

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

# In Focus



## Dust off your green hats and dancing shoes!

St. Patrick has traditionally been a "cause celebre" in the U.S., even for those of us who cannot claim descent from natives of the Emerald Isle. And how can a parish named for this popular saint, placed under his protection and seeking his aid and guidance in these troublous times, fail to observe his feast day with glad rejoicing?

St. Patrick's Social Committee, not wanting to offend our patron saint, has thoughtfully provided an opportunity and a means for celebrating this relationship. On Saturday, Mar. 11, the annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner-Dance will be held in the parish hall.

The celebration will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a dinner of Irish stew, salad, Irish soda bread, and dessert, and end with dancing to the music of "Mr. Bop"—Kelly and Chris Sturdyvin, St. Patrick's own deejays.

The evening will also include some contests, games, and door prizes. Coffee and soda will be provided; anything else is "bring your own."

Tickets are \$8 per person, by advance purchase only, during Coffee Shop on Sundays and at the Mar. 3 Fish Fry. If you're unable to make it to either place, call Social Committee co-chairs Amy Harten (356-8626) or Alta Tarter (367-4089) to make arrangements for ticket purchase. ■

## Fr. Pat Collins to present Parish Day of Recollection and concert at St. Patrick's

I was just ready to begin this article when I opened a "fortune cookie." The message inside read: "You will attract cultured and artistic people to your home." The visit of Fr. Pat Collins to St. Patrick's is the quickest fulfillment of a fortune cookie's prediction I've ever experienced!

I've known Fr. Pat Collins since our days at St. Paul's Seminary (St. Paul, Minn.) during the 1950s. His artistic gifts of music, organ and voice, were already apparent there. Ordained for the Diocese of Peoria in 1964, Fr. Collins served as assistant pastor at the Cathedral; in 1967 he became an assistant chancellor of the diocese as well as chair of the Commission on Sacred Music. He did graduate studies at Fordham University in New York, earning a doctorate in Theology. He was chair for the Preparatory Commission for Synod Six, 1972-74. He served as Campus Minister at Bradley University, Peoria, and at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. He returned to the diocese as Director for the Office of Christian Worship and Diocesan Director of Music, then as Rector of the Cathedral.

For several years now Fr. Pat Collins has been released for research at the University of Notre Dame, for retreat work, parish missions, liturgical and music consultation, and for preaching for "Food for the Poor."

He is author of several books, including one on the life of Gustave Weigel, and works that explore the



Fr. Pat Collins

relationship of imagination with worship.

Fr. Collins will offer three programs here at St. Patrick's on Saturday and Sunday, Mar. 18-19:

■ A Day of Recollection based on texts from Thomas Merton, relating to themes of his spirituality: (1) the journey from the False to the True Self, (2) contemplation, (3) prayer, and (4) the desert experience of solitude and silence. *Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.*

■ "Food for the Poor," theme of his homily at all weekend Masses except Children's Liturgy

■ Sacred concert on "The Meaning of Love," based on Scott Peck's book *The Road Less Travelled*. *Sunday, 4:00 p.m.*

Plan now to experience the gifts and talents of this priest, musician, and spiritual director—a grand way to celebrate the extension of St. Patrick's Day and to refresh ourselves on our Lenten journey on this, the Third Sunday of Lent.

—Fr. George Remm

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## World Day of Prayer, March 3

An entire globe of Christians in harmonious prayer is the goal of the World Day of Prayer. On the first Friday of every March, Christians from many traditions and in more than 170 countries join in a great "circle of prayer." Since it occurs during the first week of March, it can be considered part of one's Lenten observance.

The idea for the World Day of Prayer came from Church Women United, a group that works for peace and justice. Each year a prayer service for the event is

written by women from a different area of the world. The service typically includes scripture readings, poetry, music, and a homily.

Recent issues have included homelessness, the environment, and children living in poverty. Study materials are produced to help people reflect on what they hear and how to respond. Some American churches hold a supper on the eve of the service; many take up a collection to support food drives and other service projects around the world. ■

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## Edwina Gateley to speak in Peoria March 4



Edwina Gateley

Internationally known speaker, poet, and writer, Edwina Gateley is the featured speaker at the Roncalli Society's 1995 Annual Spring Gathering. Her theme for the day is "Giving birth to God in the contemporary world; A call to faithfulness and

discipleship today."

Edwina Gateley is the founder of Genesis House in Chicago, a house of hospitality and nurturing for women involved in prostitution. She has written several books and has gained awards and recognition from various quarters, among them the U.S. Catholic Mission Award, the Pope John XXIII Award (Viterbo College, 1988), and the Catholic Woman of the Year (1979 in England and Wales).

At the Spring Gathering Edwina will speak during both morning and afternoon sessions, exploring "how the Holy Spirit breaks through in Scripture and the events and people of everyday life." The first address will begin at 9:15 a.m.; after a lunch break (at one's own expense), the second will begin at 1:15 p.m.

The Spring Gathering will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, 1420 Moss Avenue, Peoria (near Bradley University; take I-74 to University St., South exit, to Moss Ave., and turn right).

Pre-registration is appreciated, but walk-ins will be accommodated. The Gathering is free to Roncalli Society members; nonmembers are asked to pay a fee of

\$5 (but no one is denied due to an inability to pay).

The Roncalli Society, a group of priests, religious, and lay women and men of the Diocese of Peoria, has as its theme remaining faithful to the spirit of Vatican II within today's Church. For information about the Society and its goals, or to register for the Spring Gathering, call or write Jane Myers (309/688-2864), 1202 E. Seneca Pl., Peoria, IL 61603. ■

### *Silent Presence*

I thought that God  
Had come to me.  
That after the wild delights  
And the suffering and the joys  
And the pain and the hopelessness  
Of the years—  
That God  
Had come to me.  
That after adventure and achievement,  
Pain, despair and death,  
God  
Had come to me.  
Yes—with relief and mild surprise  
I met my God again.  
And then I saw,  
Oh, fool, I saw!  
That God had suffered  
The pain and hopelessness,  
Had shared the achievements and the joys,  
That God,  
All enveloping,  
All compassion,  
Had been there in silence  
All the time.

—Edwina Gateley, *Psalms of a Laywoman*

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## St. Patrick's environmental justice program to begin in April

St. Patrick's Social Action Committee has been working with the Peace and Justice Committee of Holy Cross Parish and with members of Church Women United, Council of Congregations, and the Ministerial Association to sponsor a Lenten interfaith program on the environment, entitled "Dust to Dust: A Single, Sacred Community."

The program will be held on Thursday, Apr. 6, 7:00-9:30 p.m., at Holy Cross parish center. Dr. Daniel Martin, workshop/retreat leader on ecological concerns and director of the International Coordinating Committee on Religion and the Earth, will lead the evening program.

Dr. Martin is a native of Belfast and a former missionary and educator in Africa. He studied under F. Thomas Berry, author of the best-selling book *Dream of the Earth* and co-author of *The Universe Story*, as well as former advisor to the UN Programme on the Environment.

Topics to be addressed at the Lenten program include facing our dilemma, in this web together, how much is enough, the meaning of a single sacred community, and loving and celebrating the Earth. A resource table with environmental literature, directories, prayer and liturgical resources, and programs will be available. The evening will include time for prayer, song, and celebration of the Earth. Parishioners are invited to attend. There is no charge or advance registration.

This program constitutes the first phase of St. Patrick's environmental justice program. The second



phase will be a two-part workshop focusing on what we can do as a parish community to reduce waste, recycle, and eliminate the use of toxic substances. The parish will also begin the process of participating in the Model Community / Model Church program developed by the local nonprofit organization Central States Education Center.

Parish Council members, committee members, and other parishioners interested in this workshop may contact Don Keefer (337-0768) or Sharon Dorsey (344-3016). The dates are Wednesday, Apr. 26, and Wednesday, May 10, 7:30-9:00 p.m. in St. Patrick's multipurpose room.

The Social Committee will also be forming a team of parishioners to help audit the parish's current conservation practices (a willingness to help is all that is required) and welcomes calls from volunteers for this purpose as well.

After the training and audit are completed, findings will be presented to the Parish Council, committees, and staff for use in making decisions about the promotion of recycling and waste reduction.

In the fall the Social Committee hopes to start the third phase of the program, for both youth and adults, focusing on environmental stewardship on an individual and household level. The intention in all three phases is to develop and encourage conservation values and practices that can be incorporated into parish life and personal practices. More details about this ambitious project will follow. ■

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## Quick fixin's from the kitchen of ...

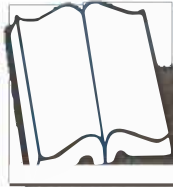
Marilyn Taylor

### Shrimp Fried Rice

2 c cooked rice, cold  
1 egg  
1 T soy sauce  
2 T cooking oil  
1 c chopped fresh green onion  
2 c diced shrimp (or cooked pork or chicken)  
chopped snow peas and carrots (optional)

Cook rice, chill thoroughly. Combine cold rice, egg, and soy sauce; set aside. Heat oil in skillet, add green onions, and stir fry approximately 1-2 minutes. Add snow peas and carrots, if desired. Add rice mixture. Continue to stir fry until rice appears dry and separates easily (approx. 5-7 minutes). Serve piping hot—and pass the soy sauce! Good with tossed salad and crackers. Serves 2 generously. ■





## in our parish library

### ***Spiritual Fitness: Everyday Exercises for Body and Soul***

By Doris Donnelly

The great strength of *Spiritual Fitness* resides in its simplicity. Its chapters focus on familiar daily activities: listening, praising, eating, working, weeping, laughing, forgiving, persevering.

Using language and illustrations that ring true and illumine our own experience, the author first analyzes each activity and then explores its place in a person's relationship with God. To help us begin that relationship or strengthen it, Doris Donnelly offers numerous simple, manageable spiritual exercises. To encourage us in such "everyday exercises for body and soul" is the purpose of her book.

The final chapter, on perseverance, includes a brief, sensible analysis of depression: what it is, what you can do about it, what God can do about it. The author then furnishes the reader with common-sense exercises. Her simple counsel conveys wisdom and compassion:

there is no need to give way to depression—God is in it, working for healing. Be patient. Offer the depression to God. Keep alive hope in Christ and his relationship to his Father. Persist in trusting that you also belong within that relationship and that nothing can separate you from it.

The book is enlivened by numerous illustrations. Readers will be refreshed to read here the wisdom of such contemporaries (or near contemporaries) as Alice Walker, the Dalai Lama, Annie Dillard, C. S. Lewis, Daniel Berrigan, Woody Allen, Nelson Mandela, Dag Hammarskjold, Isak Dinesen, Milan Kundera, Studs Terkel, Dorothee Soelle.

*Spiritual Fitness* makes clear that although we may think we are initiating a relationship with God, in truth God is the initiator and our exercises are a response to God. This, then, is a book about grace and an active, loving God. ■

Welcome to new parishioners Anthony Bentley, Liza Brubaker, Janice Cleary, Christina Holman, Jennifer Iverson, Todd Koretke, Julie Schacht.



Farewell to these parishioners who have moved from C-U: Hieu and Thien Bui, Jackie Cardinale, Harriet Davis, Sophie Eighmey, Caroline and David Foshee, Mary James, Tim and Vicki Phillis, Dale Roth, Sr. Anita Wolf.



We welcome the following, baptized into our faith community: Alex Gene Corry, Hanna Allison Lee.



Please pray for deceased parishioners Kathryn M. Hudnut, Ann Willis.

## ***Oscar Romero, pray for us!***

March 24 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the assassination of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero. His spirit still lives in the hearts of the people of El Salvador, where he is popularly regarded as a saint.

The historical context surrounding the life of Oscar Romero is one of great turmoil. Most of the land and the wealth of El Salvador was owned by a very small elite, while the vast majority of the population lived in extreme poverty. Challenges to the government were met by the military with brutal repression.

The Church in El Salvador was divided. Some called for social and political reform; others, especially the hierarchy, sought to avoid confrontation with the state in an effort to avoid persecution.

Oscar Romero was born in 1917 to a family of modest means and ordained in Rome in 1942. He was well liked among the people and Church leaders and was assigned to increasingly prominent positions. Despite his frequent acts of charity toward the poor, he vocally disagreed with Church leaders who pushed for social and political reform. He was convinced that a centrist, nonconfrontational policy was needed.

On February 22, 1977, He was installed as the archbishop of El Salvador. At first he continued to avoid confrontation with the government, despite increasing atrocities. However, the murder of a close friend on March 12 brought about a profound conversion. Romero could no longer be silent. He publicly called for the murderers to repent and accept the Church's forgiveness.

For the next three years, Oscar Romero called passionately for the conversion of El Salvador. He called for an end to the violence and op-

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*"Oscar Romero," from page 4*

pression of the poor and repeatedly confronted the government. He had become a prophet and, in the way of prophets, brought persecution upon himself. To quiet this nagging voice, his persecutors assassinated Oscar Romero as he celebrated Mass, the great Mystery of Faith, with the people he served.

A life of deep prayer sustained his spirit. Not long before his assassination, Archbishop Romero commented that his death would not be the end, but rather that he would rise in the people of El Salvador.

We too must learn from his courage and his love. In one of his homilies, Romero exhorted his listeners: "Let us not tire of preaching love. It is the force that will overcome the world. Though we see waves of violence succeed in drowning the fire of Christian love, love must win out; it is the only thing that can." ■

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## **What's on St. Patrick's wish list?**

The parish wish list at present includes the following:

- Large video projector (\$2000-\$4000) for use with all levels of religious education
- Scanner (\$2000), optical-disk storage (\$1500), and imaging software (\$500) to preserve materials related to the history of the parish, preventing loss through fire or other catastrophe

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

*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.

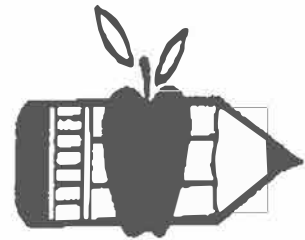
*Editorial board:* Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701; Gary Riskowski, 344-4394; Cathy Salika, 367-7861; Katharine Schradler, 344-5995; Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

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

*Articles and information* for this issue were contributed by Carol Bosley, Grace Conlee, Judy Conover, Mary Johnson, Dorothy Maduzia, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Sharon Monday-Dorsey, Fr. George Remm, Leslie Risatti, Gary Riskowski, Lucille Salika, Marilyn Taylor.

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## **The Holy Cross School Newsline**



Honor Roll for the second quarter was announced during Catholic Schools Week; it included the following students

from St. Patrick's parish (\* indicates high honors):

*Fifth grade:* Nathan Bohn, Flannery Ellis\*, Michael Larsen, Doug Main, Brooke Mayer, Nga Nguyen, Jennie Oliviera

*Sixth grade:* Ben Bermingham, Raven Buffo, Michelle Feltes\*, Emily Kacich, Theresa Lawrence, Lori Randolph, Jacob Thompson, Nichole Weisiger

*Seventh grade:* Anthony DeCerbo, Katie Healey, Meredith Main, Virginia McCreary

*Eighth grade:* Alayna Bonse\*, Christy Laesch\*, Phuong Nguyen, Gina Sabbia\*

Confirmation will take place at Holy Cross at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon. The following St. Patrick's parishioners will be confirmed: Phuong Kim Nguyen, Kirsten Anderson, Dana Gumble, Meredith Main, Mariana Simon, Andrew Duncanson, Katie Healey, Anthony Maduzia, Virginia McCreary, Christina Laesch, and Gina Sabbia.

Teachers and students are selecting Lenten projects for their classes. Among them are donations to the Holy Child Association and Young Catholics in Mission. Projects like these, coupled with book study, will help children learn about the Lenten season and prepare for Easter.

Parents and grandparents are invited to attend the band concert at the school on Thursday, Mar. 2, beginning at 8:15 a.m.

Spring Break at Holy Cross School coincides with the University's Spring Break; the school will be closed during the week of Mar. 13. Mar. 23 is the kick-off day for the annual spring fundraiser at the school. Coordinated by the PTC, chocolate sales (\$1.00/chocolate bar) will fund the many projects of the PTC, including an upgrade of the computer lab and additional software. ■

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### ***In Focus regrets!***

In the February *In Focus*, we erroneously reported that the winner of Ruth Siewert's afghan was Matt Langendorf, when it was Jeff Langendorf's ticket that was drawn. Our condolences to Matt, who didn't win the afghan after all, and congratulations to Jeff, who did. ■

## Parish Council News



At the February Council meeting members received an update on the parish's "sister church" relationship. The Social Action Committee is seeking to involve parish families here in corresponding with families in Annunciation parish in Beit Jala, outside Bethlehem. (Interested families may call Joseph Youakim, 355-0793.) During Advent parishioners were invited to make a small contribution to have a candle at Annunciation lighted in the name of the donor or a loved one; the drive garnered about \$400, far less than the \$6000 hoped for to automate the bells at Annunciation, but the money was put to good use there aiding needy families.

The second annual report on St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation is in preparation. Interest for the past year came to \$9842.57, with \$984.26 retained as an addition to the principle and the remaining interest divided evenly in support of our tuition assistance program for parish families sending their children to Holy Cross School and in support of St. Patrick's religious education program.

St. Patrick's has been notified of an impending gift of \$25,000 from the estate of John Buhs, deceased. Council members agreed that this generous, unrestricted gift be added to the parish's Centennial Fund when it is received.

Members then took up the parish operating budget for FY 1995-96, approving the proposed \$431,500 as projected income, all proposed new programs (except for the Gift of

Cana program mandated by the diocese, which will be funded by the Urbana Knights of Columbus), and the recommended reduction in the allocation for the Holy Cross tuition assistance to \$27,000 (a figure that has held steady in recent years). Members will review and vote on the budget at their next meeting.

Plans for the parish's weekend with Fr. Pat Collins include a Day of Recollection based on texts from Thomas Merton, on Saturday, Mar. 18, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; preaching at all weekend Masses on "Food for the Poor"; and a sacred concert on "The Meaning of Love" at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, Mar. 19. The \$500 fee will be paid from the budgeted Speakers Fund.

Committees are encouraged not to meet during Lent, if feasible, or to include a special prayer service if it seems necessary to meet.

Committee news includes the reelection of Don Keefer as chair of the Social Action Committee, with Bob Haessly as recording secretary. The committee will meet quarterly. Some of the new lights outside the parish center have been installed by the Building and Grounds Committee. Social Committee members pronounced the recent Chili Supper a success and then moved on to plans for the St. Patrick's Day Dinner-Dance, Mar. 11.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Mar. 16. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings. ■

## Serving on the Parish Council

It's that time of year again—yes, the time for parishioners to be invited to consider standing for election to the Parish Council. Replying in the affirmative to be on the slate of candidates can be a difficult decision to make.

The minimal commitment is a willingness to participate in the monthly Council meeting and to serve on a standing committee of the Council as liaison between Council and committee, attending its monthly meetings.

In addition, Council members serve in an important advisory capacity to the pastor regarding administrative parish matters and in a vital listening capacity to other parishioners regarding items of concern within the parish community.

Given all this, it is no wonder that the decision to stand for election proves to be a difficult one!

If you've never served on a board or council, you may feel that serving on the Parish Council is best done by those who have experience. If you've served on a county or library board, you may wonder how well you'd be able to adjust to board meetings that begin and end with prayer.

If you're a relatively recent convert to Catholicism, you may wonder whether you know enough about the Catholic Church to make an effective contribution—you may feel that you need to be further along in your own faith journey. If you've been a Catholic since infancy, you may question whether your usually comfortable faith journey provides the intensity you think is required for addressing parish issues.

And then there's the parish operating budget. You're quite comfortable deciding where and how to spend your own money, but being



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

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## ***“Our prayers rise like incense”***

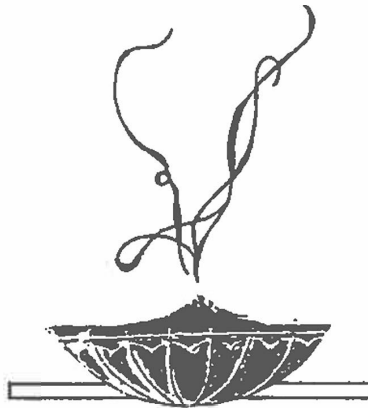
Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, a special time for prayer and fasting, preparation, and anticipation, as we look toward Easter, the great feast of our redemption.

During this season the catechumens go through their final stages of initiation, soon to join us as full members of our faith community.

This is a season full of promise as we remember the saving love of God, a love that did not end with the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus but continues now and always.

Throughout this season we are invited to come together in prayer: in the great saving Mystery of Faith that is the Mass, celebrated daily, and in Evening Prayer, or Vespers, on Wednesday evenings.

Evening Prayer enjoys a tradition that goes back to the earliest days of Christianity. Mystery fans recently



had a glimpse of Vespers and how it may have been prayed in a medieval Benedictine monastery in the recently concluded Brother Cadfael series on PBS.

Vespers, or Evening Prayer, is a prayer of thanks and praise to God for the fruits of every day, a time when we place our needs before God as one day draws to a close and before the dawning of the next. The service can take on solemnity with choir, organ, and ritu-

al, or it can be simple and intimate—as is ours. Whatever the scale, the elements are the same: a hymn of praise, psalms, scripture reading and response, petitions, the Lord’s Prayer, blessing, and sharing of a sign of peace.

Here is an opportunity to join with friends in experiencing prayer in community. I looked forward to Advent and Lenten Evening Prayer each year in my former parish. I was pleased to find that I could continue to enjoy this meaningful tradition here at St. Patrick’s. I invite you to join us—you may find yourself looking forward to it each year as I do.

—Lucille Salika

*Evening Prayer is offered on the Wednesdays of Lent, excepting Ash Wednesday, at 6:45 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the parish center.*

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### *Prayer for hope*

O God of the past, present, and future,  
we pray for all your children who have no hope.

For those whose past is filled with pain and disappointment,  
we pray for faith and the anticipation of change.

For those whose present is filled with anxiety and doubt,  
we pray for courage and faithful expectation.

For those who are mired in despair  
and have no joy or anticipation of the future,  
we pray for hope.

For all the hopeless  
help us be agents of reconciliation and change  
and witnesses of the promise of a future in Jesus  
Christ.

Amen.

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### *You too are a sponsor—*

The *Oxford American Dictionary* defines a sponsor as a person who is willing to make himself or herself responsible for another who is undergoing instruction. This definition applies quite well in Catholicism to the relationship of sponsor to catechumen in the RCIA process.

What are the traits hoped for in a person who is to fill the role of sponsor for an adult seeking membership in the Church?

Ideally, a sponsor is a praying person, one whose own prayer life will be a naturally good influence on the catechumen who may be developing the art of prayer. A sponsor who is a good listener expresses both welcome and interest; through listening, the sponsor may become aware of the presence of Christ working in and through the other. And closely related to listening is respecting—sponsors learn not only to listen well but to reverence what they hear.

A sponsor also has the responsibility of acquainting the catechumen with the people, places, and tradi-

*continued, page 8*

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*"Sponsor," from page 7*

tions of Catholicism and with other members of the faith community. A sponsor's patience and desire to introduce the other to the many facets of Catholic life play a big part in the welcoming process.

Many men and women seeking membership in the Church are accompanied in their journey by personal sponsors, frequently the friends or family members whose lives of faith may have attracted them initially to Catholicism. The RCIA process provides for parish sponsors as well, whose responsibility it is to serve as a link with the local faith community, to share their faith and experience as Catholics.

Even if you haven't had the opportunity to serve as sponsor for a catechumen, you fill the important function of parish sponsor in some very real ways.

You can pray for the catechumens, journey with them in prayer. It may be difficult for some to leave their lifetime church for another, to explain to family and friends why it is so terribly important to become Catholic. They may need the help of

your prayers to persevere.

You can introduce yourself when the opportunity permits and greet them in a friendly and welcoming manner at the church or in the parish center—or in the local community at supermarket, laundromat, or bank. Those who may be shy or reserved, or perhaps feel like the "new kid on the block" will be especially grateful for your greeting.

You can use the gifts that God has given you so that in what you do the catechumens can recognize that they are truly welcome, so that they can experience in and through you something of the life and spirit of the Church. ■

*Sponsor's prayer*

God of all ages,  
you send out your Spirit  
to touch the hearts of people  
so that they may believe in you  
and in Jesus, whom you sent.

Look kindly on all catechumens  
as they listen to your voice.

Open their hearts to your Spirit  
and bring to fulfillment the good  
work  
you have begun in them.

As I reach out to welcome  
new members into the Church,  
make me an instrument of your  
love.  
Teach me to reverence what is holy  
in others,  
to be patient with what I do not un-  
derstand.  
Deepen my faith in the gospel  
and help me to pass it on by good  
example.  
With those who are hesitant or  
afraid  
let me be a source of encourage-  
ment.  
And with those who are weak  
let me be a pillar of strength.

I humbly accept this ministry  
and pray that you will continue to  
guide me and sustain me  
in welcoming new members  
into your household.

Amen.

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*"Serve," from page 6*

part of the decision-making body that determines how the parish allocates its funds is a completely different story!

HOWEVER—the strength of a Parish Council is a membership that includes parishioners with diverse experiences and who are at various stages of their faith journey. An effective Council needs the experience of members who have served on boards—they understand the process of working within a decision-making body and can contribute toward purposeful decision making. In addition, an effective Council needs members who are new to the work of boards and council, who question the complacency of the process.

The parish community is made up of members at many different stages of their faith journey. The Parish Council needs the enthusiasm of the convert to Catholicism as much as it needs the wisdom of the "cradle" Catholic.

While making decisions on how your contributions and those of other parishioners are spent may indeed be difficult, who better to make those decisions than a representative body of parishioners? And although meetings involve engaging in dialog, an important role of every Council member is that of listening—listening during Council meetings to hear ideas expressed by other members, and listening to hear the concerns and ideas ex-

pressed by other parishioners.

The Parish Council works best when many gifts of the Spirit are present. Take some time to consider how your own gifts can best serve the Lord and your parish—is it as a member of the Parish Council? ■





The cross,  
procession leading to  
everywhere  
birth to death  
death to birth

from the moment  
gentle fingers  
trace a blessing  
on the forehead  
of the baby newborn  
and reborn

from the moment  
a young hand learns  
to begin a prayer  
and mark a pattern  
"In the name of the Father..."  
and to wonder whether  
left to right  
or right to left  
makes a difference  
to a God who hears us  
even before we speak

The cross  
everywhere  
for who has not seen  
row upon row  
of cross upon cross  
to tell of one death and many  
whether named or unknown

The cross  
everywhere  
from tenderness  
of young fingers  
to wrinkles and blisters  
that reveal a life  
of many more crosses

The cross  
everywhere  
a touch of jewelry  
a meeting of freeways  
small and great  
seen and unseen  
the cross  
procession leading to  
everywhere  
pointing to  
the meeting  
and gathering  
of north and south  
of east and west  
God and his people  
together  
a triumph forever

—Ronald J. DeHondt

Cross  
paradox of power  
in the guise of powerlessness.  
Victory in the face of defeat;  
life unafraid  
before the hollow mask of death.  
In its brokenness  
we are healed;  
in its contradiction  
we are made whole.  
Sign of the gospel message  
pattern for our dying  
reason for our living.

—Sr. Estelle Martin, RSM

Not dirt  
good, clean dirt,  
the farmer's delight and  
earth's flesh  
which gives birth to the mustard seed  
and sustains the sequoia.

Not dust,  
strictly speaking  
the housekeeper's curse  
which comes from nowhere  
and leaves its dull coat  
which even when gathered  
into baskets and bins  
can support no life.



But ash  
something once alive and growing  
palms perhaps  
from the palace of kings  
or a manhattan bank  
something once verdant and vigorous  
which has fallen into nothingness  
almost  
but for this ash.

We are marked with this sign  
to remember  
a time is coming  
when we, too,  
will fall into nothingness  
almost  
but for our God.

—Barbara Schmich



# March 1995

## 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
			<p><b>1</b> *</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Masses at 7:00am, 12:10 &amp; 5:15pm 6:00pm Religious Ed, Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Pro-Life Com 7:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Distribution of Ashes</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>10:15am Moms' Group 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Re-Membering Church Workshop 7:30pm Personnel Com</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty. NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9:00am RCIA 10:15am Children's Liturgy 5:00pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Jr. &amp; Sr. High 6:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>11:00am Rosary-Champaign Cty. NH 7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9:00am Guild Workshop 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Beginning Experience 7:30pm Parish Council Executive Com</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Children's Reconciliation Service 6:45pm Evening Prayer 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>6:30pm Building &amp; Grounds Com 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Baptism Preparation 7:00pm Re-Membering Church Workshop</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>10:30am Mass-Care Center of Urbana 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty. NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>6:30pm St. Patrick's Dinner/Dance</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9:00am RCIA 9:00am Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 11:00am Religious Ed 5:00pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Jr. &amp; Sr. High Reconciliation Service</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>11:00am Rosary-Champaign Cty. NH 7:00pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9:00am Guild Workshop 9:30am Funeral Schola 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Religious Ed, Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed, St. Joe 6:45pm Evening Prayer 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>10:15am Moms' Group 12:10pm Guild Mass &amp; Seck Lunch 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council 7:00pm Re-Membering Church Workshop</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>10:30am Mass-Clark-Lundsey 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty. NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>8:30am-3:30pm Day of Recollection with Fr. Collins</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>9:00am RCIA 9:00am Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 11:00am Religious Ed 4:00pm Fr. Collins' Spiritual Concert</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>11:00am Rosary-Champaign Cty. NH 7:00pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>9:00am Guild Workshop 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Beginning Experience 7:00pm First Communion Class</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Religious Ed, Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed, St. Joe 6:45pm Evening Prayer 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:30am Archives Com 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Re-Membering Church Workshop 7:30pm Knights of Columbus</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>10:30am Mass-Americana NH Urbana 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty. NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9:00am RCIA 5:00pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>11:00am Rosary-Champaign Cty. NH 7:00pm Liturgy Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9:00am Guild Workshop 9:30am Funeral Schola 7:00pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Homily Prep</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>5:15pm Children's Choir 6:45pm Evening Prayer 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm SVDP 7:15pm Choir</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Communications Com 7:00pm Re-Membering Church Workshop</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty. NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry</p>	