

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



## Sacrificial Giving

### Gifts are for sharing

A few weeks ago, we were asked to fill out a survey of the gifts God has given us, gifts of health, of experience, of education, of compassion. The survey was a good reminder that no matter how hard we may have struggled to achieve or develop them, these are gifts reflecting God's goodness to us.

The survey asked us to consider returning these gifts to God by sharing time and talents with others. Many of us can share these gifts to some extent with our parish family, but we probably can't give all our time to the parish—we have jobs or family or other commitments.

A gift, however, that we may be able to share with our parish is a portion of our treasure, our income. This is a lot like giving our time and talent, because our income usually comes from our use of time and talents. Sharing our treasure is yet another way to share part of what God has given us.

On Nov. 17 we will be helped to think together about sharing our treasure. It's good to do this periodically, because our income and our financial obligations change over time. If you are employed, when did you last get a raise? If you are a young person, when did your allowance last change? If you are retired, when did you last make decisions about your pension? Did you think about changing your support of the parish and the poor at that time?

Giving of our treasure calls for faith. We are asked to give first to God—that is, we should work our contributions into our budget, not just give God whatever happens to be left over. We are asked to make our gift a real sacrifice. This involves questioning ourselves about how we spend our treasure and giving more if we can. We are asked to consider giving 10 percent of our income to others. Many people give 5 percent to their parish and another 5 percent to the world's poor through various charities. And (this is an easy one!) we are asked to use our church envelopes to facilitate parish bookkeeping.

Think about your God-given gifts. See in them a sign of God's great love for you. Respond to that love generously, courageously, and honestly, sharing your treasure as well as your time and talents.



## Have you been called?

Volunteered sharing of time and talent, noted on the yellow leaflets from Stewardship Sunday, Sept. 21-22, has been forwarded to the appropriate groups and committees for follow-up. If you volunteered for a specific ministry but haven't yet been contacted, you might leave your name and telephone number again with the parish secretary (367-2665), who will have someone call you.

If you missed the opportunity altogether, it's never too late to take the time to recognize your God-given time, talents, and abilities and to discern how best you might be able to share these for the good of all. Don't hesitate to call if you'd like more information, a copy of "Who and What Is St. Patrick's," or a leaflet to help with your discernment.



**Q.** Why is Mass celebrated so frequently for good people who have died?

**A.** For generations after Jesus died, the Eucharist was celebrated at the tombs of Christians. They had gone to the Lord! Praise the Lord! Rejoice in their new life!

Praise and worship, recognition of God as Lord of our lives--that is the purpose of the Old Testament Passover celebration (the Lord had freed his people!) and our Eucharistic sacramental and sacrificial offering.

The Lord is Creator, Redeemer, Head of the Body of Christians, the Beginning and the End of all that is! So we bring to God our "alleluia!"s, our "thank you"s, our "I'm sorry"s, our "Help!"s. The Eucharist is a sacrament because the Lord is present to feed, to teach, to show that he is with us. It is a sacrifice because it is the offering of all that is, to him and in him; all of being is given back to him who is the Giver of all that is! That is where the heart and the spotlight should be.

For centuries now the spotlight has shifted to the loving and prayerful remembrance of the dead through the celebration of Mass. Free-will offerings (stipends) that are made for that remembrance supplement the priest's income, a human tradition that satisfies the desire to "do something" when there is grieving. (See how far we have moved away from the essentials!)

The deceased are remembered because we don't know the mind of the Lord or the extent of the Communion of Saints or the state of another's soul.

I do remember them and hope you will me.

G.K.

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

## Holiday helps for the grieving

The National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved offers the following suggestions for dealing with the holidays when grief is very real and the heart is heavy:

- *Try to remember; don't try to forget.*
- *Give yourself the gift of healing tears.*
- *Be realistic in your expectations.*
- *Tell people what you need; ask for their help.*
- *Don't lose the holidays completely. Keep some traditions; choose those that bring you comfort.*
- *Visit a special place that calls up good memories.*
- *Listen to your body; take time to rest, refresh, renew.*
- *Don't wait for others to bring you happiness.*

Light a special candle in celebration of the love you still share.



**Welcome to new parishioners:** Penny and Thomas Brown, Jim and Marge Connor, David DeHaven, William Flynn, John and Teresa Graney, Ana and Miguel Hernandez, Doris-Marie Houston, Frank Infanger, Mark Kastl and Kristi Anderson, Alice Kiray, Julie Mesker, Christopher and Yvette Nelson, Cristy and Philip Nowak, Sam and Susan Reese, Dan and Elisabeth Rose Schael, Rene Stofflett, Eathel and James Sullivan, Gabriel and Hesti Sunu.

**Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U:** Eric and Holly Allain, Paul Beardsley, Joe and Kathleen Epstein, William Flood, Dean Goedde, Peter Goeser, Darcy Hopfauf, Monica and Roger Stratton, Ramona and Thomas Watkins, Angie Youakim.

**We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community:** Bartholomew Anthony Basi IV, Lucas Horace Koepke Nelson, Kara Marie Lucenti, Colin Mikel de Blouwe, Hannah Rose Kocher.

**Please pray for deceased parishioners:** Roy Hudson, Richard Guzy, Sylvia Stroub, Jean Pare.

## Are you celebrating your feast day?

You, a saint? Me? Really? All of us--saints?

Yes, really, if we choose, if we want it enough.

But what's this business of the "communion of saints" we profess our belief in each and every Sunday? "Communion" roughly means "in union with," "together with." And "saints"? Well, "saints" in St. Paul's day were those who had accepted the call to follow Christ in this life.

When he wrote to "the saints in Corinth," or Thessalonica or Galatia, Paul was addressing his words of encouragement and advice to folks much like you and me, trying to live out their faith in the workaday world of their day. When he referred to "the holy ones," he didn't mean people upon whom the title of saint would be conferred by the Church of later centuries, but men and women and children still walking the Way of Christ, struggling against the evils of their time, sometimes at great personal risk.

The Communion of Saints, we conclude, is the whole assembly of the faithful--those of us living in the world of here and now, those who have gone before us in faith and are now rejoicing in the presence of the Lord, and those who still long to be joined to that holy company and suffer the pains of separation. We used to sort out this assembly ("communion") of the faithful ("saints") into the tripart Church Triumphant, Church Suffering, and Church Militant: the Communion of Saints.

When we come together to celebrate this, our very own great feast, the Feast of All Saints, we give thanks to the Father for the gift of Life, for the gift of Jesus, for the gift of the Spirit dwelling within to guide and comfort--and for the company of the saints, our "holy ones," as we journey through life on the Way of Christ.

Happy feast day, everyone!

The feast of All Saints, Nov. 1, will be observed at St. Patrick's with Mass at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31, and at 7 a.m., 12:10 p.m., and 5:15 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1.

## A month-long celebration

It has long been the custom at St. Patrick's for the names of parishioners deceased in the last 12-month period to be placed before us at our family worship services during November. The scrolls listing departed loved ones help us to remember, to reflect, to pray, to rejoice in their having completed the course, having won the prize of eternal joy in the presence of their Creator.

When you see the scrolls of those who have passed to Life after life, recollect and pray for them, enter into conversations with them, rejoice with them. For they are our loved ones, the "saints" of our parish family; they have not forgotten us:

*Maria Pia Gratton  
Josef Nemeth  
Thomas Tyrrell  
Mary Elizabeth Nemeth  
Raymond Heinzen  
Judith Arie  
Helen Guillion  
Alice Virginia Dunn  
Bertha C. Berns  
Shig Yasunaga  
Orin Hutchcraft  
Sheryl Sue Schaub*

*Louise Marie Woodrooffe  
Joseph E. Connery  
Allison Paige Langendorf  
Mary Joan Miller  
Letha Wimmer  
Anthony J. Maggio  
Loretta F. Faulkner  
Julius F. Reinhart  
Roy T. Hudson  
Richard A. Guzy  
Sylvia P. Stroub  
Jean H. Pare*

May they rest in peace.

"What you should say"--he [Bob Lax] said to me--  
"what you should say is that you want to be a saint."

A saint! The thought struck me as weird. I said:  
"How do you expect me to become a saint?"

"By wanting to," said Lax, simply.

"I can't be a saint," I said, "I can't be a saint." And my mind darkened with a confusion of realities and unrealities.... "I am satisfied to save my soul, to keep out of mortal sin," which means, by those words, "I do not want to give up my sins and my attachments."

But Lax said: "No. All that is necessary to be a saint is to want to be one. Don't you believe that God will make you what He created you to be, if you will consent to let Him do it? All you have to do is desire it."

A long time ago, St. Thomas Aquinas had said the same thing--and it is something that is obvious to everybody who ever understood the Gospels. After Lax was gone, I thought about it and it became obvious to me.

The next day I told Mark Van Doren: "Lax is going around saying that all a man needs to be a saint is to want to be one."

"Of course," said Mark."

*From The Seven Storey Mountain, by Thomas Merton  
Used with permission*



## Enduring Grace: Living Portraits of Seven Women Mystics

By Carol Lee Flinders



## in our parish library

A strong connective thread runs through the lives of the women in this book. All, to one degree or another, really did set aside personal comfort in pursuit of larger goals. Even if to only a modest extent, they came to feel the suffering of others as their own and, in working to relieve it, they experienced a mysterious enlargement, often even a kind of exaltation, regardless of the disappointments or chronic exhaustion the work itself entailed.

Clare of Assisi, Francis's foremost disciple and the first woman in history to write a "rule" for a monastic community

Mechthild of Magdeburg, whose poetic gifts allowed her to transmute intense personal suffering into mystical prose and verse of timeless power and beauty

Julian of Norwich, recluse with the human touch, who drew upon extraordinary visionary experiences to construct teachings on sin and forgiveness and on the motherhood of God that are as fresh and feeling today as they must have been to those whom she counseled

Catherine of Siena, impassioned spiritual teacher and tireless political activist

Catherine of Genoa, married, aristocratic, a hospital administrator whose mystical utterances may have inspired John of the Cross

Teresa of Avila, reformer of the Carmelite Order, whose writings on meditation are unsurpassed in the entire Catholic tradition

Therese of Lisieux, the Normandy schoolgirl whose "Little Way" has virtually redefined the spiritual life for numberless Catholics (non-Catholics as well) of our time

"I realize that one could not possibly do justice to all seven women in one book," the author writes. "Fools certainly do rush in. But I did not set out to do them justice anyway—I just wanted them all at the same party. I wanted to see them together, to eavesdrop as they talked with one another, and to try to learn what they had in common and how they differed. I wanted above all to plant myself in their midst and see whether by sheer force of my admiration I might conjure them into my own life, not as role models or intercessors, but as fast friends and midwives of the spirit....

"I do not see these lives as precise templates for our own. Their relevance is subtler, and we must work out for ourselves what it is for each of us. There are, however general areas where the lives of these women seem to speak with special force to contemporary seekers, and I would like to identify those." She then sets out to do just that.

She finds in them the positing of an inner world that is more real than the

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**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.

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### Parish-wide memorial service planned for Nov. 13

In our faith tradition, November is the month we remember all who have died. A parish-wide memorial service of remembrance and prayer for friends and loved ones who have died, whether recently or long ago, will be held in St. Patrick's church on Wednesday, Nov. 13, beginning at 7 p.m.

All parishioners and others in the local community are invited to participate. The service will include periods of meditation and thanksgiving. Dennis Cockrum, who specializes in grief and loss, will speak about remembering those we love, giving thanks for God's gifts, and reflecting on the resurrection.

Following the memorial service, participants will be invited to gather for refreshments and fellowship in the parish center.



**Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is Nov. 10.**

## A saint who lived in Missouri?

In 1818, Rose Philippine Duchesne moved to St. Charles, Missouri. Native Americans who knew her are said to have called her "the woman who prays always."

Rose was born in 1769 in Grenoble, France, and grew up in a family of rich merchants. She decided at a young age to dedicate her life to God and joined a religious community. Soon afterward the French Revolution began, and all convents and monasteries were closed.

In order to continue her work for God, Rose returned to her parents' home and spent several years teaching neglected children and caring for the sick and the dying. In each of these people she saw Christ.

When the Revolution was over, Rose rejoined her group of nuns and was soon invited to assist the archbishop of St. Louis, Missouri. After arriving at the village of St. Charles, Rose founded a convent in a small log cabin and began a free school for girls.

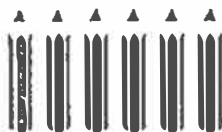
Over the years she and her sisters also founded schools in Mississippi and Louisiana, often suffering hardships from forest fires, epidemics, hunger, and lack of fuel. Rose fought especially hard against the prejudices she saw against African Americans.

When 71 years old, Rose went with those who opened a mission for Potawatomi Indians at Sugar Creek, Missouri. Eventually she became ill and died, at St. Charles, at the age of 83. Rose Philippine Duchesne was canonized in 1988; we celebrate her feast on Nov. 18.

What a great neighbor she was to us Illinoisans!

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## Holy Cross School Newsline



On Sept. 17 Sr. Kathleen Mitchell, school principal, outlined her personal goals for the 1996-97 school year: to begin school development program (alumni, volunteers, grants, etc.); to stress service opportunities for students; to emphasize student stewardship thrust, to encourage student pride in schoolwork and school environment and their personal belongings; and to continue to reinforce last year's goals (make a concerted effort to clean up the school's physical environment on a daily basis, enhance the religious atmosphere in the school, and make herself available and present to faculty and students on a daily basis).

The Oct. 4 all-school Mass reflected the "Respect Life" theme. Students were asked to donate a penny for each year of his/her life. In addition, articles of clothing and other goods were collected for local distribution.

Holy Cross School received the Lyell J. Thomas Award from the Illinois Junior Academy of Science in recognition of the outstanding accomplishments of Holy Cross students at the May 1996 State Science Expo.

Australian storyteller/musician Paul Taylor is scheduled for a performance at the school on Oct. 16. Cleaning and repair day is Saturday, Oct. 18, at the school. The Annual Halloween Party/Fall Festival is Oct. 25, in the school gym.

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## Don't forget, objectives workshop Nov. 9!

If you haven't yet registered for the objectives workshop on Nov. 9, you still have a week or so to do that. The Parish Council invites all parishioners to participate in the development of objectives for 1997 that will help move the parish toward goals encompassing community building, religious education for youth and adults, social justice, spirituality, family life, stewardship, and volunteer ministry.

Plan to share your ideas about the needs of the parish and how these might be met by adopting specific objectives for next year. You may want to start with Mass at 8 a.m. in the church and/or with a continental breakfast in the parish center at 8:30 a.m. The workshop will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at noon.

Please call the parish office (367-2665) by Nov. 4 so that seating, materials, and refreshments can be provided for all.

## Mark is the focus of Bible study at St. Patrick's

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Col. 3:16) is the aim of the parish Bible study program, which is enriching the lives of almost 100 parishioners and friends. From its humble beginnings two years ago with a small group of potential leaders, the Bible study program has grown to include a Sunday evening leaders group of 16 and 10 small groups.

An exciting aspect of this Bible study is that it is a part of a larger ecumenical program called Community Bible Study (CBS), which reaches 500-600 people. In CBS, there are at least 36 churches represented in groups that meet in homes, churches, and offices in Champaign, Urbana, Mahomet, Tuscola, and Paris.

The age span of participants ranges from 30 teens to a group of 10 Clark-Lindsey Nursing Home residents. Two of the churches (St. Patrick's and First Presbyterian, Champaign) have their own leaders groups and network of small groups. To think of this many people throughout the parish and the local community engaged in the same Bible study is very exciting and uniting.

On Sunday evenings, 16 people gather for leaders group meetings. These equip leaders to understand a passage of scripture, to lead discussions more effectively, and to experience small-group dynamics through their own interaction.

Bible study groups this fall are focusing on "Mark: The Journey of a Lifetime." The central question in Mark is "Who is

he?" Over and over this question is asked: with joy and amazement by the common people when they see Jesus healing and driving out demons and preaching with authority, with contempt by the Scribes and Pharisees. After Jesus stills the storm at sea, the disciples ask, with awe and wonder, "Who then IS this, that even wind and sea obey him?" King Herod, fearful for his throne, also wants to know who Jesus is. It is the most important question than anyone can ask.

The aim of these studies is to cause Jesus Christ to step out of the pages of the Bible and to become so real to each participant that lives will be changed because of the 20 weeks spent with the Lord.

This study of Mark is timed so that in the fall the lessons center on Jesus' works and teachings. In the spring, coinciding with Lent, participants will be with Jesus at the Last Supper, as he agonizes in the Garden of Gethsemane, as he accepts his cross.

For the last session they will move to Chapter 20 of John's gospel to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and his meeting with Mary Magdalene in the garden. It just may be that participants will experience Easter this year as never before!

Study groups still welcome new participants: to join a group, call Mary Long (328-2989) or Margy Palmisano (367-5510).



## Parishioner heads for Micronesia as Jesuit Volunteer

Former parishioner Janet House completed her ten-day orientation at the University of Scranton on Aug. 5 and, with ten other Jesuit Volunteers, headed for the islands of Micronesia to serve the population there according to the four JV components: living simply, keeping faith, doing justice, and building community.

Janet served briefly with our parish's Building and Grounds Committee, but her smiling face will be familiar to many parishioners who exchanged greetings and conversed with her after Sunday Mass.

God go with you, guide you, and keep you safe, Janet, in your great adventure for Christ!



Micronesia JVs; Janet House is second from the left, front

We thank you, Lord

...for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sea and sky.  
 ...for all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ.  
 ...for our daily food and drink, our homes and families, our friends.  
 ...for minds to think and hearts to love and hands to serve.  
 ...for health and strength to work and for leisure to rest and play.  
 ...for the brave and courageous, those patient in suffering and faithful in adversity.  
 ...for all seekers after truth, liberty, and justice.  
 ...for the communion of saints in all times and places.  
 ...above all for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus.  
 To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

## Parish Council News

At their October meeting Parish Council members approved in principle the purchase of new furnaces for the church. It seemed practical to replace not only the two affected by a rusting heat exchanger, but all four, which were installed at the same time. The Building and Grounds Committee recommended accepting the bid from AC Air Conditioning (\$23,975). Funds for this purpose had already been set aside, so Fr. Remm will send a resolution to Bishop Myers for his approval.

Fr. Remm proposed that an ad hoc committee be established to begin planning for renovation of the parish center kitchen. He suggested that membership on the ad hoc committee include representation from the Guild, Knights of Columbus, Coffee Shop, Building and Grounds, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and Education, perhaps others as well. The Public Health Dept. and the City of Urbana would also be consulted to be sure the renovation meets all regulations. Dick Justice and Allen Booth expressed willingness to work with the planning group.

The total costs for work on parish parking lots exceeded estimates by about \$1900 because of a few modest changes while work was in progress. The additional cost will be met

by transferring funds from the kitchen renovation fund, to be replaced from unspent income at the end of the fiscal year.

Delroy Robinson, Director of Employment and Training for the Urban League of Champaign County, described the organization for the Council. The Urban League was established in 1961 to assist African Americans in achieving social and economic equality through advocacy, bridge building, program services, and research. It is an interracial, human rights, nonprofit organization committed to elimination of racial discrimination and to enhancement of the quality of life in our communities.

The Urban League has developed an employability training program, which focuses not only on skill development but in an understanding of how math, the sciences, computers, etc., can have an impact on the lives of the trainees. There are also programs that teach people how to weatherize their homes, how to make home repairs, and



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## Let's give thanks!

"St. Patrick's parishioners have always been very generous to the St. Vincent de Paul Society's projects to feed the hungry and needy through the years," said Sophia Zeigler, president of the local SVDP chapter. "Our plans are to continue seeing that 200 families in our area have food on their tables this Thanksgiving. We need parishioners' donations of \$10 to cover the cost of each Thanksgiving food basket."

The food baskets this year will include soup, canned ham, sweet potatoes, vegetables, fruit, cranberries, stuffing, pumpkin pie, eggs, milk, cereal, rolls, coffee, and candy. Donations may be put in an envelope clearly marked "For Thanksgiving Dinners" and placed in the Sunday collection or dropped off at the parish office.

"These baskets meant a great deal to our clients, many of whom would have gone without a nice Thanksgiving meal without your generosity. We received very positive and grateful comments regarding the variety of items received, especially the quality and quantity of items they could use well past Thanksgiving." (Letter received last year from Kathleen Kessler, Community Support Supervisor at the Mental Health Center)

Help is also needed for sorting and arranging the foodstuffs on tables in the parish center on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 24, in preparation for the junior-high students, who will fill the food baskets that evening.

If you can help deliver the food baskets sometime during daylight hours on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Thanksgiving, please call the parish office (367-2665) and leave your name, telephone number, and times you can help with delivery.

"We appreciate the time and effort of all your parishioners in preparing and delivering the baskets. Their smiling faces and words of encouragement meant a great deal to our clients. Thanks again for being so kind and brightening their Thanksgiving."

What greater reward could anyone hope for?



## Council News

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how to build new homes. Seniors over the age of 55 on fixed incomes are connected with companies offering part-time employment. Volunteers willing to share their skills with trainees are very welcome!

A review of the Time and Talent stewardship drive revealed 235 responses, with 51 persons indicating specific ways in which they'd like to share their time and talents for the good of the parish. When the parish's new database program has been installed, parishioners' responses will be translated into specific categories to facilitate identification of persons suited to special tasks when the need arises.

Another outreach to new parishioners will be attempted at the upcoming pancake breakfast. Although not many accepted their invitation to the parish picnic, the personal approach was appreciated.

Mass for Hispanics is now being celebrated at St. Patrick's on Sundays at 3 p. m. The ministry is somewhat self-supporting; the collections taken up at the Mass are used to defray expenses. With approximately 3000 Spanish-speaking people in this area, the present Mass participation of about 100 is expected to grow. Planning is underway to provide religious education for the children after Mass, with a social hour for the adults. At a recent meeting with Fr. James King, diocesan moderator of Hispanic ministry, priests from our vicariate described what is being done here to reach out to Hispanics, a ministry of the entire vicariate and not just St. Patrick's.

Alta Tarter's family is moving its membership to St. Thomas, Philo, where her oldest son is enrolled. Consequently she is resigning from her position on the Parish Council, although she will continue to teach in the religious education program here.

The next Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 22. All parishioners are welcome to attend this open parish meeting.

## Enduring Grace

Continued from page 4

one around us, that will receive us and strengthen us once we find our way into it. She finds emotional freedom, and courage as well, evident in all these lives, not just physical bravery, but also the capacity to endure the subtlest kinds of interior trials. She finds it consoling as well as touching and amusing to see that many of these women had to struggle just as hard as women do today to balance the claims of family with the equally passionate claims of their own emerging selves and the absolute need for time and silence that these claims dictate. She finds the persistent theme of friendship emerging in the stories of their lives and is encouraged to find that the sweetest friendships of all often lay between religious women and men at a time when such friendships would otherwise have been impossible. And she finds a life of community, which sustains and nourishes spiritual growth.

In the lives of all these women she finds an answer to a question she says "haunts the lives of most women--and men--I know: Have I a calling? ... The gist of it is that you do not have to go out looking for your calling, because it will be quite apparent to you once you have 'gotten yourself out of the way.' The very proximity of a task, placed where you all but trip over it, will make it indisputably yours and no one else's."

"My greatest hope," the author concludes, "is that some will find in these lives the inspiration to deepen their commitment to their own spiritual path, whatever that may be." A wonderful book for seekers,

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

Elaine Theobald

### Coconut Crispies Cookies

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 c butter or margarine |                              |
| 1 c white sugar         |                              |
| 1 c brown sugar         |                              |
| 2 eggs                  |                              |
| 2 c flour               |                              |
| 1 t baking powder       | 2 t vanilla                  |
| 1/2 t baking soda       | 2 c Rice Krispies            |
| 1/2 t salt              | 2 c Quick Oats               |
| 1/4 c milk              | 1 10-oz pkg shredded coconut |



Cream butter or margarine and sugar; add eggs and mix well. Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt, and add to creamed mixture, alternating with milk. Add remaining ingredients, blending well. Drop by spoonful onto greased cookie sheet and bake 10-12 minutes at 350 degrees.



Evangelization, 1996

## Bearing another's burdens

*"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2)*



"I have bad news. The last round of chemotherapy did not affect the tumors; in fact, they grew by 30 percent. I don't have a treatment to recommend; you may want just to go home and enjoy the time you have left." What do you do when your doctor says these words to you? How do you make a decision?

Susan (not her real name) wanted her decision to be one coming from her faith, so she invited several friends to gather for a time of discernment. And we came. We came mostly because we wanted to help Susan, and we needed to face our own grief and concern about her devastating news.

We gathered around an altar with some of Susan's favorite symbols of faith: a simple wooden cross, an angel, green plants, many candles. These were symbols that brought comfort, brought the Holy to her.

We read Mark 2 together, hearing again the story of Jesus and the paralytic, wondering at friends who cared enough and believed enough to carry their sick friend to Jesus. How would we carry Susan to the Healer? How could we help her find wholeness in the midst of living with an aggressive cancer?

Susan shared her medical history and the options that had been given to her. Should she follow traditional medical treatment, which had made her very sick and had not affected the cancer?

We spent time asking for guidance from God, some individually and some in smaller groups. Some of us sat in silence, some talked quietly, others went for walks in the neighborhood. Each of us hoped and prayed for guidance.

When we came together again, we were surprised at how many of the same insights came from different individuals and different small groups.

We closed our time together with the Lord's Supper. Then, in that ancient tradition, we laid hands on Susan and prayed with her for wholeness as she made decisions over the next days and weeks. Through our tears and laughter, we had a sense of the Holy with us, and with Susan.

Susan's tumors continued to grow. It became hard for her to eat. We gathered frequently, her friends, revisiting Mark 2 and sharing insights and the wonder of Jesus' gifts to the paralytic: forgiveness first, forgiveness based on the faith of those audacious friends who wouldn't let crowds and earthen roofs stand in their way; wholeness, reuniting him with the community and with God. Physical healing came second.

As we spent time with Susan in the weeks and months that followed, there were moments when we felt her wholeness, her joy at the love that surrounded her, and we sensed God with her. It didn't make it okay that Susan was hurting and sick, but on Sunday mornings when we gathered for Eucharist, we felt a holy connection: we were indeed "one Bread, one body."

It was that connection that helped us walk with Susan on her journey to its conclusion, when she was called home by her loving Father. It is that connection that helps us still.

*God, you who bear all the burdens of the world, thank you for those who help us bear our burdens. Help us reach out to help carry the burdens of others. Amen.*



## Sent to Neighboring Towns and Other Villages

by Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP

*Jesus answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." Mark 1:38*

As church professionals and lay people gather in workshops across the country to explore the implications of *Go and Make Disciples*, they find themselves filled with energy and enthusiasm. It's not immediately evident, however, where this energy is coming from.

After all, to spend a day (as some folks in the Diocese of St. Augustine did) discussing the goals of the national plan would seem more like draining work than a shot in the arm.

"Our parish has really started to move," one of the participants at that St. Augustine session told the crowd. Again, it was something imperceptible, a sense of change, of a new atmosphere, of moving ahead.

I believe that this sense of renewed energy closely parallels the energy in the ministry of Jesus Christ. "Let's go on to the neighboring towns," Jesus says early in the Gospel of Mark. He could not wait to move onward and outward, as if the power inside him would not stay contained. In fact, Mark tells us that Jesus seemed to be moving all the time, through Galilee and the Ten Cities, then westward toward Tyre, then south toward Jerusalem.

This movement outward consumed Jesus' earthly ministry because it is built into the very notion of Good News. If news is good then it is Good News for everyone. If God has entered our experience, if real change (for the better) is happening through the work of God, then keeping this news to ourselves, or among a supposedly "chosen few," actually contradicts the Good News.

There are two separate forces that converge and create the outward focus of sharing the Good News.

(a) There is, first of all, an energy that comes from a vivid sense of God—of God's graciousness and love—that impels the believer from within; and

(b) There is, secondly, the restlessness of an outer vision that propels a believer to keep seeing further, to meet and engage people who have not experienced Good News, to invite and involve those who are thirsting for God.

We see in the ministry of Jesus this convergence of forces. For example, Jesus' encounter with God in the desert (and his rejection of all false illusions of what evangelization might be—using power, using people, using God) does not climax in some mystical vision. Rather, it compels Jesus to undertake his public ministry, first in Galilee and then in Judea.

In fact, the whole first part of Mark's Gospel (directly paralleled in Matthew and Luke) culminates in the followers of Jesus being sent to neighboring towns and other villages to prepare the way for his impending visit.

The three goals of *Go and Make Disciples* present a contemporary reading of these outer-directed forces of sharing the Good News. **Goal I** talks about creating such enthusiasm for our faith that we want to share it with others—reflecting the first force of the vivid sense of God's presence in our lives. **Goal II** talks about actually inviting people to experience the salvation of Jesus in the Catholic faith—embodying the restless desire to reach others with the Good News of God. **Goal III**, while not directly mirroring the dynamics identified in this

article, proposes a major consequence of having an outward focus: the transformation of our public lives, our society.

It is the convergence of these forces that energizes evangelization. Of course, the church has always understood this when it talked about contemplation and action as the two dimensions of Christian life.

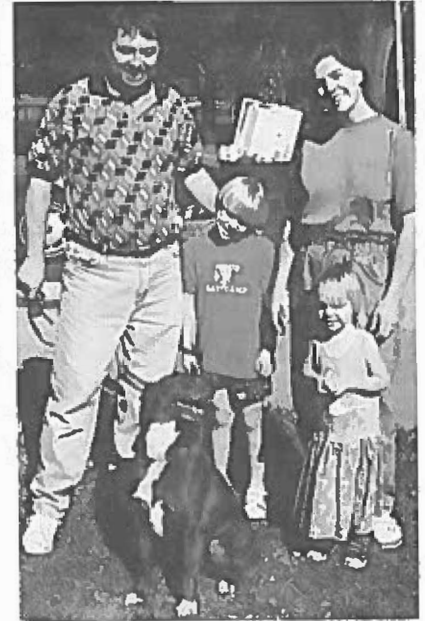
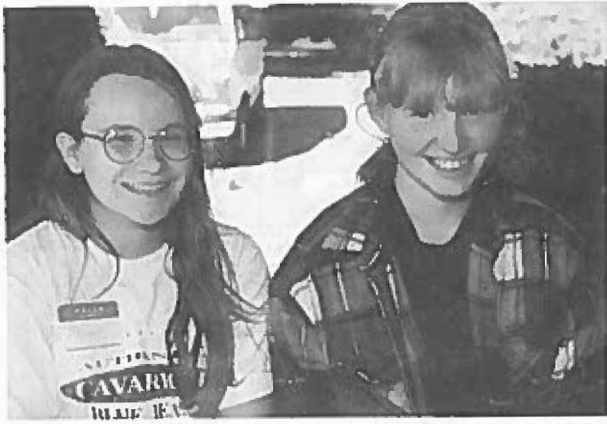
Our understanding of contemplation and action, our understanding of spirituality, has often (until now) been marked by only an inward focus, centered on our own spiritual feelings or on actions that began and ended with ourselves. We can see this in the mostly private, passive faith of the 55,000,000 people who call themselves Catholic in the United States.

Evangelization today offers us the opportunity to retrieve some of the spiritual energy that characterized the ministry of Jesus. We too can go to neighboring towns and other villages where people live who still have not experienced the Good News of Jesus or who still have not appropriated that experience in their lives.

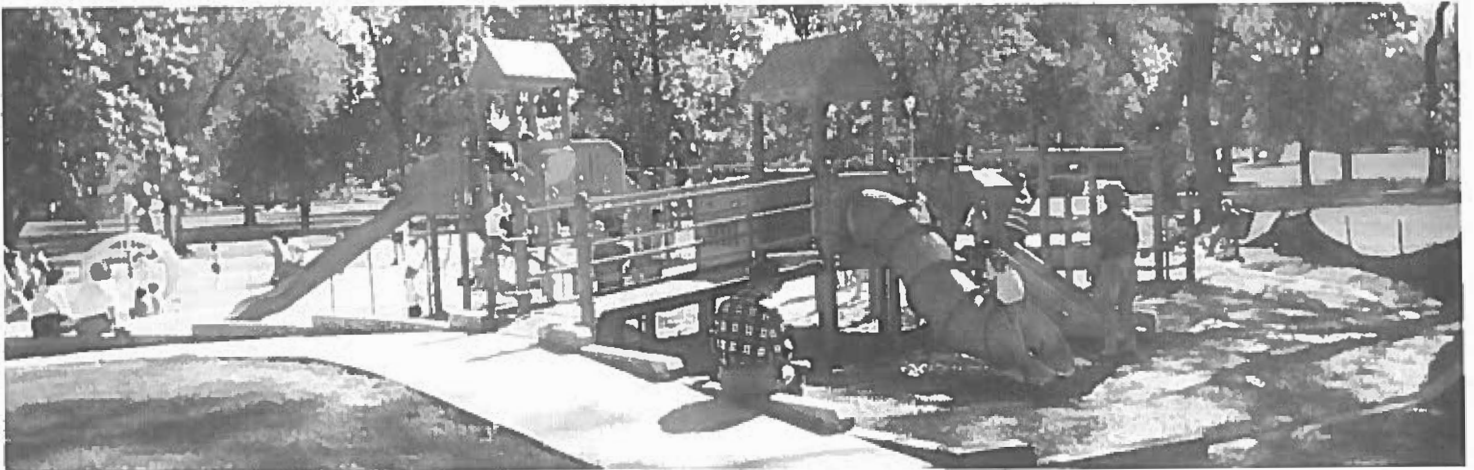
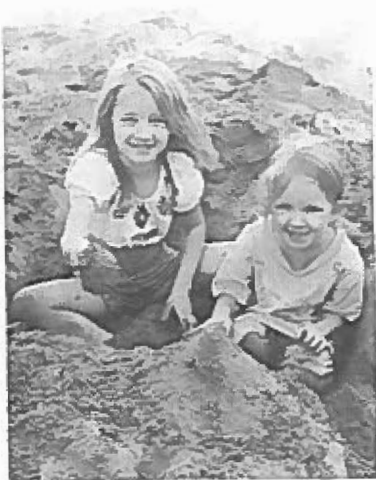
### About the author

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*A day in the sun  
for St. Patrick's  
parish family*



# Happy Thanksgiving

# November, 1996

## St. Patrick's Parish, Urbana



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 November 10, 1996.

10:45am Mass @CCNH  
**Holy Day**  
 All Saints Masses @ 7:00am  
 12:10pm  
 5:15pm

**All Souls Day**

1

2

8:00am-11:00am  
 KC Pancake  
 Breakfast  
 9:00 & 11:00am  
 Rel Ed  
 10:15 Children's  
 Liturgy  
 3:00pm Hispanic  
 Mass  
 6:30pm Bible Study  
 6:30pm Rel Ed

3

7:00pm Centering  
 Prayer  
 7:00pm Education  
 7:00pm Pro-Life

4

1:00pm Grow  
 7:00pm  
 Reconciliation  
 Class  
**VOTE:**  
 National  
 Elections

5

5:15pm Children's  
 Choir  
 6:00pm Rel Ed  
 @U  
 6:00pm Rel Ed  
 @St. J  
 6:45pm Men's  
 Bible Study  
 7:00pm Choir  
 7:00pm RCIA  
 7:00pm SVDP

6

9:30am Moms Grp  
 1:00pm Discussion  
 7:00pm Catechism  
 7:00pm Choir

7

10:30am Mass  
 @Care Center  
 10:45am Mass  
 @CCNH

8

9:00am- 12:00pm  
 Objectives  
 Workshop  
 7:30pm  
 Orientation  
 InFocus Couples

9

9:00 & 11:00am  
 Rel Ed  
 10:15 Children's  
 Liturgy  
 3:00pm Hispanic  
 Mass  
 6:30pm Bible Study  
 6:30pm Jr Bells  
 6:30pm Rel Ed

10

7:00pm Centering  
 Prayer

11

1:00pm Grow  
 7:00pm Exec  
 Council  
 7:00pm Financial  
 Affairs  
 7:00pm  
 Reconciliation  
 Class

12

9:00am Funeral Schola  
 5:15pm Children's Choir  
 6:00pm Rel Ed, U  
 6:00pm Rel Ed, St. J.  
 6:45pm Men's  
 Bible Study  
 7:00pm All Parish  
 Memorial Service  
 7:00pm Choir  
 7:00pm RCIA  
 7:00pm SVDP  
 7:00pm Re-Membering  
 Church

13

1:00pm Disc  
 6:30pm Bldg &  
 Grounds  
 7:00pm Baptism  
 Prep  
 7:00pm Catechism

14

10:30am Mass @  
 Clark Lindsey  
 10:45am Mass  
 @CCNH  
 7:00pm Catholic  
 Social Service  
 adoption gathering  
 in Church

15

16

Stewardship Sunday  
 9:00 & 11:00am  
 Rel Ed  
 10:15 Children's  
 Liturgy  
 12:00pm Teen  
 Liturgy  
 3:00pm Hispanic  
 Mass  
 6:30pm Bible Study  
 6:30pm Rel Ed

17

7:00pm Centering  
 Prayer

18

1:00pm Grow  
 7:00pm  
 Reconciliation  
 Class

19

5:15pm Children's  
 Choir  
 6:00pm Rel Ed, U  
 6:30pm Rel Ed,  
 St.J  
 7:00pm Choir  
 7:00pm RCIA  
 7:00pm SVDP

20

9:30am Moms Grp  
 1:00pm Discussion  
 7:00pm Catechism  
 7:00pm Choir  
 7:00pm Comm  
 7:00pm Parish  
 Council

21

10:30am Mass  
 @Americana  
 10:45am Mass  
 @CCNH

22

5:00pm Mass  
 Children's Choir  
 sings

23

1:00pm Sort food for  
 Thanksgiving baskets  
 @ Parish Center  
 3:00pm Hispanic  
 Mass  
 6:30pm Bible  
 Study  
 6:30pm Jr Bells  
 6:30pm Jr Hi Service  
 Project:  
 prepare food baskets for  
 SVDP

24

9:30am Archives  
 7:00pm Centering  
 Prayer  
 7:00pm Liturgy  
 Com

25

1:00pm Grow  
 7:00pm Homily  
 Prep  
 7:00pm  
 Reconciliation  
 Class

26

9:00am Funeral  
 Schola  
 5:15pm Children's  
 Choir  
 7:00pm Choir  
 7:00pm RCIA  
 7:00pm SVDP

27

8:00am Mass  
 Followed by  
 Coffee

28

10:45am Mass  
 @CCNH

29

**Delivery of SVDP Food Baskets**

30

NH - Nursing Home

SVDP - St. Vincent DePaul Society

Rel Ed - Religious Education