

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



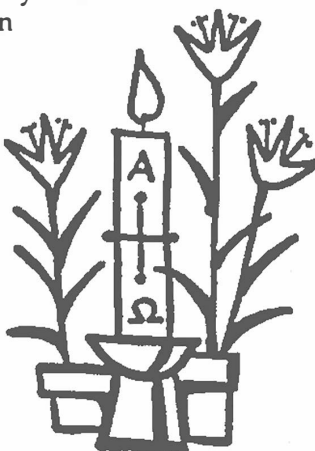
Celebrating Easter with Children

In harmony with the Church, Easter should be the time of our biggest family celebrations—our feast of feasts. Our family life can reflect the life of the Church by giving our Easter festivities the dominant place in the year. (Admittedly this is hard to accomplish, with all of the excitement generated by the secularized celebration of Christmas.)

If your celebration on Easter Sunday has been rather low key, remember that in the secular world Easter lasts just one day. By contrast, in the life of the Church, Easter is an entire season. Your family has from Easter Sunday until Pentecost, a whole fifty days, to celebrate the season and symbolism of Easter.

If you attend the Easter Vigil, you know the deep significance that light and candles play. Many homes use an Advent wreath to help them celebrate the coming of Christ. Catholic homes can celebrate the Easter season by making and lighting their own Paschal Candle, long considered a sacred symbol of Jesus Christ, Light of the World.

After Mass you and your children might take time for a close look at the Paschal Candle, which is placed near the baptismal font to the right of the sanctuary. The "alpha" and



"omega" on the candle are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet and symbolize Christ, the Beginning and the End. The five grains of incense inserted in the candle (under the five waxed pins) represent the five wounds of Christ. Your family's Paschal Candle can be a plain white candle, or you can decorate it with the same symbols used by the Church (five cloves can be substituted for incense grains).

Easter is a time of baptisms and the renewal of baptismal promises. One way to remind youngsters of their new life in Christ through baptism is

by displaying your child's baptismal gown and baptismal candle each year during the Easter season. You could also display photos and review videotapes of family baptisms. Easter is also a good time to bring godparents and their godchildren together—if not in person, then by telephone or by mail.

In the early Church the entire week following Easter was a continuous feast. Easter Monday is still a holiday in parts of Europe and Canada. It is celebrated as a day of rest, and might feature an "Emmaus Walk" featuring a

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St. Patrick's Welcomes Neophytes Welcome, and may God bless you all!

"My life had become difficult and it seemed as though something was missing. I prayed and it felt as though God was guiding me closer to the Church." In these words neophyte (that is, new Catholic) Penny Brown described her journey to full communion with the Catholic Church this weekend. Penny has seen that "with faith in God there is nothing that one can't overcome. I want my children to see how good God can be in our lives and how he can give us an inner peace in ourselves."

Penny has been married to "a wonderful husband" for the past 13 years

and has three children. She is currently taking computer classes in the hope of furthering her education.

Penny's comments show us how the RCIA process, leading to full communion with the Church, is an emotional one even while it is also intellectual. Candidates and catechumens come with their hearts in their hands, hoping to find a spiritual home in the Church. It is up to us to provide that welcome, that home, at St. Patrick's.

Every year some of these men and women come because they are married to Catholics. They tell us their stories:

Shane Kolata is engaged to long-time St. Patrick's parishioner Jan Joyce, who introduced him to the Catholic Church. With their wedding planned in August, Shane and Jan

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look forward to exploring their faith together at St. Patrick's.

Shane has been director of a group home for mentally retarded adults for the last four years. "It is a challenging and rewarding job, helping others develop the life skills many of us take for granted. It is actually several jobs in one:



teacher, psychologist, mentor, and friend."

When Bonnie McArthur married Joel McArthur 4 years ago, she married into longtime parish families, the McArthurs and the Sleeters. Bonnie says, "I decided to join the Church because of the strong, loving, faithful community of St. Patrick's." Joel and Bonnie live in Rantoul; Bonnie teaches at Thomasboro Grade School.



Nancy and Bob Strouss were married in the Catholic Church in 1989, and Bob has been attending Mass on Sundays with Nancy. He relates, "What attracted me to the Catholic faith was the structure of the Church and the closeness of St. Patrick's parishioners." Bob



has been a data processing analyst at the U of I for 22 years; Nancy is self-employed as a hairdresser.

Another spouse of a parish family is Bob McCartney, married to Debbie (Arie). According to Bob, "My wife is Catholic, and we are raising our children Catholic. I wanted to be a part of that religious experience."

The McCartneys have three children, Kristin, 15, Robbie, 13, and Darrin, 10. Bob owns Mack's Auto Recycling and volunteers as a baseball and football coach.



Neophyte Nichole Roedl is also married to a lifelong parishioner, Jeff Roedl. Nichole and Jeff have two children, Kyle, 2, and Ashley, 1. Nichole decided to join the Church in the first place because she married into a Catholic family and secondly because she found the Church interesting and liked our Catholic ways.



After several years of coming to church with his wife, Ginger (born and reared in Urbana, and the daughter of parishioner Doris Lottman), Tony Schutz decided to become a Catholic. "I feel it will provide our family with an important foundation to lead our lives. The weekly meetings of our group have helped me to grow in faith and feel more a member of the Church community."



Tony and Ginger have been married for 5 years. Tony is a computer technician based in Gibson City, but he travels all over Illinois. Tony and Ginger have a daughter, 4, and a cat, 10.

"My wife was raised Catholic," relates John Ted Cottingham. "Over the last 15 years of our marriage we went to Mass several times a year. For some time now I have been praying about adapting some of my wife's culture and background" into their family life. He was raised as a Lutheran, and they have been going to a non-denominational church.



"I attended RCIA this year as well as last. Now the time seems right that I join the Catholic faith." John Ted and his wife, Mary Rose, have two boys, Micah, 7, and Luke, 4, and live in Urbana. John is a physical therapist at the Christie Clinic satellite in Rantoul.

"My family is of the Catholic faith, and I had stopped actively participat-

ing in the Church," Lily Jimenez shares. "Now that I am older, I decided I wanted to learn more about the Church to become an active member. I wanted to join a community that had the same faith and beliefs as mine."



Lily and her husband are both originally from Chicago and are full-time students at the U of I. They have a beautiful daughter, Paloma, 5 months.

Matthew Hartter "decided to inquire into the Catholic faith because it had become a lost part of my heritage, and too, because I was seeking a deeper feeling of happiness. In the process of searching for myself, I became lost. God heard my cries and sent to me the generous love of Christ. I figured that the Church would help me to express, maintain, and share my love for the Lord."



The following neophytes came to the RCIA process without any family connection, by birth or by marriage, to the Church:

"Friends have brought me to the Catholic Church since I was about 10 years old," says Valerie Prescott, a sixth-grade science teacher, with "an adorable 5 yr. old daughter named Aliya Kaye. Now that I have my own family, I have decided that we will be happy to live and grow in the Catholic faith."



Stacy Jo Mowry was initially brought to inquire into the Catholic Church as part of a personal journey of seeking and growth. She is attracted by the unity and family orientation of the Church and sees it as a place to grow intel-



lectually and spiritually into closer union with Christ.

The elder statesman for the whole class is Willard Garrison, who shares:

"For a number of years I had noticed how happy members of the Catholic faith seemed to be." Married for almost 55 years, Willard retired from the U of I nearly 20 years ago. He has 9 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild; they range in age from 5 1/2 to 31 years.



Dorothy Schlatter was attracted to the Church through her many friends who are Catholic; then she "experienced a calling while watching a movie about Jesus. The sacraments, the whole Church experience, brought me to make this decision. Easter is my favorite Church season, too."

Single, Dorothy and her immediate family are almost lifelong residents of Urbana. She was a secretary at the U of I for 16 years and lately has been a member of the Carle Auxiliary and volunteered at an information desk. Her hobbies are stamp collecting, writing short stories and poems, reading, and music.

Keith and Kathy Walker and their three daughters, Michele, Jennifer, and Kristina, all joined the Church at the Easter Vigil. It all started when Keith visited his mother in St. Louis and noticed that he really enjoyed attending Mass with her. Kathy adds that Keith's mother and brother joined the Church several years ago. Kathy and Keith would also go to Mass with Keith's mom whenever she visited them in Urbana.



"After that my wife, Kathy, and I started attending St. Pat's," says Keith. "We both found that we were truly accepted by the Church. This was a wonderful feeling." They decided to

Coordinators for parish ASA drive announced

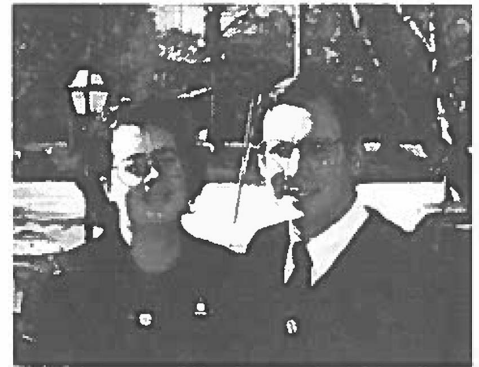
Lining up volunteers to distribute and collect cards and volunteers to help mail out any unsigned cards will be the responsibility of this year's coordinators for the diocesan Annual Stewardship Appeal: John and Lissa May Mudrick.

John came to St. Patrick's when he and Lissa were married, in 1993. He works in administration at the Construction Engineering Research Lab (CERL). John served on the parish Financial Affairs Committee and has been an usher at 10:30 Mass for several years.

Lissa has worked with the ASA in our parish from its beginning. "At first I staffed a table. In following years I became assistant director, director, and then co-director!" She maintains an insurance office for State Farm on Green St. Lissa also ushers at 10:30 Mass.

Again this year the ASA will take place in a single weekend, May 3-4. At

Mass, after viewing a film about the diocesan programs and good works supported by parishes through the Annual Stewardship Appeal, parishioners will be asked to fill out and turn in their own stewardship pledge cards.



John and Lissa have been preparing for weeks to help us share our treasure with the Diocese of Peoria, sponsor of so much good. Why should we do that? More in *In Focus* next month.

have their three daughters go to St. Patrick's religious education classes; Kathy and Keith participated in RCIA. The Walkers live in Urbana, where Keith works as a network administrator in the Information Technology Department at Carle Clinic. He enjoys computers, camping, and being outdoors.



A lifelong Urbana resident, Gisele Laird works at the Dairy Queen in Savoy and has four children. She sums up the varied experiences of this fine group of neophytes:

"Last year during Holy Week I saw an interview on TV and heard a Father Lombardo speak. He is a Franciscan Friar from the Bronx, N.Y. I was very struck by the things he said, so when I saw in the paper that there was a "Centering Prayer Workshop" at St.

Patrick's and anyone was welcome to attend, I went. Many things I never understood before became clear to me. I felt called to the Catholic faith."

We are called to welcome these neophytes into our faith and our parish.

Welcome! And may God bless you all!

A note of thanks

A big thank you to all our St. Patrick's friends for your prayers and get well wishes while we were in the hospital and recuperating at home. They were greatly appreciated!

Joe and Mary Sleeter

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hike, a picnic, or (as in Quebec) a visit to grandparents. In C-U, where Spring Break often coincides with Easter, families may find it possible to adopt this ancient tradition. You may wish to reread the Emmaus story from Luke 24:13-35.

Foods and smells can evoke strong memories and emotions. Perhaps this is why in many cultures special foods are reserved for certain times of year. In Eastern Europe, for example, special pastries and breads are made during the Easter season, enhancing appreciation for the foods and anticipation of the feast. Perhaps your family has a special recipe for breads or pastries ("Egg Bread" with cooked eggs in a bread ring, for instance, or "Lamb Cake," a cake baked in a lamb-shaped mold and with coconut sprinkled on the icing) that you can make together as part of your Easter festivities.



Welcome to new parishioners Jane Brown, Valeria Early, Joey and Sirya Guerra, Randy and Terri Kobel, Roger Loucks, Maureen Reagan, Elizabeth and Randall Rewerts, Amy and Craig Sass, Brian and Holly Schreiber, Catherine Sexton, Jessy and William Zukosky.

Farewell to parishioners who have moved from C-U: Gabriel and Maryamto Sunu, Mary Johnson and Paul Surya.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: Daniel William Howie, Nicholas Young Ngong.

Congratulations to James Kevin Shepherd and Susan Kathleen Diener, married at St. Patrick's.

Please pray for deceased parishioner Carlos Claire.

Parish Council prepares for annual election

The search for candidates for election to the Parish Council began in December with the formation of the ad hoc election committee. In April, parishioners will elect four of these candidates to serve a three-year term on the Council. What does the Council do?

According to the Council's constitution, the role of the Parish Council is "to assist and advise the pastor and the parish trustees in conducting the spiritual and secular affairs of the congregation." Fr. Remm often asks Council members for input on plans he and the staff are making. What should we look for in our next parish retreat? How should the Annual Stewardship Appeal be conducted in our parish? What are the most important matters the parish should be working on? These are the kinds of subjects that come up at Council meetings.

The Council does much of its work through its standing committees: the Building and Grounds Committee, the Communications Committee, the Education Committee, the Financial Affairs Committee, the Liturgy Committee, the Personnel Committee, the Social Committee, and the Social Action Committee. Literally hundreds of parishioners make things happen at St. Patrick's by working on or with these committees. The Parish Council supports the work of the committees by facilitating the budget process, contributing to the setting of goals and objectives, and coordinating the work of various groups.

The Parish Council meets monthly, usually on the third Thursday, at 7 p.m. Council meetings are open to all parishioners, and anyone can bring a matter to the Council by contacting the Council president two weeks before the meeting. Much of the work that goes on at the meeting is administrative (budgets, reports, and the like), but it needs to be done by people with a deep concern for the parish and a willingness to act out of a love of God and a respect for our faith tradition.



Council members also serve as liaisons to the committees. The liaison attends the committee meeting, participates in the work of the committee, and serves as communicator to the committee about Council concerns and events and to the Council about committee concerns and activities. So the time commitment for Council members is usually two evenings a month, plus whatever time is volunteered for special projects.

This year's election of new Council members will take place Apr. 19-20. The slate of candidates will be published the week before, Apr. 12-13, so that parishioners can become acquainted with the qualifications, experience, and goals of the candidates and prayerfully prepare to vote.

BY: PATRICK'S PARISH In Focus

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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Early Christians walked in "Easter Parade"

The Easter season is full of symbolism. Some of the symbols have obvious meanings, but over the years (even over the centuries) some Easter symbols have become secularized and their original significance has become clouded over or lost altogether.

The egg is a universal symbol of fertility and new life. While the origins of the Easter egg may have been pagan, the Easter egg has taken on deep Christian symbolism. The egg represents the rock tomb from which Christ emerged to new life. And, although many are not aware of it, the traditional Easter Monday egg roll on the White House lawn is symbolic of the rolling away of the stone from the mouth of Christ's tomb!

The Easter bunny, although a favorite secular symbol of Easter, also has pagan origins as a symbol of fertility. Unlike the egg, however, it has not acquired any Christian connotations.

Many of us know of the tradition of purchasing new clothes for Easter, but few of us realize that this tradition is rooted in the practices of the early Church. In those early years of the Church most new Christians were baptized during the Easter Vigil and were clothed in new white garments during the ceremony to symbolize the purity their souls had attained through the grace of baptism. They wore these new clothes for the entire Easter season. Other Christians who had been baptized previously wore new clothes at Easter to symbolize their own new life in Christ.

Today's Easter parades can be traced to the practice of European Christians in the Middle Ages. Following the celebration of Mass on Easter and dressed in their new clothes, the Christians walked through town in procession with a crucifix, flowers, and candles while reciting prayers and singing Easter hymns.

Easter baskets also trace their origins to the Middle Ages. Easter baskets today are usually filled with

candy and eggs; formerly they were filled with food for the Easter feast and brought to church on Holy Saturday for a blessing. Food from the baskets was then shared with the priest and with the poor of the parish. (The practice of blessing food baskets has seen a recent revival locally; watch the weekly bulletin for time and place.)

The traditional symbol of Christ as the Lamb of God, the Paschal lamb with the banner of victory, has carried over into the tradition of feasting on roast lamb on Easter. Those who prefer ham or beef may bring the lamb motif into their feast through a cake or pastry in the shape of an Easter lamb.



What is the "Paschal Mystery"?

Twenty years ago when I went on a sabbatical to study spiritual direction at Loyola University in Chicago, I was amazed when we began with an eight-week study of the Paschal Mystery, starting with the Passover (freeing) event (God saving the Jewish People) and its celebration (offering a slain lamb).

I kept asking, "When are we going to get to spiritual direction?"

Then we went on to study the Mass as the re-presentation (not representation!) of Christ's life, death, resurrection, and offering of himself (now with a Mystical Body) to his Father (our Father).

"When are we going to get to the preachy stuff?" I still wondered.

Following that we studied the theology of the Holy Trinity itself, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit's gifts and role in our lives.

"Are we going to get at what happens in spiritual direction?"

I thought we would learn the "how to" of the great directors from the mystical tradition of the Church, saints

So now, if you want to understand
the body of Christ,
listen to the Apostle Paul
speaking to the faithful:
You are the body of Christ,
member for member (1 Cor. 12:27).
If you, therefore,
are Christ's body and members,
it is your own mystery
that you are receiving!
You are saying Amen to what you are—
your response is a personal signature,
affirming your faith.
When you hear "The body of Christ"
you reply "Amen."
Be a member of Christ's body, then,
so that your Amen may ring true!

From a homily by St. Augustine,
Bishop of Hippo (+430 CE)

Paul, Gregory, Bernard, Augustine, John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila, etc. And we finally did, after reviewing (at Christmas time) the mystery of Christ's incarnation. (Jesus, son of the Father, was born, lived, and died as a human, in flesh!)

We did arrive, finally, studying the philosophy and psychology of humankind, our human and spiritual growth patterns, the types of human personalities, our tendency to sin and our desire for goodness, our "mixed-upness," and more, followed by the effects of baptism into God in Christ, and the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

So the Paschal Mystery is the fact that Christ lived, died, rose for us—and we now live, die, and rise in him. That is the mystery of his love for us and our life in him, the saving mystery.

Get it? Hope you don't—you'll be on eternal vacation when you do!

Happy Easter!

G.K.

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

Partial-birth abortions more frequent than claimed

In recent news Ron Fitzsimmons admitted that the procedure known as partial-birth abortion has been performed on healthy women with healthy fetuses, women as much as five months pregnant, and not only (as previously stated) on women whose health, or the health of the fetus, is threatened.

He also admitted that the number of such abortions performed each year is far greater than the 100 or 200 claimed earlier. The actual number may be in the thousands, although because clinics that perform abortions are not subject to the same regulations that govern all other medical institutions, it is hard to determine the precise number of these abortions.

The news item quickly drew the response "a woman should have a choice in what she does with her own body" from the pro-choice adherents. By focusing on the abstract notion of choice, women tend to forget the reality of the consequences of this choice: with every abortion there is one dead child and one wounded mother.

A woman does not make this choice as casually as she chooses a pair of shoes to wear. Her choice is often made out of fear, desperation, or loneliness. Her decision will have an effect on the rest of her life. Women who have chosen to have an abortion are now relating how that one choice changed their lives. A woman who has chosen abortion may suffer severe pangs of guilt from the knowledge that she has taken the life of her own child; that guilt can be overwhelming and long-lasting.

A woman who has had an abortion needs our compassion and support.

A woman who is considering an abortion needs our help to find a solution that is best for her child and herself.



in our parish library

The Gift of Peace

Personal Reflections by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin

Silent Voices, Sacred Lives

Compiled and edited by Barbara Bowe, RSCJ, et al.

The Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary of Biblical Theology

Edited by Carroll Stuhlmueller

Three fine books have been added recently to St. Patrick's parish library.

The Gift of Peace is a slim volume that Joseph Cardinal Bernardin completed just days before his death from pancreatic cancer. Because he wanted to reach his readers on a very personal level, he chose to handwrite the letter that opens the book and the titles that appear throughout. He concludes his work with these words:

"What I would like to leave behind is a simple prayer that each of you may find what I have found—God's special gift to us all: the gift of peace. When we are at peace, we find the freedom to be most fully who we are, even in the worst of times. We let go of what is nonessential and embrace what is essential. We empty ourselves so that God may more fully work within us. And we become instruments in the hands of the Lord."

If you found much to ponder in the words of Sr. Barbara Bowe in her presentations during the Lenten day of recollection at St. Patrick's, you will be especially interested in *Silent Voices, Sacred Lives*, compiled and edited by Sisters Barbara Bowe, Kathleen Hughes, Sharon Karam, and Carolyn Osiek. They combed the scriptures, intertestamental literature, noncanonical Christian sources, church orders, mystical works, poetry, Gnostic writings, diaries, accounts of martyrdom, epitaphs, and even descriptions of women at worship, for the silent voices of women. Presented here in the format of a supplement to

the Church's Lectionary, one reading has been appointed for each day of the Church year, beginning with the First Sunday of Advent.

Sr. Kathleen Hughes writes: "This book is filled with the stories of sacred lives, many of them long forgotten. As you tell stories over the dinner table, reminisce in moments by the fire, eulogize at wakes, and toast with stories at weddings, as you gather for prayer and praise or meditate in solitude, let these tales enrich your repertoire of the ways God has moved among us and the ways women have struggled to respond with integrity—for here is the kernel of ourselves."

The Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary of Biblical Theology distills the best of biblical scholarship and pastoral theology and presents it in clear and concise articles. Introductory articles introduce readers to key background issues. Major articles cover topics with multiple and distinct components written by scholars who specialize in those areas. They explore not only biblical meanings but also the influence of major biblical ideas on the Church's pastoral and liturgical practices. Secondary articles and brief entries round out the information offered in this volume.

It was Fr. Carroll Stuhlmueller's idea, his vision and energy, that persuaded the many contributors to join the project. He guided the editorial board through the design of the entries and in the selection of contributors. He wrote the article on glory as a guide for the rest. With more than 500 insightful and instructive entries, this practical pastoral dictionary is a primary resource for preaching and liturgy preparation, classroom teaching and learning, and Bible study and reflection.



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

Parish Council News

At the February Council meeting Deacon Bill McClellan announced that he and his wife, Jane, will be moving from the C-U area to Corvallis (Ore.) in July. He observed that he first came to St. Patrick's in 1982 after having been evangelized by the Young Adults group of St. Patrick's through their work at the Catholic Worker House.

Fr. Remm mentioned that donations (paid and pledged) from parishioners for the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center amounted to more than \$10,000. The Diocese of Peoria has now invited other parishes that were not part of the pilot program to participate and has already exceeded its goal of \$750,000.

Income for the month of January lags behind projected income by about \$5200, and overall income for the year to date by about \$3500. It appears that the parish cannot anticipate a large amount of excess income at the end of the fiscal year unless the trend is reversed.

The St. Patrick's Catholic Education

Fund has topped \$303,000, with more than \$256,000 paid. Interest income to the Fund for 1996 was \$14,048; 90% of this amount will be distributed equally to support assistance to St. Patrick's families with children enrolled at Holy Cross School and to St. Patrick's religious education program.

The new furnaces in the church have used 41% less BTUs compared to usage during the same period a year ago, helping to offset the increase in gas rates.

The three new programs proposed were approved by the Council: (1) the position of Evangelization Coordinator will be extended through the year 2000 (proposed funding next year: \$7000); (2) the Youth Activities Coordinator position (proposed funding: \$6200); (3) a computer equipment update reserve fund (proposed funding: \$2000).

Because the Council's March meeting was held as this issue went to press, news of the meeting will be covered in the next issue of *In Focus*. The April meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Apr. 17. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings.

Holy Cross School Newsline

The sacrament of Confirmation was administered at Holy Cross Church by Bishop John J. Myers on Mar. 2. Please offer your prayers and congratulations to the following St. Patrick's parishioners confirmed that day:

Ben Bermingham, Nathan Bohn, Katherine Duncanson, Flannery Ellis, Emily Kacich, Michael Larsen, Douglas Main, Brad Mayer, Brooke Mayer, Emily Millsap, Nga Nguyen, Jennifer Oliveira, Lori Randolph, Gina Sanchez, Ellen Stohr, Jacob Thompson, Raymond Timpone, Nichole Weisiger.

Approximately 55 families from St. Patrick's send their children to Holy Cross School. Congratulations to all 80 youngsters for their hard work and accomplishments during the second quarter. Second-quarter honor-roll students (grades 5 - 8) included these parishioners:

Lauren Bohn, Georgina Bonse, Stephanie Coverstone, Flannery Ellis, Tim Larsen, Theresa Lawrence, Alex Long, Joseph Maduzia, Doug Main, Brooke Mayer, Brian Melander, Felicia Melewski, Emily Millsap, Nga Nguyen, Lori Randolph, Chris Ruedi, Jacob Thompson, Nick Timpone, Ross Vimr, Nicole Weisiger.

Two students were First Place State Winners in the Junior American Citizens Contest, sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution: Therese Lawrence (Stamp Design) and Brad Mayer (Poem).

On Mar. 15, under the instruction of the U of I School of Music, first- and second-year band students gave a band concert for school children and parents. On Mar. 20, Parents Day, parents had an opportunity to lunch with their children, meet their school friends, and greet their children's teachers.

Holy Cross School closed for Spring Break the week of Mar. 24. With Easter Monday off, school children report back for classes on Tuesday, Apr. 1.

Rediscovering the past for the future

Parishioners examine articles and photographs from parish archives and try putting names to faces from the past. Computerization enabled parishioners to obtain on request a record of their sacramental history at St. Patrick's.



Got an idea? In Focus needs you!

The Communications Committee needs idea people. Right now the group feels fortunate to have many fine people who help by writing the articles for *In Focus*. But others are needed to suggest timely topics for articles and new approaches to topics covered year after year. Planning the next issue of the parish newsletter is the main job of the Communications Committee at its monthly meetings.

If you enjoy reading *In Focus* but don't like to write, this might be just the job for you! All are welcome, especially young people and members of our ethnic communities.

Can you help? The committee meets once a month on a Thursday at 7 p.m. Meetings last about an hour, sometimes a little longer. The next two meetings are Apr. 3 (postponed from Holy Thursday) and Apr. 24. No RSVP needed!

From Religious Leaders
for Community Care
(RLCC):

Sharing the C-U Good News



Fifty people participated in the third annual RLCC retreat on racial reconciliation. Some practical ways to bridge barriers were agreed upon: forming "sister church" relationships, jointly hosting service projects and programs for children, and challenging employers and realtors for openness to all members of our multicultural community.

Crime destroys communities and creates enmity between individuals. the Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) works to overcome that enmity and create reconciliation, moving the community toward

"Could you ... just talk to me?"

Have you ever needed someone, not to solve your problems or offer advice, but just to listen? One night someone needed me, just to listen.

So often when God has called on me it has been at an inopportune time in my life. I usually feel inadequate and want to cry, "I can't do this, Lord!" That was how I felt after I was awakened by the telephone at three o'clock one morning. I fought panic as I hastened to answer—nothing is more frightening to a mother whose children are away from home.

An unfamiliar voice with slurred speech hesitantly asked, "Could you ... just talk to me?"

My first impulse was to hang up. But the note of sheer hopelessness in his voice told me this was not a prank call.

"Are you a student in one of my adult education classes?" I asked.

He was not. The young man was a salesman from out of state whose business had brought him to our community. After spending the evening in a bar, he had returned to his motel room to continue drinking alone. His depression grew until it overwhelmed him. He looked for the listing of a crisis line in the local telephone directory but couldn't find it. So he randomly picked a number to call—mine.

For the next two hours I listened as he told me about the hopes he had for his work, the guilt he suffered over his failed marriage, and the love he felt for his daughter. He had disappointed his parents and was embarrassed to tell them about his addiction to

alcohol. No longer active in his (Catholic) church, he felt unworthy of asking God's help.

Finally, spent and becoming sober, he apologized for calling so late.

It was my turn now. If at first I had felt this to be someone else's responsibility, I was wrong. In the Scriptures James advises, "Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

I said a silent prayer and admitted that I too had made many wrong decisions. "God has always forgiven me and been a source of strength," I told him.

Then I encouraged him to pray and seek counsel. As a mother, I assured him that a parent's love does not end because of disappointments. I urged him to maintain a close relationship with his daughter, even if they continued to live apart.

He listened and agreed that the support of others was necessary at this time in his life. He said he would contact a priest later that morning and take positive steps to get the professional help he needed to control his addiction to alcohol.

"Thanks for not hanging up on me," he concluded.

"I will remember to pray for you this week," I said.

He laughed then, a deep hearty laugh. "You sound so much like my mother," he said. He could give me no finer compliment.

I am convinced that God was present to both of us in that telephone conversation!

V. E. L.

wholeness by respectfully addressing the needs of both victims and offenders. VORP receives referrals from the Champaign Police Department and the State's Attorney's office, but it is a community-based program, with volunteer mediators of different ethnic backgrounds. Program director Rev. Lisa Hadler-Lindell can be reached at 352-9287 for information.

When we share our faith stories, we are changed; and those listening to us are changed as well. In Focus welcomes faith stories that tell of God's working in our lives. Send yours to the Communications Committee, c/o St. Patrick's, or drop it off at the parish office. Be sure to include your name and a telephone number where you may be reached. Names will be withheld on request.

Sprucing up the parish center

Teens scrub and polish while springtime beckons.



Zita, a saint of the ordinary

Zita was not a nun; she was not a mystic or a queen or the foundress of a religious community. Yet we commemorate her feast on Apr. 27. Why? She lived an ordinary life extraordinarily well.

This 13th-century domestic servant worked for two generations of a wealthy family in Italy. In the beginning she was harshly treated by many of the other servants, who looked upon her diligence as a form of snobbery. They also resented her open distaste of foul language. Gradually, however, her patience, kindness, and firmness of disposition won the respect of everyone.

Her work was part of her religion; she often remarked that a lazy servant was lacking in religious spirit. But she did not limit her work to household duties; she visited prisoners, the sick, and the poor, giving them most of her food. She also attended daily Mass and rose to pray during the night while others were asleep.

Zita's life demonstrates that fidelity to ordinary duties is a sure way to holiness. Her life was full of the ordinary, and this is what made her a saint.

This kind of holiness is within reach for all of us.



Of Mottoes and Mary

Over the ages popes, bishops, religious communities, and many other Roman Catholic individuals and groups have chosen mottoes (often in Latin or Greek), which appear on the coat of arms adopted by the person or group. Both the motto and the coat of arms are meant to represent special characteristics or even special devotions of the owner.

The motto "Totus Tuus" (roughly translated "Totally Yours, Mary"),

selected by Pope John Paul II, links the pope with St. Louis de Montfort, an 18th-century saint whose feast we celebrate on Apr. 28.

In his recently released book *Gift and Mystery*, Pope John Paul II tells us, "At one point I began to question my devotion to Mary, believing that if it became too great, it might end up compromising the supremacy of the worship owed to Christ. At that time I was greatly helped by a book by St. Louis de Montfort entitled *Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*. There

I found the answers to my questions. Yes, Mary does bring us closer to Christ; she does lead us to him, provided that we live her mystery in Christ. ... The origin of the motto "Totus Tuus" comes from St. Louis de Montfort. It is an abbreviation of a more complete form of entrustment to the Mother of God which runs like this: "Totus Tuus ego sum et omnia mea Tue sunt. Accipio Te in mea omnia. Praebe mihi cor Tuum, Maria."

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continued from page 9

The papal coat of arms selected by Pope John II also reflects his devotion to Mary. According to the *Catholic Source Book*, by Rev. Peter Klein, "As a young Polish priest, John Paul II consecrated himself to the Blessed Mother—as he would one day teach the world: 'spiritually taking her into his home,' as the apostle John had done. So it was not surprising, when he became an archbishop, that he would choose to recognize Mary with a large 'M' on his coat of arms. But when Archbishop Karol Wojtyla was elected pope, the designers of the papal coat of arms objected. They insisted that a star or crown would be more appropriate. In the argument that ensued, Pope John Paul II remained adamant. His coat of arms would still have the 'M' of the houseguest of his soul."

If you ever have the opportunity to travel to the Vatican and make the exhausting climb to the top of the dome of St. Peter's Basilica, your efforts will be rewarded by a view of the papal coat of arms made from a mosaic of plants and flowers in the papal gardens, many stories below.

Auditions scheduled for April: Opinions wanted!

You're probably aware that Steve Peet, St. Patrick's music director, will be moving on to another job this summer. During the month of April the search committee will be inviting applicants to come to St. Patrick's for interviews and auditions. All parishioners are invited to the auditions, which will take place in the church.

What goes on at an audition? Well, each candidate will be asked to lead the "congregation" and "choir" in singing a few hymns from the piano and the organ. The candidate will also hold a "mini" choir rehearsal.

At the end of the audition people will be asked to use an evaluation form to share their impressions of the candidate. These evaluations are an important factor in the selection of the parish's next music director.

Are you thinking that you're not a great musician and that your opinions aren't worth much? Not so! You know whether the hymns are being played in a way that makes it comfortable for you to sing. And if you've ever been in a choir, you know that some music directors are good at working with

amateurs and some are not. These are a few of the key skills that the search committee will be looking for in the auditions.

Several auditions will be scheduled during April. Watch the parish bulletin for dates and times—and come to one or several, whatever you can manage. Your opinion counts!

Scouting programs to start up in May

Many excellent scouting religious awards can be earned at different stages in scouting. For Boy Scouts, these awards include Light of Christ (boys in grades 1-2), Parvuli Dei (grades 3-5), Ad Altare Dei (grades 6-9), and Pius X (grades 9-12).

Girl Scouts offer these awards: Family of God (girls in grades 2-3), I Live My Faith (grades 4-6), Marian Award (grades 7-9), and Spirit Alive (grades 9-12).

Since the requirements for the first two awards for younger girls and boys involve completing family-centered activities, these are usually conducted by the individual scout's family.

Awards for older scouts are more programmatic in nature and involve group work or discussion. Two programs for scouts in upper grades will be starting up soon: Sr. Joan of Holy Cross (352-8748) will be starting up a program of study for the Marian Award, and Dr. Linda Atherton (356-5928) can provide information about a program of study for the Ad Altare Dei Award, to begin this May at St. Matthew's Parish.

Requirements for all awards are listed in booklets that should be available at the respective council offices. For more information, or if you have difficulty obtaining materials, please call Dr. Linda Atherton or Mary Long (328-2989).

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Ruth Tyrrell Shaw

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce

1/4 c Crisco	1 8-oz can tomato sauce
1/2 c chopped onion	2 c (1-lb can) tomatoes
1 lb <i>lean</i> ground beef	1 t salt
1 t garlic salt	1/2 t oregano
1 4-oz can mushroom stems and pieces, not drained	1/4 t pepper
1/4 c chopped parsley or 2 t dried parsley flakes	dash basil
	bay leaf
	1/2 lb thin spaghetti

In a large skillet melt Crisco, add onion, and cook for 5 minutes. Stir in ground beef, brown. Add mushroom pieces and liquid, parsley, tomato sauce, tomatoes, salt, oregano, pepper, basil, and bay leaf. Cover and simmer for one hour; uncover and cook for about one-half hour longer, until sauce is of desired consistency. Remove bay leaf. Cook spaghetti as directed on package; drain well. (Ruth likes to double the recipe and freeze half for later use.)





The U.S. Bishops Crystallize Vision of Catholic Evangelization

First in a series on the U.S. Bishops' pastoral plan *Go and Make Disciples*

by Sr. Susan Wolf, SND

On Nov. 18, 1992, the U.S. bishops approved *Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States*. Written in an easy to understand style, the 24-page document is divided into two parts: "A Vision of Catholic Evangelization" and "Goals and Strategies." This article summarizes Part I.

The bishops addressed *Go and Make Disciples* to all Catholics with specific implications for practicing Catholics, for inactive and alienated Catholics, and for children. The bishops also wrote to Christians from other traditions and to those with no faith in Jesus.

They draw on the insights of Pope Paul VI in *On Evangelization in the Modern World* to answer the question, **What is evangelization?** They wrote "...evangelizing means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself. Its essence is the proclamation of salvation in Jesus Christ and the response of a person in faith, both being the work of the Spirit of God" (page 6).

Evangelization is a direct response to the command Jesus gave his followers in Matthew 28:19-20: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...."

We evangelize always and only through the power of the Holy Spirit. We evangelize through witness and through sharing.

Catholic evangelization is characterized by invitation, welcome, understanding, dialogue, respect, and genuine love for all God's people.

Summarizing their vision of Catholic evangelization, the bishops state three goals for U.S. Catholics:

1. To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that...they freely share it with others.
2. To invite all people in the United States...to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic faith.
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....

About the author

Sr. Susan Wolf, SND, is associate director of the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association in Washington, D.C.

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"We say it about ourselves as bishops: God has touched our lives in Jesus, bestowed his Spirit, given us salvation and hope, and called us to live in witness to his love."

—Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States


For a catalogue of evangelization resources, write or call:

Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association
3031 Fourth St., NE
Washington, DC 20017-1102
(202) 832-5022



April 1997

St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7:00pm Homily Prep	2 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Religious Ed, Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	3 9:30am Moms Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Communications Com	4 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH 6:00pm Bible Study Potluck	5  Change your clocks tonight!
6 9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 3:00pm Latino Mass 5:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Religious Ed	7 11:00am Rosary- Champaign Cty NH 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm Pro-Life Com	8 7:00pm 1st Communion Class 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com	9 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Religious Ed, Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10 6:30pm Building & Grounds Com 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Baptism Prep	11 10:30am Mass- Urbana NH 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	12
13 9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 3:00pm Latino Mass 5:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Religious Ed	14 11:00am Rosary- Champaign Cty NH 7:00pm Centering Prayer	15 7:00pm 1st Communion Class	16 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Religious Ed, Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	17 9:30am Moms Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Parish Council	18 10:30am Mass- Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	19 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Parish Council elections this weekend</div> 2:00pm Guild's Ladies Afternoon Out
20 9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 3:00pm Latino Mass 5:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Religious Ed	21 11:00am Rosary- Champaign Cty NH 7:00pm Centering Prayer	22 7:00pm 1st Communion Class 7:00pm Homily Prep	23 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	24 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Knights of Columbus 7:00pm Communications Com	25 10:30am Mass- Manor Care 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	26
27 1:30pm First Communion 3:00pm Latino Mass 5:00pm Bell Choir ??? 6:30pm Bible Study	28 9:30am Archives Com 11:00am Rosary- Champaign Cty NH 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Liturgy Com	29 7:30pm ASA Workers Mtg	30 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal			