

S T P A T R I C K ' S P A R I S H

In Focus



SPECIAL EDITION

**St. Patrick's Catholic
Education Foundation**

A dream, a heritage, a way

I have a dream for St. Patrick's Parish. That dream is probably the wish of every parent, to hand on to forthcoming generations the values and beliefs that have blessed my life. The Catholic Faith has given meaning, direction, and hope to my life. I have dedicated my mind, my heart, my time, my vocation to the service of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and to the Church he founded to preach his good news. St. Patrick's Parish will continue long after I am gone and will be the vehicle through which many people will hear the Word of God and be introduced to the teachings of our Catholic Faith.

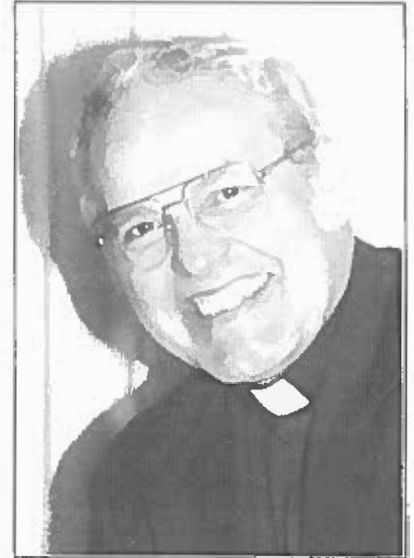
That is why I am so excited about the establishment of the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation. Here is a way that we, the present generation, may help to influence the generations to follow us. Those that came before us built the buildings that have given us a place to worship, a place to teach, and a place to gather in fellowship. Now we have an opportunity to make our contribution in turn. We don't have to erect a building. But we can provide a Foundation, a secure means that will provide funds to further our religious education programs and to provide tuition assistance to help our children attend a Catholic school.

It will take us five years to put that Foundation into place. And I hope that in five years \$300,000-\$400,000 will form the principal upon which the fund will continue to grow in the years ahead. We are well on our way toward that goal with generous gifts from Charter Members and Benefactors. I encourage you to put the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation into your wills. And why not explore Charitable Remainder Trusts, insurance policies, and other modern-day instruments that offer you tax benefits now and take sizable gifts out of the probate of your will? If we tithe to the Lord while we live (and even if we have not), we can also tithe with the resources we leave behind. This Foundation could soon grow into a substantial sum of well over a million dollars.

I invite you to share my dream, to value your Catholic heritage, and to choose the way of the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation as a means to share the legacy of Faith with future generations.

Sincerely yours,

(Rev.) George F. Remm, Pastor



Questions? Need more information? Want to make a pledge?

An open parish meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the parish center. Everyone is welcome.

Operating procedures of the Foundation

Purpose

- To provide funds for tuition for students attending a Catholic school, and for the support of the religious education program at St. Patrick's.

- To provide within the existing parish corporation an account to receive property by gift, devise or bequest subject to the laws regulating the transfer of property by will, and otherwise to acquire and hold all property, real or personal, including shares of stock, bonds, and securities of other corporations.

Administration

- The Foundation will be managed by a five-person advisory board that will assist the pastor in determining the proper investments for the Foundation's funds. One of the board members shall be the pastor.

- The initial advisory board shall have terms of two, three, four, and five years and shall be appointed by the pastor. The pastor will appoint their successors for a five-year term. No one shall serve two consecutive terms.

- The advisory board shall meet at least twice a year. A minimum of three members must approve any action.

- Minutes shall be kept and displayed upon request. The offices within the advisory board shall be: president, vice president, and treasurer. The pastor shall always hold the office of treasurer.

- No director shall receive payment for any service or time spent, or reimbursable expense from the Foundation fund.

- The advisory board shall not recommend investments where the principal would be in jeopardy.

- The interest of said fund shall be considered extraordinary income for

I would be delighted for St. Patrick to have some form of endowment fund to assist with the cost associated with children of the parish attending Holy Cross School and other education and formation needs. I think it is a good way to go.

*Bishop Myers to Fr. Remm,
May 13, 1992*

Catholic school tuition and for St. Patrick's religious education program. It is not considered ordinary parish income. The interest shall be used in the following areas:

Fifty percent of the interest distributed to the parish will be used for tuition payments for children attending a Catholic school (currently Holy Cross School, Champaign) to supplement what parents and parish are able to pay.

The remaining 50 percent for subsidy for St. Patrick's religious education program, including fees for families unable to pay, salaries and benefits for the director of religious education and for coordinators of

various departments of the program, and for operational expenses approved by the Parish Council's Education Committee.

- The percentages above will be adjusted by the advisory board if the number of students in a Catholic school drops significantly from the present level of about 80 students to below 50 students. For each decrease of 10 students below 60, the percentage of subsidy will decrease by 10 percent and 10 percent will be added to the subsidy for the St. Patrick's religious education program.

- All income received before the fund reaches \$100,000 shall be added to the principal of the fund and shall not be distributed for the purposes listed above. Ninety percent of all income after the fund reaches \$100,000 shall be distributed at the beginning of each fiscal year for the purposes listed above; the remaining 10 percent will be added to the principal.

- At the end of each fiscal year a status report of the Foundation fund will be given to the Parish Council's Financial Affairs Committee. The report will include a list of contributors, amount of interest earned, use of any and all monies paid from the fund, and the current status of the fund. This report will be used in filling out the Annual Parish Report, and a copy of it will accompany the Annual Parish Report.

Benefits of a Foundation

Just what are the benefits of the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation? Here are a few; you fill in the rest:

- It is a gift that keeps on giving.
- It provides for Catholic education for the future children of the parish.
- It contributes to religious education for parishioners of all ages.
- It provides a means for passing on your Catholic heritage and Faith.
- It assures that your gift will be used for the purpose specified and will be properly managed.
- It continues to work for the future, since the principal will not be invaded.

Profiles of the Foundation's Advisory Board Members

"I believe in Catholic education," says **Ruth Cromwell**, Illinoisan and parishioner since 1970. After graduating in science and sociology from Trinity College, Washington, D.C., she undertook graduate studies at Catholic University.

Ruth taught science at St. Patrick's Academy, staffed by the Sister Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, in Momence, Illinois. It was in Momence that she met her husband, Harold.

Ruth's career in business and social work led to a volunteer opportunity with Catholic Charities in Chicago, where the Cromwells opened their home and their hearts to seven children, not their own, whom they reared and educated, mostly in Catholic schools. While with Catholic Charities, she traveled throughout the Midwest, encouraging local church societies to become a part of the National Council of Catholic Women.

Her deep and abiding interest in Catholic education resulted in a trusteeship at Marycrest College (Davenport, Iowa).

At St. Patrick's Ruth is recognized as a dedicated parishioner who actively supported the renovation of the church building and today continues to give wholehearted support to the passing on of our Catholic heritage through future generations of parishioners.

Jim Fitzgerald grew up in Kewanee, where he attended Visitation Grade School. After graduation from a public high school in Kewanee, he completed study at Bradley University in Peoria, receiving a B.S. in Business.

Jim and his wife, Bernadine, brought their family to Urbana from Ottawa in 1964 when Jim was hired as first general manager of Lincoln Square Mall for Carson, Pirie Scott. Their three younger children participated in St. Patrick's religious education program.

Jim was marketing director for First National Bank in Ottawa from 1982 until his semi-retirement in 1989 in Urbana. He now works part time as a calling officer in the

Commercial Banking Division of Busey Bank.

He points out that the total annual cost of religious education at St. Patrick's—that is, the parish religious education classes as well as tuition assistance to parents of parishioners enrolled in Holy Cross School—is about \$200,000. He supports St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation because any amount raised by this means will relieve this cost to the parish.

"The Foundation is a vehicle for parishioners to show their support for Catholic education," Jim said. He added, "It also offers parishioners a highly regarded object for support through bequests and wills, with a procedure in place to facilitate such gifts."

Ray Timpone asserts that "parochial education is very important for all young Catholics." He credits his parish school, St. Genevieve's in Chicago, as having given his education a good start.

Service with the Navy Signal Corps brought Ray to Urbana in 1942. He later made his home here, married, and earned his degree from the University of Illinois while building his successful restaurant business.

After forty years in business in Urbana, Ray retired. His sons, Michael and Raymond, follow him as Urbana restaurateurs. Daughter Deanna, married to John Wright, lives in St. Joseph.

Ray is a frequent participant in weekday Mass at St. Patrick's. As a member of the advisory board, he has approached individuals for contributions to the Foundation. According to another board member, "Ray is hard to resist! He really does believe strongly in the value of a good Catholic education!"

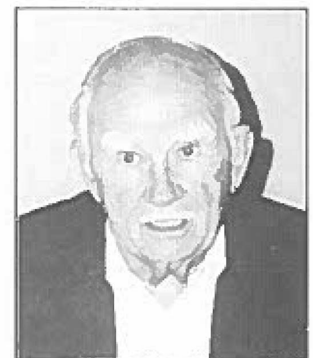
A native of Clay County in southern Illinois, **John Judd** attended a Catholic grade school in Flora and a Catholic high school in Belleville. John and his wife, Janet, were



Ruth Cromwell



Jim Fitzgerald



Ray Timpone



John Judd

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Hopes for the future

St. Patrick's Parish can't look to population growth as a way of boosting its revenue, but it can look at wise financial management as a way to ensure its continued economic viability.

With the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation comes the opportunity to fund part—and eventually all—of its religious education costs from the interest earned on a principal established this year.

Each year 90 percent of the interest earned on that principal will be spent on religious education costs, thereby freeing for other applications the funds allocated from the parish's annual operating budget.

"As our parish's needs increase, we are seeing pressures in other areas," said Fr. George Remm. "Our buildings are always in need of repairs. Fortunately, so far those costs have been manageable."

But as the church approaches its 100th birthday and the older part of the parish center nears 30 years, maintenance and repair costs can be expected to escalate.

"I'm hoping that the Foundation will take the budget pressure off so that we don't have to worry about the future and how we will pay to maintain our physical plant.

"And we'd like to be able to continue to offer certain programs and services that we already have."

Another of Fr. Remm's hopes is that the Foundation will strengthen the concept of tithing stressed in recent years during the parish's annual Sacrificial Giving renewal for "Time, Talent, and Treasure."

"We've been trying to make tithing, giving back to God what God has given us, an even stronger part of our philosophy. With this Foundation our parishioners can make tithing part of their lives even beyond death. If we feel strongly about tithing today, should we not feel strongly about it by including the Foundation in our wills?"

A gift that keeps on giving

A personal reflection by Carol Bosley

One of the old state roads leading from Mattoon to Effingham has a winding stretch with a couple of interesting bends in the road, adding a change of pace to an otherwise non-scenic drive. Along one of these bends is a row of tall, mature trees.

In traveling this old state road from my college campus to my home town, I was often drawn to noticing these trees. I was cheered by their colorful fall foliage, intrigued by their stark shapes in winter, refreshed by their budding greenery in springtime, and grateful for their cool summer shade.

One day I learned a little history about that row of trees. A young man from Mattoon had planted those trees, years and years ago when they were no more than small seedlings. He wasn't even sure whether many of the seedlings would survive. But, a lover of nature and the outdoors, he thought trees would look nice growing along this turn of the state road, which he often traveled. That young man was my husband's great-grandfather.

Now, when I travel this old state road and pass this row of trees, in my mind I see a young man at the turn of the road. The sun is shining, and this young lover of nature is kneeling in the prairie grasses, carefully planting a young seedling. He is looking toward the ground as he tenderly covers the seedling's roots with God's earth. I imagine his thoughts are not on himself and on



his time, but on a time and a person that will follow him. I imagine that on that sunny day, as he is working with the soil, he is thinking of another young boy who will one day travel this same state road—a young boy whom he will never know, his great-grandson, passing on his love of nature in the only way he knows.

The seeds of the Foundation planted today will pass on our Catholic heritage to those who follow us in the tomorrows of future generations.

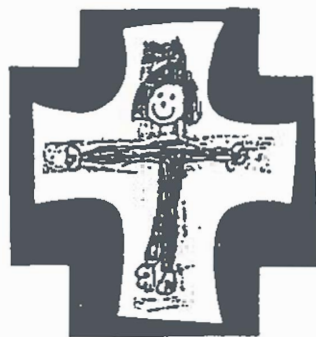
Profiles, continued from page 3

active volunteers at St. Patrick's before moving to Minneapolis in June.

John was invited to be a member of the advisory board because of his extensive experience with fund raising for the University of Illinois Foundation, 1981-86.

"I believe in the mission of the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation: building a fund for Catholic education, both for religious education in the parish and for our children enrolled at Holy Cross School," John said.

He views the Foundation as a creative way to ensure that Catholic education, a vital part of our Catholic life, continues. He feels certain that parishioners will support this goal.



Many ways of giving to the Foundation

The generous-hearted have always found many ways to give to the causes they believe in. So too those who value Catholic education highly will find innumerable ways of ensuring the Catholic education of St. Patrick's parishioners through the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation.

One way, particularly important at the outset, is by donations made directly to the Foundation to build a solid base from which interest can accrue for allocation as needed.

A donation of \$5,000 or more enrolls the giver as a member of the Founders' Council. There are two levels of membership on the Founders' Council: Benefactors and Charter Members. Those giving between \$5,000 and \$10,000 will be acknowledged as Benefactors; their names will be listed for five years on the annual reports of the Foundation. With an additional gift of \$5,000 or more, Benefactors will have the opportunity to become Charter Members.

A donation of \$10,000 or more enrolls the giver as a Charter Member of the Founders' Council. The names of Charter Members will be listed permanently on the annual reports of the Foundation.

Payments of pledges toward membership on the Founders' Council may be spread over five years, if desired.

Of course, a gift of any size is welcome. Many small donations can make a real difference to the support that can be made available for Catholic education, just as many small streams feed the vitality of a river, and many rivers the sea.

Gifts to the Foundation may also be made in the form of memorials of the givers. One simple option is to note on a Certificate of Deposit (CD)

that the CD is payable to the Foundation upon the death of the owner. Exercising this option enables the giver, while living, to retain use of income from the CD—even the CD itself in the event of an emergency. After death, remaining money from the CD passes on to the Foundation without going through Probate.

Another option is to include in one's will a donation in the form of a bequest to the Foundation. Bequests not only help the Foundation, but they also reduce the taxable level of the estate for estate tax calculations.

Those with a medium to sizable estate may want to consider placing funds in a Charitable Remainder Trust, which provides immediate tax benefits to the donors. The donor can remain in control of the trust and receives interest from the

principal, but the remainder of the trust goes to the Foundation upon death.

When properly set up, the Charitable Remainder Trust can yield immediate income tax reductions. A portion of the income taxes saved might then be used to purchase a life insurance policy that would replenish the estate remaining for the donor's heirs for the amount of the estate gifted to the trust.

This method of giving presents three benefits: (1) the Foundation receives a much-needed gift, (2) the estate passed on to one's heirs can be undiminished by the gift, and (3) donors significantly reduce their income taxes while living as well as their future estate taxes.

To realize all of these benefits, of course, expert advice should be sought from financial advisers, tax planners, insurance representatives, and attorneys knowledgeable about charitable trusts.

Giving made easy.

"I make this gift in memory of ..."

Among the many plaques on a wall of the chapel at Fatima is one which reads, "In memoriam—a tribute to the deceased fallen heroes of the 1st Marine Division, Korea." Half a world away from the battlefield, these "fallen heroes" are remembered by their comrades, and visitors to Fatima kneel and say a silent prayer for them.

"In memory of —," Have you ever noticed these words engraved on a small plaque on the base of a statue or on a stained-glass window? People who have lost a friend or relative may wish to make a contribution, a memorial gift, to St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation, where such gifts will serve as a continuing reminder

of loved ones while enabling the parish community to pass on to succeeding generations the heritage of our Faith.

Such gifts help the parish to carry out its mission and commitment to "grow into a people who worship God through prayer and the sacraments; who study God's revelation in Scripture, tradition, and the signs of the times; who serve God's will by loving and serving our neighbors, both near and far; and who tell of God's love by our words and deeds."

"In memory of —," whether engraved on a plaque or printed on an acknowledgment card, says, "We remember." And another quiet prayer rises to the Lord.

Religious education at St. Patrick's

"Just draft me!"

"What I liked best about the teen liturgies we had this year is that teens helped plan them, organize them, and serve at them as readers, welcomers, and ushers," commented one of the teens in the end-of-year evaluations.

On Sunday evenings more than 120 teens from seventh through twelfth grade gather for religious education at St. Patrick's Parish. In addition, over 300 children participate in religious education from preschool through sixth grade.

At all grade levels the curriculum follows the guidelines of the U.S. bishops by offering a fourfold approach: (1) religious instruction, (2) prayer and worship (including prayer services, reconciliation services, retreats, children's liturgies, and teen liturgies), (3) social activities for building community and peer ministry, and (4) service activities.

Commenting on the service activities in which he had participated last year, one teen wrote: "Service should be a part of every Christian life. As we become adults, we need to realize our purpose to serve and help others as Christ did. Through the services we did this year I was able to feel more like a Catholic Christian."

The teens themselves carry this service further, with many helping as teacher's aides in classes for younger children. As one teen put it, "I think that teens feel they are an

important part of this parish. I think helping teach religious education for kids is a great idea. I already help out." Another wrote, "Teens are important here at St. Patrick's. Yes, teens should serve everywhere, and I'd go for it. Just draft me!"

Parish religious education continues to grow and expand, both in Urbana and in St. Joseph. In the last six years participation in all levels of religious education increased by more than a third. Wednesday evening classes for children were added in Urbana to accommodate this growth and to offer an alternative to the two Sunday morning sections (9:00 and 11:00) and the Wednesday evening section in St. Joseph.

In line with the bishops' guidelines, sacramental preparation involves the parents (the primary educators) in the prayerful proximate preparation of children for the sacraments. Parents prepare and update their own understanding of their faith and move toward a truly celebratory experience of the sacraments along with their children.

"The adult community here has been very supportive of religious education of children and teens and adults for as long as I can remember," comments Carolyn McElrath, parish Director of Religious Education. "The religious education program continues to grow and succeed because of this support of the entire

parish community and the willingness of so many to serve as catechists, helpers, and members of the Education Committee."

Carolyn adds: "More than 150 volunteers in the parish's religious education program enable us to realize our vision for team ministry, with at least two catechists in the majority of classrooms." Children, teens, and



parents have been very supportive and grateful for the many catechists who volunteer their time to serve. Overwhelmingly, the teens saw their catechists as "willing to entertain any questions we had, to be open," "easy to relate to," and "understanding and considerate."

Continued growth in religious education is anticipated as the parish and staff and teens continue to reach out and invite and welcome others. Teens with increasing frequency invite and bring their friends along to their religious education sessions.

St. Patrick's has a long history of quality religious education. Many have helped to develop the area of religious education in the parish. Prior to Carolyn McElrath's service as director of religious education (since 1985), Gary Laumann served for six years in that position, following Gary Isaacs, Sr. Josephine, Sr. Bernita, Grace Atherton, and Mr. and Mrs. Neil Schilmoeller.

To teachers

Be a gardener.
Dig a ditch, toil and sweat,
and turn the earth upside down
and seek the deepness
and water the plants in time.
Continue this labor
and make sweet floods to run

and noble and abundant fruits
to spring.
Take this food and drink
and carry it to God
as your true worship.

Julian of Norwich

St. Patrick's relationship with Holy Cross School

"Something good happens ..."

"What I appreciate most about Holy Cross School is the values environment, the fact that religion is integrated into the whole school curriculum," reports a St. Patrick's parent whose children are enrolled in Holy Cross School.

Approximately 50 families currently have about 80 children enrolled in this local Catholic grade school. Several of these families also enroll their children in St. Patrick's religious education programs to foster community with other parishioners in their home parish.

Parochial school education for St. Patrick's children was provided by St. Mary's School until it closed in 1968. (In fact, many of our parish adults are graduates of St. Mary's.) Since 1969 St. Patrick's has maintained an arrangement with Holy Cross School in Champaign that has enabled many parish families to provide a Catholic school education for their children.

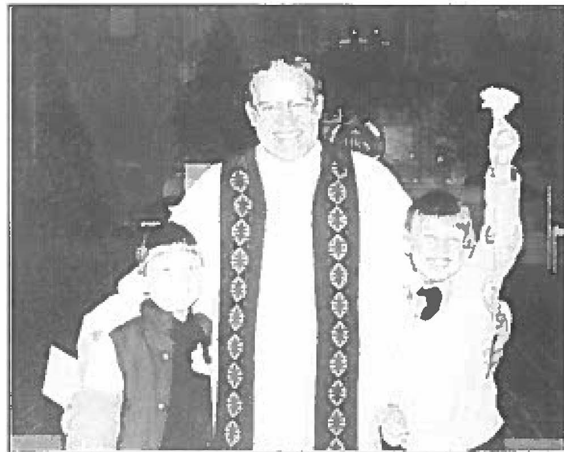
In 1982 the Education Committee presented to the Parish Council a policy recommendation, subsequently adopted, that included the following resolutions: "To recommend Holy Cross School as an educational option and encourage concurrent participation in St. Patrick's religious education programs for all parish families using Holy Cross School; to publish Holy Cross School events and activities; to provide financial assistance (as specified through established guidelines); and to review said policies periodically."

Parish families appreciate the opportunity for Catholic school education. Such an education has always involved sacrifice but, as one parent put it, "something good happens to families that choose to send their child to a parochial school. It's a

family decision and requires the sacrifice of the whole family—the family chooses priorities and may have to do without some material luxuries. Another aspect is community. In parochial schools, parents come together for voluntary activity for the school, an expression of their care and concern. Enrollment in Catholic schools should be encouraged."

The parish has a liaison (Dorothy Maduzia) serving with the Holy Cross Board of Education. And a representative of Holy Cross parents serves on St. Patrick's Education Committee.

For several years St. Patrick's has offered to pay one-fourth of the tu-



ition cost, and in some cases will pay more. This year tuition at Holy Cross School for St. Patrick's parishioners is \$1775.

Income from the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation will help defray some of the cost, currently paid from ordinary parish revenue, for tuition assistance to families with children at Holy Cross School.

"We are not alone ..."

Religious education staff structure

"The religious education staff structure developed and implemented at St. Patrick's in 1984 is an important factor in the success of our programs, which attract over 400 participants from preschool through high school," says Carolyn McElrath, parish Director of Religious Education.

Overall curriculum design, catechist doctrinal training, adult education, and education staff supervision are the responsibility of the director, who works also with the Parish Council's Education Committee, the pastor, and parish staff. The director, in turn, has a part-time religious education staff that provides immediate program contact and focus at each program level.

Religious education staff gather monthly to share what is happening in their program areas and to exchange

ideas. Each staff member also meets weekly with the director for curriculum design and planning to foster continued growth and vitality in the programs.

Current coordinators of religious education are Jan Lipska (children's and high school programs), Colette McMullen (St. Joseph), Lenore Nagele (RCIA), Cindy Mottin (junior high), Rosemary Mathy (family life), and Victoria Pifalo (library).

According to coordinator Jan Lipska, "What is so great is that we are not alone. Before and after every session with teachers or parents or high schoolers, I can sit down with Carolyn and analyze what went well and what needs to be worked on. In many parishes the coordinators are all alone, a

Help make Msgr. Paul Kinder a "Founder" of the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation

As he lifted his hands from the penitent's head after pronouncing words of absolution, Fr. Kinder said with a note of surprise, "Oh, you don't use hair spray." Rubbing his hands together, he added with a smile, "My hands often get sticky from hair spray when I do this." In his gentle, disarming manner, Father touched that person, warming a chilly December afternoon.

Perhaps Msgr. Paul Kinder touched you too in some way during his ten years of semi-retirement at St. Patrick's, and you are not sure how to show your appreciation for his loving presence among us and for his many kindnesses.

As a member of the Founder's Council, Msgr. Paul Kinder would be remembered in each annual report and in each mailing of the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation. All of us at St. Patrick's can make that membership a reality through individual gifts in his name. Our \$5 and \$10 and \$100 donations to the Foundation in the name of Msgr. Paul Kinder, for a total of \$10,000 in the next five years, will place his name permanently on the list of charter members of the Founder's Council.

Msgr. Kinder was supportive of education in many fields: art, music, classics, theology, to name a few. His love for good Catholic education was an intrinsic part of his personality. He loved and encouraged all who were involved in any way in religious education: the young children at Holy Cross School, participants in the weekly catechetical classes at St. Patrick's, parents and children at the children's Sunday liturgies, religious education coordi-

nators and catechists and helpers, the RCIA-ers and adults in special classes.

Having been a pastor himself for many years, he knew very well that all these programs take money for continued study, training, and practical application. He would have appreciated the value of the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation, which will ensure their future.

Let us join together to express our appreciation for the many ways Father Paul touched our lives by making donations to the Foundation in his name. He constantly showed his love for us; we can show our love for him today by helping to see that his name is listed as a Charter Member of the Founder's Council.



This special edition of St. Patrick's In Focus was prepared by the Communications Committee at the request of Fr. George Remm and the advisory board of the Foundation. Research and articles for this issue were provided by Helen Barrymore, Carol Bosley, Florence Chevalier, Bob Haessly, Tom Kacich, Carolyn McElrath, Mary Lou Menches, Carole Rebeiz, Fr. George Remm, Gary Riskowski, Peggy Whelan. Photographs were submitted by several parishioners, and layout was provided by an associate-professional.

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situation that leads to burnout, to loss of vitality and energy and growth in programs."

Carolyn McElrath adds: "We have been blessed in the coordinators who have come forward to serve our parish. They work well together and the continuing growth of programs suggests that they have been ably promoting the vision of the Parish Council and the Education Committee in establishing the staff structure for parish religious education."

That vision and philosophy are articulated in the "Philosophical Rationale for the Recommendation on the Religious Education Staff Structure" (1983) presented to the Parish Council for approval:

"We recognize that a coherent and unified vision and philosophy of religious education is necessary for the direction of all programs. It is in this context that we envision a single, highly qualified, professional director of religious education, responsible for the catechesis, support, and enrichment of the religious education coordinators and volunteers.

"The DRE is to be a credentialed professional, a full-time staff member with high qualifications, committed to religious education as his/her vocation, to whom we entrust overall responsibility for the programs.

"The coordinators are to be thought of as professionals, qualified candidates who are committed to and engaged in ministry in a specific area as defined by the job description. The coordinator positions draw on the resources and talents of individuals within the parish in such a way as to complement and extend the positions of professional ministries of the director of religious education and staff."

It is this vision that guides and enlivens St. Patrick's religious education staff today.

Income from the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation is expected to defray the cost of religious education materials for families and, in time, much of the cost of administering the program.

Developing the concept: How the Foundation came to be

The St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation has roots that go back several years. Although it can be said to have started with the Parish Council's Development Committee, its real origins are in a conference attended by Fr. George Remm even before he became pastor of St. Patrick's in 1986.

"I attended a development workshop in Omaha and spent an entire week there," recalled Fr. Remm. "One of the strongest points made during that conference was that parishes have to develop other sources of income besides the Sunday collection—especially parishes with schools."

Although St. Patrick's does not have a school, the parish operates an active religious education program for parishioners' children attending Catholic or public schools in the area, in addition to programs for adults and tuition assistance available to parents of parishioners enrolled in Holy Cross School.

Together, the cost to the parish amounts to about half of the parish's operating budget of about \$400,000.

At the conference in Omaha Fr. Remm also learned that people with strong ties to their parish have a desire to remain involved in the parish. "They have a need to contribute to the parish, but it often has to be something that they are really involved in, personally committed to," Fr. Remm said.

"Surveys show that, among Catholics, the strongest motivations for giving are religion, education, and children," he said. The St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation addresses all three, providing long-term funding for the parish's religious education program and for its children who attend Holy Cross School.



"And our religious education program is for everyone," he added, "from the youngest children all the way through adults. We like to say that it's from womb to tomb."

The Development Committee began discussing the possibility of a Catholic education foundation in late 1991. Enthusiastic approval from the Bishop of Peoria was received in 1992.

The five-member board of directors, made up of St. Patrick's parishioners, was appointed later that year and began work almost immediately.

"What we hope," said Fr. Remm, "is that people will recognize the opportunity this Foundation affords them. This is a donation that keeps giving long after we are gone. The principal is never touched; it is the interest—and only 90 percent of the interest—that will be used every year to support our Catholic education programs. The other 10 percent is added to the principal.

"We are hopeful that our parishioners will always be receptive to the idea of giving to the Foundation in whatever way they can—through wills, bequests, making the Foundation a beneficiary of their life insurance policy, including it in their trusts. There are many ways the Foundation—and St. Patrick's—can benefit."

By "freeing up" money in the annual operating budget allocated to religious education, the Foundation will enable future pastors and parish councils to spend more money on other programs, and ensure that the parish buildings and grounds remain well maintained for the parish's entry into its second century.

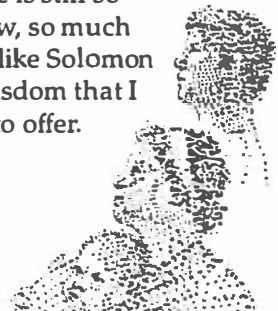
Seeking, sharing wisdom



Lord, I was brought up to respect and listen to my elders—the wise ones. I am suddenly aware that now I am considered the elder—the wise one. How can that be? For I am still a child at heart and I continue to seek the knowledge of the wise ones. And yet each day people appear to be younger. These young ones come to seek my advice.



God, you are the true wise one—how can it be that I would have any wisdom to give to your people? How is it that the young ones become wise ones? There is still so much that I don't know, so much that I need to learn. I, like Solomon of old, ask for your wisdom that I may have something to offer.





Learning about God

Apprehend God in all things,
for God is in all things.

Every single creature is full of God
and is a book about God.

Every creature is a word of God.

If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature—
even a caterpillar—
I would never have to prepare a sermon.
So full of God is every creature.

Meister Eckhart



Prayer for young people

God,
we pray for our young people,
growing up in an unsteady and
confusing world.

Show them that your ways
give more life
than the ways of the world,
and that following you is better
than chasing after selfish goals.

Help them to take failure,
not as a measure of their worth,
but as a chance for a new start.

Give them strength to hold
their faith in you,
and to keep alive their joy
in your creation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

