ST PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus

The merry, merry month of May!

Presented for your enjoyment here are some words and phrases to stimulate your own memories of images and sounds of May, the lovely month of renewed growth, springtime, flowers, Marian hymns, . . .



May altars...the hymn "Daily, Daily Sing to Mary" ... spring cleaning in home and classroom ... storm windows up, screens down ... clean curtains ... washing windows, turning mattresses, beating rugs ... away with all woolies, knee socks, long-sleeved shirts ... mothballs vs. cedar chips ... spring coats ... tentatively setting out a lawn chair ...

Singing "Bring Flowers of the Fairest, Bring Flowers of the Rarest" during the classroom May crowning of a statue of Mary . . . selecting seed packets at the grocery store or from a seed catalog . . . plowing, tilling, raking, planting, pruning, putting the garden in . . . red, pink, and white geraniums outside all the supermarkets . . . trailing arbutus, anemones, flowering trees and hawthorne . . . Maypoles, May queens, May baskets on neighbors' doorknobs . . .

May processions, singing because "'Tis the Month of Our Mother" . . . First Communion . . . Confirmation . . . the bishop's visit . . . graduation . . . May Day parades . . . convertible top down at last (rumble seats!) . . . that serious search for a summer job . . . making vacation plans . . . animals shedding, lambing, foaling . . .

Mother's Day ... picnics ... reunions ... jubilees of religious profession ... wedding preparations ... new romances ... the feel of the sidewalk under one's feet, no longer shod in heavy boots ... the delicious feel of warm breezes on arms and legs ... wool uniforms stored away for another season ...

Feel it now? Yes, SPRING is here!

Do you love me? Tend my flock!

In John's gospel Jesus asks Peter "Do you love me?" not once, but three times (John 21:15–17). When Peter puts his whole self into his response, "Lord, you know that I love you!" Jesus asks Peter—and, yes, all of his disciples—to tend his flock.

He asks that we take care of our retired priests, train the catechists and teachers entrusted with our children's education, train our deacons and priests to serve in our parishes, minister to Catholic college students through Newman Centers, support Catholic Social Service's counseling of unwed mothers and families in trouble.

It is next to impossible for individuals, even parishes, to meet these needs. And so the Diocese of Peoria comes to us each year through the Annual Stewardship Appeal to ask our help in meeting the ongoing needs of these and other important programs. In responding to the Appeal we answer Jesus' call to tend his flock; we give back to him from the abundance of talent and treasure he has given to us.

No one is called to give more than he or she can afford. Rather, we are called to make a prayerful decision based on our income and our true needs and those of our families.

When we are asked to stop at the parish center after Mass on Apr. 23–24 / Apr. 30–May 1 to fill out a pledge card, we need to be ready with our own response to Jesus' question: "Do you love me? Tend my flock."

A work party is being formed to scrape and paint the ramp at the east side of the church and to work on parish grounds, both at the church and parish center and at the priests' residence. Dates set: May 14 and May 21. Call Ray Alane at the parish office (367–2665) to volunteer.

"I received the living God"

St. Patrick's First Communicants, 1994

The following boys and girls celebrate First Eucharist at two liturgies today, April 24, at St. Patrick's church:

Erin Ashley Gillis, Matthew Cech, Daniel James Golaszewski, William Gerhard Booth, Todd Ryne McTaggart, Nicole Betenia, Bridget Ann Kimmey, Shane Michael Nirider, John Scott Schuster, Casey Walker Ashlock;

Ryan Hugh McCusker, Ross Patrick Vimr, Robert Albert Thomas Billman, Randi Jo Brown, Ross Anthony Cearlock, Carrie Ann Conner, Lorraine Alana Edwards, Jackie Elise Johnston, Brittany Ann Collenberger, Ashley Nicole Graham;

Nicholas Robert Shoda, Jessica Kate Andrejasich, Alfred Anton Handal, Jad Fuad Handal, Jenna Christine Koehler, Haley Catherine Eifert, Karen Elizabeth Czys, Patrick Joseph Daly III, Agnieszka Katarzyna Cichowlas;

Laura Beth Wischnowski, Ashley Nicole Duncan, Darrin Thomas Mc-Cartney, Ryan Tyler Cantrell, Gregory Ross Durant, Daniel Ryan Yanchus, Lindsey Rae Yanchus, Alexander Yemma Long, Albert Louis Gentille Jr., Elizabeth Louise Keane:

Maria Clair McLaughlin, Stacy Lynn McMullen, Aidan William Tierney, Nicholas Daniel Glatz, Kyle James Kelly, Corey Matthew Tarter, Juan A. Gonzalez Machain, Brian Joseph Melander.

These young parishioners celebrated First Eucharist at Holy Cross on Apr. 16: Lauren Bohn, Timothy Larsen, Christopher Ruedi, Joseph Maduzia, Eric Randolph, Katherine Thompson, Nicholas Timpone, Ross Vimr.

"Come to me, all you who hunger and thirst, and I will refresh you"

Remembering . . .

It was a Sunday in May, 1941. I was eight years old, and I felt just great. It was my First Communion Day.

I was dressed in white from the inside out, from head to toe—I, who had never before worn white, so very impractical for a child. I was wearing a perfectly beautiful white dress with short sleeves, white knee sox, and white patent leather shoes. (I don't know whether they "reflected up," but they were indeed very shiny, and I knew I'd never have to polish them!)

My hair, normally confined in tight braids, had been brushed into soft curls and topped with a white veil. I carried a white rosary (a gift from my godmother) and a First Communion prayerbook with a shiny cover (a gift from my godfather).

I felt really special, and I knew that something really exceptional was going to happen that day—I WAS GOING TO RECEIVE JESUS FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME!

My father was persuaded to drive us all to church that morning



instead of allowing us to make the 45-minute walk on our own, thereby ensuring our arrival on time—and still clean!—to join our classmates for Mass.

My little sister was also dressed for the event; she was to be my "angel" and would lead me to the priedieu placed in front of the altar, where I was to kneel before the priest who would give Jesus to me in Holy Communion. She carried a basket of rose petals to be scattered with abandon on our way to the sanctuary, whose gates had been opened wide for the occasion.

As we excitedly waited our turn in the class of 63 children, I wondered what that mysterious wafer would taste like. Would I open my mouth wide enough and stick my tongue out far enough, the way I'd been taught? There was something I was supposed to say when the priest spoke to me, kneeling there in that holy place on the other side of the communion rail—what was it? Well, it would come to me when I needed to know it.

But now it was time to start moving up the aisle; "O Lord, I am not worthy," we sang, "that thou shouldst come to me. Only speak a word of comfort, my spirit healed shall be." And finally, that moment for which we had studied and

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Parish fills four vacancies on the Parish Council

In last Sunday's balloting, 600 parishioners elected four candidates to serve three-year terms on the Parish Council. Elected were Miriam Nirider, Cathy Salika, Mark Simon, and Dick Justice.

Runners-up are Richard Keane, Dwain Berggren, David Howie, and William Nelson, who will be given first consideration (in this order) in the event of a vacancy created by the early retirement of any Council member. Parishioners leaving the Council upon completion of their terms are Bill Plymire, Jeannie Rasmussen, and Chuck Shaw. Miriam Nirider, runner-up from a previous election, completed a term begun by another parishioner and was re-elected this year to serve a full term of her own.

At the May meeting the Council will express its heartfelt appreciation to outgoing members at the conclusion of Old Business and before taking up New Business will seat and

extend a warm welcome to newly elected members.

Parishioners may want to take advantage of this opportunity to thank the outgoing members for their unstinting service in matters affecting the entire parish and to pledge their prayerful support of new and continuing members during the months and years of service ahead of them.

The May meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 19.



Miriam Nirider



Cathy Salika



Mark Simon



Dick Justice

Parish Council News



Because the April meeting of the Parish Council is to take place as this issue of *In Focus* goes to press, information about it will be included in the next issue.

The rather full agenda for the April 21 meeting includes a vote on the proposed operating budget of \$421,454 for FY 1994–95, discussion of building renovation, appointment of the nominating committee to prepare a slate of officers for the new Council, and filling the vacancy created by Jason McArthur's resignation from the Council.

All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings, held on third Thursdays.



Welcome to new parishioners Carol and Jody Biscoe, Marjorie Grein, Virginia McCall, Martha Straud Merry, Brenda Miller, John Minor.



Farewell to parishioners who have moved from C-U: Bob Allison, Kathy DalSanto, Bethany Herblet, Leslie and Tim Whitlet.



Congratulations to Tracie Crowe and Duane Fitch, recently married at St. Patrick's.



We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: William Matthew Laumann, Matthew Charles Tate, Nicholas Allen Ryherd, Richard Scott Ryherd, Sarah Elizabeth Zola, Annalise Rosemary Anderson.



Please pray for deceased parishioners Harold R. Kirchberg, David Gene Foote, Charles N. Jacobs, Jordan

Focus on St. Patrick's wish list

With 200 or more parishioners attending Children's Liturgy on Sunday mornings throughout "coat season," some accommodation is needed for discarded coats during the service. The number of pegs outside the multipurpose room is woefully inadequate, and many of them have broken off under the weight of two or more winter coats.

Consequently, many coats end up in piles on the floor just outside the multipurpose room. At the end of Children's Liturgy, there is sometimes a mad scramble in this confined area as youngsters and grownups alike sift through the piles in search of a particular coat—or to rescue one before it can be trampled by many small feet!

If there were a portable coat rack or two, most outer wear could be accommodated and retrieved in a more seemly manner.

The multipurpose room and lounge are used for many other functions for which movable coat racks would be extremely useful. Because these fall in the category of "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," according to the Parish Council's definition, they have been included in the parish's wish list.

With the shortage of storage space, coat racks are sought that can be put up easily and taken down easily, perhaps folded compactly for storage between uses. The estimated cost: \$450 each.

The parish wish list at present includes the following:

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

- 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

If you follow the wish list from month to month, you may have noticed the gradual omission of items from the original list. Most recently, a donation earmarked for park benches and hardy perennials for a sitting area outside the parish center resulted in the removal of this item from the wish list.

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.

What's the news at Holy Cross School?

The third-quarter honor roll at Holy Cross School includes the names of the following St. Patrick's youngsters (asterisk indicates high honors):

Eighth grade: Hayley Ellis*, Sarah Mytty; seventh grade: Alayna Bonse, Christy Laesch*, Adam Long, Phuong Nguyen*, Gina Sabbia*; sixth grade: Kirstin Anderson, Katie Healey, Meredith Main, Virginia McCreary; fifth grade: Ben Bermingham*, Michelle Feltes, Emily Kacich, Rebekah Kunkel, Lori Randolph*, Jacob Thompson, Nicole Weisiger.

The week of Apr. 4 was set aside as Teacher Appreciation Week by the PTC at Holy Cross School. Catholic school teachers are a special



group of people demonstrating their faith to our children by their sacrifice and religious dedication. Holy Cross teachers from St. Patrick's faith community are Mary Kay Thompson, Mary Tate, and Mary Anderson.

Celebration of First Eucharist at Holy Cross took place on Apr. 16. Among the more than 40 children participating were the following St. Patrick's boys and girls: Lauren Bohn, Tim Larsen, Joseph Maduzia, Eric Randolph, Christopher Ruedi, Katie Thompson, Nicholas Timpone, Ross Vimr.

Eight-graders and their teachers and chaperones have made plans to leave for the class trip to Washington, D.C., on the evening of Apr. 26.

As the school year draws rapidly to a close, here are a few special dates to remember:

Wednesday, May 18: Field trip to Chicago to see "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" (grades 6–8)

Wednesday, May 25: Eighthgraders' graduation at Holy Cross Parish Center

Thursday, June 2: Field Day Picnic, Hessel Park (grades K–7)

Friday, June 3: Final day of school—10 a.m. dismissal

And God said, "No"

For those who asked Fr. Tim Nolan (and those who wanted to ask but didn't have the opportunity), here is the conclusion of last weekend's homily.

I asked God to take away my pride, and God said, "No." God said it was not for him to take away, but for me to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole, and God said, "No." God said her spirit is whole; her body is only temporary.

I asked God to give me patience, and God said, "No." God said that patience is a by-product of tribulation: It's not granted; it's earned.

I asked God to give me happiness, and God said, "No." God said he gives blessings; happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain, and God said, "No." God said, "Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow, and God said, "No." God said I must grow on my own, but God will prune me and make me fruitful.

I asked God if he loved me, and God said "Yes." God said he gave his only son, who died for me, and I will be in heaven someday because he died for me, I believe.

So I asked God to help me love others as much as he loves me, and God said, "Ah, finally you have the idea!"

J. Macdonnovin, KAIROS prison ministry, Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, reprinted in "The Episcopal Voice" and "Connections." Used with permission.

Spring cleaning was a breeze!



Many hands made light work of cleaning the church this year! By 9 a.m. on the Saturday before Passion Sunday, the cleanup crew had gathered to marshall their supplies and organize their forces for the tasks ahead.

The industrious lot included Sophia Zeigler, Mary Fonner, Bea Ellsworth, Terri and Harry Ruedi, Virginia and Ray Alane, Norma and Verne Kroes, Nancy and Bob Costa, Steve and Candace McMaster, Nancy Steerman, Betty Conerty, Jan Lipska, Carolyn McElrath, Mary Long, Carole Rebeiz, and Grace Conlee.

The strength and endurance of younger parishioners Rahul Alexander, Charlie Campo, Matt Lipska, Mike O'Connor, Ryan Riskowski, and Mike Mabry buoyed up all who labored in the Lord's "vineyard," whether for an hour or for two or three. Their good humor, patience with the older folks, and generous, cooperative spirit were gifts of a special sort.

They were still smiling as they called their goodbyes at noon, leaving the church sweet-smelling and clean very nearly from top to bottom. All was in order for the great events of the week to come.

Former parishioner ordained a deacon today

A member of St. Patrick's for several years, Vincent Doan Bui left some time ago to pursue his vocation to the priesthood.

Many will remember this young man, who gave his time so freely and generously to the Catholic Worker House, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the large local population of Vietnamese, and the Communications Committee (he it was who demonstrated that it was possible to page In Focus on a computer at a time when other members were still learning what word processing meant, and who introduced the committee to its first calendar program).

Fr. Remm recently received an announcement of Vincent's ordination as deacon, an important step on his path to the priesthood. The ordination takes place today, April 24, in the Church of St. Michael, in Flint, Mich.:

"If you are unable to join us in person, we ask for your presence in thought and prayer."

And so we pray for our brother Vincent Doan Bui, that the Lord may give him every grace and blessing, the better to love and serve him in others in this as in so many other ways.

For widows and widowers: - "Joyful Again!"

"Joyful Again!" is a two-day ecumenical workshop retreat for widows and widowers who want to resolve the grief they are experiencing and to live joyfully again after the death of their spouse.

During the retreat, they gather to view video presentations portraying the stories of four people who

have been widowed. Each presentation is followed by a time of reflection so that participants can sort out their thoughts and feelings. In small groups, trained facilitators and participants then share their own stories and feelings, listening to and supporting one another. Thus the wounds of loss and grief begin to heal. (This program is not recommended for those widowed for less than four months because their loss is still too fresh in their minds and hearts.)

The workshop-retreat will be held at St. Patrick's parish center on Saturday, May 21 (8:30 a.m. – 7:45 p.m.) and Sunday, May 22 (9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.). A donation of \$40 is requested to cover the cost of meals and materials.

Those interested may call Sr. Charlene Cesario (367-2665, days) or Mary Maglione (359-1048, evenings). Reservations are limited and are accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

Preparing for discussion of universal health care policies

The Pro-Life Committee recently viewed a video from the national Right to Life office critiquing Clinton's health care plan. The video objects to the plan's legalization of abortion on demand and notes that its "rationing" of medical services might lead to termination of treatment based on "quality of life" decisions made by the medical provider instead of by the patient or the patient's family.

The committee encourages parishioners to view this video as a way of informing themselves about the issues involved so that they may be better able to communicate with elected leaders about proposed health care plans. If you wish to see this video, please call Steve Brandt (344-5612).

"Remembering," continued from page 2

prayed and practiced was NOW. I knelt, the priest spoke, I answered. My hands clasped palm to palm with fingers pointing to heaven, I opened my mouth and JESUS WAS MINE AT LAST!

I wish I could say that Jesus and I had a little talk that glorious morning, that I was filled with the sweetest of thoughts, that I felt "holy." But like every other child that morning, I simply felt "special." I knew that something really spectacular (in a very quiet way) had happened to me that day.

In these days our children sometimes don't gather in a special group or sing special hymns as they make their First Communion. They may receive Jesus for the first time with their parents, not part of a class or group of other First Communicants. But they themselves are special, and the event itself is indeed spectacular, in its very quiet way. First Eucharist is the climax of their initiation as children of God at Baptism, and Eucharist is the center of the whole Christian life.

So we pray for our First Communicants, these special ones, at this special event in their lives and in the life of our faith community. We pray, with Jesus, that we and they may be one in him as he is one with the Father, living in us.

Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is May 15.



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: Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701; Marty Perry, 344-6321; Jeannie Rasmussen, 328-7929; Gary Riskowski, 344-4394; Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

Associates: Yvonne Barger, Amy Fahey, Dorothy Maduzia, Lori and Tom McDonough, Donna Price, Carole Rebeiz, Cathy Salika.

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Ray Alane, Sr. Charlene Cesario, Grace Conlee, Jan Lipska, Mary Long, Dorothy Maduzia, Mary Lou Menches, Carole Rebeiz, Leslie Risatti, Connie Shaw, Peggy Whelan.



in our parish library

A Tree Full of Angels

By Macrina Wiederkehr

The author of A Tree Full of Angels is a Benedictine, a member of St. Scholastica Monastery in Fort Smith, Arkansas. In her introduction to this book she writes:

"This book has clamored for my heart's attention for many a month. It has been an ache in my heart. [Yet] the ache in my heart isn't really an ache for a book. It's an ache for God. The book is just a way to talk with you about it.

"Moving through the heart of every person in the universe is a silent cry that yearns for understanding. This silent cry is an ache for God, searching to be named. It is everybody's ache. It is immensely deep.

"The ache in our heart needs to be fed. Crumbs are entirely sufficient... This is a book about seeing and harvesting. Seeing the holy in the ordinary! Harvesting angels out of the crumbs!

"Holiness comes wrapped in the ordinary. There are burning bushes all around us. Every tree is full of angels. Life wants to lead us from crumbs to angels, but this can happen only if we are willing to unwrap the ordinary by staying with it long enough to harvest its treasure. The incredible gift of the ordinary!"

We can feast on the crumbs in this book. The author shows us how to gather up the crumbs, the little things in our lives, and realize that they have the makings of a banquet, prepared for us by the Lord.

We may apply to our reading of this book the advice of Benedictine Abbot Marmion, which she quotes:

"Read under the eye of God, until your heart is touched, then give yourself to love."

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of ...Connie Shaw

BLT Dip

1 c sour cream 1 c mayonnaise 1/2-1 lb bacon 1 large tomato



Fry the bacon until crisp, drain well, and crumble. Chop the tomato into very small pieces. Mix bacon, tomato, sour cream, and mayonnaise. Serve with corn chips or crackers.

Having eaten my last crumb
I hear a voice in the wilderness of my heart
Bring me a little water
the voice pleads.
I am off for the water
when again I am interrupted
Bring me a scrap of bread
the voice calls.
I freeze inside, barely able to believe
the demands of God.
It is kindness to give someone a drink, yes
But to give out of an empty house is agony.

Someone is asking for a crust of bread
And I have only
a few tears
a handful of flour
a little oil.
The sticks in my hand
are to build a fire,
to bake a few crumbs for myself
before I die.

But the call waits in my soul like a volcano.

I bake the bread in silence with my tears with my handful of flour with my little oil.

The salt from my tears is the seasoning.

The hungry one eats and is nourished.

Suddenly I am hungry no longer My vessel of flour is undiminishing My jar of oil never runs dry.

When you have gathered up the crumbs of all you have and are
And baked your bread in the only place left: the oven of your heart,
Then you will know what it means to be bread for the world.

There is a wealth in poverty
that ought not to be wasted,
There is a nourishment in crumbs
that ought to be tasted.

From A Tree Full of Angels, by Macrina Wiederkehr. Reprinted by permission.



May 1994 St. Patrick's Parish, Urbana

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 9:00am RE 10:15am Children's Liturgy 11:00am RE 2:00pm Pre-Cana 6:30pm RE 6:30pm Confirmation Parents Meeting | 2 11:00am Rosary- CCNH 7:00pm Education Comm. | 7:00pm Beginning Experience 7:30pm Development Comm. | 9:00am Guild 6:00pm RE- Urbana 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Pro- Life Comm | 5 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm BeFriender | 6 10:45am Mass- CCNH | 7 |
| 9:00am RE 10:15am Children's Liturgy 11:00am RE 6:00pm Ice Cream Social | 9 11:00am Rosary- CCNH | 7:00pm Financial Affairs Comm 7:30pm Executive Comm | 9:00am Guild 9:30am Mom's Group 5:15pm Mass 6:00pm RE- Urbana 7:00pm Building & Grounds 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SVDP | Ascension Thursday 7:00am Mass 12:10pm Mass 5:15pm Mass 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm Baptism Prep | 13 10:30am Mass- Fontana NH 10:45am Mass- CCNH | 7:00pm Newcomers' Welcome |
| 7.30am Mother-Daughter Communion Breakfast 1.00pm CCD Picnic 5.30pm Teen Liturgy 6.30pm Jr/Sr High Barbecue | 16 11:00am Rosary- CCNH | 17 7:00pm Beginning Experience | 18 9:00am Guild 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SVDP | 19 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council | 20 10:30am Mass- Urbana NH 10:30am Mass- Clark/Lindsey 10:45am Mass- CCNH | 21 |
| 22 | 23 11:00am Rosary- CCNH 7:00pm Liturgy Comm 7:00pm Prayer Group 7:00pm Social Action Comm | 24 | 9:00am Guild 9:30am Mom's Group 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Communications Comm 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Graduation at Holy Cross | 26 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm K of C | 27 10:30am Mass- American NH Urbana 10:45am Mass- CCNH | 28 |
| Urbana High School Graduation 9:00am mass- Senior Recognition | 30 11:00am Rosary- CCNH | 31 | events and | prepared of scheduled meetings, k the weekly confirm imes for | Deadline for of informatio and news ite next issue of May 15. | n, articles, ems for the |