now holds office again. "We need more senior citizens and younger people, too, in the work of St. Vincent de Paul. Please join us," he urges.

Other members include Sophia Zeigler, president; Barbara Burger, Paul and Bernadette Hughes, Hazel Remesch, Eileen Scott, Peter and Kay Stubing, Dave Thomas, Bill and Rita Weisiger. Rita also serves as secretary. The group meets for an hour every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the basement of the parish center. There are no dues. The reward is the satisfaction from helping in a very worthwhile cause.

Urbana is one of three units within a tri-group; Danville and Champaign are the other two. Urbana "twins" with a unit in Jamaica, to which it sends \$200 yearly.



Dick Baker

Tracing Our Lenten Heritage

Lenten traditions emphasize our link with many centuries of Church history.

In the first three centuries of the Christian era, this period of prayer and fasting was short and varied in length. In 193 A.D. Irenaeus of Lyons wrote that in some places the faithful fasted one day in preparation for Easter, while others fasted two days, or for 40 consecutive hours, recalling the 40 hours that Jesus lay in the tomb.

The first mention of a 40-day observance is found in a document from the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. In 360 A.D., the Council of Laodicaea ordered an observance of 40 days in preparation for Easter, calling it *quadragesima*. The French, Italian, and Spanish words for Lent are derived from this Latin term--*le careme*, *quaresima*, and *cuaresma*, respectively.

This custom may have begun in a 40-day prescribed fast for candidates for baptism. The number 40 is prefigured by Jesus's 40-day fast in the desert, and by Moses's 40 days on the mountain, in preparation for a great task for the people of God.

In the seventh century, the Lenten fasting period in the Western Church was six weeks, exempting Sundays. Because this practice resulted in only 36 actual fast days, someone (perhaps Gregory the Great) added four days. Consequently, Lent now begins on the day we call Ash Wednesday.

In the very early Church strict fasting rules were not observed. An early Church historian, Socrates Scholasticus, wrote that some persons ate only vegetables, others only fish; still others ate fowl as well as fish. He added that some persons ate only dry bread, while others, after fasting for three hours, ate anything they wanted.

From the fifth to the ninth century, the amount and kinds of food one could eat were increasingly regulated. Only one meal a day was allowed, and the fast was generally broken only after 3:00, the hour when Jesus died. Eating eggs, meat, fish, and sometimes even dairy products was forbidden. Eating meat was not allowed even on Sundays. A decree from the time of Charlemagne threatened death for infractions against these regulations.



In time, however, these rules were moderated. During the Middle Ages, the prohibition against fish was lifted. A French parliamentary decree (1552) mentioned a papal document allowing persons in war-torn regions to eat eggs, *chêese*, and butter during Lent. Persons could also be excused from fasting if they were ill.

The faithful were expected to give charitable donations during Lent, if they could. In France, such donations resulted in beautiful additions to such cathedrals as those in Rouen and Bourges. These additions were called *Tours de Beurres* (Butter Towers), supposedly built with money saved by giving up butter for Lent.

In the last few decades regulations concerning fasting have been substantially lightened. Yet Lent is still a time for us to go into a quiet desert place in our minds and spirit to prepare ourselves for Easter-- "Return to me with your whole heart . . . ; rend your hearts and not your garments, says the Lord Almighty" (Joel 2:12-13).



Good Reading For Lent —

And Anytime

In a complex, often confusing world, people are showing ever more interest in prayer. Some bookstores carry a wide assortment of titles on the subject. One author whose books on prayer provide appropriate reading for Lent is Thomas H. Green, S.J.

An American who is spiritual director at San Jose Seminary in Manila (the Philippines), Green has degrees in education, physics, and the philosophy of science. For the last ten years his teaching has centered more and more on spirituality, and he has given numerous workshops on prayer both here and in the Philippines.

Green wears his broad education lightly. He combines knowledge with a lively common sense and a fine appreciation for the symbolic dimension of everyday life. Using language and images culled from ordinary experiences, he guides the reader through passages from scripture and spiritual writers--such as St. John of the Cross, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Ignatius--that gain surprising relevance.

Drawing from the Church's spiritual treasury, Green opens up the various stages of prayer and its development, helping the reader to understand the meaning of dry spells in prayer as well as those moments of light and joy.

Green's books are loosely sequential, but each can also be read on its own. All are available in St. Patrick's parish library:

- Opening to God: A Guide to Prayer (1977)
- When the Well Runs Dry: Prayer beyond the Beginnings (1979)
- Darkness in the Marketplace: The Christian at Prayer in the World (1981)
- Weeds among the Wheat: Discernment, Where Prayer and Action Meet (1983)

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Mark Your Calendars

- Feb. 17 Fr. George Dorsey, "Base Communities and Liberation Theology," 12:00-1:00 p.m., multipurpose room
- Feb. 20 Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 23 Morning of Reflection (Sunday scriptures of Lent), 9:15-11:30 a.m.
- Feb. 26 Winter/Spring Regionals (religious-education workshops), 7:00-9:00 p.m., St. Matthew's School
- Feb. 27 Meager Meals begin, 5:45 p.m., main hall, followed by Evening Prayer at 6:30 in the church and Lenten programs at 7:00 in the parish center (Wednesdays of Lent)
- Mar. 1-3 The Gathering (Chicago) on the theme "Blessed Are . . . Communities"
- Mar. 3 "Central America: History, Culture, and U.S. Involvement," 12:00-1:00 p.m., multipurpose room
- Mar. 6 Fr. John Myers and Sr. Eleanor Holland, "Consensus Decision Making," (workshop on Consultative Groups in the Church), 7:00-9:00 p.m., St. Matthew's
- Mar. 7 First Communion preparation begins (for children and their parents), 7:00-8:15 p.m., Multipurpose room/basement
- Mar. 15-17 Communication weekend for 6th-, 7th-, 8th-graders and their parents, program on "Valuing Your Sexuality," parish center
- Mar. 16 St. Patrick's Dinner Dance
- Mar. 23-24 Christ Renews His Parish weekend for women of the parish
- Mar. 30 Morning of Reflection (key texts from the liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil), 9:15-11:30 a.m.
- Mar. 31 The Sanctuary Movement (panel discussion), 12:00-1:00 p.m., multipurpose room
- Apr. 3 Seder meal, 5:45 p.m., main hall
- Apr. 7 Easter
- Apr. 12 Kevin McKiernan: "A Photo-Journalist's View of Central America," 8:00 p.m.
- Apr. 13 Diocesan Youth Rally (Peoria)
- Apr. 14 Rev. Jim Holiman et al.: "CUECOS, the Local Sanctuary," 12:00-1:00 p.m., multipurpose room
- Apr. 19 Confirmation retreat begins
- Apr. 20-21 Parish Council election
- May 5 Confirmation, 2:30 p.m., church

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



with
CELEBRATE us

WHAT'S HAPPENING