

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

In Focus



Will there be food for the hungry this Thanksgiving?

The local chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is beginning the annual campaign for donations that will provide Thanksgiving dinners for 150 needy families in the C-U area.

"We ask our parishioners to sponsor a family by donating \$10, or whatever they feel they can afford, to help cover the cost of the holiday meal," says Sophia Zeigler, president of the local chapter. "The donation may be put into an envelope, marked "Thanksgiving Dinners," and dropped into the collection basket on a Sunday, or taken to the parish office."

This year's menu consists of a canned ham, sweet potatoes, vegetables, fruit, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, cereal, Jello, eggs, candy bars, rolls, and butter; a printed prayer, with the name of our parish, is also put into every food basket. Fr. Remm will bless all the food baskets when they are ready for delivery.

The Junior High religious education classes will fill the baskets as their contribution to this holiday project. Many volunteers are needed to deliver the meals to designated families (during daylight hours), starting on the Monday before Thanksgiving. To volunteer, call the parish office (367-2665).

Names of needy families are provided by local agencies, case workers, and others. The recipients are elderly, poor, disabled—the very needy, who seldom ask for help. Delivering the meals to them is always a heartwarming experience, not the least because they are so very grateful.



Sacrificial Giving -- a way of life or a program?

By Shirley Splittstoesser

Sacrificial Giving is a way of life for adults and a way to guide children, but is it a program?

"Sacrificial Giving is a way of life. It should not be called a program. Once a year just isn't going to do it. It's a perfect way to work with children. It's easier to work with children within the program. Sacrificial Giving is a definite part of my way of life in working with my children. As a parent, I find that it helps me cope with raising children."

As I began to write on the topic of Sacrificial Giving, I decided to talk with parishioners, inviting them to share their thoughts and experiences with Sacrificial Giving—often subtitled "Time, Talent, and Treasure." Please read on for some other thoughts and experiences shared by St. Patrick's parishioners.

"I found it enriches me to take part in the stewardship community, and that makes my faith enriched. It definitely has become a bigger slice of the pie in my life. It's not only grown from being just a spiritual aspect, but in helping others, I find we help ourselves."

As people shared their experiences, the lines between a program and a way of life became definitely blurred. I began to see a program as a beginning leading toward a way of life. Read on and visualize the next experience.

"Before I was Catholic, I could not take Communion, and I wanted to. It means a lot to me to take Communion and to take it to others. It has a special meaning to me. It was kind of overwhelming because it was something I'd never thought of doing. At first I thought, oh, no, I can't do that; I felt that I wasn't good enough. Then, when I started doing that, it meant a lot to me and a lot to the people. People are so happy to

receive Communion, to have it brought to them. I found something that was just perfect for me. It was a gift to me, and a gift I can share with others."

I was taken to task more than once for using the term "sacrifice." The following response illustrates.

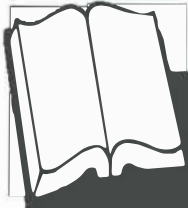
"Whatever we can give to the Church I don't think of as a sacrifice. It's no sacrifice for me to be at St. Patrick's for 45 minutes to distribute food, and the same way, to give time to the Cellar-to-Garret Sale. Sacrificial Giving—sometimes I think that's the wrong name. I enjoy everything I do, and I don't consider that a sacrifice."

The next comment somehow said it all:

"Basically the program means giving of yourself and your time and your talent and your tithe. I think of that as an ongoing part of living because it is what the Lord has asked us to do. The Lord has simply asked us to take him into our hearts and, as we become a part of him and he becomes a part of us, there isn't any question of giving or not giving. It becomes instead a question of what the Lord is calling me to do in our particular situation.

"It is important that it be brought into a conscious kind of state. Actually I have found that sometimes the Church doesn't talk about it enough. Really, Christ calls us as a church body. We're not doing this for the Church; we are the Church. We are doing this as a member of the body of Christ. We are doing what this part is supposed to do. There is a place for every single person. What we need to do is to ask the Lord's guidance and pray about it and ask him if he is calling us.

(continued on page 8)



in our parish library

The God Who Fell from Heaven/ The Hour of the Unexpected

By Father John Shea

Any individual prayer may be, at best, beautiful and poetic or, at worst, routine and uninspired. But the fascinating thing about prayers, according to author John Shea, is where they turn up. In other words, what is fascinating is not the prayer itself, but the way the prayer reflects the life experience of the one who prays.

"For all that has been—Thanks! To all that shall be—Yes!" is a beautiful prayer. Written by Dag Hammarskjöld, it reflects his life of praise, commitment, and courage. If we make that prayer our own, Shea points out, it is because it speaks to us. It picks up and expresses a conviction we feel and one which we want to make a guiding force in our lives.

He explains the groupings of the prayers in this book as "encounters," "reflections," and "connections":

"Encounters" records times when the Mystery clouds or clears our eyes, fills or empties our heart. Any time at any place can be an occasion of the outbreak of Mystery. The one prerequisite is that business is not as usual.

"Reflections" records times of deepening, times when we make the Christian message our own. We may ask what it means to be thirty-five and holding or how Jesus, the Master of Shock, is also the Good Shepherd or what a real grace before meals would sound like. We personalize the faith we have inherited.

"Connections" records prayers for other people, both friends and strangers. The God of Jesus is the Lord of transformation, a potter; our unbreakable connection with each other is that together we live under the pressure of those shaping hands.

"In the fifteenth chapter of Luke," Shea writes, "three things—a sheep, a coin, and a son—are found. Most important, after each finding there is a party. One of Jesus' most persistent images of God and the folks together is festivity. Thus, in the last analysis the best image of prayer is music and laughter and good red wine."

The author is a contemporary American Catholic theologian who joins competence in systematic theology with a robust pastoral concern. ■



A Prayer of Inheritance

I laugh to remember how
in the second grade
the nun made us slide over
to make room for a guardian angel.
Since I was fat
and the seat thin,
I oozed over the edge
like a melted cheese sandwich
and was painfully aware
of how close God was.
But I have outgrown that angel,
left him behind
like the sign of the cross
before a free throw
in a basketball game.

Yet if I could tell a son
only one wisdom,
I might whisper
that he had an angel his own,
not as valet
or imaginary playmate,
but as a companion—
like Tobit had
on his mission of manhood.

Otherwise he might forget
his father's mature faith
that the wings of God's love
beat above us all.

I laugh to remember
but I wonder
how to pass on.

—From *The God Who Fell from Heaven*,
by Fr. John Shea
Used with permission

Quick Fixin's from the kitchen of...

Cathy Salika

Surprise Cookies

- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp soda
- 1 tsp hot water
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 3 cups flour
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 4-5 cups "bumps"

The "surprise" is in the choice of "bumps."
Use any combination of nuts, candied fruit,



dates, oatmeal, chocolate chips, raisins, etc.

Cream together sugar and softened butter. Add eggs. Dissolve soda in water and add it, with vanilla and salt, to the mixture. Mix in the flour and then the "bumps." Drop by teaspoonful on a baking sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes, or until well browned.

Area coordinators "Seek God's Wisdom"

Seventy-five catechists and religion teachers from the Champaign region of the diocese gathered at St. Patrick's for Catechist Renew Day on Sept. 24. This workshop is sponsored each fall by A.C.R.E. (Area Coordinators of Religious Education).

The theme of this year's workshop was "Seek God's Wisdom." Fr. Remm gave the keynote address, after which the catechists gathered into small groups focusing on lesson planning, the new Catechism, family communication, and children's liturgy.



Catechists become acquainted with the new Catechism during A.C.R.E. fall workshop

Parking Area Expanded

The parking area to the east of the church has been expanded to provide more parking spaces for our elderly or infirm parishioners who find it difficult to walk from the larger parking lot to the church. By extending the paved surface, the Building and Grounds Committee was able to establish spaces for angle parking, with ample room for backing out. (The previous space provided parking for only four cars, two behind two; after Mass, those in front had to wait for those behind before they could drive off.) One of the eight new spaces has been reserved for vehicles with the "handicapped" symbol on the license plate.

Members Chuck Shaw, Steve Marsh, Steve Hauersperger, and Bill Van Cleave worked together on providing more area for blacktopping, striping the newly asphalted surface, and installing the concrete bumper stops. ■

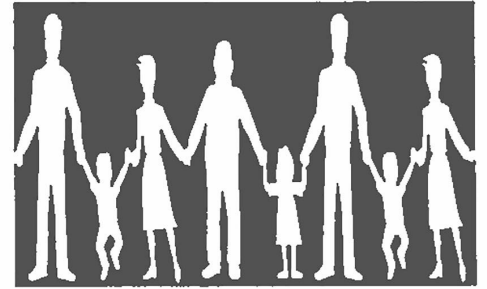
"Today we keep the festival of your holy city, the heavenly Jerusalem, our mother. Around your throne the saints, our brothers and sisters, sing your praise for ever. Their glory fills us with joy, and their communion with us in your church gives us inspiration and strength as we hasten on our pilgrimage of faith, eager to meet them."

So we pray during the Mass of All Saints on Nov. 1. We celebrate those who have made the long journey to the holy city, to Jerusalem, to the feast of heaven, and the scriptures and prayers for the day tell us that we are part of that vast throng now standing before God's throne in ceaseless praise.

From the second reading: "I saw before me a huge crowd which no one could count from every nation, race, people, and tongue ... dressed in long white robes." At our baptism, when we received our white robes, we became part of this great assembly. Indeed, every time we go to Mass, before we sing the "Holy, holy, holy," we recall that we sing God's praise with "angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven."

Who is this company, and why is it so wonderful to be part of it? This is another way of asking, "What does the communion of saints mean?" It is not complicated. All the baptized, living and dead, across the generations, walk together, suffer together, sing together—not only those who have died, and not only those who lead "heroic" lives.

Vincent Harding, writing in *Sojourners* magazine, put it this way: "What a wild company we belong to! These are wild people, persecuted people, going-out, not-knowing-where-they're-going people." The lives of the saints look a whole lot like what is described in this day's gospel passage, the beatitudes. ■



Welcome to new parishioners Janice Bellington, Jill Bush, Patty and Randy Cetin, Pulcratia Falkner, Michael and Patricia Koch, Daniel and Monica Lee, Monique Mann, Joseph and Pamela Rank, Kathleen Roy.

.....
Congratulations to Barbara Lee Ritten and Eric Dufton Anderson, married at St. Patrick's.

.....
We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: Dakota Rayne Jones, Tessa Marjory Mary Turner, Sean Landsman, William Evan Kersey, Zachary Michael Turner, Louis Paul Acklin.

.....
Please pray for deceased parishioners Bertha Reinhart and John Arthur Causeman.

In Appreciation

Much praise to the Lord for the kindness, sympathy, and support from the people of St. Patrick's during the time of Bertha Reinhart's death and funeral.

We want to thank Father Remm for the funeral Mass. Many of our non-Catholic family members appreciated his true kindness in the Mass.

The food that was prepared by the ladies of St. Patrick's was delicious and much appreciated. Our thanks especially to Virginia Alane, Rose Breen, Betty Conerty, Connie Knake, Linda Mueller, Shirley Penny, Carole Rebeiz, Zoia Risatti, Marina Slinger, Nancy Steerman, and Elaine Theobald.

God bless you all.
The Bertha Reinhart Family

Parish Council News



At their October meeting Parish Council members received information about the parish's 20-year involvement with the local Meals-on-Wheels program. The parish takes responsibility for carrying meals from the U of I Student Union to shut-ins two weeks a year, one in February and another in August, with 6 volunteers needed to cover 3 routes.

An update on St. Patrick's Catholic Education Fund: As of Oct. 11, \$158,680.50 of pledges received had been paid, leaving an outstanding balance of \$96,205. So far, \$4848.96 in interest has accrued. Plans for phase two include preparation of promotional binders, for distribution to lawyers and morticians, stating reasons why a person might want to plan for a religious memorial or bequest, with suggestions benefiting the universal Church, the diocesan Church, and the local Church, or parish.

The High School Task Force is close to hiring a firm to conduct a feasibility study for the proposed new Catholic high school for the C-U area, if sufficient funding is donated (\$30,000 - \$40,000 needed).

As for the Parish Wish List, the patio benches and coat racks have been removed; these items were purchased with money donated for that purpose.

Invitations to the Nov. 5 reception for new parishioners have been sent to 50-60 newcomers, and parish committees have been invited to attend and to display any informative material about their committee activities.

Council members reviewed the summary of results from the Sept. 24-25 Time and Talent weekend: 88 cards were completed, with most indicating the volunteer's intention to renew commitment to a given activity or other parish involvement. In addition, however, a significant number of volunteers checked items to indicate interest in a new, sometimes additional area of involvement, and others were checked by first-time volunteers—over 60 items on the cards were so marked.

Some changes were made in Council/committee liaison appointments: Mark Simon is now liaison with the Building and Grounds Committee; Richard Keane, Education; Cathy Salika, Communications; Pat Joseph, Financial Affairs.

Staff reports a heartening expansion in the parish music program: 11 in the new Junior High Handbell Choir, 6-9 in the reconstituted Funeral Schola, 8 in the new Children's Choir. Repairs to the church are nearly completed, and the parking area on the east side of the church has been expanded. Enrolled in the parish's religious education program are 290 children, 63 junior-high students, and 72 senior-high students. Sr. Charlene, with Mary Fonner, participated in a day on pastoral care ministry. Sr. Charlene also attended a day-long conference on domestic violence.

The next Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 17. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings. ■

Parishioners helped "Make a Difference"

Sponsors of this year's third annual Make a Difference Day encouraged what was hoped would be the largest collaborative effort of volunteerism in the U.S. on Oct. 22.

Local sponsors (United Way, the Religious Leaders for Community Care, and The News-Gazette) invited people to submit volunteer projects in a creative response to local community needs, and individuals and groups to sign up for volunteer projects. The local effort consisted in matching volunteers to nonprofit agencies or groups needing help.

As a parish response, St. Patrick's committees recognized four needs that involved parishioners of all ages in meeting those needs.

1. Members of the Building and Grounds Committee and the Knights of Columbus, Urbana Council, constructed a patio on the east side of the church that provides a pleasant, shaded area for relaxation.

2. Cleaning the church basement and cleaning and waxing church pews, furnishings, and wood panels on Friday, Oct. 21, provided a good opportunity for participation by parishioners who preferred to spend Saturday afternoon in Memorial Stadium cheering for our Illinois football team.

3. Junior- and senior-high students helped "make a difference" by raking leaves and cleaning up parish grounds.

4. Youngsters from fourth through sixth grades helped with scrubbing and washing classroom tables and chairs.

Did St. Patrick's parishioners make a difference? You bet! ■

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: Patricia Joseph, 352-2538; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701; Gary Riskowski, 344-4394; Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

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

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Ellen Amberg, Sr. Charlene Cesario, Dorothy Maduzia, Carolyn McElrath, Mary Lou Menches, Lenore Nagele, Lu Pillar, Carole Rebeiz, the Bertha Reinhart Family, Hazel Remesch, Leslie Risatti, Gary Riskowski, Cathy Salika, Shirley Splittstoesser, and Sophia Zeigler.

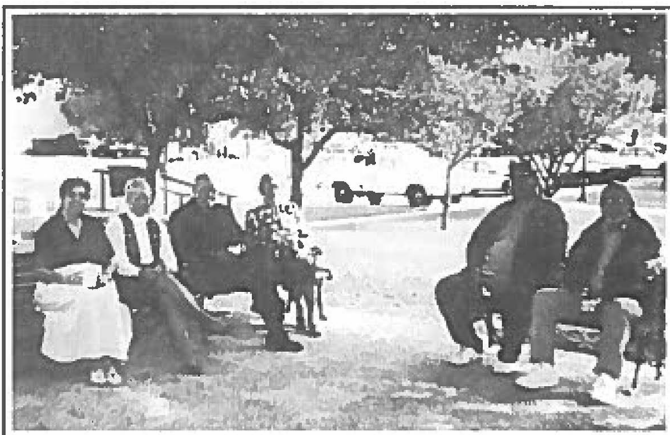
St. Patrick's "Make a Difference Day," 1994



Men from the Building and Grounds Committee and the Urbana Knights of Columbus gathered early on Saturday, October 1, to lay a foundation for the patio area on the east side of the church. Volunteers, captained by Steve Marsh, included Mark Nirider, Chris Stohr, Ray Alane, Jim Mayer, Mark Simon, Chuck Shaw, Walt Mikolaitis, Oscar Kocher, Terry Bosley, Jim Risatti, Tom Kacich, and Bill Van Cleave.



Theresa Lawrence and Fr. George Remm teamed up for leaf raking on a sunny "Make a Difference Day." They were joined later by Sophia Zeigler (who tried unsuccessfully to motivate the photographer into helping).



Our parish staff gather for the "first official outdoor coffee break" to enjoy the patio, complete with benches. The hope is that many parishioners will find it a convenient and comfortable place for conversation, chance encounters, even a "good read."



Bill Van Cleave used a leaf blower to clean up walks and planted areas.



Elizabeth and Ellen Amberg, Alex and Mary Long, Sean Landsman, and Theresa Lawrence scrubbed classroom tables and chairs.



The Holy Cross School Newsline

Holy Cross School has a new principal this year. Colleen Madix, an eighth-grade home-room teacher at Holy Cross, has been appointed interim principal for this school year.

The school held its Open House on Oct. 5, giving students an opportunity to take their parents on a tour of their classrooms.

Waste-Free Lunch Day was observed on Oct. 21. Children who brought lunch from home were asked to use nondisposable containers, bring cloth napkins, and take leftovers home for pets. Students purchasing a hot lunch were asked to skip the drinking straw and to take only as much food as would be eaten. Students were working toward the goal of a fifty-pound reduction in the amount of lunchroom trash generated.

The Halloween Party sponsored by the PTC was scheduled for Friday, Oct. 28. Children from the school and the parish were invited to an evening of games, prizes, and (for a small fee) a pizza dinner.

Did you know that
... of the 437 students, 75 children are St. Patrick's parishioners?
... 4 of the 17 home-room teachers are members of St. Patrick's parish?
... families who send their children to Holy Cross School have the option of celebrating their First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation at either Holy Cross or St. Patrick's?
... even though both St. Patrick's parish and Holy Cross parish have lost their assistant pastors, the school continues to keep its liturgy schedule due to the cooperative efforts of three pastors (Fr. Remm, St. Patrick's; Fr. Royer, St. Mary's, Champaign; Fr. Mullen, Holy Cross)? ■

In Memoriam

Dear Friends,

In the name of my family and in memory of my dear mother, Filomena Cesario, I thank you for all your touching and tender care during this painful and significant loss. How deeply I treasure your prayers, smiles, hugs, assistance, and companionship. May we be truly blessed by Our Lord as we continue our journey of faith together.

Love and prayers,
Sr. Charlene Cesario

Coordinators prepared for fall ...

An *In Focus* "roving reporter" asked St. Patrick's religious education coordinators to describe this past summer and heard some pretty intriguing answers: "a summer of change," "an unusual summer," "a summer of transition," and the more expected "a great vacation."

Stan Yanchus experienced a summer of transition, preparing for his job as senior high coordinator here and accepting a new position as English and history teacher in the Alternative Education Program for the Champaign schools.

Involved from the beginning with the Alternative Education Committee out of concern for his own children, Stan saw the teaching position as an opportunity to make a lasting and needed impact on the lives of children with problems. He finds their frustration, arising from a total lack of hope, frightening. He wants to give kids hope, allow them to dream.

Our parish library coordinator, Victoria Pifalo, enjoyed two trips to Canada this year, one to London and Stratford, Ontario, where she saw a production of "Cyrano." On the second, she accompanied her husband, Kieran Donaghy, to a conference in Saint Jovite in the Laurentian Mountains, followed by a visit to Kieran's family in upstate New York. In August, Victoria became godmother to her brother's daughter in Staten Island.

Lenore Nagele, RCIA coordinator, spent the early part of the summer waiting, and waiting, for her grandchild to be born. Ten days late (but in the nick of time, as it happened) Katherine Hope was delivered by her Aunt Susan, witnessed by Grandmother Lenore. The following day Lenore and Susan arose at 5:30 a.m. for the drive to Peoria, where Lenore was to receive the Diocesan Award for Program Coordinator of the Year.

Cindy Mottin Kelly, junior high coordinator, refers to last summer as "my summer of change." Her husband Kevin's problems entering the United States, recounted in a recent issue of *In Focus*, was only the first installment, as it turns out, followed by their adventures in importing his belongings. After their long-distance courtship,

Cindy and Kevin spent the summer getting to know each other. As a prelude to fall, Cindy accompanied junior high students on their August trip to Six Flags.

The high point of the summer for Colette McMullen, coordinator of the parish's religious education program in St. Joseph, was a family camping trip to the Black Hills and Mt. Rushmore. (A ranger's talk must have fascinated one daughter, who shushed her parents, saying "I want to hear this!")

Colette is enthusiastic about the growth of the religious education program in St. Joseph: 4 teachers, 33 families, 50 children. Their annual fall weenie roast was held Oct. 19.

After an extremely busy year of nursing-school classes, Rosemary Mathy, coordinator of the parish's Family Life program, was happy to be able to spend a fairly relaxing summer. In addition to welcoming and caring for the new baby, she and her family followed the bookmobile around town and did a lot of relaxing reading. In addition, Rosemary went to Washington, D.C., in May for a "Women as Leaders" conference. A high point of her summer was the parish staff retreat in August, which provided an opportunity to welcome new staff members in an atmosphere of prayer, relaxation, and fun.

Ellen Amberg, in her first year as coordinator of the parish's children's program, had an unusual summer, dominated by her mother's surgery for cancer in June. "In trying to balance being available for my mother and for my family, and getting used to a new job, I learned a lot of things that may be useful in ministry to families—for instance, how far we may stretch ourselves, how to prioritize what is important, how not to get bogged down by the details."

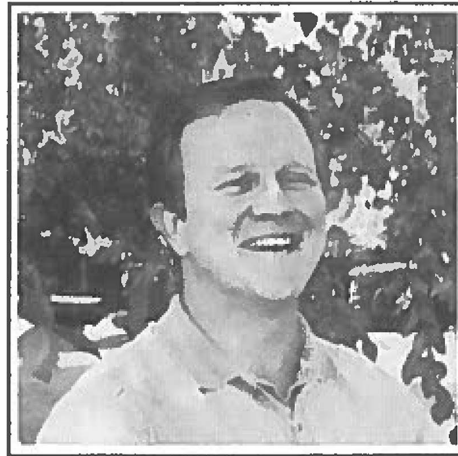
Ellen is grateful for the staff's support when she had to do so much traveling, and Ellen's family is grateful that her mother is recovering and her condition improving. They have made a journey of faith together this summer: "All things work together for those who love God."

(Continued on page 7)

...by enjoying summer



Cindy Kelly, backed by young "gymnasts"



Stan Yanchus, typically optimistic and good-humored, even for the camera



Colette McMullen on a quick break at work



Rosemary Mathy and son enjoying Coffee Shop "togetherness"



Ellen Amberg, shown here with her mother, Margaret, and her children, Michael and Elizabeth



Lenore Nagele and Victoria Pifalo (whose eye-closing reflex proved faster than the camera's)

(Sacrificial giving...continued from page 1)

"I feel this very deeply. That's the way I grew up, and it became a part of my life. We are all ministers. We are all chosen to be a part of the whole process. I really appreciated Fr. Remm's talking about how he's not going to have the help [the speaker is referring to Fr. Tim's departure for Pekin]. I appreciated his saying these things very directly. We all need to minister to each other. There are many ways for us to do that. If we pray, the Lord will provide the guidance and the way."

I interrupted to ask: "Was there a Sacrificial Giving program when you were a child?"

"As a child I probably wasn't aware of it. For many years I remember that my parents always tithed. It was a part of their lives. They were always extremely active in whatever church we attended. I think that makes a difference. It makes an investment in our future; it becomes a part of our children's lives. When I talk with my children, it's not will we go but what time will we go. It's not will we be involved but exactly what will we be involved in. This is a different kind of approach. It's an investment in the Church and an investment in the future of our own family. Sacrificial Giving is an important part of it. I have greatly appreciated for our family the strength it has given to our family to be involved. It is a part of our family's life.

"Take a risk and try Sacrificial Giving. After all, Jesus was a risk taker."

If you like to take risks that have high endorsements, this one is for you! ■



During the summer months many individuals and families moved into our neighborhood and have registered at St. Patrick's. If you were one of them, this is for you.

On Saturday, Nov. 5, Parish Council members and others will personally extend a special welcome to new parishioners on behalf of the parish at a reception in the multipurpose room of the parish center. Festivities begin at 7:00 p.m.

Just how new is new? Well, if you joined the parish in the last year or so, you're probably safe in considering yourself "new." But you may have noticed that the parish doesn't stand much on ceremony, so if you aren't sure just when you registered, or when you moved into this area, come anyway!

In fact, if you've been testing the waters, so to speak, and now feel more comfortable as you gather to worship with other parishioners, there's no better time than right now to register and "make it official."

At the reception you will have the opportunity to meet St. Patrick's pastor and staff, Parish Council members, representatives of parish committees and other groups, and others who have joined the parish in the last year. A personal welcome, a slide show about St. Patrick's, introductions, and conversations with other parishioners will help you get acquainted with faces, names, activities, groups, and interests of the parish and parishioners. And if there's something that puzzles you or that you'd like to know about the parish, this is your golden opportunity to ask.

Your R.S.V.P. to the parish office (367-2665) by Oct. 28 will let the Council members know to expect you! ■

"After 32 years . . ."

After 32 years, it is with mixed feelings that I am leaving St. Patrick's and moving back to Rantoul. I have loved being a part of parish life here, yet I feel that in my "golden years" I need to be in a smaller place with a slower pace! My address is 1169 Englewood, Rantoul, IL 61866 (phone: 892-2047). I would love to hear from any and all!

Hazel Remesch

Parish represented at diocesan Respect Life program

On Sept. 17 our parish's Pro-Life representative, Lu Pillar, participated in the diocesan annual Respect Life program in Peoria.

Participants were advised by Ann Polka, lobbyist for the Illinois Federation for Right to Life, that the work of the lobbyist is only as effective as that of the grassroots efforts of each person who exercises personal responsibility as a citizen for life. She inspired her listeners to keep up their letter writing and provided practical suggestions that included prayer.

Joseph Piccione, corporate ethicist for OSF Healthcare and a member of the St. Francis Medical Center ethics committee, drew on Pope John Paul II's "Letter to Families," saying that our view of human life comes from the Church's teaching on the family (a "civilization of love") rather than from individualism.

He brought participants up to date on the good and bad news regarding the end of life and euthanasia, suggesting continued support for the caring medical professionals, the use of proper language in offsetting the rhetoric of news media about euthanasia, and prevention of abuse through legislation. ("Amicus" briefs are now being prepared, for instance, to challenge the Supreme Court's ruling on euthanasia.)

"The work is challenging," comments Lu Pillar, of St. Patrick's Pro-Life Committee. Committee members encourage parishioners to help with the vigil in January, and to join in praying the Rosary at 8:15 a.m. on Thursdays, at the corner of Springfield and Third, in support of life. ■

Dr. Susan Nagele writes

Greetings again!

From July 31 until August 13 I have been participating as a delegate at the founding Assembly of a new group in the Maryknoll movement. As many of you know, laity as well as diocesan priests and a few religious brothers have been associated with the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers for 20-30 years in doing overseas mission. Because a significant number of us have been at this for over six years, we have seen the need to create a group where we can participate in planning and decision making for our own futures in overseas mission.

This gathering was attended by 25 voting delegates (myself included) and 8 nonvoting participants. It was a very moving and spirit-filled two weeks, during which we completed four important tasks. The name of our group will be the "Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful." It will accept Brothers, laity, priests, and Sisters as members. We agreed to our vision statement. A provisional set of statutes was ratified, and our leadership team was selected.

The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers have agreed to provide ecclesiastical and financial sponsorship for the next five years. We will continue to work closely with the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and the Maryknoll Sisters in every way possible to continue to promote overseas mission.

We will need to work hard to support ourselves financially. We have already raised \$50,000, which is the amount expected to cover the expenses of this Assembly. To those of you who contributed, we are very grateful.

In the past, all the money contributed to my mission work went to buying medicines and supplies. In the future, a percentage of that money will have to go for my upkeep as well. The money donated to our work so far this year will cover those expenses and in the future I can tell you what percentage will be used for that type of support. You can continue to send those contributions in the same manner you have in the past. Checks should be made out to the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and a note enclosed that it is for my mission work.

We hope to avoid confusion by promoting the overall Maryknoll movement and its mission work. But practically speaking, there are now three distinct groups, and donations must be



Lay Missioner Susan Nagele treats a Sudanese refugee

designated for the group that is being supported. Donations intended specifically for the Association should be written to the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, with a note enclosed stating that it is for the support of the Association.

I am preparing to return to Nairobi and expect to arrive on August 19. The place I was working in southern Sudan, Nimule, was evacuated by all diocesan personnel on June 1. Many of the people moved to refugee camps in northern Uganda, and

I would like to return

there to see as many of them as possible. I will also need to find out what medicines and supplies we have left that were stored in northern Uganda.

After that, I will see where the Diocese would like me to work. It will be back to square one as far as setting up health care services. But then, that's where the people find themselves, too. We give each other hope to hang in there.

I hope all of you have had a good summer. I'll probably write again around Christmas. That should give me enough time to settle down somewhere and get something started. Thank you for all your prayers and support. Be assured of mine.

Love,

Susan

Susan's letter, dated Aug. 15, was written from New York. She wrote again in September from northern Uganda, where she was on the move from place to place, helping out at small settlements and refugee camps. On the bishop's return from Italy in September, she hoped for a planning meeting that would give a clearer idea of where she could work. Susan's mailing address is: Diocese of Torit, c/o NCA - Box 52802, Nairobi, Kenya.



Halloween points to All Saints

Many holiday customs in the U.S. are rooted in Church festivals; some have roots that even predate the Church. The name and timing of Hallowe'en, for example, are based on a Church festival, yet some of the customs associated with Hallowe'en in the U.S. have earlier origins.

The celebration of All Saints Day, as for many other festivals, begins at sunset on the day before. An older name for All Saints Day was All Hallowmas ("hallow" is another word for "saint"), and the eve of All Saints Day was called All Hallows Eve—which became, in shortened form, Hallowe'en ("e'en" short for "evening"), and in recent years Hallowe'en.

Customs associated with Hallowe'en have an interesting history. The peoples of northern Europe used to divide the year into four seasons based on the length of days. Winter was the period of shortest days and was counted from November 1 to February 1. On the eve of winter, huge bonfires burned on hilltops and food was set out to welcome the dead, who (it was thought) returned on that night for a bit of comfort. All strangers were welcomed into the house—maybe the stranger was a returning relative!

Because not all of the returning spirits were friendly, people would stay together all night for protection, telling stories about the dead and about narrow escapes from cranky ghosts. People dressed like the dead to make friendly "ghostly" visitors feel welcome and to confuse the cranky ones. These old customs are reflected in today's costume parties and in snacks for trick-or-treaters.

In the earliest days of Christianity, the dead were remembered and saints commemorated at Easter, the day of resurrections. Since the tenth century, however, the Church has kept remembrance of the dead in November, when it seems as if the earth itself is dying. Over a thousand years later we continue to be reminded of those who have gone before us, having completed their journey in this communion of saints. ■



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **November 14.**



November 1994

St. Patrick's Parish, Urbana

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 All Saints' Day 7:00am Mass 12:10pm Mass 5:15pm Mass 7:00pm Beginning Experience 7:00pm Reconciliation Class	2 All Souls' Day 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Rel. Ed. - Urbana 6:30pm Rel. Ed. -St. Joe 7:00pm Pro-Life Com. 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SVDP	3 10:15am Mom's Group 6:45pm Choir	4 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty. NH 7:00pm Be-Friender Meeting	5 7:00pm Newcomers' Reception
6 9:00am Religious Ed Classes 10:15am Children's Liturgy 11:00am Religious Ed Classes 5:30pm Jr. High Handbell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study	7 7:00pm Education Com	8 Election Day 9:30am Funeral Schola 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:00pm Reconciliation Class 7:30pm Parish Council Executive Com.	9 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Rel. Ed. Urbana 6:30pm Rel. Ed. -St. Joe 7:00pm Buildings & Grounds Com 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SVDP	10 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm Baptism Prep	11 10:30am Mass-Americanana NH. Urbana 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	12
13 9:00am RCIA 9:00am Religious Ed Classes 10:15am Children's Liturgy 11:00am Religious Ed Classes 5:30pm Jr. High Handbell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study	14	15 7:00pm Beginning Experience 7:00pm Reconciliation Class	16 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Rel. Ed. Urbana 6:30pm Rel. Ed. -St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SVDP	17 10:15am Mom's Group 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council 7:00pm Knights of Columbus	18 10:30am Mass-Clark/Lindsey 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	19 4:00pm Library Advent Book Sale
20 9:00am RCIA 9:00am Religious Ed Classes 10:15am Children's Liturgy 11:00am Religious Ed Classes 4:30pm Jr. High Handbell Choir 5:30pm Teen Liturgy 6:30pm Bible Study 9:00pm Library Advent Book Sale	21	22 9:30am Funeral Schola 7:00pm Homily Prep 7:00pm Social Action Com 7:00pm Reconciliation Class	23 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Choir	24 Thanksgiving Day 8:00am Mass & Potluck Breakfast	25 10:30am Mass-Americanana NH, Urbana 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	26
27	Delivery of Thanksgiving Baskets					
27	28 7:00pm Liturgy Com	29 7:00pm First Reconciliation	30 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Communications Com 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA			



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