

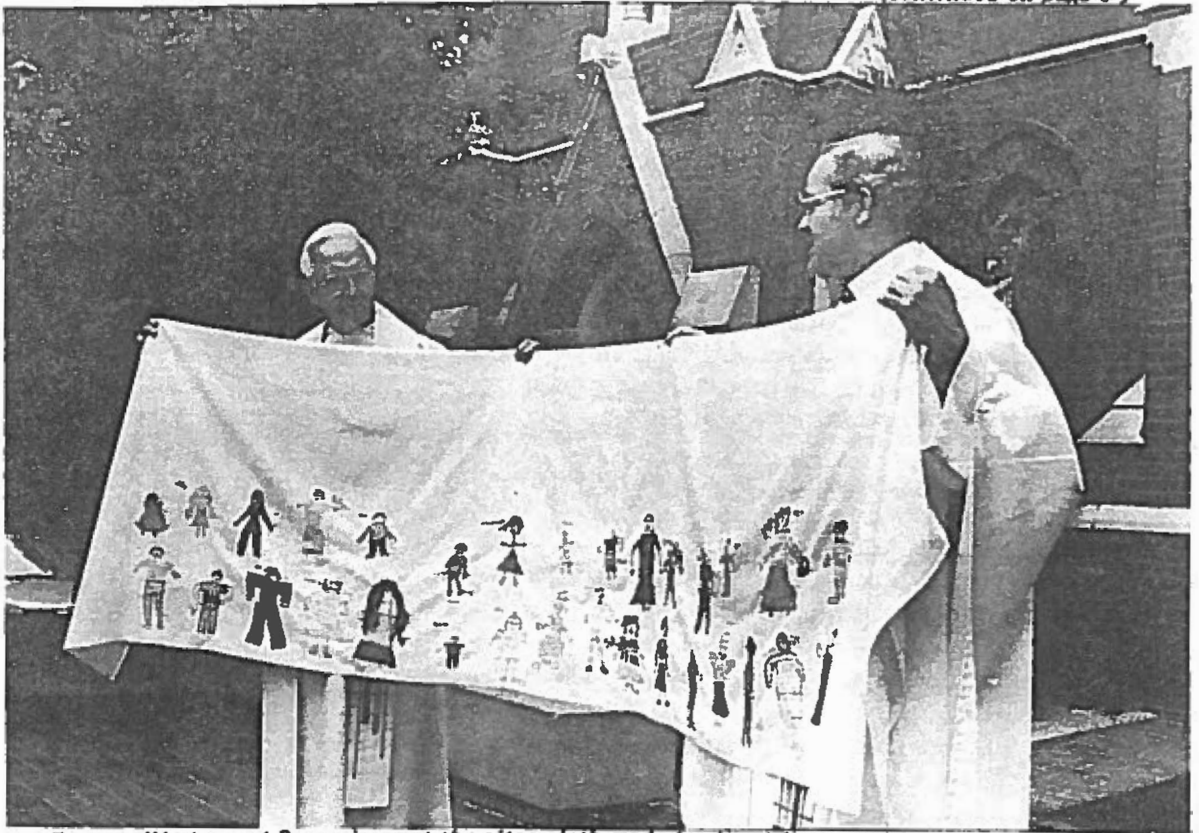
Parish Celebrates First Communion

Thirty-six second-graders encountered Jesus in person and in mystery in their first reception of Eucharist. Over 350 friends and relatives participated in the special mass at St. Patrick's on April 26

and the reception that followed in the parish center.

The event was the culmination of five weeks of classes, home study, and prayer by the first communicants and their parents.

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Fathers Kinder and Ramm inspect the altar cloth made for First Communion.

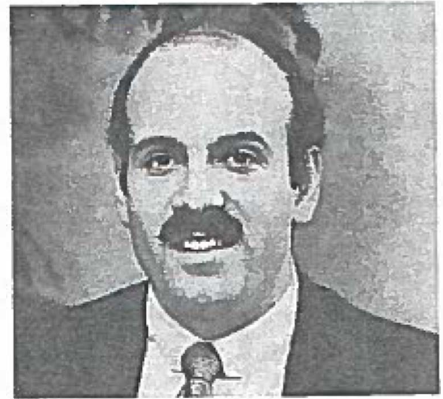
Parish Council Gains New Talent

St. Patrick's parishioners elected three new Parish Council members April 25-26. Elected to three-year terms are Joe DiPietro, Gaye Dunn, and Tom Kacich.

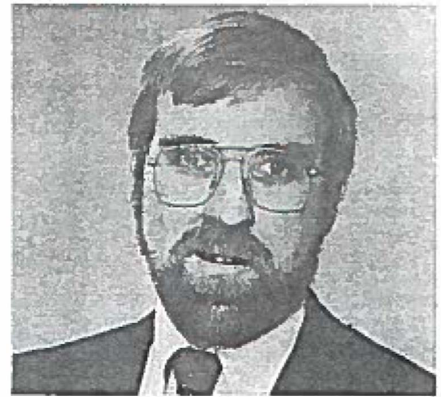
Joe DiPietro, an associate professor of veterinary clinical medicine at the University of Illinois, has lived in the parish for nine years. He has served as Grand Knight and Financial Secretary in the Urbana Council of the Knights of Columbus and as a member of the Social Committee. He has been a speaker at Pre-Cana conferences and takes his turn working in the parish's co-op nursery on Sunday mornings. Joe's main concern is to improve the financial health of the parish by careful budgeting and reducing the parish debt.

Teacher Gaye Dunn is a lifelong member of the parish. As one who has "seen a static church become dynamic," she says she wants to see that dynamic growth continue. As a single person, she hopes to speak for other singles who may feel dissociated from the vitality of a church because of alienation or lack of information.

Tom Kacich, city editor of the *News-Gazette*, has lived in the parish for ten years. In that time he has served on a number of Parish Council committees, worked with the high-school religious education program, and been involved with the Knights of Columbus. He would like to see the parish devote more time and effort to service to the poor, the infirm, and the elderly. He asserts that the laity must take a larger share of the burden carried for so many years by the clergy.



Joe DiPietro



Tom Kacich



Gaye Dunn

Confirmands Are Sealed With The Holy Spirit



Forty high-school students were confirmed at St. Patrick's on May 9 by Bishop Edward O'Rourke. They had been preparing for Confirmation by attending class every Sunday evening since October to discuss the basics of Catholicism.

In February, 30 adults from the parish community joined the class as parish sponsors. These men and women participated in the small-group discussions to meet the high-school students, listen to what they had to say, and share their own faith experiences.

The groups were led by four catechists--Nancy Bryant, Helene Kacich (coordinator of the senior-high program), Barbara Wysocki, and David Zola--who worked with the class all year. With the support and assistance of Carolyn McEl-

rath, Director of Religious Education, they designed and taught the sessions.

In addition to their regular Sunday gatherings, each of the students participated in a day-long retreat to reflect on the sacrament of Confirmation and to make a personal decision about their state of readiness to affirm now the promises made in their name by their baptismal sponsors several years ago. Students and sponsors also attended 10:30 mass as a community on three Sundays of Lent in preparation for this eventful day.

St. Patrick's parish community welcomes and congratulates the following young men and women who were confirmed in the faith: Matt Armstrong, Jason Atwood, Tony Burgstrom, Matt Dollins, Sarah Dollins,

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Neophytes Explore The Mysteries Of Faith

At the Easter Vigil service, St. Patrick's parishioners welcomed twelve men and women into our Catholic faith tradition: Pam Bell, Janet Buchanan, Mary Ella Dillon, Don Frevert, Mark Hepworth, Sherry Kamphaus, Lloyd Lipska, Matt Richards, John Rinkenberger, Kathy Smith, Harry Veal, and Ellen Young.

These new parishioners, who will be known as neophytes during their first year as Catholics, had been preparing for this event since October, when they first inquired about Catholicism.

During Advent they were formally enrolled as catechumens, open to the process of conversion and willing to allow our parish community and sponsors to model for them the Catholic christian way of life. And with the entire parish they entered into the lenten period of purification of heart and mind to prepare for the great Easter mystery.

The process of conversion, however, does not end with reception of the sacraments of initiation at Easter. With Easter, and continuing until Pentecost, these new Catholic christians enter upon the final phase of integration into our Catholic community. This phase, called mystagogia, is a time for them to reflect on their journey of faith and on the joy of their Easter experience, but also to explore the ways in which they will live out the gift of their Catholic faith in our parish and in the broader Catholic community.

St. Patrick's parish has welcomed these new Catholics, promising to continue to walk with them in their journey of faith. We are grateful for their witness of conversion of life, which constantly calls each of us back to our own need for continuing conversion to that greatest of all mysteries of faith, Jesus, our risen Lord.

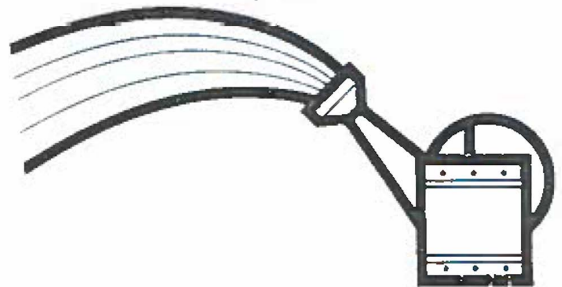
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Michael Evans, Eric Fincham, Nancy Garrett, Phil Guzy, Kraig Harshbarger, Lori Hummel, Meg Irick, Darren Kennedy, Matt Livingston, Lisa Lammers, Jude Lancaster, Lisa Laumann, and Mary Lock.

Also Joel McArthur, Nancy McCabe, Heather McMullen, Jennifer Minogue, Bill Morfey, Lisa Mueller, Chris Newman, Keith Phillips, Debra Ralston, Barbara Ritten, Jason Rothgeb, Jaimes Royer, Mike Rumsey, Ed Schaller, Cindy Shaw, Keda Sikora, Sarah Simmons, Cathy Subick, David Thomas, Julie Wolfe, Karl Wolfersberger, and Al Zwettler.

The following adults, who were instructed individually or who participated in the RCIA process with the catechumens,

were also confirmed by Bishop O'Rourke: Rebecca Black-Pittman, Norine Dawson, Mary Ella Dillon, William Miller, Elizabeth Poirier, Sandra Volk, Anita Ward, and Catherine Wolfersberger.



Gardening is an active participation in the deepest mysteries of the universe.

-Thomas Berry

Fr. Paul Kinder Delights In Roman Holiday

Father Paul Kinder enjoyed what he described as "perhaps my finest vacation" when he spent Holy Week and Easter Week in Rome this year. With a guide like former St. Patrick's pastor Fr. Doug Hennessy, how could it have been anything but?

"Fr. Hennessy knows Rome very well, having gone to school there and now having lived there nearly a year," said Fr. Kinder. "He's a wonderful guide, better than any of the regular tour guides, because he doesn't weary you with all the trivia but tells you just what you really want to know."

Fr. Kinder arrived in Rome the day before Palm Sunday. He met the priests from the United States with whom Fr. Doug works at the North American College. He also met many of Fr. Doug's students and attended several masses celebrated by Fr. Doug in the college chapel.

Holy Week and Easter Week are traditionally vacation weeks, so there were a tremendous number of tourists in Rome. "Especially Germans," said Fr. Kinder. "There were dozens and dozens of busloads of Germans."

In spite of the crowds, the vacation meant that Fr. Doug had time to travel with Fr. Paul. Together they visited several Roman sites, some that Fr. Kinder had seen during his half-dozen earlier trips, but also others he had never seen before.

The two priests attended some of the Holy Week services at St. Peter's and celebrated mass with Pope John Paul II--and about 4000 other priests--on Holy Thursday. At that mass, the Chrism Mass, priests recommit themselves to their vocation and renew their allegiance to their bishops.

During Easter Week, Fathers Doug and Paul traveled to Tuscany, Assisi, Florence, and Siena--new to Fr. Paul, though not to Fr. Doug.

Fr. Paul reports that Fr. Doug was pleased to hear news of and from St. Patrick's and sends his kindest regards to Fr. George Remm and to the entire parish community.

Before arriving home on May 1, Fr. Paul stopped over in County Cork, Ireland, where he visited with some friends teaching there.



Father Doug (right) and a colleague from the North American College stand in St. Peter's Square on Easter.

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Highlighting the afternoon mass was the use of a special altar cloth made for the occasion by Diane Musumeci. It is "special" because it incorporates fabric pictures that the children made of themselves.

Jan Lipska, coordinator of the children's program, both oversaw the program and taught the class of first communicants. She was assisted in class by Susie Dees and Gerrie Gnagey. Carolyn McElrath taught the parent sessions, and Mary Long led the prayer sessions.

The Social Committee and parents of last year's first communicants hosted the reception that followed the afternoon mass.

Receiving Eucharist for the first time were Brian Anderson, Travis Brown, Alejandro Cancinos, Cristy Cribbett, Matthew Dean, Hayli Dorsey, Bernadetta Dwiarto, Katie Ebeling, Jeremy Fancher, Chet Gentile, Kevin Gnagey, Adrian Hagan, Theresa Heater, Robert Heffernan, Stacy Ingram, Kelly Kessler, Catherine Kingery, Neil LeCrone, and Zachary Long.

Also Sarah Michaelson, Lori Mueller, Aaron Nunez, Adelaide Pigg, Aaron Pijanowski, Esthi Prawirosetoto, Tyson Royer, Becca Simmons, Bart Skorupa, Melissa Sonka, Jean Tierney, Lynn Vabic, Mindy Whitt, Kathryn Wilson, Amanda Wingfield, Brendon Wood, and Michal Zerda.

Emergency-Preparedness Planning Begins

A recent false fire alarm in the parish center has focused attention on the need for emergency preparedness planning at St. Patrick's. Concern has led to the formation of a group to coordinate a disaster-preparedness program.

Group members Jan Lipska, Dave Palmisano, and Chuck Shaw have been developing a plan to make our parish buildings safer places to be in times of emergency. They will hold meetings with ushers and teachers to train them in what to do when an emergency arises. A disaster plan will be developed and drills held.

The Building and Grounds Committee will post signs in the classrooms to help parishioners know what to do in times of emergency. Parishioners in the coffee

shop will be recruited to assist in evacuation of the babies and toddlers in the nursery and in whatever other way they are needed.

Urbana fire-department officials have emphasized that our parish facilities are really very well safeguarded. There is a sprinkler system in the parish center basement, and the fire alarm is directly connected to a service that relay calls to the central dispatcher for the fire department. The buildings contain emergency lights and exit lights, and there are fire-resistant doors in the parish center.

The major element lacking is the existence of a plan and people trained to carry it out when an emergency strikes. That plan is in the making.

Building & Grounds Is At It Again!

Kitchen Is Brought Up To Code

If you attended any of the fish dinners on the Fridays of Lent, you have already benefited from the recent work of the Building and Grounds Committee, which enabled the parish kitchen to meet Illinois State Board of Health codes for the preparation and serving of food.

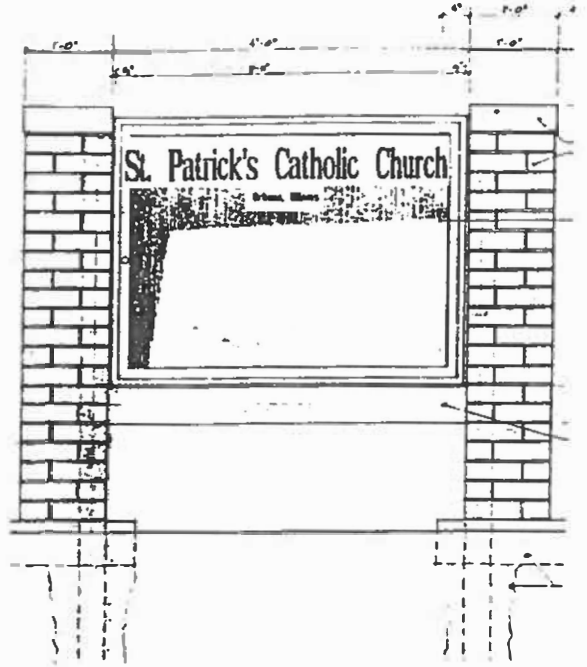
The work involved several separate projects. A new ceiling and paneling were installed to provide a cleaner environment for cooking. The stove, freezer, and refrigerator were also raised to provide clearance for cleaning under them.

The Knights of Columbus donated the materials, which cost approximately \$600, and committee members donated the labor.

Look For The New Sign

Another project for the Building and Grounds Committee is a brick sign, to be placed between the church and the parish center, identifying St. Patrick's Church. The sign will also display the schedule of masses and other useful information.

An architectural drawing of the sign has been made by new committee member Mike Andrejasich. Plans call for construction this summer. The cost of materials is estimated at about \$3000, which the Knights of Columbus will donate.



The Building and Grounds Committee is in need of volunteers to assist with the large job of maintaining and improving our parish facilities and grounds. All volunteers are welcome, regardless of skill level. The only requirement is a desire to be of service.



Between The Bookends

Life For Ordinary Time

Easter is the feast of life and love, for the risen Christ has conquered both death and fear. Triumphant the Exultet and the Gloria greet the new Light, the new and renewable Life. But this life is firmly rooted on earth, in the thicket of human problems, threatened by destruction, overshadowed by the death of our loves and loved ones. How can we integrate Easter into our entire life, into the whole of our "ordinary time"?

Henri J. M. Nouwen's new book *Lifesigns* discusses life in terms of fear and love, showing to what extent our often ordinary fears can dull and deaden life while Jesus' message provides us with signs and lessons of love that awaken and enrich life with intimacy, fecundity, and ecstasy.

Nouwen's reflections are rich in insight and easily accessible. He uses examples drawn from everyday human interaction, opens up key passages from the gospels, and movingly tells of his experiences with L'Arche, small houses set up for the care of mentally handicapped people. Living in one of these houses, he learned that even in life's extreme brokenness, intimacy, fecundity, and ecstasy make a tangible difference, which has its origin in a movement "out of the house of fear into the house of love."

True spirituality, he emphasizes, does not stop with prayer and individual small acts. Rather, it extends to solidarity, the care for groups; to mission, a larger process of giving and receiving between countries; and finally to "a new international order" that exposes the terrible risks of mounting nationalism and the continuing arms race.

Nouwen says that we need to see the connections between the large problems and our own small world, "for the power of the renewing Word of God cannot be kept within the safe boundaries of the personal or interpersonal."

This small book offers much wisdom. The author's reflections on love and fear can bring a new spirit into our ordinary lives. Available in St. Patrick's parish library: Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns* (New York: Doubleday, 1987), 127 pp.

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