

In Focus



May Is Mary's Month

"O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today, / Queen of the angels, queen of the May!" Do these words, once sung with gusto (sometimes faltering on the high notes), call to mind May crownings of statues of Mary or processions and novenas in her honor?

These are only some of the many ways that Christians have honored Mary over the centuries. During Mary's visit with her cousin Elizabeth, she prophesied that all generations would call her blessed, and this has certainly been the case. Mary was honored as the mother of Jesus, our Savior, by the very first Christians, and she continues to be honored as such by Catholics to this day.

We honor Mary because she is one of us; she is a member of the Church. She experienced the same struggles that we all do in following God's will. She is the most exalted member of the Church because of her full response to God's grace. The honor we give to Mary reflects the honor God has given her; by honoring her, we honor her Creator and Redeemer.

The Second Vatican Council stated that we should know the excellence of the Mother of God and be moved to the imitation of her virtues. It also stated that the roles and privileges of the Blessed Virgin are always related to Christ, the source of all truth, sanctity, and piety. Pope John Paul II wrote an encyclical on Mary entitled "Redemptoris Mater," which provides a clear understanding of how the Church views Mary.

The customs for honoring Mary have varied over time, and it is fun to reminisce about some of the ones that many of St. Patrick's parishioners may remember from their childhood. Many

classrooms in Catholic schools had a May altar, a small table or desk on which was placed a statue of Mary, candles, and fresh flowers. The children would take turns bringing fresh flowers for the May altar—a great honor, to have one's flowers on Mary's altar! They brought them from home: lilacs, tulips, violets, anything that bloomed, even dandelions.

In the church the statue of Mary was

similarly treated, with classes taking turns bringing flowers. All this activity was brought to a climax at the end of May, when Mary's statue was crowned with a wreath of fresh flowers during a ceremony that included singing hymns in Mary's honor, praying the rosary or the litany of Mary, and perhaps also walking in procession through the church (even outside the church, if the weather was fine).

In the Church, popular devotion dedicates Saturdays to Mary, and some believers practice the First Saturday devotion. A small but faithful group of Holy Cross and St. Patrick's parishioners pray the rosary before the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturdays, first Saturdays included.

Novenas to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and to Our Lady of Sorrows were once held on a regular basis in many parishes. In these more formal prayer services novena booklets were used by the assembled faithful as they sought Mary's intercession on their behalf.

The rosary remains a popular form of prayer with Catholics and is encouraged by Pope John Paul II. The rosary, said to have been revealed to St. Dominic by the Blessed Mother near the beginning of the thirteenth century, is a prayer of meditation on the central mysteries of Christianity. It is not meant to be a mindless repetition of individual prayers but a time spent in the presence of Jesus and Mary reflecting on the mysteries of salvation.

Mary serves as an excellent role model for all Christians. She completely submitted her life (even her body) to the will of God; for doing so God raised her, body and soul, into heaven. This is the promise that we all hope for.



St. Patrick's Welcomes Neophytes!

During the Easter Vigil eleven adults were received into full communion with our Church and were warmly welcomed by St. Patrick's faith community as "neophytes," or "new Christians." Their reception of the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation marked the culmination of a process that began with Inquiry sessions last October, even earlier for some.

The process of inquiry into our faith is by its nature open-ended, with no obligation to come into the Church at Easter. On the first Sunday of Advent, inquirers who have decided to study the Catholic faith more deeply declare their intentions at the Rite of Catechumens.

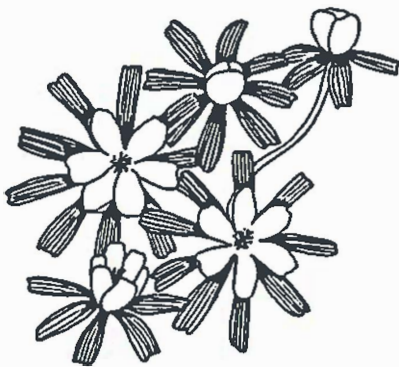
With only a short break at Christmas, the catechumens continue to meet twice weekly to study the beliefs and traditions of our faith and to "break open the Word," that is, to study the Old and New Testament readings proclaimed at Sunday Mass and to share with one another the impact of these readings on their lives. During this time of growth in faith, catechumens frequently develop a sense of community as well.

On the first Sunday of Lent, those who wish to enter the Church at Easter make this decision known through the Rite of Election. In essence, St. Patrick's Parish and the Diocese of Peoria join with the Lord in electing to invite the

catechumens into our faith community. Catechumens may also elect to remain in the catechumenate until they themselves feel ready to join the Church.

This year's neophytes were attracted to the Church by the friendliness and sense of community they experience at St. Patrick's, by the richness of our rituals, and by the idea of God's presence with us in earthly form in the sacraments. They share with us their thoughts about the effects of this process and their reactions to it in their lives:

For Denise Arie, Jesus has become more of a daily presence. She now sets aside those things she does not need to worry about and concentrates on what



Angela Marie Flannigan



Lia Linne McMahon



Robert Glazier



Janette Marie Camden



Cindy Cylkowski

(nē-o-fīt: "newly planted, newly converted")

is really important.

Marion Benfield says that he thinks more often about the story of Christ, his life, death, and resurrection. He is making more of an effort to live as he thinks Christ would like him to live.

Dalida Benfield has learned to be more forgiving and has returned to prayer, which has brought her healing.

Janette Camden has become more aware of God's presence and enjoys church more. She especially enjoys the people's involvement in the Mass.

Cindy Cylkowski has learned to understand herself and her feelings toward God and has become aware of a need to be more patient, understand-

ing, and forgiving with others.

Tammy Ernst feels that she has come to know Christ much better and is trying to live her life in a more Christian way. (Tammy and A.J. were married at St. Patrick's on Jan. 6.)

God has made Angie Flannigan aware of just how precious life is; now she tries to be more thankful for all His gifts to her.

Ron Gibson feels that he has a better understanding of God and a stronger faith in him. (Ron and his fiancée will be married soon.)

Bob Glazier says he has acquired a better understanding of God's Word and the Catholic faith and has grown

much closer spiritually to his wife. Bob and his infant daughter were both received into the Church at Easter.

Lia McMahon has scrutinized her life and found a great need for healing and forgiveness. Her heart has been opened to God as never before.

Maryann See learned that God is forgiving; she has found a peace within herself that she has never before experienced.

Friends, all of us at St. Patrick's greet you and welcome you into our faith community! May we continue to travel together in our journey of faith!



Tammy Ernst



Ronald Gibson, Jr.



Denise Marie Arie



Maryann See



Marion and Dalida Benfield

Dear Confirmation Candidates:

As Paul wrote the Church of Corinth 1900 years ago, I greet you as you prepare to become confirmed members of the Catholic Christian Community of St. Patrick's Church, Urbana, in the Diocese of Peoria: "May the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit be with you."

I hope to get to know each of you better as you take up your new positions in the Church, and I wish you Godspeed as you continue growing in grace and ability to face a world full of people who seem to deny, or at least ignore, the beauty and the mystery of God and God's creation.

You are blessed by the opportunity to be confirmed during the Easter Season. Your confirmation attests to your acceptance of the faith your parents welcomed you into at your Baptism in infancy. For adults who joined the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, this season is called by the awesome Greek word "Mystagogia." The message conveyed by this name is, roughly: "Now that you have accepted Confirmation, learn the full mystery of life in God's grace, of life enlightened by the Holy Spirit, of life in this parish, of life as God's own son or daughter."

On the evening of Saturday, May 12, Bishop John Myers will seal you with Sacred Chrism, the oil of salvation, and greet you with the special peace of Confirmation, both in the name of the Holy Spirit. Recall that Bishop Myers himself recently began to live the grace of the sacrament of Holy Orders in a new way—this is a period of Mystagogia for him, too. Do not think you have reached the goal of your life-in-grace any more than Bishop Myers has reached the fullness of his life-in-grace.

For me and for other members of our parish staff, life is a continual process of spiritual as well as physical, emotional, and intellectual growth. God is persistent in pursuing each of us, always hinting, helping, and nudging us to turn and notice how close he is to us. God's grace is sufficient for us, but it does not remove us from life and its troubles. We experience this grace in the calm of prayer, the nourishment of Holy Communion, the peace of Reconciliation, and the commitment of the sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders. We experience it in our daily encounters with God's people, whatever their joy or pain.

The grace of Confirmation is not only for May 12, though some of you may especially need it that day, but for the rest of your life. The grace of Confirmation is also for the hard days at home or at school, in the tough days at work, in sickness or injury, and yes, even in the death of a friend or loved one. God's grace is for the times of joy, growing love, sharing experiences, and the best of life, too. Most importantly, the grace of Confirmation is for the future: new schools, new jobs, new personal relationships, new parishes, new places, and whatever else you may encounter in the rest of your lives.

On May 12 celebrate all that God has given you until now, rejoice with your family and friends, and as you look to the future know that God is on your side, that Jesus is your brother, and that their Holy Spirit is a two-way communication link between you and them!

Peace,
Deacon Rodger Adams



Catholic Worker House Finds New Home

The Friends of the Catholic Worker House put a bid on a house at 317 South Randolph, Champaign. The bid was accepted and the closing on the house is pending at this time. It is through the prayers, hard work, and generosity of many, many people that the relocation of the House and its continuing ministry to homeless women and families is taking place.

St. Patrick's parishioners have been generous in answering the call to assist with relocation efforts as well as to contribute to the Donors Club. The Donors Club is made up of individuals and/or families who donate \$10 each month to assist with ongoing expenses and special needs of the House.

Donors Club members can simply circle dates on their calendars as a reminder to make their monthly donations. Some members have chosen to send their donations bimonthly or even annually. If you or your family would like to join the Donors Club, please send your name, address, and donation to:

Friends of the Catholic Worker House
P.O. Box 1612

Champaign, IL 61824-1612

Your prayers and financial support are gratefully appreciated!



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 May issue were contributed by Rodger Adams, Mary Lou Menches, Bridget Peters, Gary Riskowski, Peggy Whelan.

Parish Celebrates with First Communicants

A strong sense of community support will mark the reception of First Holy Communion by 47 parish children this Sunday. Masses at 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. will accommodate two groups of children, their families, friends, teachers and adult prayer partners.

First Communicants will enter the church carrying stalks of wheat, the eucharistic symbols they carried in procession on Holy Thursday. They will carry to the altar bread and grapes as well as hosts and wine as gifts to be offered.

Their parents will read the Prayers of the Faithful, written especially for their children on this occasion. Each child will receive a copy of the prayers as well as a certificate and a candle.

The children have prepared all year, both at home and in class, to understand the Eucharist as calling the whole community to love and service. In addition to their thorough study of religion, they have performed service projects and re-enacted the Last Supper.

Teachers Janet Althaus, Cathy Cearlock, Norine Dawson, Karen Faulkner, Lee Fischer, Mary Leming, and Mary Long assisted Irene Bullard, Colleen Kelly, Diane Musumeci and Mary Tierney and Children's Program coordinator Jan Lipska in preparing the chil-

dren for their First Communion.

Following each ceremony, a reception will be served in the parish center by parents of last year's class, chaired by Lauren Bonse.

We welcome these children to grow with us as we share the Body and Blood of Christ from this time on:

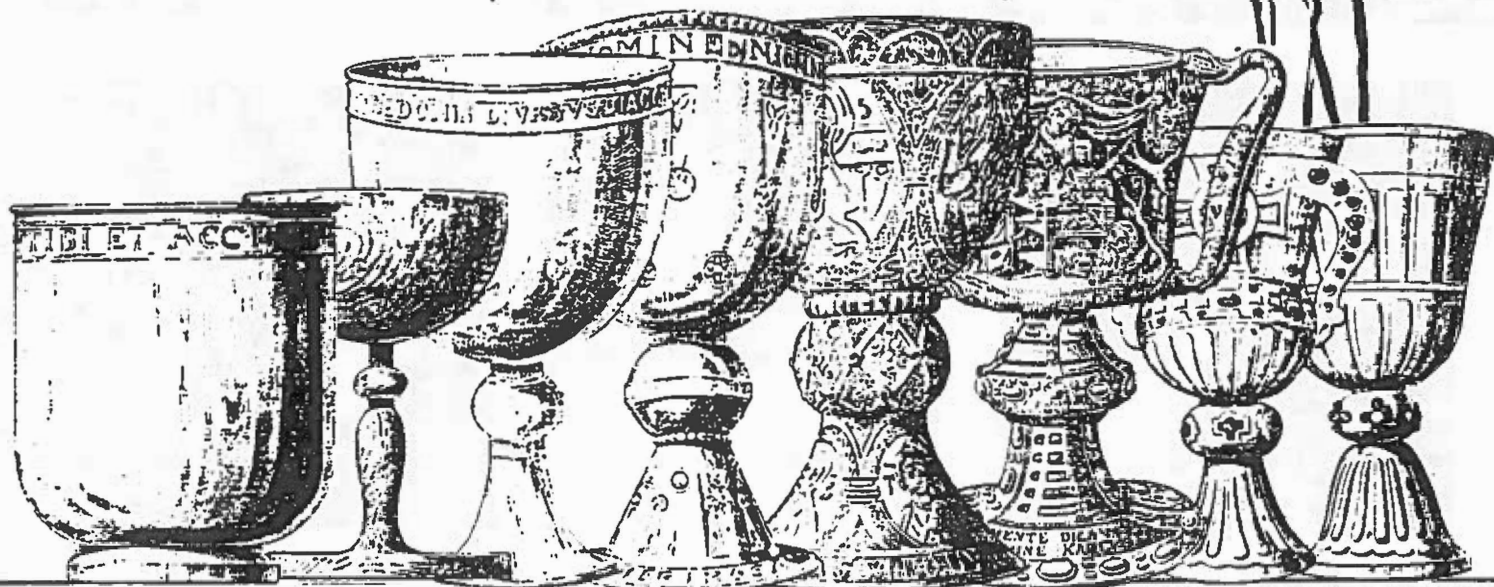
Elizabeth Andrejasich, Diana Arie, Michael Artz, Annette Barcelona, Hillary Beckman, Balazs Bogнар, Sarah Brenner, Johanna Burke, Michelle Bustamante;

Pierre Emanuel Darrigues, Anthony Decerbo, Jeremy Delanty, Benjamin Fox, Katherine Healy, Eric Heffernan, Leslie Heller, Rachel Holloway, Melissa Howey;

Susan Ingram, Karen Kinkaid, Thomas Korder, Angela Lopez, Christina Lopez, Meredith Main, Gregory McDonald, Heather McMullen, Domenico Musumeci, Walter Musumeci;

Phuong Nguyen, William Ian Nicol, Margaret Olson, Dominic Pavia, Nicholas Pelafas, Jason Peyton, James Peyton, Allen Pfaff, Amy Roberts;

Mary Danielle Bree Schaub, Aaron Shreeves, Mariana Simon, Zachary Sloan, Sarah J. Srodulski, Brian Weber, Amy Whitt, Breeda Wool, Thaddeus Yasunaga, Joseph Yasunaga.



Volunteers Converge on St. Patrick's for Parish Cleanup

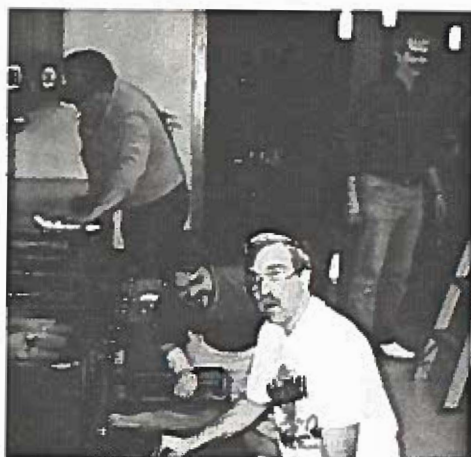
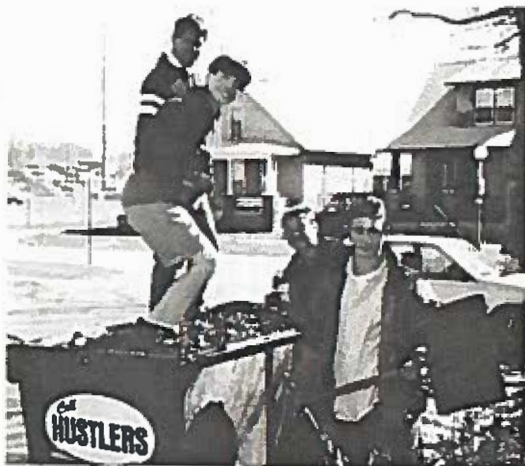
So many tasks to be done, the list is so long—how will we ever complete it? Answer: Recruit parishioners! Recruiting was the name of the game for the parish cleanup day sponsored by the Building and Grounds Committee on Saturday, Apr. 7.

The day was sunny but chilly when parishioners converged on the site with rakes and rags and got to work. They cleared brush, trimmed bushes, mopped, dusted, scrubbed, and polished until everything looked great. And just in time for our parish's Easter celebration!

Coffee, juice, and donuts were provided to sustain the hard-working volunteers, who found the cleanup a wonderful way to meet other parishioners

and to get some work done at the same time. The Building and Grounds Committee members would like to thank the people who worked so hard and did such a fine job. They appreciate the enthusiastic response of parishioners

who took the time to assist them in the upkeep of our parish facilities. Some of the volunteers (but only some) are pictured here, but you know who you are—the committee and the parish say "thank you!"



Parish Council News

At their April meeting Parish Council members approved a budget of \$388,600 for FY 1990-91, an increase of \$28,900 over this year's budget. The total breaks out roughly like this: 50% for personnel, 18% for administration and operations, 21% for programs, 3% for diocesan loan payments, 4% for real estate payments and 5 new funds set up to provide for major maintenance or replacement expenses (e.g., car, roof), and the remaining 4% for "contingencies."

They subsequently approved the establishment of a committee whose task it will be to plan the annual Sacrificial Giving renewal.

About 25 surveys were returned by parishioners volunteering to organize specific parish social events and to attend events or activities organized by others. (If you haven't returned your survey yet—it was a bulletin insert around the first of April—you might call Angie Prendergast at 328-3044. She'd be delighted to hear from you!)

Plans are being made for the parish celebration of Fr. Remm's 30th anniversary of ordination on May 29. Tom Kacich, Council president, is in charge of arrangements and said he'd take calls (344-6760) from anyone with questions or offers of help. (If the line is busy, keep trying!) Watch for forthcoming notices in the weekly bulletin to keep posted.

A record-breaking number of votes

were cast in the recent election of three parishioners to the Parish Council: Tom McDonough, Harry Ruedi, and Carol Bosley. Warm congratulations were extended to the new members, who will be seated officially at the May Council meeting, with thanks to the other candidates: Jean Daly, Jeff Nelson, and Richard Keane. All who helped with the election process in any way were also thanked for their assistance.

The Ad Hoc Development Committee, its task completed, asked to be disbanded after submitting a revised report, "Development: A Guide," and its recommendations for implementation. Council members endorsed and adopted the report and tabled action on other recommendations pending further consideration.

A request from staff for more environmentally conscious use of materials in the parish center was referred to committees and other parish groups for feedback and will be taken up at a later meeting.

Tom Kacich, outgoing Council president, announced that Fr. Remm and parish trustees Bill Subick and Cecelia Weir will serve with him on the nominating committee for Parish Council officers. The election of officers will take place at the May Council meeting.

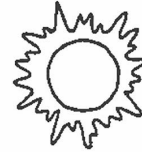
The May Council meeting will take place on May 17. All parishioners are welcome to attend these meetings.



Newly elected Council members (from the left): Carol Bosley, Tom McDonough, Harry Ruedi



HE
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RISEN,
JUST
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HE
SAID.



Please welcome new parishioners Cary and Michelle Anderson, Dorothy Baines, Andrew and Patricia Buck, Michael and Sherry Conerty, Frank and Catherine Conflenti, Mary A. Corcoran, Jennifer Hall, Henry and Betty Lopez, Elizabeth Smith, Claudia Woll, Andrezej and Irena Wroblewski, David and Leslie Zeponi.



Farewell to Thomas Koczwara and Terry and Debra West, who have moved from Champaign-Urbana.



Congratulations to the following couples married at St. Patrick's: Angila Gallenstein and Eric Morrison, Kathleen McMahon and Michael Shoemaker, Barbara McReynolds and James Burch.



We welcome the following newly baptized into our faith community: Michael Bialeschki, William Bohlen, Anneliese Booth, Alexander Bruce, Michael and Timothy Clennon, Jordyn Conerty, Kara Conflenti, Justin Droom, Roseann and Henry Dust, Claire Fulk, Staci Gust, Lucas Raab, Abigail Rapp, Adrienne Shoemaker, Bernadette Wagner.



May 1990



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		1	2	3	4	5
			5:45p Children's Class/U 7p Communications Comm 7p Choir 7p SVDP	1p GROU 1p Church Today Discussion Grp 6:45p Folk Choir	10:45a CCNH, Mass	5p TNT-Lounge, Charades
6 8-11a Library Open 9, 11a Children's Classes 10:15a Child Lit. 10:30a TNT Bkfst. Orig. Pancake 3p Confirmation, Parents	7 10:30a Freedom 7p Education Comm Mtg 7:15p GROU 7:30p Liturgy Comm Mtg	8 1:30p CCNH, Rosary 7:30p Parish Council Exec Comm Mtg	9 1p MM Bandage Rolling 5:45p Children's Class/U 7p Choir 7p SVDP	10 1p GROU 1p Church Today Discussion Grp 6:45p Folk Choir 7p Baptism Prep	11 10:30a Fontana NH, Mass 10:45a CCNH, Mass	12 7:30p Confirmation
13 MOTHER'S DAY 8a Hospitality Table 9, 11a Children's Classes 10:15a Child Lit	14 10:30a Freedom 7:15p GROU	15 1:30p CCNH, Rosary 6p St. Patrick's Guild Spring Fling (Potluck)	16 5:45p Children's Classes/U 7p Choir 7p SVDP 7:30p Social Action Comm	17 1p GROU 1p Church Today Discussion Grp 6:45p Folk Choir 7:30p Parish Council	18 10:30a Urbana NH, Mass 10:45a CCNH, Mass	19
20 8-11a Library Open 9, 11a Children's Classes 10a RCIA 10:15a Child Lit 4p TNT Regular Mtg	21 10:30a Freedom 7:15p GROU	22 1:30p CCNH, Rosary 7p Homily Prep	23 1p MM Bandage Rolling 7p Choir 7p SVDP	24 1p GROU 1p Church Today Discussion Grp 6:45p Folk Choir 7:30p K of C	25 10:45a CCNH, Mass	26
27	28 MEMORIAL DAY 7:15p GROU	29 1:30p CCNH, Rosary 6:30p Potluck Celebration for Fr Remm's 30th Anniversary of Ordination	30 7p Choir 7p SVDP	31 1p GROU 1p Church Today Discussion Grp 6:45p Folk Choir	Amer/C: Americana, Champaign Amer/U: Americana, Urbana CCNH: Champaign County Nursing Home KC: Knights of Columbus MM: Medical Missions SVDP: St. Vincent de Paul TNT: Twenties 'n' Thirties	