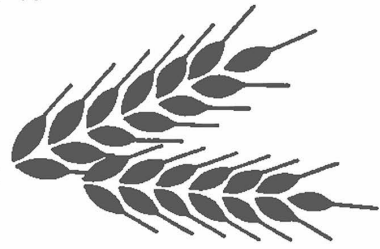


ST PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Rediscovering Advent



The birth of Christ happened a long time ago, so what's the point of going through the motions of expectancy

when we know the outcome in advance? What's the point of Advent, after all?

The cycle of the seasons that we as a worshipping people live through each year is not an exercise in "let's pretend." It is an ongoing journey into deeper reality. It is a recognition that the entry of God into our lives, while already accomplished, is still unfinished.

As long as we breathe, there is more of our lives to open, to unbar, to unlock. There is always more of us that we might let God enter. There is no end to the ways that the Word of God can more fully take on our flesh.

This is especially true of our need to acknowledge how utterly we rely on God's healing power for our salvation. We so much want to be whole and finished that our greatest temptation is to think and hope the task is done. Oh, if this conversion could only be our last. If this long journey of faith could be neat, final, complete.

The words of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark for the first Sunday of Advent may be read not only as a warning about the end times but as a challenge for us to live in the present, to engage life now, to be attentive to

the moment at hand. It is the call of Advent itself. Be awake. Do not put off the opening of your life to God.

Every Eucharist, like every Advent, begins with a call for repentance and plea for mercy. But how real is it for us? How awake, how open are we to the truth of our inadequacy and the entrance of God into our lives? How willing are we to make the words of Isaiah our own? "Why do you let us wander from your ways and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? We are sinful, unclean people, our good deeds like polluted rags. We have been delivered up to guilt."

What a hierarchy, what a priesthood, what a people of God we would be if we allowed such sentiments to be our own.

The theme of Advent is not "let's pretend." It is "get real." Make real the word—not just as a text or a story, but as a disclosure of truth. Not only is God revealed to us. We, each and all of us, here and now, are revealed to ourselves.

Thus every Advent is opportunity. Together we may once again experience the Word of God taking

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Christmas gift ideas?

Sometimes we wander through the aisles of shop after shop in search of just the right gift for a relative or friend. "What can I get for —?" we repeat to ourselves, perhaps with mounting anxiety, as precious time slips away. Well, here are a few ideas that may help you decide and perhaps even alleviate that anxiety.

You might join one of the choirs for the month of December, practicing the selections chosen for Christmas liturgies. Many parishioners who are choir members leave the area for the holidays to visit family or friends elsewhere. What a gift this would be for yourself, first of all, since singing or playing a musical instrument at Mass and during the Christmas season can gladden the heart and soul. But also what a wonderful gift for your parish friends, for the parish Music Director, for the pastor, and (most especially) for the Lord!

You might give yourself another spiritual lift by participating in Evening Prayer on Wednesdays during the first three weeks of Advent.

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Last call!

Have you signed up yet to have your picture taken for the parish pictorial directory? If not, you may still be able to squeek in under the deadline—call the parish office (367-2665) for an appointment.



in our parish library

New Seeds of Contemplation

By Thomas Merton

New Seeds of Contemplation, published in 1972, remains one of Merton's most popular books and a good introduction to the works of this beloved author.

Merton's gift is his gentle, good humor and practicality in his presentation of what can be for many an austere form of spirituality. The following quote from the author stands as a good example of the vivid writing that permeates this guide to the art of placing ourselves prayerfully in God's presence:

"Every moment and every event of a person's life on earth plants something in the soul. For just as the wind carries thousands of winged seeds, so each moment brings with it germs of spiritual vitality that come to rest imperceptibly in our minds and wills. Most of these unnumbered seeds perish and are lost, because we

are not prepared to receive them: for such seeds as these cannot spring up anywhere except in the good soil of freedom, spontaneity, and love."

Readers are urged to give this book a try.

Advent reading and listening choices on display

Books, booklets, sound recordings, and other materials for the Advent/Christmas season will be displayed on the library table in Coffee Shop during Advent. Many of these are from our parish library and can be checked out by borrowers. Others will be available for purchase. Selections for parishioners of all ages!

During the week the materials for purchase will be on display in the parish center lobby.

Browsers welcome! ■

St. Patrick's InFocus

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: Yvonne Barger, 344-2168; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701; Bridget Peters, 337-7663; Jeannie Rasmussen, 328-7929; Gary Riskowski, 344-4394; Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

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Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Fran Cousin, Doris Klapperich, Dorothy Maduzia, Ellen McDowell, Mary Lou Menches, Lenore Nagele, Carole Rebeiz, Leslie Risatti, Gary Riskowski, Connie Shaw, Peggy Whelan.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of ...

Fran Cousin

Pumpkin Praline Layer Cake

- 1 c brown sugar
- 1/2 c margarine
- 1/4 c whipping cream
- 3/4 c chopped pecans
- 2 c all-purpose flour
- 2 t baking powder
- 2 t pumpkin pie spice
- 1 t baking soda
- 1-2/3 c granulated sugar
- 1 c cooking oil
- 4 eggs
- 2 c canned pumpkin

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine brown sugar, margarine, and whipping cream in a heavy sauce pan until sugar is dissolved. Pour mixture into 2 9-inch round cake pans and sprinkle with pecans.

In a large bowl beat together granulated sugar, oil, and eggs. Add pumpkin and dry ingredients alternately until all are combined and well mixed. Spoon into cake pans on top of the pecans, place on bak-



ing sheet in oven, and bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes.

Cool 5 minutes before inverting onto cake racks. When layers are cool, whip the remaining cream for use between layers and on top. Parish Council members say the result is simply delicious!

"I met Dorothy Day at the Staten Island Worker farm ..."

By Ellen McDowell



November was Dorothy's month. She was born on Pineapple Street in Brooklyn, New York, on Nov. 8, 1897, and she died in Maryhouse, a New York Catholic Worker House for women on Nov. 29, 1980.

Dorothy Day considered herself no more than an ordinary Christian, but we stand in awe to see just what her ordinariness achieved as she took her Church at her word and lived out the justice and charity of Jesus Christ.

I met Dorothy Day at the Staten Island Worker farm in the spring of 1964. I had brought my copy of her recently published *Loaves and Fishes* for her to autograph. She was in her late sixties then, and the

years had begun to tell—years of actively resisting war and injustice, sleeping on unforgiving mattresses, picking off lice, eating the hard bread of the poor. Standing with her, I felt what someone else has described this way: "You could not be in her presence without thinking, I could be doing more!"

What would it have been, in 1933, to know the young journalist, convert to Catholicism, single mother, who with French personalist Peter Maurin founded the Catholic Worker movement? Peter's vision of creating a new society within the shell of the old, of establishing Houses of Hospitality, spread across the U.S. Volunteers streamed to the New York Worker House. Fr. Dennis Geaney wrote, "I would suggest the founding of the Catholic Worker as the beginning of the modern lay apostolate in the Catholic Church in the United States."

The local Catholic Worker House, located now at 317 S. Randolph, C., had its birth in 1980, the year of Dorothy's death. It strives, albeit imperfectly, to align itself with traditional Catholic Worker aims and purposes, its staff living out Gospel values.

There is no paid staff; volunteers serve as they are able. Some come for an occasional few hours, others make a weekly or monthly commitment. Live-in workers make an in-

tense commitment to live with the homeless poor.

St. Jude Catholic Worker House can accommodate 16 people. It provides shelter for women and families and offers a noon meal to anyone in need of food. Because just now there is only one live-in worker, the noon soup kitchen has been curtailed to serving meals only two days a week. With the addition of one or two other live-in workers, the community will work to re-establish this vital service on a daily basis.

When the St. Jude House had to give up its Urbana location, people from the entire C-U area came together as Friends of the Catholic Worker House to finance the purchase and remodeling of the present House. Local churches made significant contributions; other donations, both large and small, came from many sources. Even though the House, true to Catholic Worker philosophy, does not seek government funding, private donations made it possible to retire the debt in just two years!

In 1990 members of St. Patrick's parish started a "Ten Dollar a Month Club" to provide a predictable income to cover monthly operating expenses, estimated at about \$600/month. (A big THANK YOU to all St. Patrick's parishioners who became members of this club!) This group has been the backbone of support for the House. Anyone wishing to join the club may simply send a monthly (or yearly) gift to: Friends of the Catholic Worker House, P.O. Box 1612, Champaign, IL 61824-1612.

Donations of needed household items, food, service, meals, repairs, clean-up labor, and the like are as important to the House and its guests as financial support. If you would like to volunteer your time, skills, service, food, meals, or materials, call the St. Jude Catholic Worker House: 355-9774. If you want more information about the House or would like to receive our newsletter, call me, Ellen McDowell, 356-7101.

Keep the House and its work in your prayers!

God bless you! ■

To Dorothy Day

*Friend and partner of the poor,
Guiding spirit for the Catholic worker,
Home always open to the unwanted,
Early, often lonely, witness
in the cause of peace and conscience,
Eloquent pattern of gospel simplicity —
Dorothy Day, disciple of the Lord:
May we continue your gift of self to the needy
and your untiring work for peace!*

Parish Council News



As of the November Council meeting (Nov. 18), \$113,550 had been pledged to the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation, with \$49,050 of that amount already paid.

Of the \$67,409 pledged by parishioners for the 1993 Annual Stewardship Appeal, \$56,538 has been paid and \$10,871 remains unpaid. (Any unpaid amount remaining at the end of the pledge year must be paid out of the parish's general revenue.)

In a discussion of new items for the Parish Wish List, Council members were responsive to suggestions for adding to the list an assistive listening system for the church, scanning and optical storage electronic equipment, and improvements to the outside lighting of the parish center when cost estimates have been obtained.

Council members agreed to donate \$500 from the Burkhard Fund to the Catholic Worker House, which currently has special need of financial assistance.

Council committees and other parish groups were encouraged to try to avoid having business meetings in March to make it easier for members to observe Lenten practices and devotions.

The Social Action Committee, with three new members, plans to restructure its membership and its approach to social action. The group plans to invite speakers and hold discussions on special issues in addition to the present work of the committee.

The Social Committee is planning "Lunch with Santa" for Sunday, Dec. 19, and expects to invite parishioners to join in Christmas caroling in the area followed by hot chocolate in the parish center. [Watch the weekly bulletin for date and time!]

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Dec. 16. All parishioners are welcome to attend this open parish meeting. ■

Parish Wish List



A list of items not a necessity but nice to have, useful, perhaps even advantageous to the operation of the parish, but not included in the parish's operating budget:

- Two mobile coat racks to be used for participants in Children's Liturgy, for large receptions in the multipurpose room, etc. (\$450 each)

- Park benches and hardy perennials for a sitting area outside the parish center (\$300)

- Large video projector (\$2000-\$4000)

- Organ renovation (\$8000)

- Scanner (\$2000), optical-disk storage (\$1500), and imaging software (\$500) to preserve materials related to the history of the parish, preventing loss through fire or other catastrophe

Fr. George Remm will be happy to discuss the purpose of the wish list with interested parishioners or to answer questions about individual items on it. ■



Welcome to new parishioners Kelli and Jeff Appel, Mary Lee Brady, Carrie Ann Curtiss, Catherine E. Dawson, J. Michael Krisko.

+ + +

Farewell to parishioners who have moved from C-U: Helen and Stephen Horodenski, Nancy Komlanncce, Connie and Eugene Osmond, Edgardo Salvarini, John Valenziano, Bonnie and Daniel Walsh, John and Kim Walsh.

+ + +

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: Cody William Zeug, Nicholas Tyler Richardson, Kyle Matthew Ritten, Kassie Adara Sturdyvin, Andrew James Ashlock, Richard Cole McQueen.

+ + +

Congratulations to couples married at St. Patrick's: Lee Arthur Edgar and Daiva Elena Tamulaitis, Robert Jurkacek and Heather Marie Visel.

+ + +

Please pray for deceased parishioners Mary Elizabeth Gushee, Delphin J. Klapperich, Muriel Griffy.

+ + +



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is December 12.

Just who was Santa Claus?



He flies down chimneys in a single bound. He travels to all the world's children in a single night—and behind a bunch of re-

indeer, no less! He somehow knows who's been naughty and who's been nice. Just who is this red-clad jelly-bellied super-person?

The amazing legends associated with Santa Claus were rooted in reality. Yes, Santa Claus can be traced to someone who really lived, St. Nicholas. In Germany he became associated with Christmas, and in America became known as Santa Claus, a name derived from the Dutch form of his name: Sinte Klaas.

Nicholas was born to a wealthy family at Patara, Lycia, in Asia Minor during the fourth century. He was eventually consecrated bishop of Myra, where he devoted himself to helping the poor and to works of charity.

His exploits were described in a ninth-century biography. Even then his name was legendary. He supposedly saved three girls from being sold into slavery by tossing three bags of gold into their impoverished father's window. This may be the source of the tradition of carrying bags of toys into children's houses.

He is also said to have saved unjustly condemned men, sailors in storms, and starving populations. Needless to say, with deeds like these to his credit, Nicholas became one of the most popular saints of Christendom.

As the patron saint of children, St. Nicholas became known as "Father Christmas." His remains were carried to Bari, Italy, in 1087, follow-

ing the Moslem invasion of Asia Minor.

As we watch "Santa" at work in the next few weeks, we might sometimes remind ourselves of his relatively humble beginnings as a mere mortal. ■

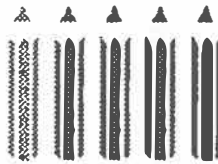
What's the scoop at Holy Cross School?

Report cards and parent-teacher conferences were on this month's agenda for students and parents at Holy Cross School. To qualify for honor roll, students in grades 5-8 must have at least a B average in all core curriculum areas and an S in Christian Conduct/Social Growth and Work Habits in all core curriculum areas and library. The high honors award is given to those with an A- or better in all core curriculum.

These students from St. Patrick's parish are listed on the honor roll for the quarter (an asterisk after a name indicates high honors):

Fifth-graders Michele Feltes, Emily Kacich, Rebekah Kunkel, Brad Mayer, Lori Randolph, Jacob Thompson, Nicole Weisiger.

Sixth-graders Kirstin Anderson, Anthony DeCerro, Katie Healey, Meredith Main, Virginia McCreary*, Mariana Simon.



Seventh-graders Christy Laesch, Adam Long, Phuong Nguyen, Gina Sabbia*.

Eighth-graders Hayley Ellis*, Bob Kacich, Sarah Mytty, David Simon.

Several field trips were taken during November. Kindergarten classes went on an MTD tour, second-grade classes had outings to Homer Lake, and Ms. Ahasic's third-graders went to Busey Woods for the "Changing Times" program.

On Nov. 24 the school hosted a "Hometown Hero" assembly for students in grades 5-8. Students from the U of I spoke to the assembly about how they say no to drugs and stay away from alcohol. A heritage paraliturgy was held that morning for all grades, with each class presenting their own skits and songs.

Holy Cross School and the U of I School of Music have made changes in the school concerts scheduled for this school year. The Christmas Concert will be held in the gym on Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. Participating students will be those in kindergarten through grade 4. The spring concert will include band performances and students in grades 5-8. This rescheduling will give classes more time for performances and allow more comfortable seating for the audience. ■

Advent, continued from page 1

flesh in us. And having allowed God such profound entry, we may find ourselves giving birth anew to the Word in our world. ■

—From "Postponement and Repentance," by John F. Kavanaugh, S.J., in *America* (Nov. 20, 1993). Used with permission.



Dr. Susan Nagele writes

Greetings from Nimule, Southern Sudan. How are all of you at St. Pat's? Celebrating Halloween with gusto, I hope!

This letter is long overdue, but it is to thank all the people of St. Pat's for the very generous contribution of \$4079 made to our work last July. Because of personnel vacations, I got behind in correspondence while trying to keep the work going.

One of the biggest projects is the TB center. Since June 1992 over 500 patients have been registered, the vast majority of them since March 1993 when the diocese began providing medicines and medical supplies. When treatment became available, people started coming in droves.

Until now I have had no reliable funding source. In July I ordered what I needed for 3 months, not quite sure where the money would come from. Shortly thereafter I received word of your gift. So all of it has gone for that purpose. Many thanks!

We have a TB conference sponsored by the UN in December, and after that I am hoping that they will provide regular and reliable funding. We have been relying on church donations.

We have about 100 in-patients and over 200 out-patients. I am en-



closing a picture of our staff. There are 8 Sudanese workers, most of whom have only 5-8 years of primary school education. They are supervised by a Ugandan Missionary Sister Veronica Oceng. The young boys at either side in the photo are some of the patients. Neither Veronica nor I envisioned such a huge undertaking, but somehow we are managing.

The war continues. Supposedly, the rebel factions have reunited and agreed to fight Khartoum for the right of self-determination. But these problems will never be solved with a gun. We try to be a small but stead-

fast sign of Jesus' love, justice, and peace. Someday, in God's good time, peace will come.

Again, many thanks. I hope to see you all again next summer.

Christ's peace,

Susan's letter was dated October 31. You can write to Susan, a St. Patrick's parishioner serving in East Africa as a Maryknoll lay missionary, c/o NCA-DOT Box 52802, Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa. ■

In appreciation From Doris Klapperich and family

Thank you, Father Remm and Father Nolan, for your many visits to Del in the hospital and the nursing home.

Thank you, Elaine Theobald and members of the Guild, for the wonderful dinner. And thank you, Knights of Columbus, for your generosity.

Thank you, servers and pallbearers and our many friends.

God bless you all! ■



Another kind of preparation for Christmas: **Communal Reconciliation**

Advent is not a penitential season. Since earliest times, as today, the four weeks before Christmas have probably been filled with preparations for gift-giving, special meals, even travel. Yet the scriptures of the season present John the Baptist crying out in the desert, "Reform your lives!"

The kind of preparation John urged is offered to us during the third week of Advent through a communal celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation. The choice of the third week Advent for this celebration is a happy one. The week is significantly marked for rejoicing; the third Sunday is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, taking its theme from the Latin "Gaudete!"—"Rejoice!"—that opens the first reading at Mass. A rose-colored candle in the Advent wreath and sometimes rose-colored vestments at Mass also mark the week as one for rejoicing. Perhaps if we take time to realize our need for Jesus, we will rejoice more fully at his coming.

The "communal" form of the sacrament of Reconciliation as it is celebrated during Advent does not mean a public confession in the sense that we tell our sins openly to one another. In a communal Reconciliation service we come together as a community to acknowledge our common need for forgiveness.

During the prayer service, readings and a homily provide the meat for our reflective prayer, leading to a vocalization of our desire to sin no more, to fulfill our responsibility to encourage one another by prayer and example.

The prayer service concludes with the introduction of several priests from local participating C-U parishes and an invitation to all present to approach them for individual confession and absolution.

As has been the custom in recent years, the most recently ordained priest in the participating parishes prepares and leads the prayer service. This year there are two: Fr. Tom Gibson of Holy Cross and Fr. Mark Merdian of St. Matthew's. Priests from the three parishes will be stationed at intervals in the church, with a priest in the Reconciliation Room and in the vesting sacristy as well, to hear those who wish to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

This communal celebration will take place on three consecutive evenings in the three parishes to make it as convenient as possible for all to participate: Monday, Dec. 13, at St. Matthew's; Tuesday, Dec. 14, at St. Patrick's; Wednesday, Dec. 15, at Holy Cross. Consider making one of these part of your preparation for Jesus' coming this year.

You will also have the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation individually during the usual Saturday afternoon and evening hours, and at these special times: Tuesday, Dec. 21, 7-8 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 23, 4-6 p.m.

And of course our priests are always willing to make individual appointments with those who cannot come at the scheduled times. ■

Parish children to celebrate First Reconciliation

This Advent, about 40 St. Patrick's second-, third-, and fourth-graders will celebrate the sacrament of forgiveness for the first time.

During 4 weeks of classes, parents and children have studied the

history and significance of the sacrament with teachers Mary Long, Diane Musumeci, Mary Tierney, and Debbie Wagner, and with Fathers Remm and Nolan.

The children learned an examination of conscience appropriate to their age and maturity. To help them become accustomed with the rite, they made "pretend" confessions to the priests.

The efforts of staff to emphasize the peace and comfort of this sacrament and to reduce any fear or anxiety have evidently been successful. Children's program coordinator Jan Lipska recalls with a smile the child who insisted "I don't care if everybody knows!"

The service consists of a procession, singing, and scripture reading to introduce the theme of God's forgiveness. Then the parents lead each child to the Reconciliation Room and leaves the child with the priest for the sacramental confession and absolution.

After the service, refreshments follow in the parish center.

Pray for these youngsters, children of our parish, who will celebrate their First Reconciliation very soon:

Second-graders Jessica Andrejasic, Nicole Betenia, Ryan Cantrell, Hayley Eifert, Nicholas Glatz, Albert Gentile, Bridget Kimmey, Jenna Koehler, Alex Long, Darrin McCartney, Ryan McCusker, Maria McLaughlin, Stacy McMullen, Shane Nirider, Meghan O'Shaughnessy, Corey Tarter, Aidan Tierney, Laura Wischnowski.

Third- through sixth-graders Daniel Burke, Matthew Call, Reinal Dorsey, Lucas Greco, Katie Hartke, Gregory Kingery, Natalie Krein, Angela LaBranch, Tu Anh Nguyen, Tu Uyen Nguyen, Lynn Nguyen, Dawn McMullen, Heather McMullen, Adam Schnizlein, Nicholas Smith, Nicholas Tazik, Lauren Westhusing, Dan Yanchus, Lindsey Yanchus. ■

Christmas gifts, continued from page 1

(What helps you maintain your spiritual equilibrium during the weeks before Christmas will undoubtedly be a gift appreciated by your family members and colleagues in the workplace as well.) You might also take into account its effectiveness in preparing your heart for the Lord's coming, readying a suitable and welcoming resting place for the Word Made Flesh.

Is there any way you can help beautify or maintain our parish property during the year? If you notice something needing to be done, perhaps you could volunteer an hour or two of your time to the appropriate person or committee to assist in getting the job done. Such a gift would be prized by those entrusted with the care and responsibility of such matters, and by all other parishioners as well. And it may be as good for the body as it is for the soul!

Can you help with the work of any of our parish committees? Committee members really do work very hard at what they do, and the occasional offer of help from an interested member of the parish would

lighten their hearts as well as the work they do so willingly on behalf of all of us. What a gift that would be—not only for the committee but for your parish and for your own growth in community and parish awareness!

You'll have noticed that we haven't even begun yet to consider the gift of time to neighbors, perhaps offering to take the children for an hour to allow their mother a little time for Christmas shopping—or just to put her feet up. Or volunteering to shovel the driveway of a neighbor whose age or frailty may preclude such heavy work. Or bringing a cheerful face and news of the outside world to a friend recovering from surgery or an extended illness. Or calling or writing to a member of your family who hasn't heard from you for quite a while.

When we were children, most of us probably heard it said that the one who benefits most from a kindness is the one who offers it. So be good to yourself this Advent! Can you think of a greater gift than the gift of yourself? ■



Thanks !

Chuck Shaw, Glenn Mueller, and Tom Weber installing new and brighter lights around the outside of the church.

Paradox

*I've come to feel
that life itself
is paradox.*

*Change is inherent:
letting go and receiving
are implied.*

*I could dreamily
and continually
try to recapture the past
or bitterly rehearse
old conflicts,
imprisoning myself
in former scenes.*

*But God calls me
to respond to grace,
to grow!*

*In time and in Spirit
I can release the past
and gratefully receive
this new and stranger life,
finding here a holy place
to nurture the uncertain-
ties,
the possibilities,
of gain from loss.*

— Roberta Porter

St. Patrick's Guild brings back "The Trees of Christmas"

Have you ever wondered how people in far-away places like Lithuania and Poland celebrate Christmas? Do you know why Ukrainians decorate their trees with spider webs? The first sale of Christmas seals was in 1904; do you know where that happened? Come to "The Trees of Christmas and Holiday Traditions around the World" at St. Patrick's and find out.

From Saturday, Dec. 4, through Sunday, Dec. 12, the parish hall will be filled with the aroma of fresh trees, the sound of Christmas music, and the holiday decorations of 25 countries as well as displays of Hannukkah and Afro-American Kwanzaa. Handmade ornaments and homemade cookies will be on sale.

To make this display authentic and educational as well as interesting, members of St. Patrick's Guild have researched the traditions of 25 countries and made by hand most of the ornaments you will see. Except for some breaks during the summer, 10-15 women have been meeting every week since last January to make ornaments, some for the trees and others for sale.

The centerpiece of this year's exhibit will be a Tidewater Plantation tree of 1842 Virginia, complete with a whistle-blowing train with a smoke stack. A hand-painted replica of a 19th-century New England village in wintertime completes the display.



From the left: Bernadine Fitzgerald, Darlene Mathine, Anne Britsky.



From the left: Jo Mahannah, Sophia Zeigler, Norma Kroes, Grace Conlee, Clara Butler.



From the left (facing): Grace Conlee, Clara Butler, Mary Sleeter, Lori McDonough.



From the left: Louise Lawhead, Joan Ellsworth, Virginia Alane, Pat Donze, Bernadine Fitzgerald.

