

# in focus

708 West Main Street

Urbana, Illinois

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## Our Pastor Shares ... Thoughts On Ministry

A young person once asked a famous conductor, "What instrument in an orchestra is the most difficult to play?" The answer came back quickly: "Second fiddle."

In the exercise of any ministry we must constantly be aware that Jesus Christ is the "first violinist," and we play "second fiddle." This is not to downgrade our competence or importance, but simply to remind us that Jesus plays the tune, the melody. Each of us in our own way provides harmony and variations on the theme. Together we play beautiful music to the praise and glory of God.

It is a joy for me to write my first article for *in focus* on the subject of ministry. The experience of shared ministry has been my most consistent and deepest first impression of St. Patrick's Parish. In liturgy and religious education, in family life and social action, in unheralded work in the parish and community, I see a broad spectrum of gifts and talents poured out in competent yet humble service. I delight in what I see, and I thank God that he has brought me to this community.

The advent of a new pastor is an opportune moment for each of us to reevaluate our strengths and weaknesses, our generosity and commitments, and the challenges of ministry. No one person is called to do all that needs to be done, but each person can contribute something to the good of all. Reevaluation is not, therefore, an excuse for bailing out, but an invitation to discern how we may best serve God and others.

Service demands sacrifice. Each of us has a limited amount of energy, and everything we do draws from that source of spiritual, physical, and emotional strength. The decision to do something new usually demands letting go of something else that has used our time and resources. Calculate what you must give up in order to accept and fulfill a call to service.

Just don't be afraid to take such steps. There is so much joy and fulfillment in doing for others and in being part of something bigger than yourself. Knowing that is true, I do not hesitate to ask you to commit yourself to some form of service. Whether young or old, you have something to give. Please share it.

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## Catechists "Speak The Truth In Love"

"Speak the truth in love" was the theme of Catechetical Sunday, September 21, the day on which St. Patrick's commissioned its religious-education ministers for this year.

The parish apparently provides a rich and nourishing faith environment, for over 100 persons responded to a call from the Lord to serve as catechists in the joyous ministry of passing on our faith.

The role of the parish catechist has been reflected on by the bishops of the United States.

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## Our Pastor Shares (continued from page 1)

I make a special call to those who have not yet become involved beyond the ministry of the assembly. Make your presence known, offer your gifts, take a first step.

Tom McDonough is one of your fellow parishioners. He will never read this column, though I'm sure someone will read it to him. Tom is blind, but Tom walks to church every morning to pray. Tom comes to many parish functions. Tom sold the winning ticket for the Knights of Columbus raffle. Tom will never know just how much he influences the people of St. Patrick's Parish by the gift of his presence. He could lock himself up in his room or in his own head — and we would miss his witness — but instead his presence gently invades our complacency and all we take for granted. Tom plays beautiful "second fiddle" to Christ, and we all enjoy the music. Let's *all* pick up the tune!

## The Vine Continues To Grow

"I am the vine, you are the branches. . . . All this I tell you that my joy may be yours and your joy may be complete." John 15:5, 11

Little, long, slender, blossoming, bent, and smooth branches have recently been grafted to the Vine at St. Patrick's. *We welcome you!* Yes, all 86 of you (and those little ones you bring with you) — too many, unfortunately, for us to acknowledge individually here! We rejoice in your presence among us.

We invite each of you to join us for Sunday coffee, to sing to the Lord in the choir, to serve the Lord as usher, server, lector, eucharistic minister, educator, musician. Pray, serve, play with us that your joy — and ours — may be complete!



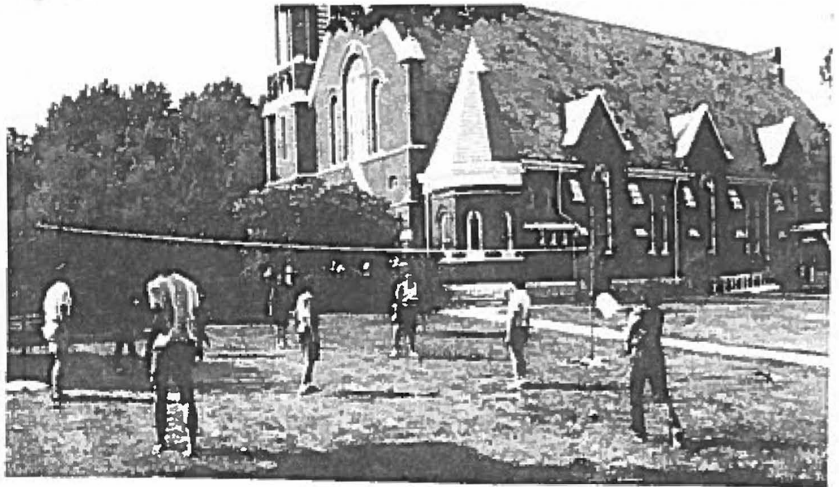
*Sister Rosemarie carries parish gift for Father Doug*



*Melanie Basham says good-bye to Father Doug*



*A moment from life at St. Patrick's parish picnic*



*substitute summer secretary*

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## Catechists "Speak The Truth In Love"

States, who identify qualities of the ideal catechist: the catechist is a person of faith and one who believes in the power of faith to transform lives; the catechist is committed to the Church and its sacramental life as privileged places and times in which we experience the Lord; the catechist is servant, committed to serving the Lord and our faith community.

All of us share in some way in the catechetical ministry of our parish and are called to exemplify the qualities of the ideal catechist. Parents teach informally but powerfully by word and example a living faith to their children. Our parish community as a whole shares in passing on this vision of faith — in the ways we come together to celebrate Eucharist, in the ways we recreate and socialize together, and in the ways we serve one another's needs and the needs of the larger community and the world.

St. Patrick's catechetical ministry team has both new and returning staff this year:

*Carolyn McElrath* begins her first year as Director of Religious Education after serving the parish for two years as Coordinator of Adult Education. Her experience and knowledge of our parish complement her academic and catechetical training. Carolyn has a Master's degree in anthropology and is now completing a Master's degree in religious education. She has earned coordinator certification through the program conducted by our diocesan Office of Catholic Education.

Working with Carolyn are returning coordinators Helene Kacich, senior high youth ministry; Barb Adams, religious-education resources; Jan Lipska, children's programs; and Ruth Mytty, family life ministry.

*Helene Kacich* is responsible for developing the senior high youth ministry program, an area for which she is well qualified by her Bachelor's degree in secondary education and her five years as a volunteer in youth ministry at St. Patrick's. Helene has served on the Parish Council and on numerous committees in the parish and the community.



*Carolyn McElrath*



*Helene Kacich*



*Barb Adams*



*Jan Lipska*



*Ruth Mytty*



*Steve Terry*



*Lenore Nagele*



*Barb Adams* continues her work of organizing the parish library and coordinating materials for use by parish groups and organizations. She brings extensive experience at both parish and diocesan levels to her position.

*Jan Lipska* plans and implements the children's program. Her Bachelor's degree in secondary education and experience in other parishes around the country lend depth and breadth to her ministry at St. Patrick's. Priest-celebrants, children, and parents have enjoyed the fruits of her labors in the Children's Liturgy.

*Ruth Mytty*, as a wife and as the mother of four children, brings helpful experience to her responsibility for coordinating our family life program. She has developed and facilitated family life programs at both parish and diocesan levels. Last year Ruth completed our diocesan Lay Ministry Leadership Program, specializing in family life ministry.

*Steve Terry* is new both to our parish and to the position of Coordinator of Junior High Youth Ministry. Steve brings to the parish a strong background in youth ministry and is currently employed as adolescent therapist at a local mental health center. His Bachelor's degree in psychology and his Master's degree in theology will be strong assets in his service to the youth of St. Patrick's.

*Lenore Nagele*, Coordinator of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, has served in the catechumenate program for several years as sponsor. She has participated in numerous workshops and seminars, in our diocese and elsewhere, that were oriented toward the special ministry of welcoming adults into our faith community. Lenore also completed the two-year diocesan Lay Ministry Leadership Program, specializing in family life ministry. She has served on the Parish Council and some of its committees and on the parish Guild.

## Between The Bookends ... *Creative Ministry*, by Henri J. M. Nouwen

According to Henri Nouwen,  
"Ministry in no way is a privilege. Instead, it is the core of the Christian life."

"Every Christian is a minister."  
"All functions of ministry are life-giving."

"The paradox of ministry is that we will find the God we want to give in the lives of the people to whom we want to give him."

"The ordained minister gives the most visible shape to the different forms of Christian service....But what is true for ministers and priests in the formal sense is true for every man and woman who wants to live in the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, in essence, this book is about the life-style of every Christian."

In *Creative Ministry* Nouwen offers fresh insights and inspiration to anyone engaged in Christian ministry. He presents an interior life-style that gives depth and breadth, vision and challenge to understandings of Christian ministry.

Henri J. M. Nouwen was ordained a priest in 1957 and since has found a wide, receptive audience to his books on modern spirituality. He is a teacher of pastoral theology at Yale Divinity School, a frequent visitor and "family brother" at the Trappist Abbey of the Genesee in upstate New York, and spends time in study and work with Indians in Peru.

*Creative Ministry* is only one of several books by Nouwen in our parish library. Others include *A Cry for Mercy: Prayers from the Genesee* (1981), *The Genesee Diary: Report from a Trappist Monastery* (1981), *In Memoriam* (1980), *Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life* (1981), *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life* (1975), *With Open Hands* (1972), *The Wounded Healer* (1972).

## Parents Gather In Dialogue

The Parents' Dialogue Group is an informal gathering of parents every Thursday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 in the parish center. Child care is provided at a cost of \$1.50 per child.

Each meeting has a theme for discussion, the topics ranging from the theological and spiritual to the light-hearted and fun, and sprinkled with a generous portion of topics related to parenting.

The following thoughts expressed by those who came one Thursday morning give an idea of the benefits to be found in gathering:

This is a place where

... we can relax in comfortable chairs, leave our children in capable hands for two hours, sip tea, and share our lives and experiences.

... children begin to learn the meaning of "church community."

... opinions are expressed, minds are stretched, and growth occurs.

... everyone is welcome, and we get to know each other — not just each other's names.

... we can share practical ideas and information related to family life.

... we can comfortably express our thoughts and beliefs about God, prayer, Church, life and death — and know we will not be judged.

... we can share ideas, dreams, joys, sorrows, and problems — or just listen.

... we can think and be with other adults.

... we can laugh at ourselves and feel at peace.

... we feel acceptance, support, warmth, closeness, spirituality.

... we feel an appreciation for God's precious gifts of friends, family, and love.

... we become better parents and better persons.

There's always room for one more. If interested, simply come.



*James Barrett and friend engrossed in Playscape at the Indianapolis Children's Museum*

## We Are Called To Continued Conversion

At the heart of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a basic vision of Church, that we are the Body of Christ in the world.

The RCIA is not "just another parish program" — at its core is the mystery of the death and resurrection of the Lord, a mystery in which we are called to share by continual conversion, dying to selfishness in our own lives and rising to new life for others. The RCIA program — more properly viewed as a process — has opened this fall with a series of inquiry sessions, open to anyone who wishes to learn more about Catholicism. This is a time for welcoming and getting to know the inquirers, for sharing with them something of who we are as Catholic Christians, for searching scripture to see what light it can shed the stories we live out day by day.

If you would like to participate in the RCIA in any way — as a sponsor, for example — or if you know of someone who might be interested in finding out more about Catholicism, please call the parish office (367-2665) and ask for Lenore Nagele or Carolyn McElrath.

## St. Patrick's Participates In Diocesan Training Program

Once again St. Patrick's Parish has demonstrated commitment to lay ministry by endorsing the diocesan Lay Ministry Leadership Program, both by making our facilities available for semi-monthly regional gatherings of participants in the program and by subsidizing the registration fee for participants from this parish.

St. Patrick's parishioners enrolled in the first year of the two-year program are Marianne Burkhard, Lori Hatley, Arden Howey, Bernie and Gary Laumann, Mary Lydon, Donna Price, and Peggy Whelan. Bill and Jane McClellan serve as coordinators for the regional meetings held at St. Patrick's.

The first, or core, year for LMLP opened on September 20 with a general session in Peoria on the theme of "Celebrating and Evaluating the Impact of the Second Vatican Council." The first of the regional meetings, on the subject of Church, was held at St. Patrick's on October 4, with about 25 participants from this region in attendance. Approximately 115 people are enrolled throughout the diocese, with the others attending sessions on the same topic presented in three other regions during the month of October.

Sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Education, Family Life, Christian Worship, and Evangelization offices and the Social Action Board, this program offers a unique opportunity for lay men and women to develop and strengthen their theological understandings and spirituality and to explore the possibilities of leadership within a chosen area of ministry in their parish. The curriculum of the core year examines Church, scripture, liturgy, doctrine, moral theology, and social justice — the Church in the modern world — and includes a retreat in March 1987.

Core-year activities involve the partici-

pants in prayer, study, and development of communication skills. Those who choose to continue with the second year of the program (1987-88) will receive specialized education and training in a parish ministry chosen from the areas of family life, liturgy, education, and social justice.

## Financial Seminar Scheduled

The Revenue Committee of the Parish Council is planning to present an evening of financial know-how on Thursday, November 6.

For some time committee members have been researching information about memorial gifts, wills, annuities, etc. The seminar on November 6 has been designed to present this information to parishioners, to alert members of the parish to recent trends in banking, changes in tax laws, and the like. Representatives of a local bank, a certified public accountant, and a lawyer will comprise a panel to present information. The evening will conclude with a question-and-answer session.

Overall aging of the population nationwide and weakening of family ties as a result of increased mobility (relocation for a new job, school, etc.) give added weight to the importance of financial planning.

A flyer in next week's bulletin will include a tear-off portion for making reservations so that arrangements can be made for adequate seating. Please complete this portion of the flyer and put it in the collection on Sunday, November 2, turn it in to the parish office, or call the office (367-2665) to make reservations for the seminar.

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*Editorial staff:* Communications Committee, with  
articles and photographs contributed by staff and  
other members of the parish community

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## Father George Remm: A Biographical Sketch

It has been a long and winding road from the St. Patrick's of George Remm's youth in Peoria and his new home in Urbana.

A second-generation German immigrant, Remm was educated in Catholic schools. He attended St. Bede's Junior College, a Benedictine monastery and school, and completed his education at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

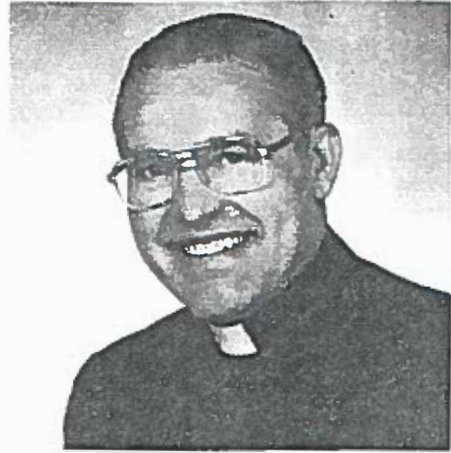
Fr. Remm was ordained on May 29, 1960, and was assigned to Holy Trinity Parish, Bloomington, as assistant pastor. His ministry there was demanding — he was responsible for three hospitals and taught religion at Central Catholic High School, where for six years he also served as athletic director.

His tenure in Bloomington ended in 1969 when he was asked by the bishop to organize the Office of Worship and Prayer. His duties included assisting priests in implementing the changes of Vatican II and helping to establish parish committees of Worship and Prayer.

For the next seven years Fr. Remm was associated with the diocesan Liturgical Commission and served as the bishop's master of ceremonies. During this time he was appointed to the diocesan Art and Architecture Commission (which he now chairs), whose function it is to review plans for renovation of church property and other major building projects.

In addition to these demanding responsibilities, Fr. Remm was also assigned to pastoral duties in two parishes: two years at Sacre Coeur in Creve Coeur and five years at St. Mark's in Peoria.

Those years were important to Fr. Remm, who became involved with new movements within the Church. In 1969 he attended the third Marriage Encounter session held in the United States and initiated that program in the diocese. He also initiated the Divorced, Separated, and Widowed program.



Ready for another challenge, Fr. Remm left Peoria in 1976 to become pastor at Visitation Parish, Kewanee. During his ten years there, Visitation and St. Joseph's parishes merged and became officially known as St. Mary's. And then Fr. Remm came to St. Patrick's, Urbana.

Although comparable in size, St. Patrick's and St. Mary's are very different parishes, according to Fr. Remm. "St. Mary's is becoming an older parish, and the area is troubled by depressed economics," he said. "St. Patrick's has a nice mixture of ages and a great deal of fluidity. It becomes important, then, for us to be welcoming and constantly integrating those who join us."

Fr. Remm feels very good about his move to St. Patrick's. "Knowing Fr. Doug as I do, I knew he had built up a good ministry here. I am very happy to see how responsible people are in their ministries. I am impressed not only with the quality of worship, but also with the concern for others — the poor, the needy, the newcomer."

Currently Fr. Remm is president of the Presbyteral Council, the priests' senate that advises Bishop O'Rourke.

Fr. Remm's mother, Marie, lives in Peoria. His brother, married and with three children, lives in Dayton, Ohio. His father, George, died in 1981.