

ST PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Thank you, St. Patrick's!

By Thanksgiving Day members of Saint Patrick's Parish had assembled and delivered 130 food baskets to needy families in the Champaign-Urbana and Saint Joseph-Ogden area. "Thank you, and God bless you!" rang in the ears of volunteers who delivered them.



Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society assemble Thanksgiving dinners: Ellen Noonan, Bernadette Hughes, Sophia Zeigler, and Paul Hughes.

For many, this was their first Thanksgiving dinner. On the menu were a baking hen, stuffing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, vegetables, canned soup, fruit, peanut butter, pumpkin pie, candy bars, tea, and rolls—and a big dollop of care—all of which YOU provided.

Members of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society add their thanks to those of the families who received such tangible evidence of your generosity: "Thank you, and God bless you!"

This Thanksgiving Dinner is donated by the People of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Urbana

We thank Thee, heavenly Father, For every earthly good, For life, and health, and friendship, And for our daily food.



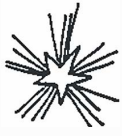
Sophia Zeigler and Dave Thonan check supplies in the St. Vincent de Paul Society's food pantry at St. Patrick's.

Adult Literacy Tutoring Offered

Volunteer tutors and students gather twice a week in a classroom at Saint Patrick's for adult-literacy tutoring. Both tutors and students appreciate the quiet, comfortable, and convenient location—far superior to the log shared by Mark Hopkins and his students in the long ago and far away world of nineteenth-century America. They are grateful to all who have promoted the cause of adult-literacy tutoring in our parish, particularly our staff and the Social Action Committee.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer tutor or know of someone who may want to be tutored, please contact Gwen Koehler, 893-1318.

St. Patrick's In Focus is published on the last weekend of each month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted for the next issue by the 15th day of the month. Please leave your items in the Communications Committee mail bin in the parish center, or call Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125/244-4701. Written material should include the name and phone number of the writer.



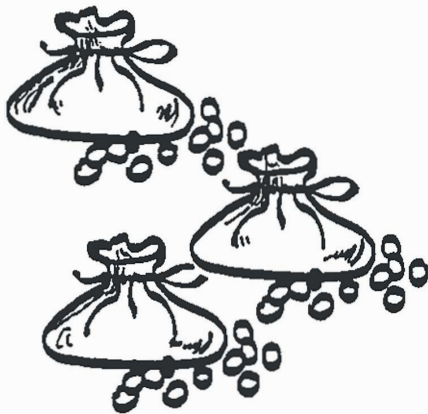
Nicholas The Good

Nicholas was chosen bishop by the people of Myra because he was a good and generous person. And when he became bishop, Nicholas gave away all his wealth to the poor people of Myra—all except three bags of gold that an angel told him to hide under his bed.

One December Nicholas dreamed of a poor pawnbroker whose three daughters would be sold into slavery to pay for the pawnbroker's debts. That night Nicholas slipped through the quiet streets carrying three bags of gold. He dropped them down the chimney of the pawnbroker's shop.

The girls were joyous. The pawnbroker was thankful. And the angel smiled. Nicholas didn't have a cent, but he was now richer than he had ever been before.

— R.B.W., from *At Home with the Word*, 1989



The Immaculate Conception of Mary



Sin means separation from God. We believe that Mary was not separated from God even from her conception in her mother's womb. On this Advent feast of Mary, her "yes" undoes Eve's "no." Mary is our new Eve, the mother of the living God in the person of Jesus.

Surely it is no accident that this feast is celebrated during Advent, a time of hope and joyful waiting. Since the angel's message and Mary's response perfectly match the expectancy of Advent, might this be a time to renew our relationship with her?

We celebrate the workings of God's grace in Mary, proclaimed patroness of the United States in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, by gathering for Eucharist. At St. Patrick's mass is celebrated at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday and at 7:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., and 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, December 8.

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mr. Ta Nguyen and family and to Vietnamese Catholics on the loss of their beloved brother/champlain, the Reverend John Thua Phuc Nguyen. Father John, who was 56, died in an automobile accident in Wyoming, Illinois, on the afternoon of November 9, 1988. A dedicated and humble priest, Father John had served the Vietnamese Catholics in the Peoria diocese as chaplain and Saint Dominic Church in Wyoming and Saint John Mission in Toulon as pastor. His death is a great loss to the Vietnamese Catholics and to all of us.

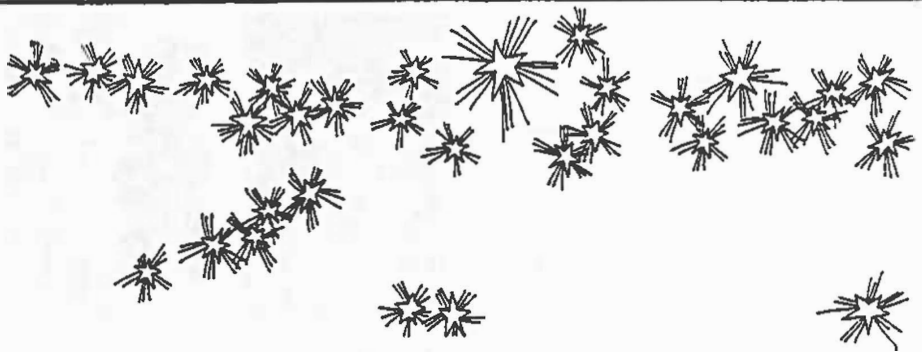
What Shall We Give To The Lord?

Recently, members of our parish were introduced to a new and exciting concept in financial support—support of our parish and fulfillment of charitable obligations. It is called "sacrificial giving." It was introduced first to a random selection of parishioners at a special meeting at the church on Friday evening, November 11, and was followed up with further presentations at the weekend masses. The presentations were made by Phil and Marilyn Ontivero of St. Marcelline parish in Schaumburg, a husband-and-wife team who are themselves dedicated to this manner of giving.

At first blush, "sacrificial giving" may seem no more than just another push for money or a rehash of the age-old system of tithing—a practice mentioned, we are told, 42 times in the Bible. But listening to Phil and Jane made it clear there is more to "sacrificial giving" than that. The difference is in the emphasis. Sacrificial giving is more than just a device for raising money to meet parish needs or the needs of some charitable organization.

Sacrificial giving has less to do with the needs of a parish or of God's needs than it does with our own. Plain and simple, it means giving back to God a portion of all that he has given so generously to each of us. There are four key

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Parishioner's Reflection...

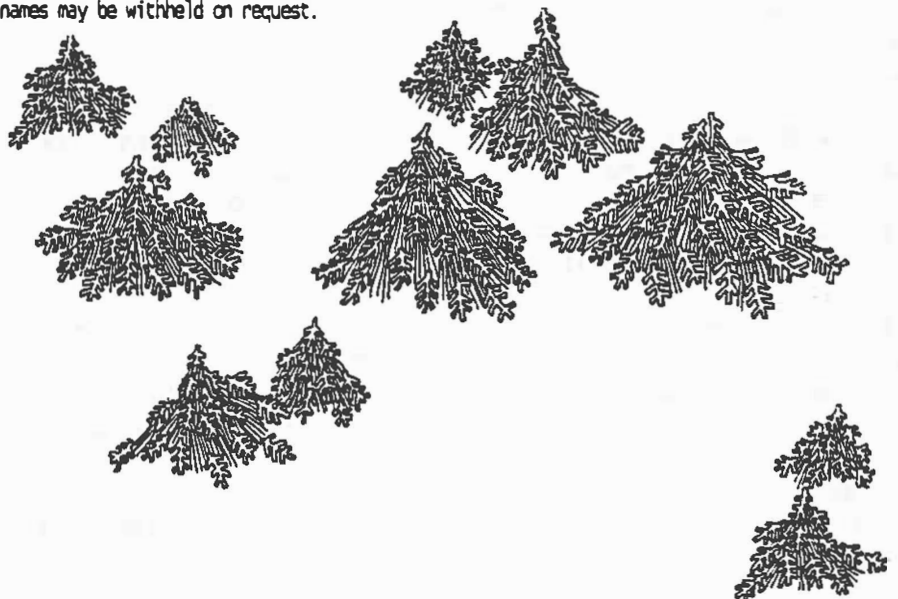
As Christmas draws near, I wish you all a holiday season full of blessings! How I love the Christmas holidays! Your love, kindness, and friendship mean so much to me at this festive time of year. This is an opportunity to touch you and others in my life again.

Have you ever been away for years from your family? Think how you would love to have at least one immediate family member with you. As a refugee, I do not even have an immediate family member in this country. But I thank God who has given me another family with many brothers and sisters. I have found myself being accepted by, and being a part of this family. This family is Saint Patrick's community, and you are my brothers and sisters. These brothers and sisters are special ones, ones bound to me by the ties of the Spirit, and so much stronger is that bond. This community is a community of love and support, and I am grateful for being a part of it! Thank you also for all the support that you have given me through your prayers and help.

May we all continue to grow in Jesus' blessings and love!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Vincent Bui

Contributions to this column are welcome. All must be signed, but names may be withheld on request.



What Shall We Give . . . (con'd.)

points to this plan of giving:

1. We give back to the Lord a share of what he has given us.

2. What we give should be a sacrifice, not just whatever we happen to have left over after paying for everything else including our "good times." We put our obligation to God first.

3. As is customary, we wrap our gift--in our church envelopes.

4. Tithing is the measure of what we should be giving--10% of our gross incomes. Five percent of that amount is returned to the Lord through our giving to our parish. The other five percent is our contribution to the world's poor: special diocesan collections, our personal charities, mission appeals, even tuition for Catholic education.

But the key idea in sacrificial giving is not so much how we help do the Lord's work, although what we give will indeed help. But God will manage somehow even if we never give a dime to his work here on earth. Rather, it is we ourselves who are the great beneficiaries from our own sacrificial giving, for God is never outdone in generosity. Those who attended the special meeting heard dramatic evidences of this in the testimony of others. Things may or may not "go better with Coke," but life definitely does go better when we harmonize our own wills with the will of God. That's a promise. His promise. Part of that harmony is in giving cheerfully the tithe God has asked of us again and again in Scripture.



St. Patrick's Staff

Above: J. Rodger Adams, Deacon; Fr. Paul Kinder, retired, assisting; Fr. George Remm, Pastor; Sr. Charlene Cesario, Pastoral Associate

Below: Leslie Risatti, Secretary; John Pescitelli, Music Director; Carolyn McElrath, Director of Religious Education; Oscar Kocher, Custodian; Genie Grady, Business Operations Assistant

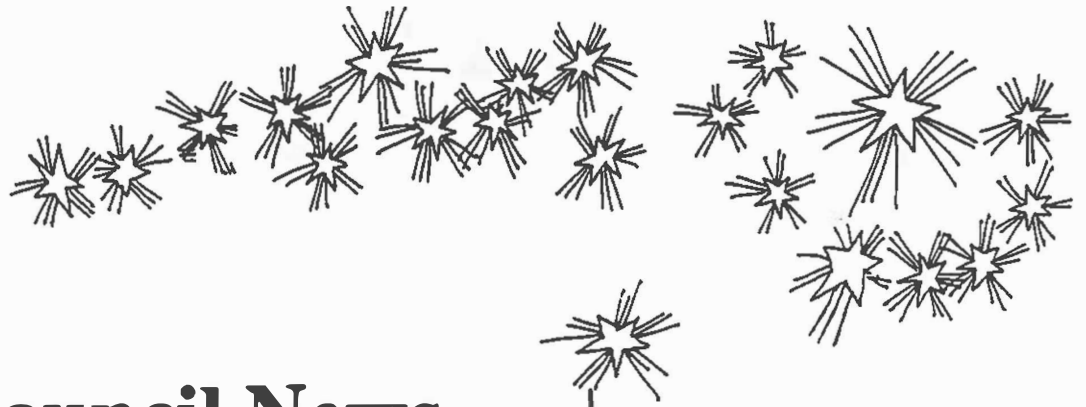
Some Advent Notables

Dorothy Day died on November 29, 1980, as Advent was beginning. On November 30 we remember the apostle Andrew, who announced with joy "We have found the Messiah!" Maura Clarke, Ita Ford, Dorothy Kazel, and Jean Donovan were killed in El Salvador on December 2, 1980.

On December 12 we observe the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, who appeared to the Mexican Indian Juan Diego and left him with a picture of herself on his cloak--pregnant, as an Indian herself, shining like the sun and moon together.

The first day of Christmas, December 26, is the feast of the first martyr, Stephen. A celebration of martyrdom? Rather, a day specially dedicated to charity, since Stephen was a deacon who distributed the wealth of the Church.

On the Fifth Day of Christmas, December 30, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, marveling at the ordinariness of it all--God takes up residence in a human family!--and remembering that there is holiness in the ordinary. And on the last day of the year we remember Sylvester I, pope, who died in 335. Did you know that most Europeans call New Year's Eve "Sylvester's Night"?

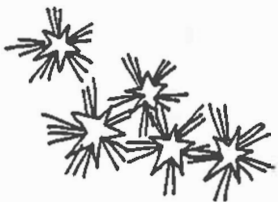


Parish Council News

At its meeting on Nov. 17, the Parish Council received Lucille and Oscar Kocher's report on the Cellar-to-Garret Sale, which netted \$5207.15 this year. On behalf of the parish Fr. Remm gratefully accepted a check for half the proceeds, \$2603.57.

Lucille expressed appreciation for the help parishioners offered in setting up for the sale and cleaning up promptly afterward, as well as for their support in assisting browsers and buyers.

As postscript to the Council/Committee/Staff Workshop on setting objectives, members received some guidance and clarification for completing worksheets in committee. Committee objectives related to goals set last year are due Jan. 6.



Committees were also reminded that proposals for new programs, major changes in existing programs, or discontinuation of existing programs must be submitted to the Council's executive committee by Dec. 6.

In other action, Council members agreed to move their annual holiday potluck and prayer service from Advent to Jan. 6.

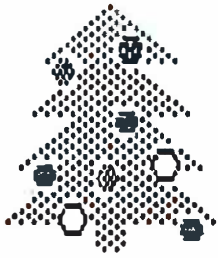
The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Dec. 15. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings.

—MISSING SOMETHING?—

Yes, the "people page" is missing from this issue of *In Focus*. Our source for information about people moving in and out of the parish, parish secretary Leslie Risatti, is put to some extra trouble to get ready for *In Focus* by mid-month. Because her other customers prefer that these lists include such activity through the entire month, Leslie must often compile this information twice.

Now, we are reluctant to ask others to "trip the light fantastic" to meet a deadline that comes around each and every month at just about the same time. So we will omit this feature in the December issue and pick it up again in January, including all names available to us at that time. So watch for the "people page" in the January issue!

--The Communications
Committee



December

1988



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

					1 10:30a Scripture Study 1:00p GROW 6:30p Choir 7:30p Personnel Com. mtg.	2 10:45a Mass at CCNH 7:00p Retreat at Our Lady of the Lake, Mahomet	3
4 8-11am Library 9:00a Bible study 9:00a Child. class 10:15a Child. Lit. 11:00a Child. class 6:30p Adult educ.	5 10:00a LOVE 7:00p GROW 7:30p LOVE 7:30p Worship & Prayer Com. mtg. 7:30p Education Com. meeting	6 1:30p Rosary at CCNH 7:00p Children's First Reconciliation Celebration	7 5:15p Mass 7:00p SVDP 7:00p Communic. Com. mtg. 7:00p GROW 7:00p Choir 7:30p RCIA, Catechuminate	8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY Mass at 7:00pm, 12:10pm, 5:15pm 10:30a Scripture 6:30p Choir 7pm Baptism Prep	9 10:30a Mass at Royal Fontana 10:45a Mass at CCNH	10 10:00a RCIA, Catechuminate (makeup session)	
11 9:00a Bible study 9:00a Child. class 9:30a RCIA, Breaking open the Word 10:15a Child. Lit. 11:00a Child. class 6:30p Adult educ.	12 10:30a LOVE 7:00p GROW 7:30p LOVE 7:30p Social Act. Com. mtg.	13 1:30p Rosary at CCNH 7:00p Revenue Com. mtg.	14 1pm MM Bandage rolling 7:00p SVDP 7:00p Building & Grounds Com. mtg. 7:00p GROW 7:00p Choir 7:30p RCIA, Cate.	15 10:30a Scripture study 1:00p GROW 6:30p Choir 7:30p Parish Council meeting	16 10:30a Mass at Urbana Nursing Home 10:45a Mass at CCNH	17 10:00a RCIA, Catechuminate (makeup session)	
18 8-11am Library 9:00a Bible study 9:00a Child. class 9:30a Breaking open Word, RCIA 10:15a Child. Lit. 11:00a Child. class 6:30p Adult educ.	19 10:30a LOVE 7:00p GROW 7:30p LOVE 7:30p Communal Reconciliation, St. Matthew's	20 1:30p Rosary at CCNH 7:30p Communal Reconciliation, St. Patrick's	21 7:00p SVDP 7:00p GROW 7:00p Choir 7:30p RCIA, Inquiry 7:30p Communal Reconciliation, Holy Cross	22 10:30a Scripture study 1:00p GROW 4-5pm Individual Reconciliation 6:30p Choir 7:30p Knights of Columbus	23 10:45a Mass at CCNH 4-5pm Individual Reconciliation 7-8:30p Individual Reconciliation	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Mass at 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:30pm	
25 CHRISTMAS DAY! MERRY CHRISTMAS! Mass at 7:30am, 10:30am, 12:00pm (no mass at 9am)	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 1:30p Rosary at CCNH 7:30p Liturgy Planning	28 7:00p SVDP 7:00p GROW	29 10:30a Scripture study 1:00p GROW	30 10:45a Mass at CCNH	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE! HAPPY NEW YEAR! Mass at 5:00pm	

KEY

Amer/C: Americana, Champaign
 Amer/U: Americana, Urbana
 CCNH: Champaign County Nursing Home

LMLP: Lay Ministry Leadership Program
 MM: Medical Missions
 SVDP: St. Vincent de Paul

St. Patrick's Parish, Urbana