

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



## Life--a gift from God

A gift to be cherished, held sacred--that's life. A gift to be shared and nurtured--that's life. A gift to be used wisely, joyfully, fully--that's life. A gift that reveals the Giver in many-faceted glory--that's life.

Have you thanked God today for this precious gift of yours? Live a little, give a little, bring a little life into life, your life and the life of others you meet, today and tomorrow and forever after. Respect life, protect life, enrich life whenever and however you can, in grateful return to the Giver of all good things, the Giver of life itself.

On Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 6, each parishioner is invited to contribute a penny for each year of life in thanksgiving to God for the gift of life. Grandpas, grandmas, moms, dads, and children can all participate.

Donations are used to support the diocesan-sponsored Family Resources Center in Peoria, a center devoted to providing resources with a pro-life pro-family orientation.



## Parish to set short-term objectives

Each fall members of the Parish Council, its committees, staff, and other interested parishioners meet to set short-term objectives for the next calendar year. This fall's workshop will be Saturday morning, Nov. 9. The annual objective-setting process provides an opportunity for parishioners to express needs and concerns and to make suggestions for the growth and improvement of the parish. Every parishioner is invited to participate!

Annual objectives move us toward parish goals, which help us live out our parish mission. The parish mission statement, which appears on the front of the weekly bulletin, is a beautiful statement of what we strive to be as a parish, and we are challenged to work together in living up to this mission.

In January St. Patrick's begins the fifth year of our current five-year goals, identified in 1992 in a two-day gathering of over 60 parishioners. Beginning with the mission statement and their own experience of parish life, they considered parish strengths and weaknesses, parish organizations and activities, and discerned needs. They concluded by identifying the following five-year goals for the parish:

- ◆ **Community Building:** To welcome new people to the parish and help everyone to have a sense of belonging and commitment.
- ◆ **Religious Education, Adult:** To help adults grow in their knowledge of the faith and its relevance in their lives

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### Barbara Logan to speak on Eucharistic Ministry

On Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m., Barbara Logan will present a workshop at St. Patrick's on the theology of the Eucharist, the history of eucharistic ministry, and spiritual perspectives on this ministry. Ms. Logan is Director of the Office of Divine Worship, Diocese of Peoria.



## in our parish library

### **Ordinarily Sacred**

By Lynda Sexson

The sacred is to be found in even the most ordinary of things. Or so believes the author of this small book. Lynda Sexson helps the reader to put aside the restrictions imposed by definitions of "sacred" and "profane," "religious" and "secular," by illuminating the sacred quality of experience, which on the surface is considered secular and mundane.

This book helps the reader open to the spontaneous recovery of sacred symbol, the wonder of memories, most of all the divine reality where we are as we are.

"Whatever we do in our lives, we make text of our lives," the author writes. "Our stories are texts from which we find out our relation to the divine, to one another, and to the self." And again: "If religion or the sacred is to be discovered or reaffirmed in this culture, it will have to be found under the bed, in the box, like a string of dogwood berries upon which the rosary of a life can be sung."



**Welcome to new parishioners** Clare Barkley, Eric and Melissa Bierman, Michael J. Hodits, Ms. Marie-Pierre Lassiva-Moulin, John Murray, Bat and Lieu Nguyen, Cheryl and William J. Resetarits, Minette Stemke.

**Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U:** Bridget Budde, Dorothy and William O'Connell, Paul Ziegler.

**Congratulations to newlyweds** Donald Joseph Anton and Patricia Kara Wolfe, Joseph John Hinchliffe and Lisa Willette Janicke, Troy Robert Jones and Carolyn Renee Miller, Thomas Joseph Clevenger and Jennifer Kay Ochmke, Donald Edward Gierszewicz and Laura Renea Wagner, Robert Christopher Burke and Mary Beth Prickett, Juan Jose Losada and Maria Victoria Ruiz, Rick Daniel Cowser and Teresa Margaret Osmond.

**We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community:** Christopher Joseph Henk, Ashley Nichole Roedl, Vidva Margaret Venkatesh, Chase Cameron Kangas, Cole Skylar Kangas, Sophia Raquel Gehrt-Ruiz, Andreas Vaughn Gehrt-Ruiz, Liam Thomas Grady, Brittany Bh Le, Michael Henry Plunk, Devin Harris Walker, Kristian Miguel Hernandez-Santana. Please pray for deceased parishioners Roy Hudson, Richard Guzy, Sylvia Stroub.

### **Quick Fixin's from the kitchen of . . .**

Lori McDonough

#### **Prairie Apple Crunch**

6 large baking apples, cored, peeled, and sliced

1/2 c sugar

1/2 t ground cinnamon

1/2 t ground nutmeg

dash salt

1 c packed brown sugar



1 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 c melted butter or margarine cream (optional)

Place apples in a greased 12 x 7 1/2 x 2 inch baking dish. Sprinkle with sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. Combine brown sugar, flour, and butter; sprinkle over apple mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes, or until apples are tender. Serve warm or at room temperature, with cream if desired.



**Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is Oct. 13.**

## Parish Council News

At their September meeting Parish Council members welcomed Joe Tobias, who was recently appointed parish trustee, to the Council. (Parish trustees are ex officio, voting members of the Council.)

The packet and timetable for the fall objectives workshop were reviewed. Council liaisons will be their committees' primary resource for information and in understanding the process to be followed in setting objectives for the coming year. All parishioners are invited to participate in the workshop [see related article, this issue], and committee members' sharing of ideas and experience will prove especially helpful to the discussion. They are encouraged to participate in the process however they can.

An effort has been made to reach each new parishioner with a personal invitation to the parish picnic, and the response has been encouraging. Many of them are expected to come to this first parish social of the year, which will double as a welcoming event for newcomers to the parish.

For parish participation in Make-a-Difference Day (Oct. 26), several local organizations were asked to identify the kinds of help that would be appreciated. When responses are received, these will be shared with the parish through a bulletin insert on Oct. 13. Planning for next year's Make-a-Difference Day will start earlier to allow for better coordination of participation by the parish.

Members of the ad hoc Committee on Committees, having received their charge from the Council president, have already met to take up their task. Jean Daly, Peter Bloome, Miriam Lancaster, and Bill Nelson have been joined by Cliff Maduzia (from the Committee on Volunteers) to serve on the ad hoc committee. The group hopes to be able to present their recommendations to the Council in four or five months.

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



*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); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (c-salika@uiuc.edu); Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Carol Schrepfer, 384-2060 (cschrepf@uiuc.edu); Peggy Whelan, 367-3668 (m-whelan@uiuc.edu).  
**Associates:** Carol Bosley, Mary Fonner, Julie Herman, Barbara Higgins, Dorothy Maduzia, Lori and Tom McDonough, Cristy Nowak, Marty Perry, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika.

**Articles and information** for this issue were contributed by Peter Bloome, Mary Lee Brady, Judy Conover, Mary Fonner, Fr. Gene Kane, Dorothy Maduzia, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Janice Parker, Lu Pillar, Carole Rebeiz, Fr. George Remm, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Carol Schrepfer. This issue was paged by Cristy Nowak.

## What's so special about Sunday?

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Even before you open your eyes in the early morning, don't you think about the day ahead? To wake up to the fact that it is Sunday and a day not like the others in feeling and in spirit means that you have a way of celebrating this day, that you know the art of celebrating a feast. You know that Sunday is a day created for our benefit. Sunday means to give us a taste of heaven. But if Sunday is merely a day to make it to church on time, then you may need some ways to make Sunday special.

A special Sunday could begin on Friday evening. By sundown on Friday, try to have a clean slate. Complete what needs doing, finish off the unpleasant chores. Clean off your desk, get the grocery shopping done for the weekend so you don't have to shop on Sunday (thereby asking others to serve you in the shops on Sunday), and take time to repair your relationships with the rest of the family.

Use Saturday to ready your home for Sunday. Put the house and yard in order. Wash the car. Change the linens. Cook something special for Sunday's brunch. Bring fresh flowers to brighten the table. Read tomorrow's gospel as a family and talk about it. Put the children

(continued on page 8)

## Introducing Joe Tobias, parish trustee

Have you met Joe Tobias? Joe is the parish's newest trustee, recently appointed to a three-year term. His aim is to fulfill the requirements of the office satisfactorily. He says, "I will try my best to be a good servant to our pastor and the whole parish family."

Joe understands about serving. From World War II military service to a career as a U of I professor of dairy technology, with numerous civic and church-related activities on the side, he has had much experience in giving service. Since his retirement from the University in 1981, he has kept active in the dairy industry as consultant, writer, and speaker.

Besides being an usher at St. Patrick's, Joe is a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus. He volunteers at St. Jude Catholic Worker House, delivers Meals on Wheels, and as a member of the Serra Club works to promote religious vocations. He can also frequently be found in the kitchen of the parish center washing dishes.

Asked what his wife, Agnes, thinks of his taking on this "one more commitment," Joe declared her to be very supportive.



Joe Tobias

## Parish short-term objectives

continued from page 1

- ◆ Religious Education, Youth: To help families grow in faith and share in our children's formation
- ◆ Social Justice: To challenge parishioners to respond concretely to concerns of social justice, such as human rights and peace
- ◆ Spirituality, Family Life: To deepen and celebrate our relationship with Christ through individual and community forms of spirituality and the sacramental life
- ◆ Stewardship: To deepen our understanding and broaden implementation of Christian stewardship
- ◆ Volunteer Ministry: To help more volunteers offer their talents, serve God and the community, realize spiritual growth and personal development, and receive affirmation

By setting objectives, specific actions or activities that can be accomplished in a single year, the Council's committees and other parish groups and organizations help to move the parish toward these seven goals.

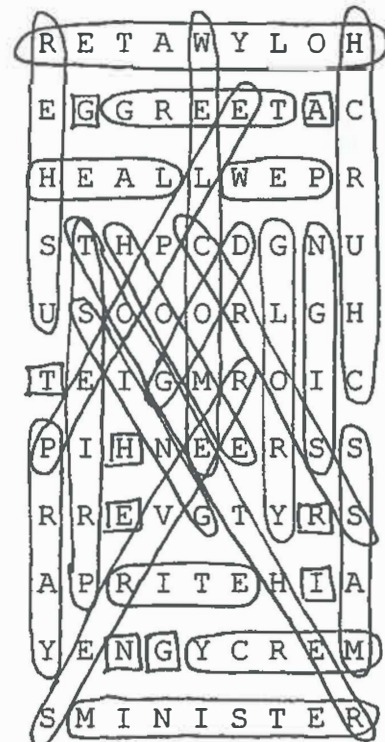
All parishioners are invited to participate in the objectives-setting workshop on Nov. 9. You may want to begin with Mass at 8 a.m. in the church and/or with a continental breakfast in the parish center at 8:30 a.m. The workshop itself will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at noon.

Come with your ideas for consideration by any of the committees or parish groups. This is an opportunity for you to share your ideas about the needs of the parish and how these might be met by adopting specific objectives for the next calendar year.

Because discussion is liveliest when many views are presented, Council organizers hope that many parishioners will participate. If you can come, please call the parish office (367-2665) by Nov. 4 so that seating, materials, and refreshments can be provided for all.

## Last month's puzzle solution

Oops, we goofed! Did you guess right last month? Here are the answers, just in case!



The word spelled by the leftover letters is *gathering*. (But you knew that, didn't you?)



## "Go and make disciples"

We are called by the Gospel to go and make disciples all over the earth. But we don't think about it much as we go to school or to work or to spend time with family and friends. This year a new program at St. Patrick's will help every member of our parish learn how to live and proclaim the Gospel with love and caring for all people. The program? Evangelization.

The program coordinator, Lenore Nagele, is a parishioner who is known or at least recognized by many in the parish as coordinator of the parish's RCIA program. Since there is an evangelization component to RCIA, Lenore's two responsibilities go well together.

In July Lenore and Sr. Charlene Cesario, pastoral associate at St. Patrick's, attended the 5-day Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Institute held in Washington, D.C. There they acquired knowledge and insights necessary for implementation of the bishops' National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the U.S. as presented in their document on evangelization, "Go and Make Disciples."

Evangelization is much more than a program, it is a way of being Church. This much is clearly evident in the three goals stated in the document:

(1) To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others;

(2) To invite all people in the U.S., whatever their social or cultural background, to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic Faith; and

(3) To foster Gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, and the common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Lenore, working under the guidance and direction of Sr. Charlene to implement this process in the parish, will share some of the insights brought back from the institute in future issues of In Focus. She will maintain office hours on



**Lenore Nagele**

## The heart speaks of peace

We have made our peace with busy days responding to one crisis after another without much sense of coherence or impact.

We have made our peace with church life that feels, as often as not, like merely going through the motions.

We have made our peace with giving out food and food vouchers to those who are so desperate for hope and opportunity that they've become manipulative and cynical.

We have made our peace with trying to minister in the midst of oceanic need with inadequate resources and others' cast-offs.

In the midst of plenty unbelievable deprivation can become commonplace and ministry rote.

But then there are occasions when God's presence erupts on the scene so clearly that it cannot not be seen. When a real meeting and connecting happens in the midst of crisis, when a hymn or prayer moves us to tears, when a token casually given makes the difference between employment and homelessness, when we are surprised by generosity from unexpected places.

It is these blessed times that keep us in hope and wonder, with peace in our heart, trusting . . .

## More "kid stuff"

Here are a few more fun things from folks willing to share some pretty amazing statements from their children's schoolwork. Enjoy!

- \* Oliver Cromwell had a large red nose, but under it were deeply religious feelings.
- \* The word trousers is an uncommon noun because it is singular at the top and plural at the bottom.
- \* Syntax is all the money collected at the church from sinners.
- \* The blood circulates through the body by flowing down one leg and up the other.
- \* In spring, the salmon swim upstream to spoon.



**Q.** What is a eucharistic minister? And why are there lay ministers of communion?

**A.** When I was first ordained and sent to St. Patrick's in Ottawa, I had daily and weekend liturgies as usual. But at least monthly I also celebrated Mass in the county home, three nursing homes, Marquette High, the TB sanitarium, and (on First Fridays) I visited 15-20 homes with Communion. And, of course, there were the periodic grade school Masses. That was the eucharistic side of my ministry.

When my pastor died, I earned the nickname "Raisin' Kane"—I gave Communion alone to the entire parish for two months, at four weekend Masses, running from one end of the Communion railing to the other as I whispered the long Latin invocation, "Corpus Domini Nostri Jesu Christi custodiat animam tuam..." ("May the Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ preserve your soul to eternal life.")

What is a eucharistic minister? A person chosen by a pastor and approved by a bishop to assist in this work. Why? To help stop the racing ("Raisin'") as a result of fewer clergy and more communicants, and to be a sign to others of both our shared faith and our common ministry.

Who may be a eucharistic minister?

Persons who are believers in Christ present within the Eucharist, who show that faith by frequent and devout reception, who practice what Christ preached.

**G.K.**

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

## A new day

Dear God,  
 thank you for this new day,  
 its beauty and its light.  
 Thank you for my chance  
 to begin again.  
 Free me from the limitations  
 of yesterday.  
 Today may I be reborn.  
 May I become more fully  
 a reflection of your radiance.  
 Give me strength and compassion  
 and courage and wisdom.  
 Show me the light in myself  
 and in others.  
 May I recognize the good  
 that is available everywhere.  
 May I be, this day,  
 an instrument of love and healing.  
 Lead me into gentle pastures.  
 Give me deep peace  
 that I may wait on you  
 in all I meet today.  
 Amen.

## Why not be a eucharistic minister?

### *A personal reflection and an invitation*

I was commissioned as a eucharistic minister at St. Patrick's in 1988, and I now serve as the coordinator of eucharistic ministry. I would like to share with you one reason why I chose this special ministry.

In 1967 I made my First Communion. What stands out in my memory in addition to the distinct meanings of receiving the Holy Eucharist was that my older brother was an altar boy and was serving at that special Mass. (One must remember that in 1967 girls were not permitted to serve.) As each year passed, the desire to serve never left me. As an adult, however, I now have an opportunity to participate more fully in the celebration of the Eucharist than I'd ever dreamed of in 1962—I can serve as a eucharistic minister!

To be able to offer the Body and Blood of Christ to my fellow parishioners is an uplifting experience for me. This gift is not uniquely mine, it's one that every parishioner possesses. Opportunities for eucharistic ministry are available not only at weekend Masses but also in service to patients at Carle Hospital, residents of area nursing homes, and the homebound. The time commitment can be arranged to fit the individual's schedule, once or twice a month or weekly.

On Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m., Barbara Logan will present a workshop at St. Patrick's on the theology of the Eucharist, the history of eucharistic ministry, and spiritual perspectives on this ministry. (Ms. Logan is Director of the Office of Divine Worship, Diocese of Peoria.)

I invite active eucharistic ministers as well as individuals interested in becoming a eucharistic minister to come together and learn more about this ministry. The time you give as a eucharistic minister will be valued, and your giftedness shared in service to your parish will forever enrich your life as an ambassador of our faith.

*Janice Parker*

### ATTENTION PUZZLE FANS:

We would love to have a puzzle as a regular feature of **In Focus**. If you would like to provide a puzzle occasionally or even (dare we hope?) prepare one for each issue, please contact Mary Lou Menches at 344-1125.

## Don't be afraid

When someone loses a loved one, a parent, a spouse, a child, it is hard to know what to say to give comfort. Although death is something we are all touched by, society has made it seem like something to be acknowledged (the funeral) and then ignored. But for the person who has suffered the loss, grief is a journey that continues for some time.

Grief is encountered at first moment by moment, then day by day (or night by night). Slowly, sometimes very slowly, the bereaved makes the transition from what was to what is now.

Don't be afraid to ask the grieving how they are doing, to share a memory about the person who has died, to acknowledge an anniversary or holiday. And don't be afraid of the tears shed by a grieving person. Those tears will help to move that person toward healing.

Unfortunately, there is no set schedule for the grieving process. It takes as long as it takes.

## Prayer of faith

We trust that beyond absence there is a presence,  
that beyond the pain there can be healing,  
that beyond the brokenness there can be  
wholeness,  
that beyond the anger there may be peace,  
that beyond the hurting there may be forgiveness,  
that beyond the silence there may be the word,  
that beyond the word there may be understanding,  
that through understanding there is love.

## And now for this month's puzzle!

Find the highlighted words in this paragraph in the square below. Words may go up or down, left or right, or diagonally. The unused letters will spell another related word.

The Liturgy of the *Word* focuses on readings from *scripture*. The first reading is taken from the *Old Testament* or the *Acts* of the Apostles; it is read by a lector. The *cantor* leads us in singing the *Psalm*. Then a *lector* reads a passage from the *New Testament*. We stand to sing the Alleluia and then *hear* the Word of God taken from a *gospel*, Matthew, *Mark*, Luke, or *John*. The homily gives us *time* to ponder the *readings* we have heard. Next, we *proclaim* our faith using the words of the creed. Finally, the *prayer* of the *faithful* gives us a chance to *ask God* for our needs and the needs of the world.

R	E	Y	A	R	P	G	W
L	E	C	T	O	R	O	S
L	R	A	E	H	O	D	C
U	I	N	T	T	C	T	R
F	L	T	I	O	L	E	I
H	E	O	M	L	A	S	P
T	P	R	E	D	I	T	T
I	S	N	I	D	M	A	U
A	O	N	R	J	A	M	R
F	G	O	O	E	R	E	E
S	W	H	A	S	K	N	S
S	N	E	W	A	C	T	S

The answers may be found on the next page.

# Holy Cross School Newsline



Holy Cross School is close to its full enrollment of 450 students this year. There are 53 families from St. Patrick's sending 79 students to Holy Cross School. Tuition for this school year is \$1775 per student (\$1295 for kindergarten), plus a \$100 charge per student to help cover the capital expenditures necessary to keep the school operating. For example, this summer new windows were installed in most of the classrooms, new tile flooring in many of them, and the gym ceiling was replaced.

The annual magazine drive was held Aug. 30-Sept. 19. This major PTC fund raiser helps support projects, including new playground equipment and computer software.

A special evening with Sr. Kathleen was set for 7 p.m.

Sept. 18. In addition to a meeting by the PTC, Sr. Kathleen shares with parents her goals and expectations for the school year.

The Band Recruitment meeting was on Sept. 17. The U of I School of Music offers students in grades 5-8 the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. All students attend classes in music as part of the curriculum at Holy Cross School.

The week of Sept. 23-27 was set aside for the annual California Achievement Tests. Students and their families were invited to the annual PTC hot dog day on Sept. 27.

And that's the news from Holy Cross School for September!

## Sunday is Special

(continued from page 3))

to bed with greater attention. Saturday night is a special opportunity for the adults to spend time together repairing and enjoying their relationships.

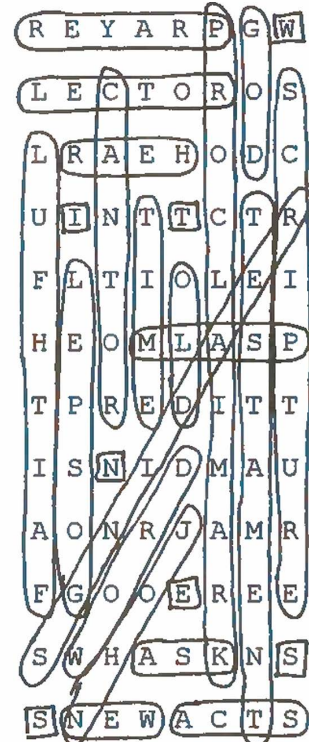
On Sunday, begin the new week in a special way. Put Sunday music on the stereo. Go from bedroom to bedroom speaking the ancient monastic greeting: "Let us arise and bless the Lord." Dress in your "Sunday best." If you've recently bought new clothes, wear them for the first time on a Sunday. Sunday clothes are a metaphor for our baptismal garments. And don't watch TV or read the Sunday paper before eucharist.

At brunch, use a special meal prayer. Then change out of your "Sunday best" into clothes for relaxation and play. Resolve to do no unnecessary work. Go to a museum, to the park, to the beach, to the zoo, to the mountains. Play the piano, read a book, go swimming, play ball, read the Sunday paper. Family members or friends might take turns planning Sunday's recreation. If there is a special ball game or television program that is truly worth watching, watch it together. Preparing Sunday dinner can be a cooperative undertaking--and Sunday dinner can be one day in the week for which you can count on everyone's being together. It's also a good meal to invite a friend to. Use the good tablecloth and the good dishes.

Whatever you undertake to do on Sunday, do it without haste or anxiety. Sunday is a day meant to restore and refresh us. Sunday is a day to become fully human.

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## This month's puzzle solution





## The C-U Good News From Religious Leaders for Community Care



About after-school tutoring programs: Tutoring through local churches continues at Canaan church, with tutors also from First Presbyterian, Urbana, and at Columbia School, coordinated by First United Methodist, Champaign. Efforts are also being made to reorganize the programs at King and Washington schools, under the coordination of William Patterson at the Urban League and sponsorship of local religious and community groups.

About SAFE House: The Substance Abuse Free Environment (SAFE) House took shape through joint planning of Canaan Baptist Church and First Presbyterian Church in 1992. Modeled after the Substance Abuse Ministry begun by Rev. B. J. Tatum in 1986 at Canaan and located at 505 E. Bradley, C., services currently include the Resident, Walk-in, and Local Law Enforcement Cooperative programs. "Black and white Christians need to be together to fight the enemy who is behind racism and substance abuse. We've got black and white board members and volunteers, and we teach that racism starts with us and has to go," says director Johnnie Harris. "We take part in local and regional Promise Keepers meetings, where we discover that our problems and victories aren't that different from another's."

About scholarships: Applications for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarships to college will be available from high school guidance counselors this fall. Local high school seniors (especially racial and ethnic minorities) who need financial help are encouraged to apply.

## Who is the patron saint of ecologists?

In 1979 the patron saint of ecologists and of all people who work to protect the environment was named. Can you guess who this person is? He was born in 1182 and showed a profound understanding of the unity of all creation. He shared this understanding with others and showed his particular love and respect for all God's creatures by referring to them as his brothers and sisters. If you guessed Francis of Assisi, you are correct!

Francis was born in Assisi in the beautiful Umbrian region of Italy, to a wealthy merchant father named Pietro and his French wife, Pica. Originally named Giovanni by his mother, his father renamed him Francesco, apparently as a tribute to his mother.

While growing up, Francis spoke Italian, French, and Latin; he enjoyed wearing fancy clothes and partying with his many friends. In 1202, however, Francis fought with the Assisian army against neighboring Perugia and was captured and imprisoned for a year. When he returned, he was ill; he became more and more disillusioned with his former way of life.

He spent hours praying for guidance in the old, rundown chapel of San Damiano, on the outskirts of Assisi. During his prayers Francis received a message from God: "Rebuild my church!" He immediately set out

joyfully to accomplish this, brick by brick.

Following the example of Christ, Francis gave all his belongings to the poor and began living a life of poverty, begging for food and living wherever he could find shelter. Soon other men began to join him. Francis soon realized that God had meant for him to rebuild the entire Church, not merely to repair the church of San Damiano!

Francis is credited with reinvigorating the Christianity of his time by living the spirit of Christ.

He eventually received the blessing of Pope Innocent III to establish a religious order. His followers called themselves Friars Minor, "friars" as brothers instead of priests, "minor" as the least of Christ's servants.

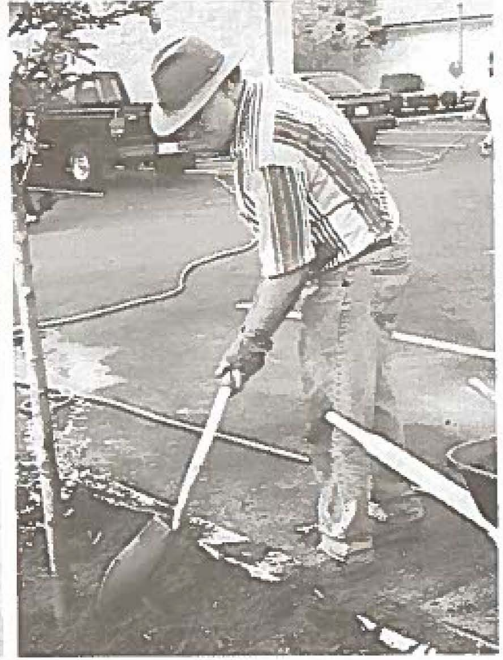
The simple brown tunic Francis wore is still on display in the Basilica in Assisi. Upon seeing the tunic, visitors are surprised to realize what a small man this man of God was!

Francis died on Oct. 3, 1226, from malaria he had contracted during his missionary travels. Only two years later the Church named him saint.

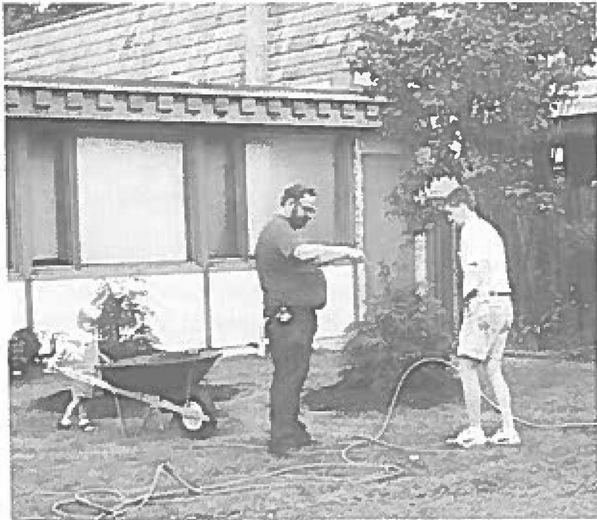
We celebrate Francis, this great champion of God and God's Church, this man who rejoiced in all creation as a reflection of its Creator, the patron saint of ecologists, on Oct. 4.

## They Came to Work

And work they did, over 40 parishioners, young and old, bringing their picks and shovels and brooms and trowels and wheelbarrows. In the end, the gladsome sight of trees and shrubs gracing the parish parking lot and the satisfaction of a job well done!









## Catholic Evangelization Offers Unique Gifts to America

by Fr. Bruce Nieli, CSP

America is ripe for a "new evangelization." This expression was coined by Pope John Paul II in 1983 to describe the essential mission of the church: "new in ardor, methods, and expression." In the United States, the newness would lie in the uniquely Catholic thrust of the ongoing evangelization of our people.

We as Americans ride on the evangelizing efforts of those who have gone before us. The "great awakenings" of heightened evangelization activity in our history inspired a renewed religious fervor and an increased sense of unity and purpose for us as a nation.

They also produced important movements for social reform—abolition, women's rights, civil rights, and higher education. For the most part, these spiritual awakenings have been launched by our Protestant evangelical brothers and sisters.

Among the many things a "Catholic awakening" could offer our people are (1) a spirituality of intimate union with God; (2) a cohesive body of truth; (3) a universal family; (4) a consistent ethic of justice and morality; and (5) a culture of beauty. Let us examine each of these.

There is in America a renewed hunger for spirituality. The June 13, 1994 cover story *Newsweek* cited a poll that found that 76 percent of Americans believe we are in a state of moral and spiritual decline. To fill this void, Catholicism offers a deep spirituality linked with a morality based on imitating Jesus Christ. Its methods of prayer, contemplation, and asceticism have served as the spiritual path for some of the holiest men and women to walk the face of this earth. Many of the world's greatest mystics, like St. Francis of Assisi and St. Teresa of Avila, have been Catholic saints.

Can there be a more intimate presence of God than Jesus in the Holy Eucharist? What greater antidote to contemporary secularism and self-centeredness than the Bread from heaven that gives life to the world?

To an America obsessed with ever-changing fashions and technologies, Catholic evangelization presents the truth, incarnate in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. One of the reasons for the growing alliance between Catholics and evangelical Protestants is that both hold the revealed word of God to be eternal and above ideology.

In addition, the Catholic Church has been blessed with a 2,000-year-old tradition of applying the Gospel of Jesus Christ to contemporary situations. The Catholic world view ties all aspects of knowledge together in a cohesive, interconnected body of truth. It is no accident that the new *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is an international best seller—people are hungry for substance, for that which will not pass.

The Catholic Church also offers to America a universal family. Catholicism can help the United States rejoice in being a nation of immigrants and refugees, and to resist tendencies toward provincialism, nationalism, and xenophobia. It can help prevent our cherished individualism from disintegrating into loneliness and family disunity. What a privilege to belong to a multicultural, multinational family where, in every Catholic parish, we can always have a home, yet belong to the world.

America lifts up to the world the ideal of liberty and justice for all. Catholicism's consistent ethic of morality and justice can serve to hold all of us in the United States to our ideals of freedom, justice,

and equality for all human beings, from conception until natural death.

Catholicism offers to America a return to a culture of beauty. On the front page of the *New York Times*, April 9, 1994, there appeared a large photograph of the Last Judgment scene of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel masterpiece. Next to that photograph was one of Kurt Cobain, the 27-year-old lead singer of the popular music group Nirvana, who had just taken his own life. Two gifted artists—yet the former had the benefit of living in a civilization with commonly accepted standards of truth and beauty, the result of the evangelizing efforts of people like St. Francis of Assisi. The other, tragically, did not.

The American composer Leonard Bernstein based one of his later works on the Catholic Mass. May the beauty of the Mass transform America today, as bread is transformed into the Body of Christ, into what Pope John Paul II calls a "civilization of love." Jesus says: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). For America, the time has come for Catholic good news.

### About the author

*Father Bruce Nieli, CSP, is Director for Evangelization for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C.*

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# October 1996

## St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		<b>1</b> 7:00pm Beginning Experience	<b>2</b> 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Religious Ed, St. Pat's 6:30pm Religious Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm ReMembering Church 7:00pm SVDP	<b>3</b> 9:30am Moms Group 7:00pm Choir	<b>4</b> 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 3:00pm Spanish Mass 5:00pm Sr Handbell Choir 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Religious Ed 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com	<b>9</b> 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Religious Ed, St. Pat's 6:30pm Religious Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Memorial Prayer Service	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Building & Grounds Com 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Baptism Prep	<b>11</b> 10:30am Mass-Urbana NH 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH 7:00pm Pre-Cana	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 1:00pm -7:00pm Pre-Cana 3:00pm Spanish Mass 5:00pm Jr Handbell Choir 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Religious Ed 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Centering Prayer	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm ReMembering Church 7:00pm SVDP	<b>17</b> 9:30am Moms Group 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council 7:30pm Pax Christi	<b>18</b> Tootsie Roll Drive for Developmentally Disabled 10:30am Mass-Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	<b>19</b> Tootsie Roll Drive for Developmentally Disabled
<b>20</b> 12:00pm Teen Liturgy 3:00pm Spanish Mass 5:00pm Sr Handbell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Centering Prayer	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Homily Prep 7:00pm Eucharistic Ministers Workshop	<b>23</b> 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm SVDP	<b>24</b> 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Knights of Columbus 7:00pm Communications Com	<b>25</b> 10:30am Mass-Manor Care 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	<b>26</b> Make a Difference Day
<b>27</b> Set your clocks back! 3:00pm Spanish Mass 5:00pm Jr Handbell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>28</b> 9:30am Archives Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Liturgy Com	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm ReMembering Church 7:00pm SVDP	<b>31</b> 5:15pm Mass for All Saints Day 7:00pm Choir		

