

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



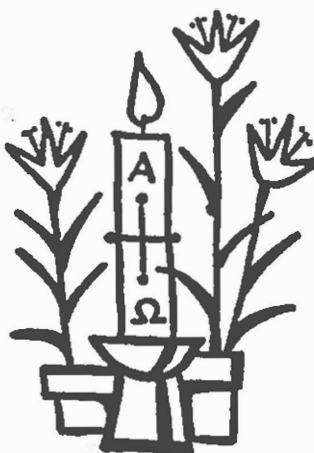
The Paschal candle, 'Light of Christ'

The Paschal candle, the tall candle that stands in the baptistry near the baptismal font, figures prominently in the Church's celebrations at key moments in the life of the Christian.

Some call it the "Christ candle"—aptly enough, since the candle signifies the presence of Christ. As a candle provides light in the darkness, so Christ is the light of the world. A candle is consumed as it burns, even as Christ gave his life for us.

When we were baptized, the Paschal candle stood near the font. On that day, when the light of faith was given to us in baptism, a light taken from the Paschal candle was given to us, or to our godparents, who received it on our behalf.

When we die, the Paschal candle will stand before the altar at the foot of the casket during the funeral Mass. On that day,



when we are given over totally to God, the Paschal candle stands to remind all present that Christ has first given himself for us.

Every parish blesses a new Paschal

candle each year during the Easter Vigil (the night before Easter Sunday). The candle figures prominently in this our most solemn celebration of Christ's gift of himself in his death and resurrection.

At the beginning of the Easter Vigil liturgy, the Paschal candle is blessed with these words: "Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega. All time belongs to him and all ages. To him be glory and power, through every age forever." The candle is marked with a cross, with alpha and omega (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet), and with the year. During each phrase of the blessing, these symbols are traced on the candle. The candle is then lighted from a new fire: "May the light of Christ,

See Paschal candle page 6

St. Patrick's takes new approach to ASA

You know the drill, you've been through it several times. On ASA Sunday (the Sunday of the diocesan Annual Stewardship Appeal), we watch a film about the Diocese of Peoria and its operating budget, and after Mass we walk over to the parish center to fill out our pledge cards and—but wait, not this year!

It seems revolutionary by comparison: this year the plan is to complete the entire process in church. The cards will be distributed, filled out, and collected in the church, with no need for us to go over to the parish center and stand in line for our cards.

And there's more—it seems revolution-

ary, but it's true: the entire process will be concluded in just one weekend instead of two, as in previous years. It is hoped that this expedited procedure will reach more parishioners quickly and leave fewer cards to be mailed out, thereby saving the parish both time and money.

This year's co-chairs are John Duffin, who gained experience in organizing last year's ASA drive, and Carol Bosley, who is new to the organizing aspect of the drive this year. If you'd like to volunteer help with the ASA campaign, John Duffin (328-2527) would be pleased to hear from you.

Sr. Audrey Cleary to present workshop on centering prayer

On Apr. 15 Sr. Audrey Cleary, OSB, will present a workshop (7-9:30 p.m.) on centering prayer at St. Patrick's, outlining the method presented by Fr. Thomas Keating in his book *Open Mind, Open Heart*. She will explore the historical and theological background for this method of prayer, which so many people today are finding so helpful. The session will also include an opportunity to practice what has been described.

Centering prayer is a way of letting go in silence and developing a capacity for waiting upon and resting in God's presence. Come to learn about this traditional form of prayer, to see whether it makes a good "fit" with your needs at this time in your life.

**Coming April 14—
Phone-tree signup** see page 4



in our parish library

Psalms of Lament

By Ann Weems

"This book is for those who weep and for those who weep with those who weep," writes Ann Weems, author and liturgist. In this collection she offers a poignant rendering of her own personal psalms of lament. She draws from scripture, specifically the Psalms, to give voice to the grief and anguish she has felt, and continues to feel, over the death of her son.

In his foreword, Walter Brueggemann gives a framework for understanding the biblical psalms of lament that express the grief, pain, and rage of Israel, and its contemporary echo in these psalms of lament, cries from the heart of a mature, well-seasoned faith: the intimate naming of God, the overstatement of pain to persuade God to act, the unapologetic demand on God, the passionate reasons why God should act, and finally the confidence of having been heard, a sense of well-being and gratitude, that give rise unexpectedly to rejoicing and praise.

Although the author's psalms are very specific to her own suffering and pain, they express elements universal to all who grieve. The God we have known in intimate presence and love, the God who seems to have abandoned us in the midst of terrible grief and pain, the God we have confronted and pleaded with and accused does indeed bring us to rejoicing, even if that rejoicing must live side by side with pain and grief. God's unexpected grace, the author seems to say, comes not to eliminate our deepest pain but to transform it.

"In the quiet times," Weems writes, "this image comes to me: Jesus weeping." She continues:

*Jesus wept,
and in his weeping
he joined himself forever
to those who mourn.
He stands now throughout all time,
this Jesus weeping,
with his arms about the weeping ones;
"Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted."
He stands with the mourners,
for his name is God-with-us.
Jesus wept.*

Lament Psalm Eleven

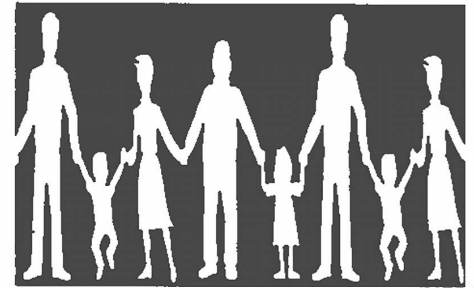
Don't I belong to you anymore, O God?
Don't you claim me as one of your people?
Have you had a change of heart?
Have you turned against me?
Did I do something unforgivable?

O God, remember to remember.
When you see the bow of the rain in the sky,
remember that you are my God.
Remember and come to me.
Remember your promise to be my God.
Be merciful to me.
O Holy One, call me by name.
Walk with me in the valley of shadows.

Do not leave me,
for you are my God
and I belong to you.

You are everything,
the beginning and the end
and life in between.
All praise to you, my God,
my life, my heart, my soul!

From *Psalms of Lament*
by Ann Weems



Welcome to new parishioners Cheryl Davis, Martha and Tom Harpst, Ed Housey, Joyce Lucas, Allen and Elise Pratt, Heather Trent.

Farewell to these parishioners who have moved from C-U: Kathleen Marrin, Marie and Michael McNealy, Cheryl Rackers.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: Erika Marie Penrose, Tanner Charles Hopfauf, Hannah Ashley Sons, Nolan Gabriel Sons, JoEllen Machesky, Maximillian Baraka Brugger Hill, Christopher Thomas Caulfield, Jamie Lynn Simmering, Mariya Rea Sturdyvin.

Congratulations to Sue Youakim and Michael Poor, married at St. Patrick's.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Louise Marie Woodroffe, Joseph E. Connery, Allison Paige Langendorf, Mary Joan Miller.

In appreciation

I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to Fr. George Remm, Fr. Gene Kane, Sr. Charlene, and the parishioners of St. Patrick's who offered Masses and prayers, sent cards, and called me and others to check on my condition during my recent long hospitalization and recovery period. Thank you all very much. I will remember you in my prayers.

Rose Breen



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

St. Patrick's Parish Council News

At their March meeting Parish Council members briefly reviewed the proposed operating budget for the next fiscal year and the current status of this year's budget, with an eye to the list of major improvements to parish property and facilities anticipated over the next few years by the Building and Grounds Committee. Next year's budget will be voted on at the next Council meeting.

The co-chairs of this year's diocesan Annual Stewardship Appeal are John Duffin and Carol Bosley. This year's campaign will be organized in such a way that pledges can be handled in the church and on just one Sunday, May 5. Volunteers will still be needed; a training session for them will be held May 2. (St. Patrick's has received a rebate check for \$8469 from last year's appeal.)

Fr. Hennessy has approached Fr. Remm about having a representative from Schlarman High School (Danville) speak to St. Patrick's parents about enrolling their high-schoolers in Schlarman. Busing may even be arranged. Additional enrollment at Schlarman is needed to offset rising costs. A date for addressing parents on this matter has not yet been set.

The City of Urbana has declined to pave the alley adjoining St. Patrick's property. Since successful redesign of the parking lot and desired traffic flow depends on an adequately paved alley,

Council members voted to include the additional cost for paving the alley (\$6000) in the budget for the parking lot improvements, bringing the total to about \$65,000. Meanwhile the Building and Grounds Committee will solicit assistance with the cost of paving the alley from the City, from Carle Foundation Hospital, and from owners of other properties adjoining the alley.

Fr. Kane's surgery will keep him from participating in parish celebrations and activities for 2-3 months. Fr. John Gaughran, a retired priest from Westville, will assist with two of the Sunday Masses in the interim.

The meeting concluded with announcements of the following upcoming events: First Communion, Apr. 21; Council election, Apr. 27-28; Environmental Spirituality Workshop for Families, May 11; Life after Loss, retreat for widows and widowers, May 18.

The next Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Apr. 18. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings.



Evangelization – what does that mean?

The Church is calling us, each of us, to evangelize. Why? Because Christ calls us to evangelize; his parting command to his disciples was to go and spread the Good News to all nations.

In the recent parish mission on evangelization Fr. Robert Weakley gave us a three-night introduction to the "what" and "how to" of evangelization.

The first evening, Fr. Weakley described a bit of his own spiritual journey, telling us something of his "story." He then asked us to spend some time before the next session reflecting on our own personal stories.

At the second session he dipped us into the waters of evangelization by asking us to spend a few minutes sharing our personal stories with one another, as we sat in groups of two or three. Afterward, emphasizing that evangelization has prayer as its foundation, he spoke on different aspects of effective prayer. Most of what he said was taken from Rich Herfern's interview with Robert J. Wicks, author of *Seeds of Sensitivity*.

The interview speaks of street spirituality, which the author defines as a deep sensitivity to God in our lives. Street spir-

itality urges us to "get real" with our prayer. If it seems boring, it may be because we leave out what is real, what is immediate, what is urgent in our lives. According to Wicks, on one side of the street is the problem of undisciplined activism, too much involvement that can lead to burnout or "compassion fatigue." We take on too much because we fail to see what we need to take into our own hands and what we need to leave in God's hands. Prayer provides balance. On the other side of the street is the problem of "quietism"—if not connected to real life, prayer can become disembodied, irrelevant.

The writer George Sand once said, "Wisdom teaches us to see something outside ourselves that is greater than what is in us, and then gradually, through contemplation and admiration, we come to resemble it." In admiring and contemplating God in prayer, we come to be more like God. Prayer converts and transforms us, but not overnight. Transformation takes patience and persistence; we need, even, to take our doubts to prayer and face them there.

Another impediment to prayer, accord-

ing to Wicks, is our hazy notion of God. "We need to encounter scripture with sensitivity and energy until our reflection on the persons and themes from the Bible changes our prayer and our lives."

On the third evening, Fr. Weakley spoke about the three steps of evangelization that follow praying: caring, sharing, and daring. Prayer, he said, moves us to care about those around us, those whom God wishes to draw closer through us. When we care, it naturally follows that we want to share what we have been freely given—the Good News of salvation, the Eucharist. And sharing calls for daring, that is, challenging the other to accept the gifts of the Good News, the Eucharist, the call to spread that Good News and share what has been given with yet others.

How we share our faith depends on God's call and our individual circumstances. In *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, Pope Paul VI states that above all the Gospel must be proclaimed by witness, by Christians living the Gospel in their daily lives, especially in community. Even the finest witness, however, will be ineffec-

continued on page 7

Books, magazines, newspapers

The parish library is located just inside the northeast entrance to the parish center, at the end of the classroom wing—in fact, it's classroom 6.

The library has a relatively small selection of titles but manages to cover a broad number of topics of interest. There are books, magazines, newspapers, cassettes, and some videotapes. A children's section in the library has expanded into the classroom next door. Also available are several publishers' catalogs for anyone who wishes to order books or other materials; these are contained in a box under the card catalog.

Books for the library are purchased primarily with funds allocated for this purpose in the parish budget, but some have been donated by parishioners. All donations are welcome—and appreciated! A "wish list" book is provided for purchase recommendations and special requests.

It is very easy to check out a book: simply remove the card from the pocket at the front of the book, write your name and telephone number on it, and place the card on top of the card catalog. Although there is no time limit on how long a book may be kept, consideration for other users suggests return of library materials within a month. Library materials can be returned to the in-box designated "Book Returns" at the message counter in the parish center lobby, or to the top of the card catalog in the library itself.

Library materials are sorted into books, magazines and newspapers, and cassettes and videos. Books are shelved by topic using the Dewey Decimal System, with

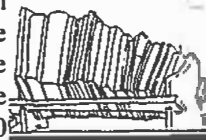
numbers stamped on book spines. To find a specific book or books by a specific author, you can use the card catalog to identify the number assigned and then look for that number on the book spine. Browsing, however, is highly recommended as a good way to discover the variety offered.

The parish library is open for limited hours on weekends because the room that houses it is also used as a religious education classroom. Weekend hours are therefore limited to fourth and fifth Sundays, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. During the week, however, any parish staff member can give you access to the library during office hours (8:30-11:30 a.m., 12:30-4:30 p.m.).

A Library Open House is planned for Apr. 28, when parishioners will have an opportunity to become better acquainted with all that the library has to offer. Be sure to drop by!

Victoria Pifalo is the parish library coordinator. Assisted by 8 volunteers, she is working on several library projects, one of which is computerization of library records. It is hoped that the ability to provide up-to-date information about library materials on topics of interest may make it easier for shut-ins, for instance, to make use of this valuable parish resource.

And to increase awareness of the library's resources among all parishioners a communications liaison has been established. Watch for more news about our parish library in future issues of *In Focus!*



Holy Cross School newsline



Sr. Kathleen, Holy Cross School principal, promised families that she would "give special time, prayer, and attention to three things I feel society, on the whole, does not value enough: our children, the persons who serve us (both professional and non-professional), and our families. My time, talent, and small treasures will be devoted to these areas."

The end of Spring Break brought the beginning of the Holy Cross PTC Chocolate Drive. Proceeds from this annual event are used to purchase items for the school, such as software for the computer lab. Chocolate bars in great variety are available at \$1 each. The sale continues through Apr. 2.

A Book Fair was held Mar. 25-29. Profits are used to purchase books for the school library.

On Mar. 19, feast of St. Joseph, Sr. Joan Caucher, CSJ, and Sr. Kathleen Mitchell, CSJ, renewed their vows during an all-school Mass, at which a collection was taken up for books for the poor of Peru. Sisters Joan and Kathleen are members of the Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

For Parents Day Luncheon, Mar. 29, lunch times were staggered to allow parents to spend time with their children in grades 1-3, 4-6, and 7-8.

Third-quarter report cards were sent home on Mar. 29. All gum and book-cover fines and lunchroom charges must be paid before report cards are released.

Seventh-graders placed first in the State of Illinois for all schools participating in the Quiz Bowl Competitive Test of Diverse Knowledge. Eighth-graders ranked eighth in the state.

The seventh-grade girls basketball team won the recent tournament at Decatur Lutheran School. The seventh-grade boys team placed second.

Upcoming school activities include the Holy Cross Athletic Banquet to honor all athletes who participated in sports during the 1995-96 school year; the spring musical, "The Ransom of Red Chief," on Apr. 19, 20, 21; and the PTC Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., May 4.

Coming April 14: Phone-tree signup

Across the country the Church is urging Catholics to sign up for parish pro-life phone trees. Phone trees are an effective way for individuals to respond quickly to critical legislative alerts.

St. Patrick's is establishing a pro-life phone network. It will not require a great deal of time on the part of those who par-

ticipate—perhaps at most a dozen phone calls during the course of the year. But the result, when joined to thousands of phone calls from across the nation, is enormous.

Sponsored locally by St. Patrick's Pro-Life Committee, the phone-tree signup will take place Apr. 13-14. Will you participate in this network to support life?

★ Parish Wish List

"Items 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"—these are the criteria that must be met for an item to be considered eligible for inclusion on the Parish Wish List. The following items proposed by the parish music director, Steve Peet, met these criteria so well that the Council adopted all of them for the wish list:

- Ensonique Electric Keyboard/Synthesizer, for use in parish liturgies and other functions requiring a portable keyboard (\$2400)
- Four bells to complete the parish's three-octave handbell set: C-4 (\$229), C-sharp-4 (\$229), D-sharp-4 (\$197), F-sharp-4 (\$178)
- Storage case for the handbells (\$120)
- Cleaning and machine polishing of the entire handbell set (\$750)
- Instruments to complete an Elementary Orff Instrumentarium for use with the Children's Choir, in liturgies, and in religious education classes for musical enrichment: bass xylophone (\$500), alto xylophone (\$280), alto metallophone (\$270), soprano xylophone (\$220), soprano metallophone (\$200), 2 alto glockenspiels (\$160, total), 2 soprano glockenspiels (\$140, total), 12-inch floor timpani (\$100), package of rhythm instruments (\$90), storage cart (\$200)

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—although, in this case, you may want to ask Steve about them!

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of ...

Barbara Peckham

Poppy Seed Dressing

- 1 T poppy seeds
- ½ c honey
- ¼ c olive oil
- 3 T wine vinegar
- ½ t salt
- 1 1/2 t dry mustard
- 1 T grated onion

Combine all ingredients in a jar and shake well. This dressing is excellent on the following salad:

lettuce or spinach in bite-sized pieces, for



- 6-8 persons
- 1 11-oz can mandarin orange segments
- 1/2 c chopped walnuts
- chopped green onions (optional)

Combine all ingredients and toss with poppy seed dressing just before serving.

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 Lee Brady, 344-3752; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701 (mmenches@uiuc.edu); Gary Riskowski, 344-4394 (glr@sugar.age.uiuc.edu); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (c-salika@uiuc.edu); Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Carol Schrepfer, 384-2060 (cschrepf@students.uiuc.edu); Peggy Whelan, 367-3668 (m-whelan@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu).

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Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Mary Lee Brady, Rose Breen, Judy Conover, Sharon Monday Dorsey, Mary Fonner, Fr. Gene Kane, Lucille and Oscar Kocher, Dorothy Maduzia, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Barbara Peckham, Fr. George Remm, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Carol Schrepfer, Peggy Whelan.

Celebrate Earth Day

Spring, the season of new and renewed life, is a wonderful reminder to praise God for life and the renewal of life visible all around us. Earth Day, Apr. 22, and all of Earth Week were so designated to help us celebrate life. A few suggestions follow:

Go for an early morning bird walk, or attend a guided wild-flower walk at Busey Woods. Contact the Anita Purves Nature Center (384-4062) for details.



Help raise funds for tree planting at city parks and for summer camp scholarships on the March for Parks, Apr. 21. Details available from the Anita Purves Nature Center.

Recycle used oil and household hazardous wastes. Call the Community Recycling Center (351-4495) for specific information.

Attend the St. Patrick's Parish Retreat, May 11, on the theme "Coming Home: Touched by God's Glory." Hands-on activities are planned to help children and adults discover how the face of God shines through the natural world. A description of the retreat and registration information will be provided in an April bulletin insert.

In early April lists of Earth Day and Earth Week events will be available at the public libraries, at St. Patrick's parish center, and sent home with school-aged children. Choose a way to celebrate the gift of life and the renewal process of the earth on Earth Day, Earth Week, this year.

Job training puts hope on a good foundation

The New Hope Job Training Initiative is a new program, a joint effort between the former New Hope Jobs and RLCC churches.

All clients receive a basic skills class that includes interest assessment, job-search planning, applications and resumes, interviewing tips and practice, and the like. Each client meets weekly with an advisor. Computer training classes are also available to clients. All classes are held at the New Covenant Fellowship building (124 W. White St., C.).

Recent classes have helped clients find and keep jobs paying \$7-\$9/hour, with benefits. For more information, call 351-1577.

From our sister parish in the Holy Land

To Father George Remm and all benefactors from St. Patrick's Parish:

I gratefully acknowledge receiving the check for \$1238 from Rev. Father George Remm, pastor of St. Patrick's Church.

Despite the transitions taking place in regard to Palestinian rule, the infrastructure economy in our country is completely destroyed. Therefore, we need several years before we can arrive at a reasonable standard of living, especially with regard to health insurance. Our medical care and hospitals are miserable and pitiful. Consequently our people continue asking for the help of their pastors for each social case and serious disease. Persons who benefited from



In his letter of thanks Fr. Abdel-Nour enclosed this photograph of some of his parishioners.

your generous donation are the following:

Antoine Kamar, 40, father of 4 children, was affected by a virus in his liver. After 20 days of high fever, he was transported to Hadassa, a famous Israeli hospital, where they removed an abscess on his liver. Contribution to the hospital's expenses: \$500.

Scholastic fees for an orphan in a professional school: \$200

Alice Fawadleh, 32, mother, required surgical intervention for a heart problem; valve transplant: \$300.

Elias AbouSlemeh: \$100

Dalal Mishriki: \$100

Lorette Lolos: \$30

Commission for the money changer: \$8

Dear benefactors, the Holy Grotto of Bethlehem is but 2 km from us; be assured that we remember all of you every time we visit it. May the Divine Child of Bethlehem reward you, bless you, and protect your families.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon in the Holy Land, we remain

Yours fraternally,

Fr. Abdel-Nour

Fr. Abdel-Nour's address is P.O. Box 3, Beit Jala, Israel.

Paschal candle from page 1
rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds."

Following the blessing the Paschal candle is brought into the darkened church and held aloft three times to the acclamation "Christ our light." Everyone present receives light from it, filling the church with the light of Christ—a wonderful image of how the light of faith spreads as we share it with one another.

Later in the liturgy, before the catechumens are baptized, the Paschal candle is used to bless the waters of the font: "May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with him to newness of life."

Christ is our light.

Christ gave himself for us.

This is the faith we share.

The Paschal candle is indeed a rich sign of the presence of Christ!

of water into the wine before offering it. This beautiful mixing reminds us, makes us aware, sacramentalizes our faith in our union with Christ our Head, as we are—with him—offered to the Father.

G.K.

Questions about elements of Catholic practice or Catholic teaching may be sent to the Communications Committee in care of the parish office

Q&A

Why do we have holy water fountains at church entrances?

While I was pastor at St. Mary's in El Paso (Ill.), I moved the baptismal font into the vestibule of the church.

From the earliest days of the Church baptismal fonts were often located at the doors of the church as a symbolic sign of the entrance of people into Christ through baptism. That is what sacraments *do*: they give *life*, God's *grace* at key moments in our lives. They are external, physical signs of God giving birth, healing, feeding, forgiving, etc.

The Church uses other signs called "sacramentals" that also are physical things (candles, crucifixes, pictures, rosaries, etc.), to remind us of that life, the spiritual dimensions of our lives. So we put holy water at the entrance to our churches as a reminder that we are in Christ because of the waters of bap-

tism. Coming to church, we are coming into the broader family of God to worship, gathering as his followers.

On Good Friday we empty the holy water fountains, taking that sacramental away as we celebrate his death around the sacramental that is a cross, reverencing it in faith and love.

Water is an especially important sacramental because it is so important to life itself. We are born in it, survive on it, wash and swim in it. And so, when blessed by the Church, it becomes the vehicle of the prayer of the Church—at the doors of our homes, in penitential rites, in the blessings of both the living and the dead, at our marriages, over our crops, our foods, our boats and animals.

For me, water is one of the most meaningful sacramentals. At the offering in every Eucharistic celebration the priest blesses and pours a few drops

Seven on ballot for the Parish Council election

St. Patrick's Parish Council is charged with the responsibility to "assist and advise the pastor and parish trustees in conducting the spiritual and secular affairs of the congregation" and to "develop in this community the mission of Christ on earth." Each April, parishioners are asked to call forth from the parish, through the election process, men and women to serve on the Parish Council.

This year, on Apr. 27-28, St. Patrick's parishioners will exercise this voting right and privilege, electing 3 of the 7 candidates to 3-year terms on the Parish Council.

This year's candidates for election to the Council are Peter Bloome, Therese

Coverstone, Pat Holden, Bob McCusker, Chuck Milewski, Frank Modica, and Harold Yanchus.

A week before the election a brochure will be distributed through the parish bulletin to review the election process and to provide some information about each of the candidates, prepared by the candidates themselves. Each has been asked to give a brief biographical sketch, to identify formative experience that the candidate perceives as helpful to an aspiring member of the Council, and to state what the candidate believes the parish's near-future goals should be.

Read carefully, ask questions (candidates' phone numbers will be included) if

clarification is needed, pray for discernment, and vote for the men and women you want to carry this responsibility in service to the pastor and to the parish community.

Ballots will be distributed during the announcements near the conclusion of each Mass on Apr. 27-28 so that all eligible parishioners present may vote before leaving.

For those who cannot be present, absentee ballots may be completed and turned in at the parish office the week of Apr. 22-26 during regular office hours (8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4:30 p.m.).

Evangelization

from page 3

tive if it remains unexplained—what the Apostle Peter called always having "your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have." The name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the Kingdom, and the mystery of Jesus must eventually be proclaimed. Peter further admonishes Christians to give that answer "with courtesy and respect."

To have our answer ready, we must study so that we can understand our faith well enough to express it in words. Some good sources of study are scripture, writings of the Fathers of the Church, papal encyclicals, and the new Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Praying, caring, sharing, daring. Daring to live a Christian life in the midst of an anti-Christian culture. Daring to speak the name of Jesus. Daring to invite friends and co-workers to "come and see."

Fr. James Keller, founder of The Christophers, offers this insight: "Each of us is a messenger, an instrument of supernatural grace. We do not have to depend on our own limited ability, but we have the whole of heaven behind us, even when we seem to fail. To each of us, individually and personally, Christ is continually saying, 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'"

If you have been hiding your light, your insight, your gift of faith under a bushel basket, let your light shine in the darkness. *Pray, care, share, dare.*

With Jesus on the Way

The steps
that you are about to walk
you do not take alone.

I walk with you.

Though you are you,
and I am I,
yet we are truly one—
one Christ.

And therefore
my way of the cross
two thousand years ago
and your "way" now
are also one.

But note this difference.
My life was incomplete
until I crowned it
by my death.

Your steps
will only be complete
when you have crowned them
by your life.

Accept each moment
as it comes to you,
with faith and trust
that all that happens
has my mark on it.
A simple *fiat*,
this is all it takes;
a breathing in your heart:
"I will it, Lord."

Seek me not in far-off places.
I am close at hand.
Your workbench, office, kitchen,
these are altars
where you offer love.
And I am with you there.

Go now! Take up your cross
and with your life
complete your way.

From
Everyone's Way of the Cross
By Clarence Enzler
Used with permission

The parish that prays together . . .



First Communion children and their parents (users, apparently, of St. Patrick's environmental mugs) wash up after refreshments.

knows how to play together!



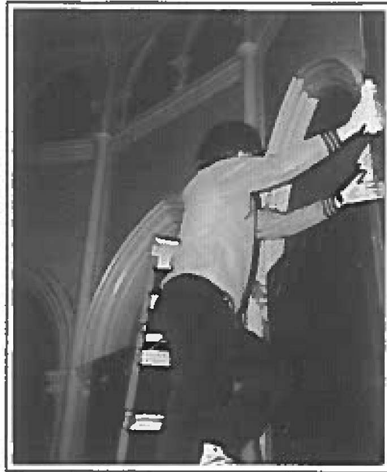
St. Patrick's Day dinner-dance: good food in good company, toe-tapping music, and dancing. St. Patrick would have enjoyed every minute!



Spring Cleaning at St. Patrick's

Church, Parish Center, Grounds

Some scaled the heights: Piotr Misztal (right); Daniel Kingery (far right); and Joanna Burke, supervising Sandy Shannon (below).



Some preferred the lower level: Theresa Michelson (right); Jason Retz with Nicole Parker and Michael Bullard (below, right); Grace Conlee (below, left).

Tal Prendergast (below, center) made the kitchen shine, while Cassie Connor, Joanna Burke, and Sandy Shannon (left) had a good time in the sacristy.





April 1996

St. Patrick's Parish, Urbana

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer	1:00pm GROW 4:00 - 5:00pm Individual Confession 6:45pm Beginning Experience	7:00 - 8:00pm Individual Confession	10:15am Mom's Group 6:00pm Seder for First Communion Families 7:00am Morning Prayer HOLY THURSDAY Service at 7:30 pm	7:00am Morning Prayer 3:00pm Stations of the Cross 7:30pm Good Friday Service	8:00am Morning Prayer 7:30pm Easter Vigil Service followed by a reception for the newly received
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Centering Prayer	9:00am Funeral Schola 7:00pm First Communion Class 7:30pm Executive Council	5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Rel Ed, Urb. 6:30pm Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Financial Affairs 7:00pm SVDP	6:30pm Building & Grounds 7:00pm Baptism Prep 7:00pm Choir	10:45 Mass, CCNH 10:30am Mass, Urbana NH	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed Classes 10:15am Children's Liturgy 5:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm - 8:00pm Jr/Sr High Youth Group	7:00pm-9:30pm Centering Prayer Workshop	1:00pm CDA sack lunch 6:45pm Beginning Experience 7:00pm First Communion Classes	5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Rel Ed, Urb. 6:30pm Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SVDP	10:15am Mom's Group 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council 7:30pm - 9:00pm Pax Christi	10:45 Mass, CCNH 10:30am Mass, Clark Lindsey	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
12:00pm Teen Liturgy 2:00pm First Communion Liturgy	9:30am Archives 7:00pm Centering Prayer	9:00am Funeral Schola 1:00pm GROW 7:00pm Homily Prep	5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Rel Ed, Urb. 6:30pm Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SVDP	7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Communications Com 7:00pm Knights of Columbus	10:45 Mass, CCNH 10:30am Mass, Americana NH	H.S. Retreat Parish Council Election
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed Classes 10:00am - 11:00am Library Open 6:30pm - 8:00pm Jr/Sr High Youth Group Parish Council Election	7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Liturgy	1:00pm GROW Recognition Potluck Installation of Officers	<p>Because the In Focus calendar is prepared in advance of scheduled events and meetings, please check the weekly bulletin to confirm dates and times for specific listings. Deadline for the next issue is April 14.</p>			
28	29	30				

NH- Nursing Home

SVDP- Saint Vincent DePaul

CCNH-Champaign County Nursing Home