

# In Focus



## "Help!" cries Mark Fisch

"HELP! We are in desperate need of cantors!" exclaimed Mark Fisch, Music Director. "Two of our regulars, Donna Farwell and Janet Nagele-Judd, will be moving in the summer months, and we'll need at least two people to replace them.

"In fact, we need to increase the number of cantors who serve St. Patrick's so our current folks don't burn out from overwork."

The time commitment for a cantor varies with the individual's availability and with the liturgical season. There are "occasional" cantors, who minister once or twice every six weeks, and others who serve almost every Sunday.

"Donna and Janet both served frequently," Mark said, "so we will have several Masses each month to cover in their absence."

If you are a fairly strong, confident singer with a desire to minister at St. Patrick's through leadership in song (and you are reliable in attendance), please call Mark Fisch at 367-2665. He will arrange to meet with you at a mutually convenient time to discuss the cantor ministry and to hear you sing.

"Experience as a cantor is helpful, but not necessary," Mark added. "Please contact me soon!" ■



## Social Committee plans Father's Day breakfast

The Social Committee will hold the parish's second annual Father's Day breakfast following the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 20. The entire family is invited to attend with Dad. Reservations are required; they can be made at Coffee Shop or by calling the parish office (367-2665) by June 13.

The Social Committee's survey results are in, and it looks like an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social will be on the agenda for July 18. Watch the parish bulletin for details to follow.

Events that received the greatest number of votes are: Children, Halloween party (25 votes); Teens, canoe trip (43 votes); Family, ice cream social (44 votes); Adults, theater night at the Virginia, Sunshine, or Krannert (43 votes).

The Social Committee is grateful to all who took the time to respond to the survey and hopes to be able to present each of these events for your participation and enjoyment! ■



*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love.*

*Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you will renew the face of the earth.*

## Parish Council News



At the May meeting Fr. George Remm, Tim Roth, and Ray Alane reported on the sixth annual Financial Stewardship Conference, sponsored by the diocese. One of the highlights of the evening was an address given by Fr. Thomas McGread, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi parish, Wichita (Kansas), where stewardship has been actively pursued for 25 years or more.

In the parish of 1800-2000 families, where the average family income is about \$31,000, about 85% participate in Mass every weekend, 70% use their church envelopes, 55% give at least 8% of their income to the church, and there are 49 active parish groups.

Their parish school has about 750 students enrolled. For those who tithe, there is no additional cost; others pay the exact cost of the education or make special arrangements with the pastor.

Parishioners there have a standing offer: If they pledge to tithe and later are unable to meet that commitment because of unemployment or illness, etc., they will receive a full reimbursement from the parish and may even receive financial help if that's needed.

Fr. McGread pointed out that they try to make very good use of everything they have, make it last and make it do, spending their money also with care and foresight. "Life," he said, "is 10% what happens to you and 90% what you do about it."

Fr. Remm then reported on our parish drive for the diocesan Annual Stewardship Appeal. So far \$57,704

has been pledged, amounting to about 90% of the diocesan goal and about 82% of our parish goal of \$70,000. A mailing has been sent to parishioners who have not filled out their pledge cards, and it is hoped that some of the deficit will be made up by responses to it.

The Council will invite volunteers for a task force to develop a new parish pictorial directory.

The Education Foundation's Advisory Board met in April. They will announce a Founders Council with two levels of membership: Charter members, who give \$10,000 or more, and Benefactors, who give \$5,000 or more. The Advisory Board will assemble a portfolio of materials to leave with those they visit and hope to complete this phase by August. By the end of December, after open enrollment of donors, they hope to have the \$100,000 fund fully subscribed and the first annual report published by Feb. 1.

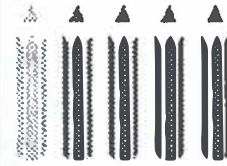
New Council members Patricia Joseph, Mary Long, and Jason McArthur were given a warm welcome and officially seated on the Council, which then adjourned for a special liturgy in the church to give thanks for the unstintingly generous service of outgoing members and to invite God's favor and blessing on continuing and new members of the Council.

Afterward the new Council gathered and elected officers for the year: Bill Plymire, president; Fran Cousin, vice-president, and Mary Long, secretary. Members gratefully acknowledged the service rendered by recording secretary Judy Conover and by mutual agreement renewed her term once again.

The next Council meeting will be held on June 17; all parishioners are welcome to attend these open meetings.

Viva le Council! ■

## Holy Cross students on a countdown to summer



On Apr. 17, 54 youngsters received their First Holy Communion; among them were 6 children from St. Patrick's [named in the May issue of In Focus]. Fathers George Remm and Tim Nolan were among the concelebrants at the First Communion Mass.

Just a few days later, on Apr. 21, retired Bishop O'Rourke administered the sacrament of Confirmation at Holy Cross. Among those confirmed were 16 Holy Cross students from St. Patrick's [named in the May issue of In Focus].

Holy Cross School held its annual Athletic Banquet on May 16. All participants in extracurricular sporting activities were recognized. The school offers students the opportunity to participate in basketball, baseball, volleyball, cheerleading and track during the year.

The 1992-93 school year ends on May 28. During May each class takes a field trip (e.g., kindergartners go to Skateland, fifth-graders to Springfield, eighth-graders to Washington, D.C.). On the next-to-the-last day of school, a picnic is held at Hessel Park. The final morning of the school year is celebrated in the church with a liturgy, followed by distribution of special awards.

Congratulations and best wishes to those graduating from eighth grade, with thanks to all who have made the school year special. To all returning families, a reminder that Fee Day/Open House is August 20, and the 1993-94 school year starts August 25.

Have a safe, relaxing, and peaceful summer! ■

## What's St. Patrick's doing at St. Joseph?



On the Sundays of the school year St. Patrick's parish center is teeming with children. They come for religious education classes at 9:00 a.m. and at 11:00 a.m., Children's Liturgy at 10:15

a.m., and high school and junior high school classes at 6:30 p.m. Because of space limitations, another group of elementary school students have classes on Wednesday evenings.

That's not all, however. About 60 St. Patrick's children are enrolled in religious education classes, preschool through sixth grade, at St. Joseph Grade School on the first three Wednesdays of the month.

With the guidance and supervision of Carolyn McElrath, St. Patrick's Director of Religious Education, Colette McMullen coordinates the program in St. Joseph. She is assisted by nine catechists.

The first event of the school year is a wiener roast in the fall. This past year, the third-/fourth-graders and fifth-/sixth-graders also had special projects, donating and gathering items for Make a Difference Day.

Children in the St. Joseph program celebrated Christmas with cookies and punch after class on the last Wednesday before Christmas vacation.

During Lent, the fifth-/sixth-graders prayed the Stations of the Cross at St. Patrick's (a first for them) and then enjoyed the fish fry in the parish center.

On the evening of Mar. 17, Fr. Tim Nolan gave first-graders a guided tour of the church, answering all the questions they couldn't ask at Mass.

The end-of-year picnic was held

the last Wednesday of April in the St. Joseph town park.

The 1992-93 school year was a rough one for Colette: her mother had been seriously ill for some time and passed away at the end of January. Even so, Colette managed to continue coordinating the religious education program at St. Joseph, with the February pizza party the only casualty.

Colette is happy to announce that she has lined up her catechists for next year and says she is looking forward to her summer break with her husband, Mike, and their daughters, Heather, 11, Dawn, 8, and Stacey, 7.

Thank you, Colette, for bringing it all together for St. Patrick's families in St. Joseph. ■



Welcome to new parishioners David Joyner, Richard and Ana Langlois, Ching-Yee Szeto, Leslie Whitley.

Farewell to parishioners Donald and Virginia Breig, who have moved from C-U.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: Sarah Elizabeth Maloney and Alicia Anne Drook.

Congratulations to Lissa May and John Mudrick, who were recently married.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Aleta Joyce Connery, Irene Saunders Hoffman, Louise Towner, and Marie Valentine Manuel.

## Dr. Susan Nagele reflects on her life as lay missionary

Many times we may feel like "paper missionaries." Paper envelopes come in the mail, and we read the paper letter that describes the needs of people in faraway places. We may then write a paper check.

People who help support missions are a very important part of any mission effort, but it is not the most exciting part. That's why it helps to have actual missionaries, like Dr. Susan Nagele, explain the impact of all this paper.

Dr. Susan Nagele was kind enough to take some time out of her brief and busy vacation schedule for an In Focus interview. Many of our readers have read Susan's letters describing the war and suffering in southern Sudan and what she has encountered in the past year. In the interview, we wanted to learn more about Susan herself, her feelings, how she deals with the frustrations of what often appears to be a hopeless situation.

Susan, a native of Urbana and St. Patrick's parish, spent the first 22 years of her life in this area. Her talents and interest in the Church were apparent even then; not yet 20 years old, she was the youngest parishioner (and the first woman) to serve as an elected member of the Parish Council.

Soon after becoming a doctor of medicine, she became a lay mission-

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**Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is June 13.**







## in our parish library

### **An Experience Named Spirit**

*By John Shea*

This book is about divine and human love. Through a generous helping of the stories that have become this young theologian's trademark, it explores how the two loves are interwoven, how the human mediates the divine and the divine suffuses the human.

"When he was with people, [Jesus] was the catalyst of an experience named Spirit. This experience brought the living relationship to God into the minds and hearts of people with both passion and precision. It is this experience named Spirit, this conscious activation of the living relationship with God, that is the center of Christian reality." Thus the author introduces the theme of his book.

Fr. Shea insists, "We live after Jesus Christ, but not without him. He is present wherever and whenever the God he revealed is sustaining and transforming human life. ...the salvific experience that he made possible continues. When this experi-

ence happens, we acknowledge that its ultimate author is his Spirit and that we are functioning as his Body. Through our human love for one another, inspired and supported by the Spirit of Jesus, we initiate each other into a relationship with that Ultimate Love which Jesus revealed."

"The love of God in our heart opens our eyes to the unique worth of each person."

"Co-creating with God the beloved's salvation is what it means to be a neighbor to the next person met."

"The power that flows from loving God with all your might brings people together; it does not tear them apart."

### **To Know the Place for the First Time**

*By Miriam MacGillis, O.P.*

In this audio tape set Sr. Miriam MacGillis explores the major themes offered by Thomas Berry in his *New Cosmology*, a powerful new interpretation of humanity's place in the universe. The present human situa-

tion can be described in three sentences:

-In the twentieth century the glory of the human has become the desolation of the earth.

-The desolation of the earth is becoming the destiny of the human.

-All human institutions, professions, programs, and activities must now be judged primarily by the extent to which they inhibit, ignore, or foster a mutually enhancing earth-human relationship.

Using cancer as a metaphor, Sr. MacGillis explains how the human is consuming the organism that is the host: the earth. The consumptive practices of recent centuries have brought us near the "edge of a cliff." We can choose to jump, step back and not move, or go the edge and turn around and walk forward. The only life-sustaining option is to turn around and walk forward, which means a dramatic turnaround in how we perceive our relationship with the earth. It means a new perception of reality that is integral with the story of creation.

As Sr. MacGillis situates the story of the human adventure in the vastness of time and space, one feels a deeper sense of both the privilege and the responsibility of conscious life.

Available on request from Sr. Charlene Cesario. ■

## **Quick fixin's from the kitchen of... a parish grandma**

- 1 lb pkg of frozen Fiesta Blend vegetables
- Meat from a 3-lb stewed chicken (or equivalent amount of canned chicken)
- 1 can: 10 3/4 oz favorite cream soup. Campbell's Broccoli Cheese Soup is tasty but fat.
- 1/2 soup can chicken broth, with fat skimmed off

Cook vegetables in casserole dish according to directions on package, and salted to taste. Remove when slightly underdone. Top with chunks of chicken. Mix broth with soup to make sauce, pour over chicken and vegetables. Return to microwave or conventional oven until heated through. (This dish is also tasty with leftover meat loaf in place of chicken.)



**Dr. Nagele, continued  
from page 3**

ary for Maryknoll in Africa. She has already served 8 years and is currently in the second year of another term. She is now taking a month's vacation in the U.S. before returning to Sudan.

When Susan walked in for her In Focus interview, she was still recovering from jet lag and wore a sweater as a protection from the "cool Illinois summers." She was still acclimated to the 105-degree temperature of southern Sudan (112 degrees on a "hot" day).

We asked Susan if her work was comparable to what's portrayed by the medics and nurses on the TV show *M\*A\*S\*H*. She explained that her work is very different since she does not treat people wounded in the war. Her duties consist mainly of treating civilians for such conditions as pregnancy, tuberculosis, malnourishment, and leprosy.

Because wounded soldiers take up most of the room in hospitals, normal medical services for civilians have been disrupted. The Maryknoll missionaries try to help at least the most desperate people.

Susan said that she often feels very frustrated by occurrences of the war,

especially now that the non-Islamic rebel factions are starting to fight each other. The people caught between these warring factions are suffering badly. Still, she said, there are glimmers of hope that make it worthwhile, such as when a malnourished child or someone with TB regains health under her care.

She feels that her main function is to be with the people. Her presence demonstrates to them that others do care about them and gives them hope to go on.

Does she draw inspiration from any saint? The Blessed Josephine Bakhita is a symbol of hope for her and for many of the Sudanese. Bakhita was a 19th-century Sudanese woman who was abducted from her home and sold into slavery. She was eventually purchased by an Italian diplomat and taken to Italy, where she became a Catholic and a nun. She isn't noted for great achievements, simply for serving God through her warmth, hospitality, and availability to the people. She is an inspiration to Sudan because she was a home girl who did well in the Church. Even by not accomplishing a great deal, she serves as an example for us when frustrated by our inability to accomplish much, even with great effort.

Susan is able to attend Mass regularly since there are a number of priests serving the people in the area where she is stationed. The priests and catechists do the evangelizing; Susan and the 4-5 nurses working with her help serve the people's medical needs and show that others care.

It did not take Susan long to adjust to African life. She eats many of the native foods. One of the common foods in that area is ground grain mixed with water to form a mush. Not overly tasty, Susan said, but palatable when eaten with other vegetables and fruits.

In the area where Susan serves, six languages are spoken. It took her some time to learn to speak

one of them, Juba Arabic. It is a relatively simple language that many understand, so she can use it to communicate with her patients. The local Church can also use it.

Susan leads a single life, which has allowed her the freedom to carry out her missionary life. Asked if she had intended this life-style, she responded that it just worked out that way. If she met the right man, she said, she'd want to get married.

She has brought many wonderful gifts to St. Patrick's from Africa, strong reminders of one of our own parishioners living and working there as a lay missionary. On a wall of the multipurpose room hangs a picture of an African woman and child. On the ambo from which she spoke to parishioners on May 15-16 hung a colorful cloth woven by an African. And during Advent an African creche is set up in the parish office.

Susan wants to maintain strong ties with our parish; she feels fortunate to have had long-term roots here. She especially likes to hear from St. Patrick's parishioners. Long letters are not needed; a short note, a newspaper clipping, a snapshot—everything is greatly appreciated.

She wants to help us understand how difficult it is to be Christian in many parts of the world. Many people are still being persecuted for their faith, especially in Sudan. It seems that their only hope is God. She asks us to pray for peace; without peace, little will be accomplished in this impoverished country.

We are grateful to Susan for sharing her missionary experiences with us and for helping us to see the humanity that gives meaning to the paper through which we "paper missionaries" serve as best we can. ■

*You can write to Susan c/o NCA Diocese of Torit, P.O. Box 52802, Nairobi, Kenya.*



## Parish Servers Honored

The servers seemed more mature, more adult, last weekend? They seemed less sure of themselves, perhaps, looked more frequently to the presider for cues? But they conducted themselves admirably nonetheless as they substituted for our regular servers.

And where were our regular servers? Where else but at Mass, at 9:00 Mass, where they received recognition and the appreciation of our pastor and our parish for their faithful service. They and their parents were feted at breakfast afterward, and Fr. Tim Nolan handed each server present a certificate of appreciation.

Peggy Shannon, aided by her son Scott, is concluding her two-year term as coordinator of server ministry as a member of the Liturgy Committee. She will be succeeded in this ministry by Bea Pavia.

Peggy and Bea hope that many other grade- and high-school students will offer their service at the altar. The next training session for new servers is scheduled for Sunday, June 13, at 1:15 p.m. in the church. All parishioners in fifth through twelfth grade are invited. ■

## A correspondent muses on ...

### fading hellos

On a lovely sunny day you are walking across the street. Suddenly you see a familiar face and you say hello. But there is no reply. I see less and less people saying hello to friends, acquaintances, co-workers, even customers. That could cause us to look bad or downright rude.

In the 90s the younger people seem to have no need to give a warm greeting, adults at work are too busy, and at times it can be dangerous to be too friendly with someone you don't know. We must be cautious, of course, but a simple hello to an acquaintance or a friendly person or a business associate can go a long way.

### visiting the sick

At times I don't like the hospital. The smell and the sadness that people have. I learn to cope with this as I grow older. I recently visited my relatives and close friends; I see happiness in their eyes when they see that I care.

How about the other patients with no relatives or friends to visit them? We need to consider them as well.

And the people in the adult care homes too. Why don't we share some time with them and make a new friend today?

### honoring your father and mother

Year after year we honor our parents on Mother's Day and Father's Day. How about the other days? We should consider that too. For they have a hard day at work, maybe don't feel so good or are just disappointed. We must remember that they are human!

Perhaps they don't mean to be mad at you, or they are trying to understand how it is for you at your age—maybe they have forgotten what that's like. Anyway, try to talk to them and explain the situation; it will help. ■

## St. Patrick's InFocus

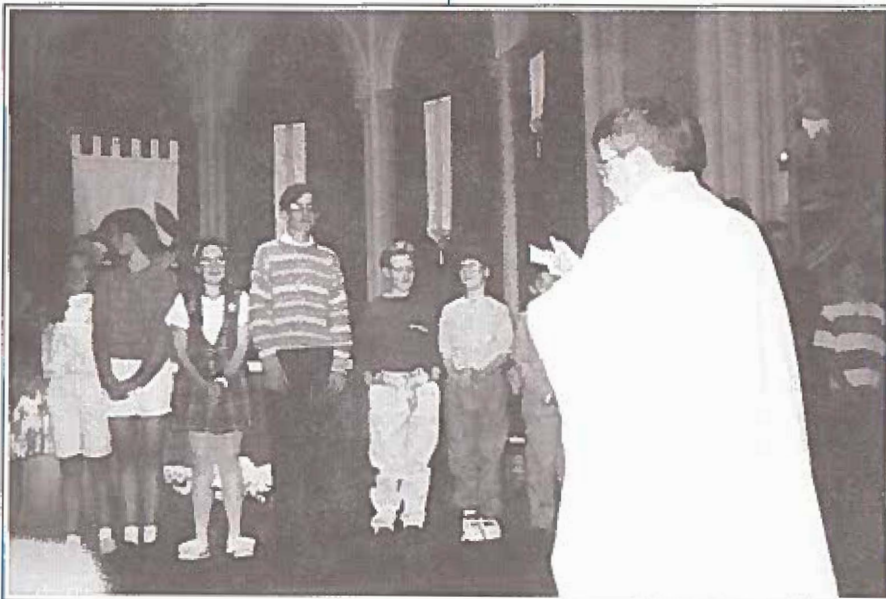
*St. Patrick's In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Written materials must include the name and telephone number of the writer.*

*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.*

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# June 1993

## ST. PATRICK'S PARISH, URBANA

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 9:00am Funeral Schools 1:45pm Rosary, Champaign County Nursing Home 6:30pm Homily Prep 7:00pm Beginning Experience 7:30pm Development Comm	<b>2</b> 6:30pm ReMembering Church 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir (10:30a)	<b>3</b> 6:45pm Choir (9:00a) 7:00pm BeFriender 7:30pm Personnel Comm	<b>4</b> 10:45am Champaign County and Urbana NH, Mass	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:00am HS Graduates Recognition at 9:00a Mass	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Education Comm 7:00pm Liturgy Comm	<b>8</b> 1:45pm Rosary, Champaign County Nursing Home 7:00pm Financial Affairs Comm 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Comm	<b>9</b> 9:30am Mom's Group 1:00pm MM Bandage Rolling 7:00pm Choir (10:30a) 7:00pm SVDP 7:15pm Bldg & Grounds	<b>10</b> 6:45pm Choir (9:00a) 7:00pm Baptism Prep	<b>11</b> 10:30am Fontana NH, Mass 10:45am Champaign County and Urbana NH, Mass	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 1:00pm Server Training	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 1:45pm Rosary, Champaign County Nursing Home 7:00pm Beginning Experience	<b>16</b> 7:00pm SVDP	<b>17</b> 7:00pm Parish Council	<b>18</b> 10:30am Urbana NH, Mass 10:45am Champaign County and Urbana NH, Mass	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>Father's Day</b> 9:00am Breakfast	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 1:45pm Rosary, Champaign County Nursing Home	<b>23</b> 1:00pm MM Bandage Rolling 7:00pm SVDP	<b>24</b> 2:00pm Alzheimer Support Group 7:30pm Knights of Columbus	<b>25</b> 10:30am Americana NH, Mass 10:45am Champaign County and Urbana NH, Mass	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:30pm Social Action Comm	<b>29</b> 1:45pm Rosary, Champaign County Nursing Home 7:00pm Homily Prep	<b>30</b> 7:00pm SVDP	<hr/> <p>Because the In Focus calendar is prepared in advance of scheduled events and meetings, please check the weekly bulletin to confirm dates and times for specific listings.</p> <hr/>		

