

ST PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Meet Dick Valentine, New Parish Custodian

For the last four winters, St. Patrick's has engaged the services of Dick Valentine as custodian during Oscar Kocher's annual winter trek to the southlands. With Oscar's retirement, Dick has agreed to shoulder the job indefinitely until a permanent, full-time replacement is secured.

Dick Valentine is a native of Champaign-Urbana and was married at St. Patrick's. He worked here first under Fr. McGinn in 1953. They continued to work together at Holy Cross, where Dick held the position of Building and Grounds Manager for 22 years and was responsible for both church and school, budgeting and hiring in his department.

Dick has enjoyed substituting for Oscar during the last few years. He has a high regard for Fr. Rcmn, and

(he says) "there is less pressure" at St. Patrick's and "a lot of cooperation among the members," who seem eager and willing to help him fulfill his many duties and the endless miscellaneous tasks that fall to him.

Besides many years of service to the Church, Dick is a full-time fireman with the Champaign Fire Department. His day at St. Patrick's begins around 8 a.m., following a 24-hour shift at the fire house where, he admits, an uninterrupted night's sleep is rare.

As fireman, his schedule rotates year 'round: 24 hours on, 48 hours off. He keeps it all sorted out with a specially designed calendar that highlights his shift days for the entire year. For 22 years this schedule has shaped the lives of his wife and 6 children (now grown), as he spends long hours away

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RENEW: Season II Begins

What does the word "renew" mean? One dictionary gives these meanings: to make new or as if new again, to re-establish, to resume, to repeat, to replace by something new of the same kind, or to give or get an extension of.

At St. Patrick's the word "renew"—or RENEW—means something quite different, many things for many people. For shut-ins RENEW is a way to re-establish their connection with the parish through the Prayer Network; for parishioners, a way to make new friends and to grow in Christ by faith sharing in the small-group experience; for everyone at Sunday Mass, a way to renew their lease on spiritual life through the sprinkling of blessed water, the RENEW prayer, and hymns of renewal; for children of all ages a way to respond to the uniquely extended invitation "Oh won't you be my neighbor."

According to Fr. Kinder, RENEW is distinct and different from other programs in that it has brought every facet of the parish into focus, from children's programs, religious education, and music program to staff and committee meetings. Because it was so well organized and publicized, RENEW has permeated the parish, with effects apparent in the sacrament of Reconciliation and in participation at Mass.

RENEW resumed last week with the Prayer Network's weekly prayer meetings. All parishioners are invited to participate in these on the next four

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Dick Valentine, custodian, cares for St. Patrick's buildings and grounds.

Dick Valentine, continued

from home juggling the responsibilities of a fireman with those to the Church. He's quick to add, with appreciation, "You have to have a very understanding wife!"

Dick points out that planning the use of his time is essential. During quiet moments at the fire house he plans his work at the church. A sudden weekend snowfall may find Dick shoveling snow at St. Patrick's late Saturday night or early Sunday morning before

Mass. He has an on-call arrangement with Jeff Grady, who fills in or assists as needed.

The scheduling feats Dick performs to fulfill his responsibilities inspires respect for a busy person who knows how to plan. Between two jobs he also somehow finds time to work on projects at home (not small ones, either; he's currently painting his house).

How true the saying "If you want to get something done, ask a busy person."

New Name Reflects Changes for Parish Committee

Eagle-eyed readers of the parish bulletin are probably aware that the Worship and Prayer Committee has a new name. The Parish Council agreed that the name "Liturgy Committee" reflects a renewed understanding of the committee's role in the parish.

The Council also approved a new charge for the committee. Since the parish staff and other groups usually plan prayer services and programs fostering spiritual growth, it was felt that the committee could be relieved of responsibility for planning and presenting prayer services. However, the committee will continue to evaluate parish liturgies, for evaluation is essential to continued growth.

Membership of the Liturgy Committee is made up of the coordinators of each of the liturgical ministries (lectors, servers, sacristans, liturgical artists, ushers, eucharistic ministers, musicians) as well as other parishioners interested in parish liturgy.

Members are responsible for recruiting, training, scheduling, and supporting parish ministers of the liturgy and implementing plans for parish liturgies by providing the ministers, environment, and appurtenances needed.

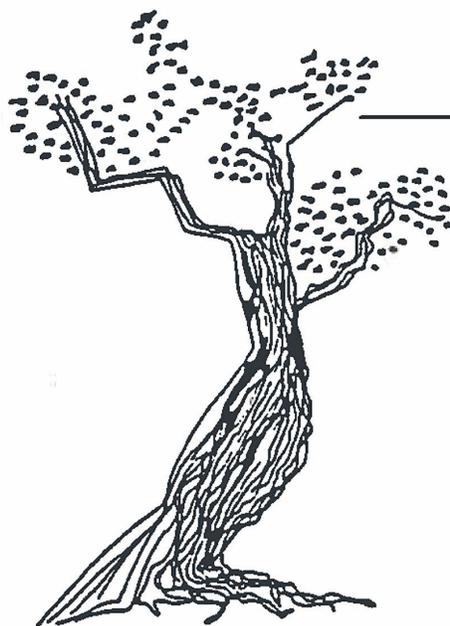
The Liturgy Committee meets on the first Monday of each month. Anyone interested in serving on the committee can call Cathy Salika, committee chair (367-7861).

RENEW, continued

Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the parish center. The prayer meeting includes hymns, scripture readings, spontaneous reflections on the readings, and prepared and spontaneous prayers of petition.

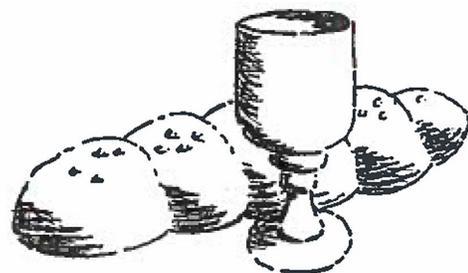
During this second season of RENEW all parishioners, whether or not they participate in small groups, will have the opportunity to be a part of RENEW in a large-group setting. Carolyn McElrath and Sr. Charlene are preparing a half-day of recollection for Saturday, Mar. 3. On Sunday, Apr. 1, parishioners will travel by bus to attend the four hour Passion Play in Bloomington. Judy Conover, who is arranging the trip, relates that the play is so absorbing that those present feel they are really living the passion of Christ. The play is not an entertainment: no applause and no children under eight. Since the play starts at 2 p.m., the group may stop in Bloomington afterward for dinner.

Sign-up for small groups takes place today, and the weekly small-group discussions begin the week of Feb. 25. In the first season of RENEW we heard the Lord's call. Now we must



determine our response to that call. Recognizing the risks involved and our own failures, we come to appreciate God's overwhelming goodness and love that lead us to a decision to respond and to become aware of the Lord's renewing presence.

For the second season, a challenge is extended to all 350 who participated in the first season, to all new participants, to our pastor, and to the parish as a whole. The challenge, expressed by one of the facilitators, is this: "I think it would be good for Father Remm to take a leadership role and challenge us as a parish to an 'action response' of some sort each week of RENEW... and through us renew the face of the earth."



Focus on . . . The St. Vincent de Paul Society

What do Dick Barrett, Bill Beagle, Byron DeHaven, Jeannie Donovan, Kay Gingerich, Bernadette and Paul Hughes, Roy Meyer, Hazel Remesch, Alberta Voss, David Thoman, and Sophia Zeigler have in common?

Well, besides the fact that all are members of St. Patrick's parish, all are also members of the world's largest lay organization founded to assist the poor and needy...in 112 countries...with over 750,000 members...in 38,000 groups called Conferences. Yes, all are members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Society was founded in Paris in 1833 by a student, Frederic Ozanam, who named the new group after Vincent de Paul, who had been canonized nearly one hundred years earlier, in 1737. This action was Ozanam's response to the challenge "What do you do to prove the Faith that is in you? Show us your works." Through the Society, his works have spread throughout the world!

In the United States the Society had its beginning at the old cathedral in St.

Louis, Missouri, where its national headquarters is now located.

The Champaign, Danville, and Urbana conferences meet as a district twice a year. Danville members operate a store for used furniture and clothing. Champaign members help to finance the ministry of Fr. James Madden, a Maryknoll missionary from Champaign who has served the Aymara Indians in the altiplano of the Peruvian Andes since 1960.

Urbana members, based at St. Patrick's, supply homemade soup to the Catholic Worker House for the daily Soup Kitchen, provide Thanksgiving food baskets to gladden the hearts as well as the tables of local needy families, and visit shut-ins at Christmas with colorful poinsettias.

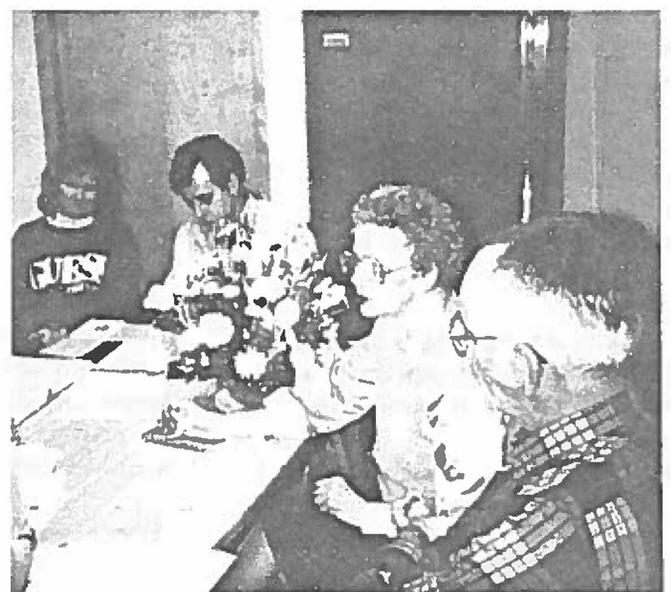
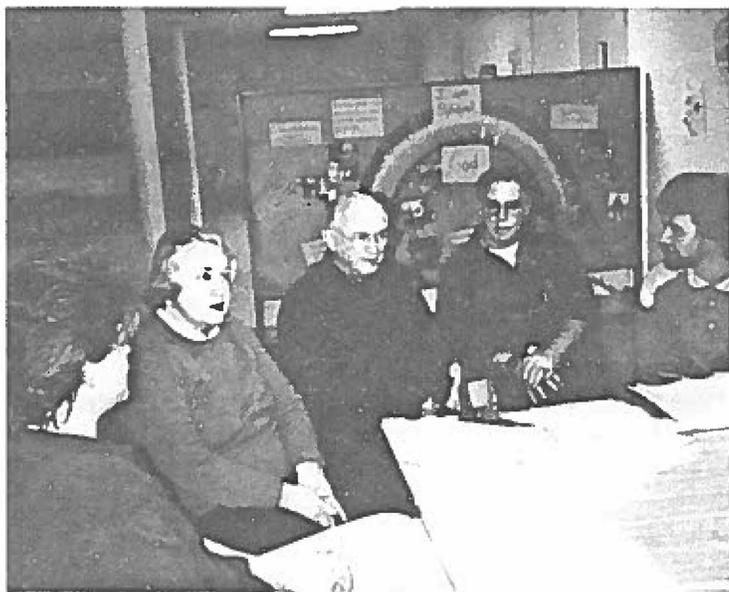
They also provide food, overnight lodging, and/or a tank of gas to those who come to the parish center in their need. Members are on call daily, helping 70-90 families a month who call or come in person for help of some kind.

In 1989 the Urbana Conference donated \$2300 to the Catholic Worker House, \$800 to its twin conference in Jamaica, and \$25 to the Guild for the Blind in Chicago. The conference also provided Steak N Shake meals for 28 people, gas for 59, medication for 22,

clothing for 15, and bus tickets for 65. The group paid power, rent, and water bills for 5 people, lodged 30 overnight at a local inn, provided layette clothing for Mercy Social Services, and donated \$360 for senior citizen meals.

"There is no end in sight to God's work for the poor," according to Sophia Zeigler, who serves as president of the Urbana Conference. Members are grateful for continued parish support, yet they say that more help is greatly needed for a continued response to the challenge "What do you do to prove the Faith that is in you? Show...your works!"

The Urbana members meet weekly at St. Patrick's, on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center.



Flowers for Sophia Zeigler brightened a recent SVDP meeting. They were sent by the Champaign Conference to congratulate Sophia (second from the right) for the Hero Award she received from the News-Gazette. Members shown are (from left to right): Jeannie Donovan, Bernadette Hughes, Paul Hughes, Byron DeHaven, Bill Beagle, Kay Gingerich, Roy Meyer, Sophia Zeigler, and Dick Barrett. Not shown: Hazel Remesch, David Thoman, and Alberta Voss.



St. Paul Miki and the Martyrs in Japan

Catholicism was introduced into Japan in 1549 by St. Francis Xavier. The Church had a very turbulent start in Japan when it was first introduced; about 4000 Japanese people were martyred during the early years.

The Church commemorates 26 of those martyrs on Feb. 5. Among them was Paul Miki, who was born in Japan in 1562 and joined the Society of Jesus in 1580. He became known as a gifted preacher and a leader in the new Japanese Church.

The Japanese shogun Hideyoshi was angered by the success of the Christian missionaries. In 1597, infuriated by the boastful talk of a Spanish sea captain, he decided to eradicate Christianity in Japan. He killed many Christians, banished foreign priests, destroyed churches, and prohibited religious practices.

The shogun's war on Christianity led to the execution of Paul Miki and 25 other Christians by crucifixion on Feb. 5, 1597, at Nagasaki, Japan. They were killed simultaneously by being raised on crosses and then stabbed with spears.

Paul Miki remained strong in his faith even in the face of death and forgave his executioners. He told on-lookers, "I tell you plainly that Christianity is the only way to salvation. I pardon my enemies and all who offend me, as faith instructs me. I gladly pardon the emperor and all who sought my death. I beg them to be baptized and become Christians themselves."

It is unlikely that any of us will have to demonstrate our faith as dramati-

Empty Tomb's New Home Needs Refurbishers

St. Patrick's parishioners have demonstrated time and time again their commitment to Empty Tomb through volunteering for home rehabilitation and through small donations in support of its work.

Now, as Empty Tomb prepares for the move to its new quarters, it has broadcast an appeal for volunteers to help finish rooms for its Feb. 28 opening. Tasks vary from painting and staining to installing doors and electrical wiring.

"Volunteers are desperately needed,"

Gaye Dunn asserts. "Any time that can be donated will be a tremendous help, especially on weekdays."

If you can give a half or a full day—or any time at all—to the many tasks that remain to be done, please call Empty Tomb (344-2262) or Gaye Dunn (384-5647) to find out how you can help. Gaye promises that "it is fun and fulfilling work, no matter what time you can give."



cally as St. Paul Miki and the other Japanese martyrs did, but we still must give up our lives for Jesus Christ. Jesus has called us to die to our old selves and to be reborn in his Spirit, letting go of our own concerns and submitting our lives to God's will.

None of the saints became saints because they were superhumans. In fact, many of them started out to be very weak. What eventually made them saints was that they surrendered their lives to God, who worked great deeds through them.

We are all called to be saints, and the Church is leading us along that path. We just need to let go of our lives so the Lord can work his will through us. This surrender is as large a commitment as that made by Paul Miki and his companion martyrs.

Please welcome new parishioners Leesa Guevara, Gwen and Jeff Gust, Janie Kinkaid, Patricia Orlet, Molly Ralph, Carol and Thomas Rapp, Michelle and Scott Vance, Arnold and Izetta Weasel, John and Sandra Zurek.



Farewell to the following parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Renee DeGraff, Mike Germinario, Margaret Mostek, Julie and Michael Wade.



We welcome the following newly baptized into our faith community: Jacqueline Anne Alexander, Kathryn Hays Henkelman, Jacob Matthew Nelson, Natalie Elizabeth Timponc.



Congratulations to William Paul Fitzpatrick and Faith Alane Stanke, married at St. Patrick's.



Our condolences to the families and friends of Florence Howard, Florence Murgach, and Felicia Turyn, deceased.



Parish Council News

At the January Council meeting attorney Stephen O'Byrne gave an interpretation of St. Patrick's legal position regarding ownership of the property at the corner of Clark and Coler and answered questions put to him by members. An open parish meeting will be held on Feb. 11 to present to parishioners information about the Catholic Worker House and its request for use of the property in relocating its operation.

The ad hoc committee on space utilization presented two proposals for Council consideration in response to the call for more space to serve an expanded religious education program. Both suggestions call for creation of a "mezzanine" off the main hall of the parish center, with room for 4 classrooms that would not intrude on present uses of the main hall. The proposals were referred to the Education and Building and Grounds

committees for careful scrutiny and feedback.

Bylaws to the revised Constitution, adopted by the parish in the Dec. 3 referendum, were officially adopted with final modifications to incorporate committee name changes.

As of Jan. 15, observed the ad hoc development committee, pledges had been received from nearly 200 of approximately 1050 parish households, totaling over \$188,000. The Time, Talent, and Treasure campaign also netted responses from 55 parishioners who placed their time and talents at the use of the parish in some continued or new way.

The annual Parish Council election will be held on Apr. 1 this year, with three vacancies to be filled. President Tom Kacich appointed the election committee, whose task it is to draw up a slate of candidates for election to these positions. Members of the

election committee are Rita Weisiger, Pat Noonan, Angie Prendergast, Ruth Mytty, and Charlie Halpin.

The budget planning process is already underway. Committees and staff were reminded to submit their budget proposals to the Financial Affairs Committee by Feb. 1 for the drafting of a tentative budget for the next Council meeting.

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Feb. 15.



St. Patrick's In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by the 15th day of the month for the next issue. Written materials must include the name and telephone number of the writer.

Please leave news items in the Communications Committee mail bin in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee. By-lines are generally omitted.

Editorial board: Bob Haessly, 344-7123; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701; Bridget Peters, 337-7663; Gary Riskowski, 344-4394; Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Merdy Smith, 367-6159; Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

Associates: Peggy Darragh, Harriet Davis, Donna Price, Carole Rebeiz, Alice Schrader, Amy Witsman.

Articles and information for the February issue were contributed by Peggy Darragh, Gaye Dunn, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Carole Rebeiz, Gary Riskowski, Cathy Salika, and Sophia Zeigler.

The Elixir of Life Is Ours to Give



Sunday, Feb. 25, is the date of the next semi-annual blood drive at St. Patrick's. The staff from the Champaign County Blood Bank will be set up in the multipurpose room from 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Since 1983 parishioners have contributed 426 pints of blood during these drives. Because donated blood is separated into three components (red cells, platelets, and plasma), those 426 pints have helped approximately 1278 persons!

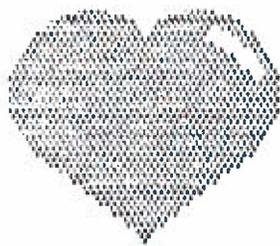
In addition to the members of the parish who have been blood donors at St. Patrick's during these drives, many other parishioners regularly give blood at the Blood Bank itself (1408 W. University Ave., Urbana). Currently, 130 parishioners are registered as St. Patrick's donors.

If you have given blood before or have been considering doing so, here is your opportunity. Blood donors are desperately needed! Remember, each pint of blood has the potential to help three people.

Donors must be 17 years or older and in good health. For more information, please call the Blood Bank (367-2202).

If you cannot be a donor but want to help, you can volunteer to telephone donors to make appointments for Feb. 25 or to serve as host for an hour or two during the drive.

Please call Lori or Tom McDonough (367-3171) for an appointment to donate blood on Feb. 25, to offer your services, or for more information.



FEBRUARY 1990



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 1 p GROW 6:45 p Folk choir	2 10:45 a CCNH, Mass	3 8 a Friends of Catholic Worker House 9 a Ad hoc De- velopment Com. mtg. 5:30 p Y & R, movie
4 8-11 a Library open 9, 11 a Children's classes 9:30 a RCIA 10:15 a Childrens liturgy	5 7 p Education Com. mtg. 7:15 p GROW 7:30 p Liturgy Com. mtg.	6 1:30 p CCNH, rosary, cookies 7:30 p Parish Council Exec. Com. mtg. 7:30 p RENEW prayer network	7 5:45 p Child- rens Class/U 6:45 Children's class/St J 7 p RCIA 7 p SVDP 7 p GROW 7 p Pro-Life 7 p Choir 7 p Communicatns	8 1 p GROW 6:45 p Folk choir 7 p Baptism preparation 7 p RENEW Large Group mtg.	9 10:30 a Fontana NH, Mass 10:45 a CCNH, Mass 6:30 p K of C Ladies Night	10 9 a LMLP 4:30 p Y & R, movie
11 8 a RCIA 8 a Hospitality table 9, 11 a Children's classes 10:15 a Childrens liturgy 1 p Y & R, cookie baking	12 7:15 p GROW 2 p Open parish mtg. on Catholic Worker House proposal	13 1:30 p CCNH, rosary, ckies 7 p Financial Af- fairs Com. mtg. 7 p Parish mem- orial service 7:30 p Social Ac- tion Com. mtg. 7:30 p RENEW prayer network	14 1 p MM Bndg Rolling 5:45 p Childrens class/U 6:45 p Childrens class/St J 7 p RCIA 7 p Choir 7 p GROW 7 p SVDP	15 1 p GROW 6:45 p Folk choir 7:30 p Parish Council mtg. 7:15 p Bldg and Grnds Com. mtg.	16 10:30 a Urbana NH, Mass 10:45 a CCNH, Mass 7 p Pre-Cana	17
18 8-11 a Library 9, 11 a Children's classes 10:15 a Childrens liturgy 11 a RCIA 2 p Pre-Cana 4 p Y & R mtg.	19 7:15 p GROW	20 1:30 p CCNH, rosary, cookies 7:30 p RENEW prayer network	21 5:45 p Children's class/U 6:45 p Children's class/St J 7 p RCIA 7 p Choir 7 p SVDP 7 p GROW	22 1 p GROW 6:45 p Folk choir 7:30 p K of C 7:30 p Discover- ing one's own prayer	23 10:45 a CCNH, Mass	24 6 p Y & R, VCR
25 RENEW: Risk 7 a - 2 p Blood Drive	26 7:15 p GROW	27 1:30 p CCNH, rosary, cookies 7 p Homily preparation	28 ASH WEDNESDAY Masses: 7 a, 12:10 p, 5:15 p 1 p MM Bandage Rolling 6:30 p Choir 7 p GROW 7 p SVDP	<p>Amer/C: Americana, Champaign Amer/U: Americana, Urbana CCNH: Champaign County Nursing Home MM: Medical Missions SVDP: St. Vincent de Paul KC: Knights of Columbus Y & R: The Young and the Restless</p>		