

The Greatest Story Ever Told Isn't Over Yet

"I finally got the plastic grass out of the ceiling fan," began a conversation in Coffee Shop. "Easter's over, and frankly I feel a bit of a letdown. How about you?"

"Oh, well, a chocolate bunny has become a permanent part of my living room rug, but honestly, I don't feel down at all. You know, Easter isn't over yet." "What?"

"True! Easter lasts for seven weeks! Today is the Second Sunday of Easter, next Sunday is the Third Sunday of Easter, and so on for seven Sundays."

"Why does Easter go on for so long? And why haven't I noticed?"

"I'm sure you did notice the white vestments today, all the flowers, the tall candle by the altar, ..."

"Well, yes-but why for seven weeks?"

"I think it's like a big satisfaction, one that lasts and lasts, so it takes time to express all the joy."

"For me, it's what to do with three dozen eggs in the fridge!"

"Boring. Do you get bored by the readings from the Acts of the Apostles?"

"I did hear that mentioned, but I confess I've been thinking more about how to tell which of those three dozen eggs are really hardboiled."

"Spin 'em on their pointed ends, the cookbook says. The hardboiled ones will spin like tops; the others will drop."

Workshop/Retreat Offered for Widows and Widowers

"Joyful Again" is the name given to a two-day ecumenical workshop/retreat for men and women who want to resolve the grief they are experiencing and to live joyfully again after the death of a spouse.

The workshop/retreat will be held May 2-3 at La Salette Retreat Center, Georgetown (III.).

For further information and brochure, call coordinator Sr. Charlene Cesario at the parish office (367-2665) or Mary Lydon (352-1549). "Neat! Thanks! Say, does the Acts of the Apostles have any practical ideas like that?"

"Well, you know how the gospels end, mostly, with the resurrection of Christ and maybe a little bit afterward?"

"Sure, and you want to hear more about what happens next."

"Well, that's all in the Acts of the Apostles. Imagine, twelve men starting out—and how many Catho-

lics are there now? Acts tells the story of how Christianity grew. How the apostles were inspired, got organized, set out to tell people about Jesus. A classic example of evangelization! And with lots of excitement: they were persecuted, put into prison, murdered. But I like the homelier details best, like the story of Eutychus."

"Who was that?-Yootakus, I mean."

"He was a young boy who went to what we'd call a home Mass, in an upstairs room, where Paul was to

> give the homily. It must have been hot and crowded. Anyway, Eutychus sat down on a windowsill, finally, to listen."

"Oh, I've often done that myself, at crowded parties. Sometimes that's the only cool place."

"Right. Well, Paul had a lot to say—he was leaving the next morning—and he preached until midnight. Meanwhile the room got hotter and hotter and Eutychus got sleepier and

continued page 2



Yes, There IS Learning after <u>Graduation!</u>

When most of us stepped out of high school years ago, we were reasonably well prepared to meet the faith challenges of that stage of life. As time passes, however, many of us find that we have forgotten much or need a more solid foundation for the faith we try to live by. It is important that our knowledge and understanding of Catholicism continue to grow and develop even as we ourselves mature and encounter new faith challenges.

St. Patrick's provides several opportunities for the continuing religious education of adults through such organized activities as seminars and classes. Adults can also learn on a more individual basis, with more flexible time commitments.

One such opportunity is provided by the parish library, located in the north end of the parish center, off the main hall. The library has a large number of religious and inspirational books and audio tapes that can be checked out by members of the parish.

The library is open from 8 to 11 a.m. on first and third Sundays. (When religious-education classes meet, there is a class in the library from 9 to 10 a.m.) To check out a book or tape, a parishioner need only fill out a card. Books are due in 2-3 weeks, although more time can be arranged if the borrower needs it, according to Library Coordinator Mike Healey.

Adults can also renew or deepen their understanding and awareness of implications of their faith by viewing some of the videotapes that have been purchased by the parish. Carolyn McElrath, Director of Religious Education, has several videotapes used for parish programs and classes that can also be borrowed by parish groups or individuals. Most of these videotapes, Carolyn says, are best viewed in the context of a learning program, but they make excellent supplemental material for small faith-based communities studying a related topic. (You say that you are not yet a member of a small faith-based group but want to be? Then you may want to view the tape "Creating Small Communities.")

Many of the videotape series include material for several sessions on such topics as the sacraments, Christian morality, the Bible, and Catholicism. For example, the Little Rock Scripture Study series includes sessions on the Gospel of Mark, Paul's letters from captivity, the Acts of the Apostles, and Exodus. There are videotapes on training parish lectors, servers, eucharistic ministers, hospitality groups, and leaders of community prayer. Other videotapes present inspirational stories or deal with such topics as family crisis and prayer.

If you or your group wish to view any of these videotapes, call Carolyn McElrath (367-2665) to determine availability and to check out selected tapes.

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More Easter, from page 1

sleepier, and finally he must have leaned back too far because he fell out the window, three storeys down."

"He didn't die, did he?" "He certainly did! But Paul went abt down to pray over the body

right down to pray over the body, and he brought Eutychus back to life."

"I bet Eutychus never sat on another windowsill! And wasn't Paul good, to take care of him! That's what Fr. Paul Kinder would have done, too. Hmm, so stories like that go on for seven weeks kind of like a mini-series? Like the one on the Civil War? Like—like—"

"Like the Gospel truth!"

"Hmm. Well, it's been great talking with you. Now I'd better get home. Since Easter's going to go on for a while, maybe I should hide some eggs again—and we could have picnics and—"

"Soon comes Ascension Thursday, then Pentecost and Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi and—"

"Stop! I haven't finished celebrating Easter yet! Easter is Big News!"

"Very big. The biggest. The Resurrection of Jesus."

"I guess you might say it goes on forever, right?"

"You've got it! Happy Easter!"



Quick Fixin's from the Kitchen of... Helen Barrymore

Hobo Dinner

1 lb ground beef 1 large onion, sliced 4 medium potatoes, cubed 4 carrots, sliced 1 t salt 1 t pepper



Form the ground beef into 4 patties and place in baking dish. Cover with onion slices, potatoes, and carrots. Sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste. Cover with aluminum foil and bake at 350 degrees for 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

Making a New Beginning

Let us pray, dear friends, to God, the all-powerful Father, that he will pour out the Holy Spirit on these newly baptized to strengthen them with his abundant gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ his Son.

This year eighteen men and women were received into full communion with the Catholic faith during the celebration of the Easter Vigil at St. Patrick's.

For some of them, the decision was an individual one to fulfill the spiritual side of their lives. Most are married or engaged to Catholics and sought a common spirituality for their families. And two couples each made joint decisions to inquire into and then to join the Church.

Laura Keefer had been attending Mass with her husband, Don, for about eight years. After visiting St. Patrick's in August, she began to experience Catholicism in action. She and Don participated in the "Spiritual Journey" sessions, offered by Sr. Charlene, which inspired her to join the Church. Laura says, "I haven't looked back since." Originally from Buffalo, Laura works at the Illinois State Water Survey; Don, completing his M.S. in soils, works at the State

Geological Survey.

The four Plunk brothers farm in Mansfield. Kathy and Greg Plunk were married at St. Patrick's last August; Jennifer and Joe Plunk have been married for five years. This Easter, the two sisters-in-law joined the Church. Kathy says that it was their admiration for Fr. Remm and the fellowship they felt at St. Patrick's that drew them—as well as the deep commitment to the faith within the Plunk family of eight brothers and sisters.

Jennifer Plunk decided to become Catholic in order to share the faith of her family and to be able to teach and guide her son, Christopher, in a stronger spiritual faith. She is a nurse at Carle Clinic; Kathy works at Bank One in Bloomington. Sandy and Mark Mitchell moved to this area from Seattle almost two years ago, when Mark became a graduate student in physics. Soon afterward their daughter, Lora, was born. For many years Sandy had been thinking of joining the Church; when Fr. Remm mentioned the RCIA classes after Lora's baptism, Sandy says "that was it."

Sandy was a computer operator for Boeing for twelve years and is looking for work "since graduate students don't make much." She and Mark enjoyed a long visit with family in Washington at Christmas, where Lora "was a big hit."

Johanna Bradley and her husband, Richard, are graduate students at the U of I. "After we were married in December, we wanted to incorporate spirituality more actively into our lives." Johanna also felt a personal need to express and share faith within a community.

continued next page



Julie Mesker



Lisa Dieker



Janet Manley



Jan Jurgens



Cathy Stevens



Christine Spitz

New Beginning, continued

St. Patrick's advertised its RCIA Inquiry sessions in the News-Gazette. Three of our new Catholics, or "neophytes," came to classes in response to that ad.

Rob Dunn, a licensed plumber by trade, responded to the ad because he was seeking answers to personal problems and wanted some peace of mind. Rob says that his RCIA group and the friendly people of the parish have kept him coming.

Although Grace Conlee responded to the ad, hers was not a sudden decision. Grace knows many parishioners from her years of work in the Pathology Department at Covenant Hospital and for several years has wanted to become a Catholic. Grace and her husband, Will, have been married for fifty years; they have two sons, and a grandchild is expected in May. Grace likes to cook, wash dishes, do handwork, and read the Bible while listening to classical music.

Ann Taylor was always interested in Catholicism, so when she saw the ad she decided to do something about it. Ann has several relatives that are members of St. Patrick's, and she finds it to be a nice place. She has been working with young children for the past twelve years and is currently seeking a full-time teaching position in early-childhood or elementary education.

Suzette Atkins "inquired into the Catholic faith after observing the lifestyle of Harry Ruedi, a parishioner of St. Patrick's. His life reflects the love and peace and caring for others that I have learned are a part of being a Catholic." Suzette and Harry worked together at Redwood and Ross. Suzette now works at First Federal. She says she feels blessed to have Christian parents who support her decision to become Catholic.

Suzette's husband, Peter, says "the RCIA classes were great, and soon we knew that we wanted to become Catholic. I especially like the sacraments, tradition, and sense of community." Peter works in the Drafting and Surveying Section at Chanute. He and Suzette enjoy camping, hiking, going to amusement parks, and their pet bunny,

Mopsy.

John and Sandra Post's visits to other Catholic churches and their welcoming and cheerful atmosphere sparked their interest in Catholicism. While they were inquiring into the faith at St. Patrick's, the love and support shown them by parishioners helped them decide to become a part of our parish community.

John was working at the Natural History Survey until his job was cut in response to the current budget crisis. He is now studying computer electronics at Parkland with the JPTA program while looking for employment. Sandra is a secretary in the School of Life Sciences at the U of I. Their eight-month-old daughter, Samantha Jo Kathryn, was baptized during the Easter Vigil. Sandra plans to enter the nursing program at Parkland this summer.

Christine Spitz "came to RCIA out of curiosity, to learn more, and soon found out why the Church meant so much to her husband,

continued next page



John Post



Sandra Post



Peter Atkins



Suzette Atkins



Ann Taylor



Grace Conlee

New Beginning, continued

Randy. They were married a year ago and live in Loda. Randy is a CPA at Hicks Gas and Oil in Roberts; Christine works at the American Oil Chemist's Society in Champaign. Both grew up in Champaign.

Cathy Stevens and her husband, Jay, are originally from Pittsburgh. They moved to this area last year from Philadelphia so Jay could attend graduate school in chemistry at the U of I. Although she had previous opportunities to inquire into Catholicism, Cathy felt a bit too much pressure from the family; she wanted it to be "something I did for myself, of my own accord." Now that she has joined the Church, she says "I think God wanted me to have this wonderful experience at St. Pat's."

Jan Jurgens and her fiance, Scott Steele, will be married on May 23 at St. Patricia's Church, near Chicago. Jan came to the Inquiry classes to understand Scott's religion and decided to join the Church so she could share the faith with her family. She thought it would be more meaningful to join the Church before the wedding in order to participate more fully in the nuptial Mass. Jan was a figure skater for nine years and enjoys scuba diving, singing, and musicals. She majored in Speech Communication and English for her B.A. in Secondary Education at ISU. Scott is finishing his M.B.A. at the U of I.

When Janet Manley and her fiance, Jerry Playonk, first considered marriage and rearing a family, Janet had no firm faith foundation to fall back on. She decided it would be better for her to join the Catholic faith. She had been feeling a need for religion in her life and so was open to the idea of conversion. Janet, originally from Genoa, Ill., is a civil engineer for the Illinois Department of Transportation; she has four sisters and two brothers, now scattered over the U.S.

Lisa Dieker came to St. Patrick's with a strong foundation in Protestantism. She and her husband, Richard, attended several churches in the area until they "finally found St. Patrick's. We immediately felt at home here and enjoyed the community of the church. After attending for the past two years, I decided to join the Catholic faith." Lisa, from Fairfield, Ill., is working on her doctorate in Special Education at the U of I. Richard works for American Dowell Sign Company.

The common theme sounded by these men and women is that of a new beginning. On Easter Sunday, Lisa Mesker moved with her son to Crown Point, Ind., where her husband, Steve, has been living since his promotion. Lisa sums up the feelings of the group: "I'll have a new job, Stevie will have a new day care, we will in effect have a whole new life. It seems kind of appropriate for Easter."





Rob Dunn



Johanna Bradley



Sandy Mitchell



Kathy Plunk



Jennifer Plunk



Laura Keefer



Frances Cousin



Al Mytty



Joe Pavia

In with the new, out with the old. Is that how the saying goes?

St. Patrick's parishioners recently elected three of its own to the Parish Council: Frances Cousin, Al Mytty, and Joe Pavia. Their threeyear terms of service to the parish begin at the May Council meeting, when three parishioners rotate off the Council: Paul Hughes, who completed the term to which Dave Murrell was elected, Mary Lydon, and Angie Prendergast.

Congratulations to those just elected, with gratitude as well to all who accepted the invitation to stand for election. Heartfelt thanks to those who will have completed their terms of service to the parish on the Council, for their hours of prayerful deliberation on matters of concern affecting the parish and their sincere dedication to the tasks presented to them.



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 mid-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: Tom McDonough, 367-3171; 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: Harriet Davis, Amy Fahey, Donna Price, Carole Rebeiz.

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Helen Barrymore, Sharon Monday-Dorsey, Tom Kacich, Mary Lou Menches, Carole Rebeiz, Leslie Risatti, Gary Riskowski, Peggy Whelan.

So What Did the Survey Say?

If St. Patrick's were one person, that person would get more involved in parish activities if asked, wants to see a children's choir formed, appreciates the opportunities for lay ministry, wants to have teen liturgies, does not want to enlarge the church, and has a lot of other opinions.

That's what the Parish Council and its committees have learned in reviewing the results of last year's Parish Needs Assessment Survey.

The survey was sent to 204 registered parishioners, approximately one-fifth of the parish census; the random sample was selected by computer. Those parishioners received a survey with 28 questions about various aspects of parish life, with room for comments on issues that may not have been addressed in the survey.

Over a period of a few months, about 160 of the surveys were returned, each one offering rich insight into how parishioners feel about St. Patrick's and their suggestions about what might be done to improve parish life.

Once the results were tabulated, they were evaluated by the Council and discussed by committees, and possible implications considered at a special parishwide open meeting in February. It is hoped that the results may assist the Council, committees, and staff in decision making in coming years.

What did the survey cover? Here are some highlights:

Most people said they attend St. Patrick's because of where they live, although many also attributed their attendance to parish clergy and staff, the warmth of the parish community, the involvement of lay people, the religious education program, and other factors.

More people than not said they would get more involved at St. Patrick's if they were asked to help with a specific project or task.

A large number (65 of the 105 who answered this question) said they thought St. Patrick's should have a children's choir.

Again, a large number (112 of 136) thought the parish should continue to train and develop parishioners to be lay ministers.

68 people thought the parish should have a teen liturgy at least once a month; 14 people disagreed, and 54 people were undecided on this issue.

Parishioners said the prayerfulness of the Sunday liturgy is limited for them and named several reasons, including being distracted by children.

continued page 8

The Broom and Bucket Brigade Goes to Work!

Despite last-minute rescheduling, rain-heavy atmosphere, and work waiting at home, several parishioners lent a hand in cleaning St. Patrick's church for Easter.

Young and old, they worked in twos and threes, chatting and joking and making new friends as they dusted, polished, waxed, wiped, and washed everything within reach—and more. When they were finished, the church looked and smelled "squeaky clean," ready for that week of weeks: Holy Week and Easter.

Ably directed by Ray Alane, chair of Building and Grounds, and Mary Ann Luedtke, sacristan, were Virginia Alane, Carol Bosley, Grace Conlee, Lula and Martin Fitzpatrick, Joan and Mark Gerhart, Laura Keefer, Lori and Tom McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Cathy Salika, Chris Stohr and daughter Ellen, and Paul Zeigler.



Not everyone is shown in the accompanying picture, and not everyone's name was obtained for acknowledgment here. For those of you we missed, a special thanks! See you next year!

Offering of Letters to Benefit Needy U.S. Children Will Be Held in May

In the last issue of In Focus the Social Action Committee introduced the national campaign to collect letters on behalf of the one in every five children who lives in poverty and is at risk of hunger and malnutrition. The letters will be sent to congressional representatives to promote legislation to help these children and adolescents.

The Offering of Letters will be introduced to the parish during the Mother's Day weekend, May 9-10. A bulletin insert will describe how you can participate in this effort to address the needs of poor children.

In addition, parish children and adolescents in religious-education classes will have the opportunity to participate and respond during their classes and Children's Liturgy.

All letters will be collected on



May 16-17 and sent to our congressional representatives on Monday, May 18.

"The Lord hears the cry of the poor." Pray that we, along with our leaders, will heed and respond to the cries of today's poor with compassion and justice.



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the June issue of In Focus is May 17.

<u>More on the Survey.</u> from page 6

44 people thought St. Patrick's should follow RENEW with another parish renewal program, although most people offered no opinion on this matter.

A large number—82 to 5, with 49 having no opinion—thought the parish should have occasional spiritual retreats.

Another large number—54 to 7, with 74 having no opinion thought the parish should do more to help the spiritual development of single adults.

Support was given to having St. Patrick's help in the formation and development of base communities (by a 44 to 15 margin, with 67 giving no opinion).

Strong support (84 to 6, with 45 giving no opinion) was voiced for the idea that the parish should do more for the elderly and homebound.

Most of those with an opinion (59 to 12, 64 having no opinion) thought the parish should do more to provide individual spiritual counseling and direction.

72 people wanted St. Patrick's to do more to encourage religious vocations; 64 disagreed, and 46 had no opinion.

82 wanted the parish to do more to develop a sense of the importance of the vocation of marriage, the single life, and the person in the workplace; 9 disagreed, and 45 had no opinion.

When asked whether the parish lacked space for specific people or programs, 17 said classrooms, 11 said meeting rooms, and 9 said staff working and office space.

38 disagreed and 32 agreed with the idea of arranging for a small chapel of reservation for the Blessed Sacrament in the parish center; 66 had no opinion.

46 people voiced support for more room for the Children's Liturgy; 17 said no, 72 had no opinion. The vast majority—82 to 22, with 32 having no opinion—said they did not think the church needs to be enlarged.

Most people seemed happy with the selections of the parish library, although there was some support for more videotapes, children's books, and other items. Most seemed to

prefer the current system of offering religious education classes on both Sunday and Wednesday.

51 people said they want to take part in adult education classes, 37 said they don't want to, and 41 had no opinion.

109 people said they want St. Patrick's to continue its relationship with Holy Cross School; 2 people disagreed, 25 had no opinion.

There were many suggestions for social activities, with strong support voiced for teen dances, short excursions, picnics, the Coffee Shop, adult dances and dinners.

66 people said the parish should do mnore for the poor and underprivileged of Champaing-Urbana; 19 disagreed, 48 had no opinion.

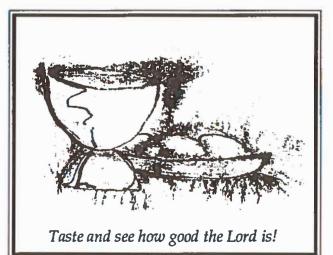
39 people favored having a paid staff person at the parish to coordinate social action programs and activities; 46 disagreed, 53 had no opinion.

110 people favored continuing the monthly special collections for the poor; 5 disagreed, 50 had no opinion.

37 said we need to do more to support the pro-life movement; 42 disagreed, 51 had no opinion.

If you want more information about the survey, inquire at the parish office or call any Parish Council member.





Missing Something?

Right! This issue of In Focus does not include the feature "Parish Council News" or the names of parishioners going places and doing things (like getting married, for instance), which are not available as this issue goes to press. Both will be included in the next In Focus.



Is it spring yet?



May 1992 SAINT PATRICK'S PARISH, URBANA

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 10:45a Champaign County Nursing Home, Mass 5:15p Holy Hour	2
Annual Stewardship Appeal 8a Library 9a, 11a, 6:30p Religious Ed 10:15a Child Lit	4 7:00p Education Comm 7:30p Liturgy Comm	5 9:00a Funeral Schola 1:45p Rosery, Champaign County Nuraing Home 6:45p Beginning Experience 7:30p Development Comm	6 6:00p Religious Ed: Urbana 7:00p SVDP 7:00p Choir 7:00p Pro-Life Comm 7:00p Spiritual Journey	7 Community Day of Prayer for Our Country-12:10 Mass 6:45p Folk Choir 7p Child Lit Choir	8 10:45a Champaign County Nursing Home, Mass	9 11a Ordination to Permanent Diaconate - Bill McClellan, St. Mary's Cathedral Peoria
10 Second Sunday - Annual Stewardship Appeal 9a, 11a, 6:30p Religious Ed 10a RCIA 10:15a Child Lit	11 7:30p Re-Member- ing Church	12 1:45p Rosary, Champaign County Nursing Home 7:00p Financial Affairs Comm 7:30p Parish Council Exec Comm	13 12:45p MM Bandage Rolling 6:00p Religious Ed: Urbana 7:00p SVDP 7:00p Sborr 7:00p Choir 7:00p Spiritual Journey 7:15p Buildg & Grada	14 6:45p Folk Choir 7:00p Baptism Prep 7:00p Child Lit Choir	15 10:30a Urbana NH, Masa 10:45a Champaign County Nursing Home, Mass	16 10a LMLP Day of Recognition, St. Mary's Cathedral Peoria
17 8:00a Library 10:15a Child Lit 1:00p Religious Ed Picnic - Carle Park 2:00p Annual Stewardship Appeal, telephone and mail	18 7:30p Social Action Comm	19 9:00a Funeral Schola 1:45p Rosary, Champaign County Nursing Home 6:45p Beginning Experience	20 7:00p SVDP 7:00p Choir 7:00p Spiritual Journey 7:00p Holy Cross Graduation	21 6:45p Folk Choir 7:30p Pariah Council	22 10:30a Americana NH Urbana, Mass 10:45a Champaign County Nursing Home, Mass	23
24 Graduation Breakfast after 9a Mass 10a RCIA	25 9:00a Memorial Day Mass at Woodlawn Cemetery, coffee afterwards	26 1:45p Rosary, Champaign County Nursing Home 7:00p Homily Prep 7:00p Confirmation Prep	27 12:45p MM Bandage Rolling 5:15p Feast of the Ascension, Holy Day Mass 7:00p SVDP 7:00p SVDP 7:00p SvDP 7:00p Choir 7:00p Spiritual Journey 7:00p Communica- tions Comm	28 7:00a , 12:10p and 5:15p Feast of the Ascension, Holy Day Masses 6:45p Folk Choir 7:15p Knights of Columbus	29 10:45a Champaign County Nursing Home, Mass 7:00p Pre-Cana	30
31 Server Appreciation at 9a Mass and Breakfast 2p Pre-Cana						1