

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



## Advent: Keep awake!

A vital posture for Christians during Advent is the gift of unhurried observation. We look at the night sky and think of our place and calling and purpose in this life. "Keep awake," says Jesus. Look. Observe.

Advent's original intent was for the faithful to prepare quietly for the coming Christ. To stop. Slow down. Look. Listen. Our Advent wreath is not just a convenient way to count the Sundays until Santa. It was originally a symbol of ceasing daily routine. Far to the north of us, where light is especially scarce this time of year, people gave in to winter, put their tools away, and (tradition tells us) brought their cart and wagon wheels inside the house and hung them in their halls, decorating them with candles and greenery.

This signaled a different sort of time for them. The cart wheel was more than a convenient shape for a wreath. The indoor wheel symbolized a time for

people to stop their work and turn inward. It was visible reminder to focus their thoughts in a new way.

The irony of this season as we now celebrate it is that we become busier in December instead of less so. Jesus says, "Keep awake" as we fall asleep from holiday exhaustion. What would happen if this year we kept Advent the way it was originally observed? What would happen if we took a wheel, just one, off each car and hung it from the rafters with greenery and lights? Our schedules would be cleared instantly. We'd be given time to watch for Jesus, keep awake, as we think and pray. Time to let the Lord shape us.

"Keep awake," says Jesus. Watch. Observe. Advent is a time to slow

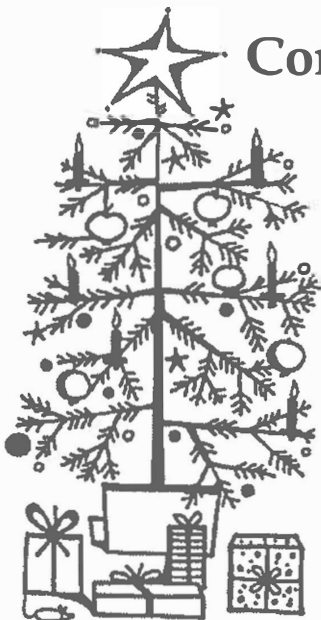


down, decrease activity, and observe. With Mary, we are given time to reflect upon what God may be birthing in our lives.

If we can't part with a Michelin for a month, we can at least remember that the wreath in our sanctuary or home measures a different kind of time, where the wheels of the earth are slowing down, screeching to a halt, silent now in anticipation of the returning Savior.

We bow to the expectant mystery.

## Come along on the North Pole Expedition, Dec. 7



The St. Patrick's Guild-sponsored North Pole Expedition will take place Sunday, Dec. 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the main hall of the parish center.

The Ornament Shop, under the direction of Sophia Zeigler, will feature three special ornaments: one made from Christmas cards received by Fr. Remm, one made from the dried corn from the fields of Betty and Jim Conerty, and one made as a memorial to Luella Wavering, from her glass ball collection. This should be a lovely tribute to Luella, who passed away five years ago. Many other beautiful and clever ornaments will be offered for sale, all made by Sophia, Anne Britsky, Lori McDonough, Angie Gliniecki-Poulsen, and Ceil Weir.

The Sweet Shop will include many wonderful Christmas delicacies which your family can enjoy or may be given as gifts. Proprietors of the Sweet Shop are Virginia Alane and Ceil Weir.

The highlight of the North Pole Expedition, the first annual Christmas Auction, will take place at 10:30 a.m. under the auspices of "Captain" Barbara Peckham. For a "sneak preview" of items to be auctioned, come to Coffee Shop on Sunday, Nov. 23--everything from a handmade stable to a collector's doll, with gingerbread houses in-between.

All proceeds will go to the renovation of the parish kitchen. Anyone interested in being part of this "really big show" should call Leslie Risatti (367-2665).

## Focusing on staff...

It is with much pleasure that we continue our introductions of members of the parish staff. You've probably already met them, especially if you've lived in the parish for any length of time at all. But take another look, find out something you haven't known yet, and let them know they're appreciated when next you see them.

We hope to follow with other staff members and coordinators in the coming months.

**Father Gene Kane, retired, assisting**

Father Gene is a Champaign native who grew up in Holy Cross Parish and graduated from University High School. He sensed his priestly vocation at an



### Parish Council News

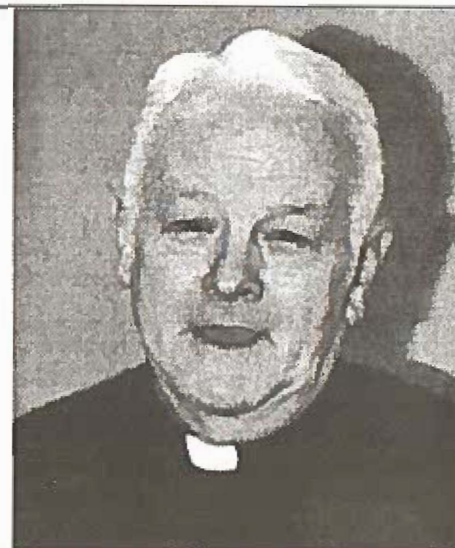
Because the Parish Council met in November as this issue was going to press, their meeting will be reported on in the next issue of *In Focus*.

early age. He was touched by the Passion reading in first grade and was so moved by his First Communion that he has received Communion every day thereafter. By eighth grade he was singing and playing on the organ three requiems daily, causing his dad to suggest that he consider the priesthood, which he did.

Father's years of seminary training at Mundelein gave him the ideal of being both active and contemplative—a hard ideal to pursue, considering the time commitments of our parish priests today! He received his pastoral training from Msgr. John Sheedy in Ottawa and Fr. Greg Egan at St. Patrick's, Peoria.

As a young priest, Fr. Kane taught in both grade and high schools, made daily hospital visitations, and helped with men's choirs. He worked with and developed wonderful relationships with African Americans and the poorest of the poor through the Legion of Mary, the Catholic Interracial Council, the RCIA, and public housing projects.

When assigned to serve as chaplain



Fr. Gene Kane

to Bergan High (now Notre Dame) in North Peoria, his summers were free and so he enrolled at Loyola University, Chicago, where he spent the next eight summers studying for a Master's degree in Religious Education.

Father's first pastorate was in Elkhart in 1966, the beginning of a period of ups and downs: time spent developing his musical and artistic gifts versus local ecclesiastical politics—and living alone, for the first time, in a country parish. He had started drinking during his work with the poor in Peoria, but it was now that he started drinking regularly, and alone. He underwent treatment as an alcoholic in 1979, again in 1990. He says of those experiences, "It brought me to accept my addiction and to the beginning of a new life, sane, sober, spiritually grounded. The Twelve Step Program will do that if you let Him."

He also consulted a Jewish psychiatrist, who gave him some of the best advice he'd heard: "Your ministry must come out of who you are as a person." Fr. Kane has shared that advice with us in his homilies: "Be yourself." "Minister to others right where you are." "If you are an outgoing person, don't try to hide it." "The kingdom is right here, right now."

His greatest religious experiences, he says, were his 30-day retreat in 1988, his Centering Prayer retreat in 1996, and his experiences within the celebration of the Eucharist.

After serving as pastor at Elkhart,

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Welcome to new parishioners: Albert Bari, Collin and Kathleen Condray, Viola Creighton, Rebecca Sue Cruz, Kimberly Hadlock, William Hettinger, Chely Montalvan Jones, Bernadette and Carl Nelson, Dorothy Schlatter.

Farewell to parishioners who have moved from C-U: Vida Friedlein, Stacey Mowry, Allen and Elise Pratt, Deanna Prather, Kim and Ray Schurzlein, Don Willis.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: Matthew Buckley Campbell, Nicholas Craig Vercellotti, Emma Colleen Montfort, Caroline R. Jones, Katherine E. Opperman, James Ray Wallace.

Congratulations to these recently married couples: Linda Rose Kleiss and Kenneth Henry Felsman, Mary Colleen Healey and Kai Arne Nielsen, Nina Renee Duffin and Michael Eugene Kramer.

Please pray for deceased parishioners: Ina Palmisano and Terry Lee Langendorf.

## Winter holiday fun coming up!

### Youth Ski Trip

For all you young folks who signed up for the ski trip to Devil's Head in Wisconsin: The group will leave at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 5 and return on Dec. 6 at approximately 11:30 p.m. Questions? Call Peter Amberg (367-2665).

### Lunch with Santa

On Sunday, Dec. 14, St. Patrick's will have a special lunch guest--none other than Santa himself! The event begins at noon, with festivities continuing until about 2 p.m.

The fun-filled afternoon includes lunch, a holiday craft to take home, and a visit and photo opportunity with Santa for each child. The lunch menu includes a fruit cup, pizza, cookies, and drink.

The cost per child is \$5; per adult, \$3; family limit: \$20.

Only 75 tickets will be sold, so purchase yours early! Tickets will be available at Coffee Shop on Nov. 23, Nov. 30, and Dec. 7. They may also be purchased at the parish office during regular office hours. Sales will end Dec. 8--or after the 75 are sold.

Admission by advance ticket sale only.

### Parish New Year's Eve Celebration

All parishioners are invited to participate in the parish New Year's Eve celebration on Dec. 31, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Games, group activities, movies for the younger set will make the time fly. Bring finger food and a beverage with which to toast the New Year. Watch the weekly bulletin for more information as the day draws near!

## In Focus needs your help

Are you a dreamer? An idea person? A planner? In Focus needs you! For an hour once a month a group of parishioners (the Communications Committee) meets to plan the upcoming issue. Meetings are more fun, more lively--and more productive--the more who participate. The group usually meets in the parish center lounge at 7:00 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month, but the November meeting has been moved up a week to Nov. 20 and will start at 6:00 p.m. (so the Council liaison can get to his Council meeting on time).

Are you a computer person? A desktop publisher? In Focus needs you too! The committee tries to have 3 or 4 people to call on during the year to lay out the newsletter so that the work is well distributed.

Have a question? Have an idea for an article? Want to volunteer? Call Mary Lou Menches (344-1125) or leave a message at the parish office (367-2665). Everyone in the group hopes you will call--or just come to the meeting to find out what goes on. We'd love to hear from you!

## Parish's Catholic Education Foundation turns five!

It seems like only yesterday that Fr. George Remm described for parishioners his dream for St. Patrick's, to "hand on to forthcoming generations the values and belief that have blessed my life." The means he proposed for

making this dream a reality was the establishment of the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation. With the generosity of parishioners and the advisory board's hard work, the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation is well established and functioning.

The purpose of the Foundation is twofold: to provide funds for tuition support for St. Patrick's children to attend Catholic school, and to provide funds for support of the religious-education program at St. Patrick's. In September 1993, Fr. Remm wrote:

"I am excited about the establishment of the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation. Here is a way that we, the present generation, may help to influence the generations to follow us. Those who came before us built the buildings that have given us a place to worship, a place to teach, and a place to gather in fellowship. Now we have an opportunity to make our contributions in turn."

What a gift for the future the Foundation is becoming! In its first year alone it enjoyed great growth, reaching the \$200,000 level in pledges, because of generous parishioners who shared Fr. Remm's dream. Now, five years later,

with the continued generosity of parishioners and the dedication of the Foundation's advisory board, the fund has grown to over \$300,000 in pledges. And the Foundation is working! With the income earned from the invested funds, families are being assisted with tuition support for their children enrolled in Catholic school. And St. Patrick's religious education program has been enhanced by the purchase of some needed equipment.

Gifts in any amount are welcome and are important to the ultimate success of the Catholic Education Foundation. Of the 454 gifts received to date, 424 of them have been in amounts of less than \$5000. Donors receive recognition in the annual report for the year in which the gift was received.

Major contributors are recognized in the following categories. Charter members are contributors who made

continued on page 4, Foundation



## 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.

### Editorial board:

Mary Lee Brady, 344-3752; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701 (mmenches@uiuc.edu); Frank Modica, 367-4133 (modicaf@knights.cmi.k12.il.us); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@uiuc.edu); Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; 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, Joan and Ed Poletti, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika.

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by: Mary Lee Brady, Judy Conover, Vera Duncanson, Mary Fonner, Bob Haessly, Fr. Gene Kane, Sr. Lori Kirchman, Lucille Kocher, Mary Long, Dorothy Maduzia, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Pat Minogue, Frank Modica, Carole Rebeiz, Fr. George Remm, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Kathy Shoemaker, Peggy Whelan, Barb Wysocki, Sophia Zeigler. This issue was pagged by Joan Poletti.

Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is December 7.



## Heidi and I agree: No two alike!

In *New Seeds of Contemplation* Thomas Merton wrote: "No two created things are exactly alike. And their individuality is no imperfection. On the contrary, the perfection of each created thing is not merely in its conformity to an abstract type but in its own individual identity with itself. ... Do you imagine that the individual created things in the world are imperfect attempts at reproducing an ideal type?" (pp. 29-30).

It seems to me that Merton is suggesting, among other things, that we look at the individuality in all of creation the better to grasp the spiritual connectedness that can be found there. I offer the following experience in support of that belief.

One day my dog, Heidi, and I encountered a very individual creature during our walk in a wooded area. We came on a yearling doe caught in the top two strands of a barbed wire fence.

She had cleared the top wire with her whole body and had managed to slip both of her hind legs through the space between the top wire and the next one down while jumping the fence. She was bent over from the rear haunches forward, hind legs folded under her by the pressure from the two strands of wire, a good feet off the ground.

Heidi immediately put her cold nose to work on inspecting this creature. I gently touched and stroked the doe's back as I examined her to see if she'd been seriously cut by the wire or if there were any broken bones. No serious injuries that I could see.

I used my legs, one arm, and any other parts of my body I could get into the act to spread the wire, with her weight on it, enough to get my arm under her hips and haunches. (I said, "Excuse me, ma'am" first!) I lifted her hind legs through and up, giving her

a flip over the top wire. She landed on her hinders and was off, white tail straight up, bounding and jumping logs as she disappeared into the woods. Heidi sat obediently at my feet but was twitching with desire to play with her!

I felt blessed to have been able to touch and soothe with my voice such a beautiful wild creature. She'd looked back at me as she was bounding away, and we made perfect eye contact. What beautiful eyes she had, eyes that will continue to see the Creator's work for, I pray, many years to come!

I read the quote from Merton's book as Heidi and I continued our trek after our encounter with the doe--one of God's individual creations, a creation and an encounter surely unlike any other in time and space, a unique and private One Time Event!

Bill

*Last name withheld by request.*

*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.*

## Foundation continued from page 3

their original pledge of \$10,000 or more during the first year of the Foundation's existence. A favorite charter member is Fr. Paul Kinder; many parishioners pledged and donated gifts in Fr. Paul's memory to make him a charter member in 1994. Charter members are recognized in all annual reports.

Benefactors pledge a minimum of \$5000 and are acknowledged in the annual report for five years. They can become extraordinary members by increasing their pledge or gift to \$10,000 or more within five years of their original pledge. Extraordinary members pledge \$10,000 or more; their gift is acknowledged in all

annual reports.

There are many ways you can give the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation a birthday gift. Real estate, stocks, bonds, annuities, securities, and life insurance policies are some of the ways. Personal property and assets such as art and precious stones are others. Or one can simply fill out a pledge card, with pledges paid in a single donation or in several over a five-year period. Pledge cards are available in the church vestibule and at the parish center, or you can call the parish office (367-2665) to request that one be mailed to you. Also, of course, you can use the special envelope

included for your convenience in your December envelope packet.

If you have questions or want more information about the Foundation, you can request an informational brochure by stopping by or calling the parish office (367-2665), or by calling any member of the Foundation's advisory board:

Fr. George Remm, 367-2665  
Raymond Timpone, 344-4093  
Ruth Cromwell, 359-9428  
James Fitzgerald, 367-5517  
Robert P. Link, 344-6991  
Joe Tobias, 344-6521

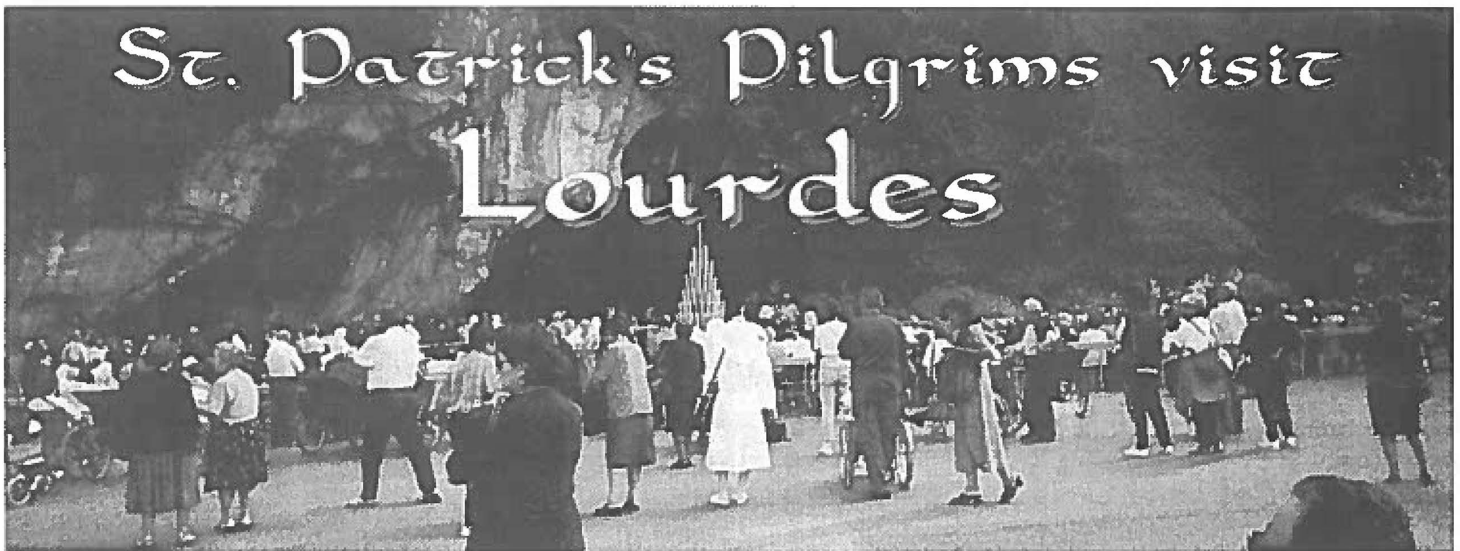
A very happy birthday to St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation!

## Christmas choirs are forming; volunteers invited

Because members our parish (and parish choirs) travel to many different places at Christmas, the choirs need volunteers to swell their numbers on Christmas Eve.

Adult choirs will sing at the 6:30 and 10:30 p.m. Masses on Christmas Eve. If you like to sing but cannot make a commitment to sing in a choir all the time, you might enjoy singing "seasonally"! "We can really use help on Christmas Eve--high school students are especially welcome," Sr. Lori said.

If you are interested in singing at either of these Masses, please call Sr. Lori at the parish office: 367-2665.



On Mar. 2, 1858, in the Grotto of Lourdes, Our Lady asked through Bernadette Soubirous that "the people come here in procession" and that "a church be built here."

Recently four pilgrims from St. Patrick's Parish (Connie Difanis, Mary Fonner, Sr. Marie Golla, and Theresa Zapp) joined the thousands who process by torchlight every night. Carrying candles with flames protected by special paper shields, thousands of pilgrims wend their way from the Grotto to the Rosary Square, where the Cross and the Paschal Candle stand. As the procession slowly moves forward, microphoned speakers lead the people in praying the rosary in at least ten different languages. Stanzas of hymns are sung in different languages, and Mary's children raise

their candles and their voices in the resounding chorus, "Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!"

As the marchers approach the Rosary Square in front of the Basilica, a way is cleared for those in wheelchairs and stretchers. At the head of the procession amidst lighted torches is an icon of the Blessed Virgin; she walks with them and among them, leading them as always to her Son.

All this takes place in an enclosed compound; to get to this area, the pilgrim must run the gauntlet of tourist shops. Once inside the compound, however, there is a sense of walking on holy ground. Entering through St. Joseph's Gate, one soon notices the raised statue of the Crowned Virgin, which stands at one end of a long lane

of grass and pavement stretching to St. Michael's Gate at the other end. This lane is part of the procession route.

Each day there is an afternoon procession as well, with the Blessed Sacrament, that ends with a blessing of the sick. As in all activities at this hallowed enclosure, the sick and their caregivers are given preference of time and place. A nun on a rolling stretcher, followed by a large wooden cross carried in an inclined position, made a dramatic visual connection between the suffering pilgrim and the suffering Christ.

The Crowned Virgin faces three churches built into the side of a hill, one on top of the other. The Rosary

continued on page 7, Lourdes

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

### Apple Slices



#### First part:

2 c flour  
1 c Crisco  
1/2 t salt (optional)  
1 t baking powder

#### Syrup

1 1/4 c sugar  
1 c water  
1 1/2 t cinnamon  
1/2 t nutmeg  
1/4 t salt (optional)  
2 T corn starch in 1/2 c water

#### Second part:

2 egg yolks, beaten  
1/2 c (5-6 T) water  
6-8 c sliced apples

#### Glaze

1/2 - 3/4 c powdered sugar  
1-2 T milk  
pat of butter or margarine

Combine ingredients in first part; separately combine ingredients in second part and add to the first. Chill.

For the syrup, combine sugar, water, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt; bring to a boil. Add corn starch and water mixture, and cook for 1 minute.

Roll out half the chilled dough and place in a 13 x 9 inch pan. Cover with sliced apples. Pour syrup over apples. Roll out remaining dough and place on top of apple slices.

Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes, then at 350 degrees for 25 minutes, or until brown. Remove from oven.

Mix all glaze ingredients (mixture should be thin) and apply to bakery while still warm. Cool and cut into squares.

## RCIA: Inquirers enter into a special relationship with the Church

How to knit a sweater or hang wallpaper or set up a computer can be learned from a book, but such things are better learned by watching and practicing under the guidance of someone who has mastered the skill. More important things, such as how to treat others kindly, how to stand up for your beliefs, and how to be hopeful in difficult times, are almost always learned from the example of others.

No book can teach us how to live the faith as well as people can who are trying to live it. When those who have been coming to the church to inquire about what we believe and how we live decide that they want to prepare to become Catholic, they enter the catechumenate. The word *catechumenate* is used for the whole process of becoming a Catholic Christian; it is also used for a specific period within that process.

The period of the catechumenate is long, lasting from many months to many years, depending on the individual. During this time, catechumens (unbaptized people) and candidates (people baptized in other Christian communities) prepare to join the Catholic Church by learning and doing what Catholics learn and do.

The strongest feature of this period is catechesis. The catechumens and candidates learn to believe and celebrate the mysteries of the faith by listening as the scriptures are proclaimed and preached and by participating as the Church celebrates what it believes throughout the liturgical year. They also learn the many other times and ways we pray. In addition, the Church's moral teachings, traditions, and disciplines are presented and explained.

In many parishes the primary time for catechesis is after the liturgy of the word on Sundays. As the rest of the assembly



proceeds with the Mass, the catechumens and candidates are dismissed to prepare for the day when they will take their place in the assembly as full, participating members of the Body of Christ.

The catechumens and candidates also learn the ways of Christians by getting to know us and seeing how we deal in faith with the joys and sorrows of daily life. They also participate in parish functions and in social gatherings with parishioners. They participate in our life of service to the Church and to the world.

By spending time with us and getting to know us, the catechumens and candidates forge bonds of friendship, strengthening their ties with the Church. By our spending time with them, our faith is strengthened and renewed. They remind us that our faith is a living, growing reality, and that people are attracted to it today, just as they were centuries ago, by the teachings of Jesus and the lives of his disciples.



### Did you know . . . ?

Despite popular belief regarding the status of divorced Catholics, it is simply **NOT TRUE** that divorced Catholics who have not remarried...

- \* are automatically excommunicated
- \* can no longer consider themselves Catholic
- \* are in the state of permanent mortal sin
- \* may not serve as sponsors at Baptism or Confirmation
- \* may not receive the sacraments of Eucharist or Reconciliation
- \* are not allowed Christian burial in the Catholic Church

And it is **NOT TRUE** that divorced Catholics who have remarried without an annulment

- \* are automatically excommunicated
- \* may not attend Mass and are not welcome at parish activities
- \* may not receive the sacrament of Reconciliation
- \* should no longer consider themselves Catholic
- \* may not have their children baptized or confirmed in a Catholic church
- \* are not allowed Christian burial in the Catholic Church

Source: *Where Do You Stand with the Church? The Dilemma of Divorced Catholics*, by John T. Catoir, JCD (New York: Alba House, 1996)

This message is brought to you by Remembering Church, a parish team whose mission is to help inactive Catholics reconnect with the Church. For information about upcoming programs, call the parish office (367-2665) or team leader Barb Wysocki (367-5014).

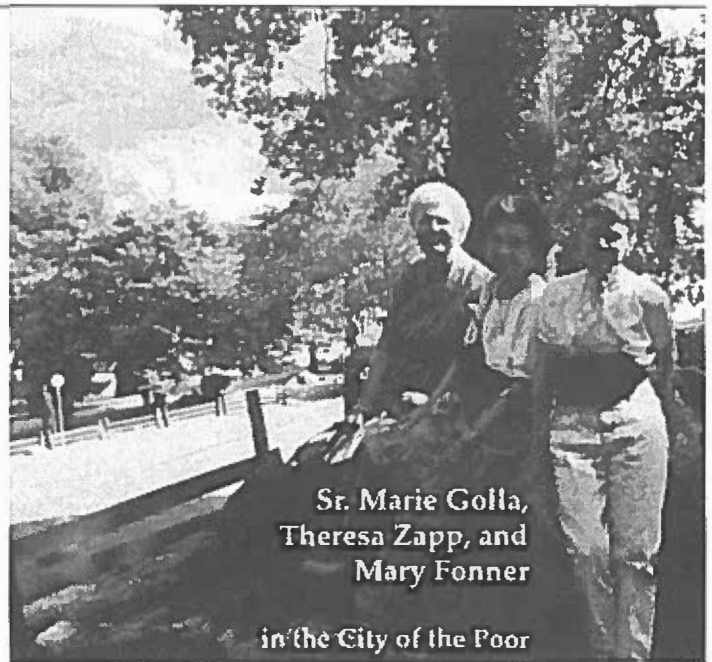
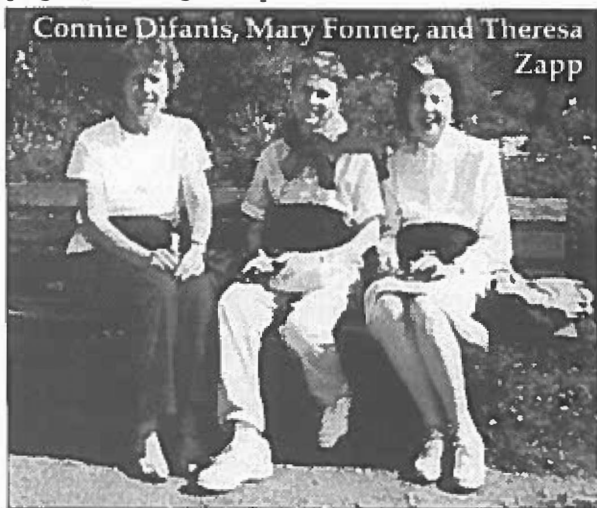
Lourdes continued from page 5

Basilica, the Crypt, and the Immaculate Conception Basilica blend together architecturally so as to give the impression of one magnificent structure.

The most unique sanctuary of all is the Grotto, where Mary appeared to Bernadette. This can be found at the side of the Rosary Basilica. A life-sized statue of Our Lady stands in the recess where she appeared to Bernadette and declared herself to be the Immaculate Conception. A square painted on the pavement marks the place where Bernadette stood to converse with Mary. To the left and close to the rock, the source of the spring which Bernadette uncovered at Mary's bidding still flows and can be viewed in a glass-covered pit. The water is channeled through a hidden system and comes out through a number of taps, where people line up to fill bottles. Some wash their faces, bless themselves, even drink the water.

Candles offered by pilgrims burn in front of the Grotto year round. Though our pilgrims arrived around 10:30 p.m. after a 24-hour trip, they were pleased to visit the Grotto before retiring. They joined the silent lines moving along the base of the rock, reverently touching this place made holy by Mary's appearances.

One of the main attractions of Lourdes is the baths--a shivery but rewarding experience. No one seems to mind the wait (for our pilgrims, about two hours)--a welcome interlude for quiet reflection and prayer. The atmosphere was very reverent. The sick carried in ahead of others already waiting were a reminder to "count your blessings." The staff, largely volunteer, who assist at the baths are to be commended. With very few words but with great gentleness they carefully guide the pilgrims through the process, solicitous for their modesty, comfort, and desires.



After waiting one's turn on benches on a long open porch, the pilgrim is taken into a curtained dressing room. There are rows of these little rooms, with men at one end of the building and women at the other. Here, after removing one's outer clothing, the pilgrim is wrapped with a blue cape and steps through another curtained doorway where the cape is exchanged for a large white cloth, already wet. After adjusting to the initial shock of the cold wetness, the pilgrim makes the sign of the cross and steps down three or four steps into the water. The pilgrim may choose to stand there or to walk to the other end, where the water is about three and a half feet deep, to kiss a small statue of Our Lady of Lourdes, to have water poured over one's shoulders. Walking back through the pool and up the steps, the pilgrim is prompted by the two assistants to pray "Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. St. Bernadette, pray for us."

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Parish History "Question of the Month"

Put your thinking caps on! The Archives Committee has all kinds of information about parish ministries, committees, and activities, but a lot of it is incomplete. Your memories may be just what the group needs to fill in the gaps! And because St. Patrick's history is your history, they want you to be included.

With this issue of *In Focus*, the committee begins a monthly feature requesting your input not only for parish records but to help in creating a history of St. Patrick's that will be interesting and informative for our current generation as well as for those to come.

Each month the Archives Committee will ask a question or request information about you, your family, or a facet of parish life. Readers' responses may be just what is needed to complete a record and enrich us all.

Please put your responses in writing and mail them to the Archives Committee, St. Patrick's Church, 708 W. Main St., Urbana, IL 61801. If you prefer, you can place them in the Archives mail box in the parish center.

Here is the Question of the Month for December:

Many parishioners have served in the armed services in our parish's almost 100-year history. What are their names, what branches did they serve in, when did they serve, and during which wars did they serve?

## Bereavement

### Getting through the holidays

Over the years families create and build traditions and memories around holidays and holy days. Some of our traditions involve hard work and stress, even though our goal is to deepen relationships and faith, create joy and beauty, and bring a sense of peace.

Entering the holidays after the death of someone we love, even for people of faith, can be alienating and painful. While it may seem that the rest of the world is rejoicing and celebrating, you may be trying to understand who you are now without the other. Life and the regular order of things, including holidays, will never be the same.

James Miller, a clergyman and grief counselor, in his book *How Will I Get Through the Holidays?* offers ideas to help those who grieve. He suggests planning ahead, talking to others about your concerns--what they need to understand about you during this time. What are some creative ways you might handle the holiday celebrations so you can be true to the spirit of the season while being honest about the loss you have suffered? Change routines if you need to. Shop from catalogs. Shop with a friend.



Forgive yourself. Tell stories, look at photographs, create ritual, count your blessings. Remember.

"Consider making some room in your days for the expression of your soul," Miller writes. "The death you have experienced has exposed you to new realities of living and to new possibilities about what life and death, meaning and purpose are all about. Go deeper."

Miller's book is available in the parish library. Members of the bereavement team are also available for listening, sharing ideas, and support during the holy days ahead.

## Praying the "O Antiphons"

If Advent is like the nighttime, then the last days of Advent are like the hours just before dawn. All nature is waiting for the sunrise. If Advent is like a woman's pregnancy, then the body is now kicking in her womb and the child will soon be born.

The last week of Advent is a time for special prayer. The Church chants the O Antiphons at Evening Prayer. There is an antiphon for each night from Dec. 17 to Dec. 23. These are called "O Antiphons" because each begins with the exclamation "O."

All of the O Antiphons follow the same pattern, first addressing Christ by different titles, then begging him to come. Many of the titles are taken from the Old Testament and echo the Hebrews' yearning for a Messiah.

"O come, O come, Emmanuel," a favorite hymn sung during Advent, is especially appropriate for the last week before Christmas; in it we sing all of the O Antiphons. The next time you sing it, remember the O Antiphons and the longing for the Messiah expressed in them.

☆ **Dec. 17: O Wisdom**  
O Wisdom, O holy Word of God,  
you govern all creation  
with your strong yet tender care.  
Come and show your people  
the way to salvation.

☆ **Dec. 18: O Adonai**  
O sacred Lord of ancient Israel,  
who showed yourself to Moses  
in the burning bush,  
who gave him your holy law on Sinai  
mountain:  
Come, stretch out your mighty hand  
to set us free.

☆ **Dec. 19: O Flower of Jesse**  
O Flower of Jesse's stem,  
you have been raised up as a sign for  
all peoples;  
the powerful stand silent in your  
presence;  
the nations bow down in worship before  
you.

☆ **Dec. 20: O Key of David**  
O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel,  
controlling at your will the gate of  
heaven:  
Come, break down the prison walls of  
death

for those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death,  
and lead your captive people into  
freedom.

☆ **Dec. 21: O Dawn**  
O Radiant Dawn,  
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:  
Come, shine on those who dwell in  
darkness  
and the shadow of death.

☆ **Dec. 22: O King**  
O King of all the nations,  
the only joy of every human heart;  
O keystone of the mighty arch of  
humankind:

Come and save the creature  
you fashioned from the dust.

☆ **Dec. 23: O Emmanuel**  
O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver,  
desire of the nations, Savior of all people:  
Come and set us free, Lord our God.

If our preparations for Christmas, our parties, shopping, baking, writing cards, have left us a bit tired, a little anxious, we may find that the O Antiphons tell it like it is: we really do need the Savior, the "desire of the nations," who is coming.



## Holy Cross School Newslines



The month of November was a busy time of learning interspersed with days off for parent-teacher conferences, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving.

Instead of Halloween parties this year the school undertook a religion fair with projects appropriate to each grade level. Projects included researching and portraying saints, making rosaries from recyclable materials, and drawing pictures to accompany selected psalms. The projects were on display throughout the school during parent-teacher conferences.

*In Focus seeks a volunteer to gather and write about information of interest to parishioners about Holy Cross School programs, activities, and calendar events. More than 80 youngsters from over 50 St. Patrick's families are enrolled at Holy Cross School, and our readers are interested! Please call Dorothy Maduzia (367-2819) or Mary Lou Menches (344-1125) if this role appeals to you.*

## — From Mary Long: An Evangelization Minute —

I must proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Luke 4:43

This is the heart of evangelization. But before we can reach out to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, we must undergo a radical renewal of our imagination. Evangelization is about conversion. Conversion is the change of our lives that comes about through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Why do we need to be changed?

Well, let me tell you my story. I have always believed in God, felt God's call all of my life, and a desire to serve him. God has graced me with many gifts, one being self-confidence, which is a two-edged sword. I felt capable of doing anything, and that's good. But I felt I could do it by myself, I could run the show, I was in control—and that's not so good.

I was going my own way as if God weren't necessary in my life, or at least in certain areas of my life. This is the big sin that has stumped humankind since Adam and Eve. As Isaiah says, "We have all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way" (Isaiah 53:6). Sin is running my own life instead of letting God be in charge. I am in the center of my life. I want to run it as if God doesn't exist, at least in some areas.

So what do I—we—do about this, because this is the problem humankind shares? We all sin and fall short of the glory of God. The solution is really quite simple, but it involves a definite step.

First, we must take a hard look at ourselves. Who is running my life? Then simply talk to God. This week,

sit down with the living God, who loves you as his own child, and confess that you've been running your life. Ask him to take control. Tell him you want to relinquish your life to him—hook, line, and sinker.

I took this step a few years back, and my life hasn't been the same since. In my faith journey I'd gotten to the point where I hit a spiritual brick wall. What was I missing? What was I not getting? I went to the Lord in prayer, confessed I was running my own life, and asked him to come into my life as I relinquished my life to him. This was a breakthrough moment, and I am a new creation because of it. I am free now to become

more and more the person God created me to be. Not everyone has one breakthrough moment in his or her life, but at some point we all have to decide who is Lord of our life!

Because of my breakthrough experience, it is now my heart's desire to be an ambassador for Christ. "I must proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God."

I leave you with this challenge: This week, examine your life. Who is running the show? Sit down with your *abba*, your dear and loving Father, and confess your sin. Ask him to be the Lord of your life. I guarantee that there will be a change in your life—are you ready for the adventure?

### Parish Wish List

The parish wish list is intended to present to parishioners a list of items that, although not included in the parish budget, might be acquired through earmarked donations. Such items in the past have included the patio and benches on the east side of the church and coat racks used for large gatherings in the parish center.

Items on the wish list are not absolutely essential to the running of the parish, but they open new opportunities for enriching the spiritual or community life of the parish for helping parish organizations do their work more effectively.

The Archives Committee has requested that the following items be placed on the parish wish list:

- \* Funds to duplicate and preserve the blueprints for the church. St. Patrick's has only one copy now, and it is getting worn. The committee is looking into options and costs.

- \* Desktop publishing software to be used to prepare the parish history in time for the parish's centennial in 2001, at about \$700.

- \* Two fireproof file cabinets for the parish archives, at \$800 each.

Fr. Remm will be happy to discuss the purpose of the wish list with interested parishioners or to answer questions about items on it. Donations in any amount will be gratefully received; it is not necessary to contribute the whole amount for any item.

## Staff continued from page 2

St. Mary's Cathedral Parish in Peoria, St. Pius in Rock Island, and St. Mary's in El Paso for a total of 28 years, Fr. Gene decided to retire. In 1994 several factors combined to bring him to this decision; the availability of the family farmhouse in Thomasboro; his sister, Virginia Skelton, and family in Champaign County; and his 45+ years of friendship with Fr. George Remm clinched his decision to retire to Champaign County and to assist at St. Patrick's in retirement.

We are graced by his ministry among us.

### Carolyn McElrath, director of religious education

Carolyn McElrath and her husband, Dale, have always had a German Shepherd. When their dog Chico died last year, they brought home a puppy they named Chaucer. Carolyn and Dale enjoy playing with him, taking him to Crystal Lake Park near their home. Like Chico before him, Chaucer has his own caged-in area in the back of the McElrath station wagon, so they take him along to visit her brother and nephew in Michigan, her sister and two nephews in Phoenix, and her sister and four children in Denver. The year-old Chaucer, guided by Carolyn and/or Dale, has finished "puppy kindergarten" and received his canine Good Citizen Award.

Carolyn and Dale met at Western Michigan University, where they received their Bachelor's degree, hers in Anthropology, his in Archaeology. They both earned their Master's degree in

Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Carolyn's hometown, and did field work together in Peru in 1973-74. On their return, they worked for an archaeological project along the beltway in St. Louis. They came to Champaign-Urbana and St. Patrick's in 1980 because the records of that project were stored at the U of I.

It wasn't long before Carolyn was serving as lector and eucharistic minister at St. Patrick's. Soon she became Adult Education Coordinator and later was hired to succeed Gary Laumann as Director of Religious Education. She has since then earned another Master's degree, this time in Theology, at Mundelein and has completed her course work and comprehensive exam for a Ph.D. in Theology from Loyola University, Chicago; she is in the process of writing her thesis.

As DRE, Carolyn oversees the work of the seven part-time coordinators of our parish religious education programs: Ellen Amberg, children's program; Peter Amberg, youth activities; Brandon Lipska, junior high; Jean-Philippe Mathy, senior high; Rosemary Mathy, family life; Lenore Nagele, RCIA; and Victoria Pifalo, library.

She meets with each on a one-to-one basis every week, by telephone or in person. She says she hopes she provides

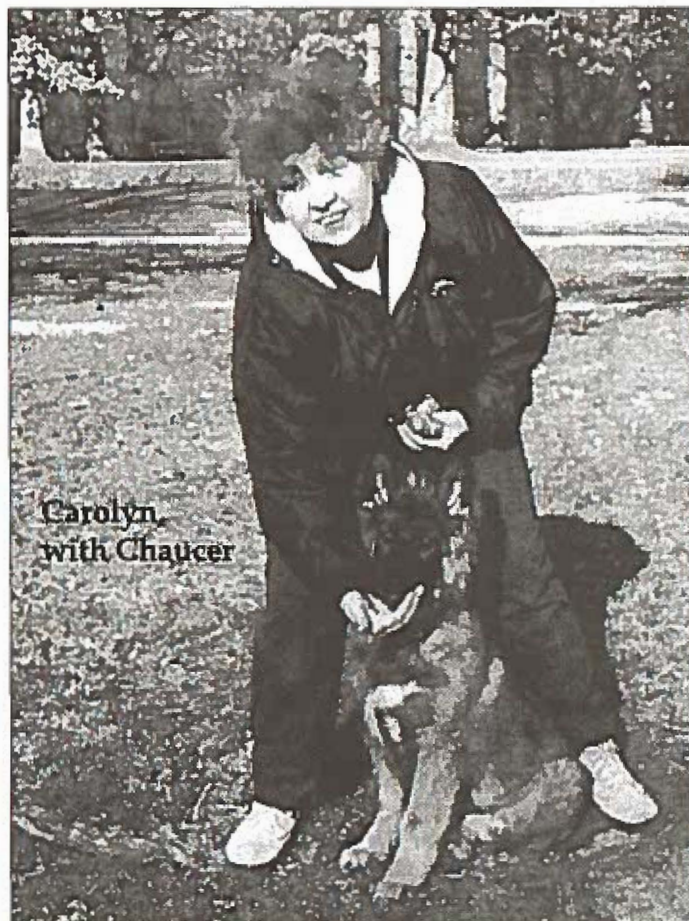
continuity and stability to our programs as the only full-time person responsible for the parish religious education program, which has a high turnover rate at the coordinator level. She tries to help the programs evolve and change to meet the needs of parishioners and students.

The favorite parts of her job, she says, are working with the RCIA, seeing participants go through the sacramental process, watching teens develop through Confirmation and preparing their own prayer services, and seeing parents come back to the Catholic faith through participation in their children's First Communion and First Reconciliation preparation.

Carolyn is usually at the parish center from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays, ready to answer questions from teachers or coordinators or to give input during RCIA sessions, through the afternoon to the Hispanic Mass at 3 p.m. (refreshing the Spanish she learned in Peru), to the junior-high and senior-high classes in the evening. Playing with Chaucer is something she does in her "spare time."



Carolyn McElrath



Carolyn  
with Chaucer

# Lourdes continued from page 7

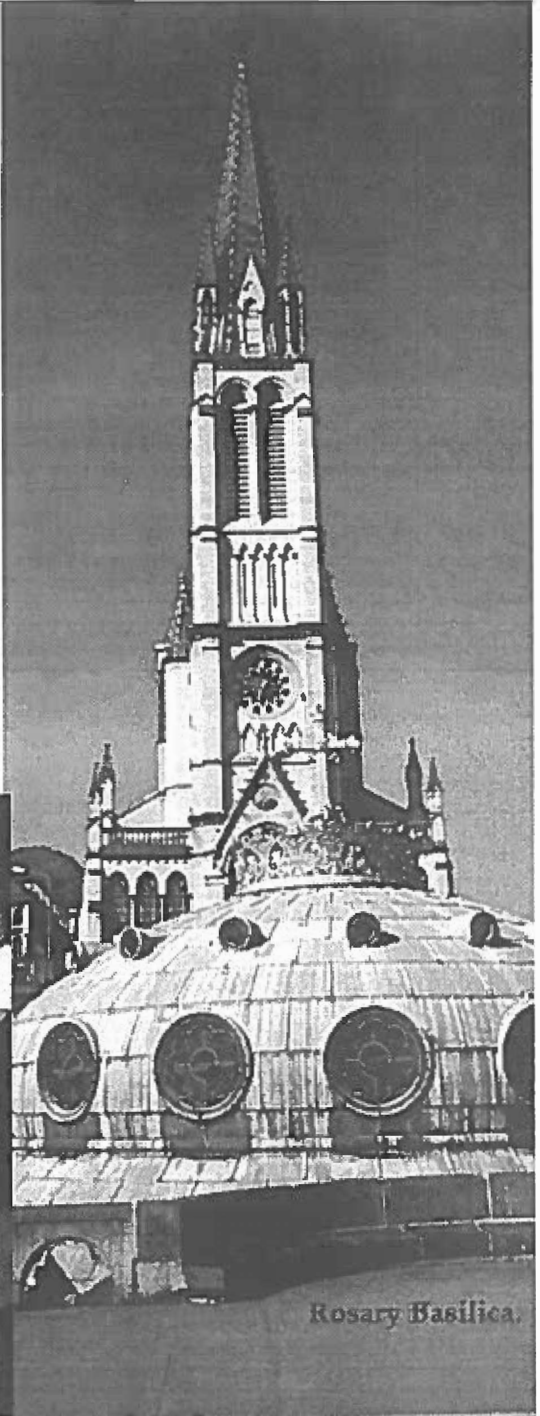
There is much more to be told about the trip to Lourdes: the uphill climb on the Way of the Cross, pausing before each group of larger-than-life figures; the trip up the mountain to the City of the Poor, where pilgrims with insufficient means are housed and fed with dignity for up to five days; the underground Pius X Basilica, where the congregation for the Sunday International Mass often exceeds 20,000; the Church of St. Bernadette with the Chapel of Adoration.

Our pilgrims also remark on the gracious hotel staff, the delicious meals, the interesting shops, the River Gave in front of the hotel, the cable car ride up the mountain to view the Pyrenees, and a walking tour of some of the places where Bernadette lived. And the ice cream stand on the corner, and high tea in the afternoon. When the tourist and the pilgrim wage their internal battle for attention, the sound advice of a gentle Irish priest is remembered: "It's a matter of focus. Let the tourist in you see and hear, but focus on God, remembering that everything you are experiencing is God's gift."

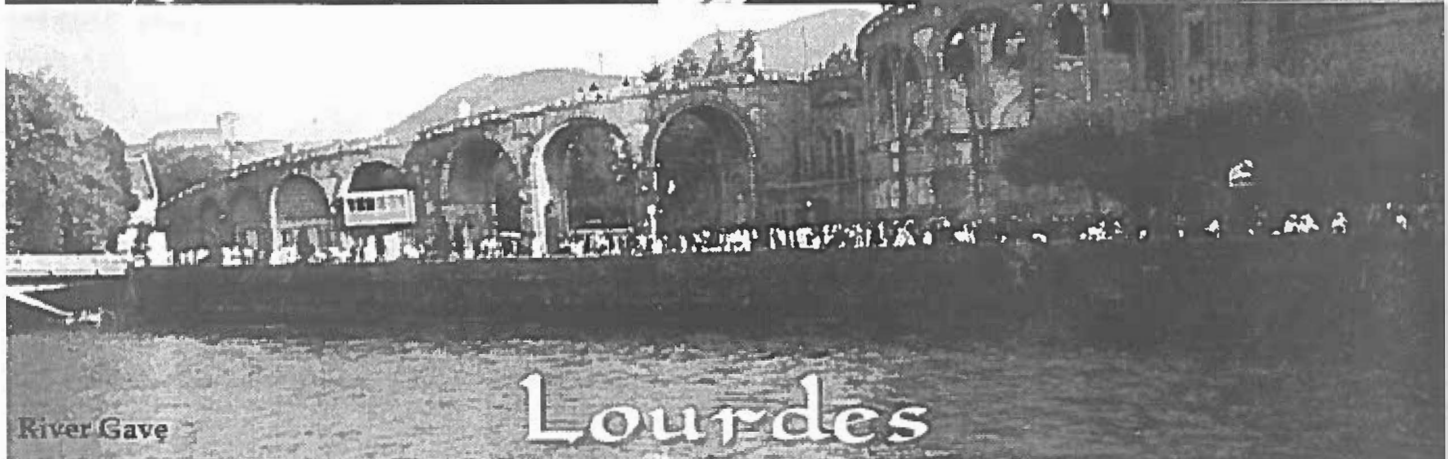
What was there to see at Lourdes? "I saw a huge number of people from every nation, race, tribe, and language" (Rev. 7:9).

If you'd like to know about the many things there is not enough space to tell about, just ask our pilgrims: Connie Difanis, Mary Fonner, Sr. Marie Golla, or Theresa Zapp.

"We prayed for you all."



Rosary Basilica.



River Gave

# Lourdes



*"I was very touched and appreciated your kindness..."*

Donations from St. Patrick's parishioners to the St. Vincent de Paul Society have enabled members to give food to 1511 families who have applied for help since January 1997. "Without your support," said Sophia Zeigler, president of the local chapter, "it would not have been possible for us to help the hungry and the needy who ask for our assistance."

The following letter, which the Society is very pleased to share with *In Focus* readers, was received from one of those helped by parishioners' donations.

Three years ago last summer when I moved to Champaign-Urbana I was in the midst of a financial crisis. My financial problems were made worse when my new job didn't start as soon as I'd expected.

To tide me over, I had one month's supply of food stamps and was referred to your pantry. You gave me a big bag of food that was obviously assembled with much thoughtfulness and love . . . a wide variety of types of foods, foods for breakfast as well as dinner meals, even some sweets. I was very touched and appreciated your help very much.

My finances gradually improved and I've recently begun a new job in Wisconsin. I have a lot of school loans to repay and a disability that costs some extra. However, I didn't want to leave Illinois without sending you a donation to repay your kindness.

Thank you.  
Name withheld by request.



## We made a difference!

Dale Carnegie is credited with making the statement "Life is truly a boomerang--what you give, you get." And how often have we heard that God will not be outdone in generosity?

The annual national Make a Difference Day, an activity sponsored at St. Patrick's by the Social Action Committee, resulted in donations of 1852 personal-care items for the homeless and needy in our community.

In the week preceding Make a Difference Day (Oct. 25), 1550 items were donated; in the following two weeks, another 302 items. Donated were

248 toothbrushes  
125 tubes of toothpaste  
651 disposable razors  
434 bars of soap  
82 pairs of socks

75 bottles of shampoo and conditioners  
22 deodorants  
29 underwear and t-shirts  
38 containers of lotions and powders  
148 other (shaving cream, after-shave lotion, mouthwash, feminine care products, medical supplies)

These items were delivered to the Salvation Army, the Catholic Worker House, and the Men's Emergency Shelter.

Parishioners, give yourselves a pat on the back!

Opportunities still exist for working with Habitat for Humanity. Needed are all types of home construction skills (from learner to highly skilled and licensed), laborers, and other support persons. For more information call Leon Mayer (344-6038) or Bob Haessly (344-7123, evenings).

## From RLCC – The C-U Good News

The area bounded by Neil, Bradley, Wright, and University is under consideration for spiritual and economic development by "Shalom Community," which seeks to rally community efforts among residents, churches, and businesses in the area. Training, funds, and resources are available for this multi-ethnic ministry if there is evidence of sufficient local planning and cooperation. For information, call Jim McClarey (239-0237).

The University YWCA has implemented local interracial study circles. Coordinated by Gin Osler and Amy Felty and with sponsorship from six other local groups, the program has been used to train 40 facilitators;

another group of facilitators is now in training. The study groups, of 6-15 people, meet for two hours weekly for five weeks to generate better understanding between people who normally would not have such an opportunity to meet and discuss. Want more information? Call Amy Felty (359-1313).

A prison ministry focusing on youth who've encountered the juvenile court system seeks to provide a Christ-centered alternative through training in life skills, entrepreneurship, computer literacy, and Bible teaching. The program, called "Jesus is the Way," is held on weekends and/or after school. Call the Outreach Center (892-4000) for more information.

## St. Patrick's donation to cultural center acknowledged

St. Patrick's Parish was acknowledged this fall along with thousands of organizations and individuals in the U.S. for their support of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center. Our parish joined 177 others in the Diocese of Peoria in raising \$1,137,000. St. Patrick's was listed as a donor in the commemorative booklet that celebrated the groundbreaking and blessing of the site for the Center, which took place in Washington, D.C., on September 11, 1997.

## From the "ex libris" files

Here is a little test for you: Who is Sonja M. Donahue?

1. A feminist theologian
2. Originator of the famous parish soup recipe
3. A prominent member of the parish Mothers Group
4. None of the above

If you know Sonja, then you know the correct answer is 3; Sonja was one of the founding members of the Mothers Group. She also compiled, in 1957, *A Selected Bibliography*, a list of books and resources available at St. Patrick's. In

1959 the Mothers Group became the Sienna Study Club. Through further growth over many years and with the efforts of many dedicated parishioners, St. Patrick's parish library exists today, a valuable resource for everyone.

Books, magazines, newspapers, sound cassettes, and videotapes are now accessible to all parishioners. Victoria Pifalo, library coordinator, estimates that there are over 1500 volumes in the library at present, and that number is growing. She and library volunteers are inventorying

materials, entering new holdings into the computer, and updating files.

There is a card catalog in the library that includes all holdings received up to about five years ago, but Victoria plans to have these entered into the computer in the coming year. More volunteers are needed to help with the inventory and computer work. Victoria is tentatively scheduling a January informational training session for volunteers.

The parish library includes books on almost any religious or spiritual topic, as well as many magazines and serial publications: *America*, *The Bible Today*, *Youth Update*, *Origins*, *Church*, *Catholic Update*, *U.S. Catholic*, *National Catholic Reporter*. A reference series, *The Concilium*, contains over 12 books, including *The Many Faces of the Divine*, *Feminist Theology in Different Contexts*, and *The Bible as Cultural Heritage*.

Other reference books include *The New Catholic Encyclopedia*, *New Catholic Dictionary of Catholic Social Thought*, and *The New Dictionary of Theology*. A beautiful book in the reference section is *A Passion for Life: Fragments of the Face of God*, by Joan Chittister, O.S.B., with striking icon pictures in full color by Robert Lentz. The book contains stories of people, past and present, whom we might call "saints or heroes and heroines, stars or icons."

Although Victoria has thoughtfully posted beside the computer directions for using it to locate books in the library, users who are not "computer literate" may have trouble finding their way through the system. Victoria has said that she will be happy to answer questions or to set up a time to work with parishioners having trouble finding a book in the library; just call her (398-6017) to set up a mutually agreeable time.

One last suggestion: the heat isn't always turned up to "toasty" in the library, so you may want to bring a sweater!



## in our parish library

### *All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses for Our Time*

By Robert Ellsberg

In the short profiles for each day the author, Robert Ellsberg, provides a cloud of witnesses--mystics, martyrs, social activists, artists, writers, composers--who do what all saints do: mediate the many and surprising ways in which grace makes discipleship possible.

Some popular saints featured include Augustine, Aquinas, Joan of Arc, Francis of Assisi, and Therese of Lisieux. Witnesses who speak to the needs of our time include Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, Teilhard de Chardin, Oscar Romero, and Pope John XXIII. Artists, poets, and scholars whose visions inspire include Leo Tolstoy, Flannery O'Connor, and Gerard Manley Hopkins.

It can change one's outlook on what constitutes "saintliness." It brings home the meaning of the "communion of saints" while offering insights into figures prominent in their day of history.

## We pray for forgiveness

John the Baptist's call to conversion rings through Advent. While not a penitential season, Advent is still a season for ongoing conversion. Alert to the advent of our God, we prepare the Lord's way by turning from our sins, embracing justice and truth, and finding comfort in the Christ who promises peace.

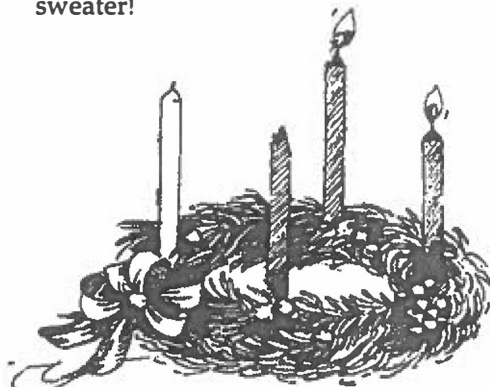
During the third week of Advent, the churches in C-U schedule communal celebrations of reconciliation to help us with this preparation: at Holy Cross on Monday, Dec. 15; at St. Patrick's on Tuesday, Dec. 16; and at St. Matthew's on Wednesday, Dec. 17. All celebrations begin at 7:30 p.m.

*We ask forgiveness of one another, woman to woman, man to man, sister to sister, brother to brother man to woman, sister to brother.*

*We ask forgiveness of one another as children of God, as friend to friend.*

*Too many times have we failed to stand together in solidarity. Too many times have we judged one another, condemning what we did not understand.*

*We ask forgiveness for assuming we know all there is to know about one another, for presuming to speak for one another, for defining, confining, claiming, naming, limiting, labeling, conditioning, interpreting, and consequently oppressing one another.*





























# Our Family Advent Calendar

## December



1997

1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Nov. 30</b> <i>1st Sunday of Advent:</i> Light one purple candle and say the Advent Prayer. Plan a donation to the "Great Xmas Gift Give-Away." 	<b>1</b> Put a light in your window to welcome guests to your home. Read Matthew 5:14-16. 	<b>2</b> Pray for all of the children celebrating the sacrament of First Reconciliation. 	<b>3</b> Join fellow parishioners for the Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer at St. Pat's. 	<b>4</b> Prepare a gift certificate of service for each member of your family. 	<b>5</b> Pray for the Youth of our parish as they enjoy fellowship on their ski trip. At Church Sunday, ask one of them how the trip went. 	<b>6</b> <i>St. Nicholas Day</i> Secretly do something nice for someone in remembrance of St. Nick. 
<b>7</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> Light two purple candles. Visit the Guild's "North Pole Expedition." Bring in your donation for the "Great Xmas Gift Give-Away." 	<b>8</b> <i>The Immaculate Conception</i> Pray the Canticle of Mary in Luke 1:46-55. 	<b>9</b> Promise to make one good change in your life that will show you follow Jesus. 	<b>10</b> At Evening Prayer, welcome one new catechumen. 	<b>11</b> Read the story about Jesus' birth. You can find it in the bible in Luke 2:1-20. 	<b>12</b> Help your family prepare your home for Christmas. 	<b>13</b> Write a Thank You letter to God. Put it under the tree or in the creche. Read it on Xmas morning. 
<b>14</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> Light one pink & two purple candles. Share Xmas joy by putting on Xmas music and baking cookies to share with a friend or neighbor. 	<b>15</b> Be a Peacemaker at school, work and home. 	<b>16</b> The first day of "Las Posadas," pray for our Spanish brothers and sisters in Christ as they celebrate this rich tradition. <i>Communal Reconciliation</i>	<b>17</b> Over the next 7 days, praise God using the names for Him in the <i>O Antiphons</i> (as in "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"). <i>O Antiphon: O Wisdom</i>	<b>18</b> Say a prayer for each person who sent your family a Christmas card. <i>O Antiphon: O Adonai (Lord of Might)</i> 	<b>19</b> Have a picnic around the Christmas tree tonight! Share memories of Xmas past and hopes for the future. <i>O Antiphon: O Flower of Jesse</i>	<b>20</b> Write a family prayer to use at Christmas dinner. <i>O Antiphon: O Key of David</i>
<b>21</b> <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> Light all four candles. Read the Canticle of Zechariah (Luke 1:67-79) to find the mention of "daybreak, dayspring..." <i>O Antiphon: O Dawn</i>	<b>22</b> Praise the "King of Glory" by reading with your family Psalm 24. <i>O Antiphon: O King</i> 	<b>23</b> Set an extra place at dinner tonight to remind you of the presence of Jesus Christ (Emmanuel) in your life. <i>O Antiphon: O Emmanuel</i>	<b>24</b> <i>Hanukkah</i> Pray for people of different faiths. Wish your Jewish friends a Happy Hanukkah! 	<b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i> Jesus Christ is with us! Alleluia! Light a Christmas candle and say your family prayer. 	<b>26</b> <i>Pass on Christmas Joy...</i> 	<b>27</b> <i>... to others!</i>
<b>28</b> <i>Feast of the Holy Family</i> Pray for family unity. Tell each member of your family what you appreciate about them. 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i> Join with your friends at the Parish Dance to celebrate the beginning of a year full of new adventures with God. 			

Hang this calendar in your home, and join the family of St. Pat's in preparing our hearts and lives for the coming of Jesus Christ.



# December, 1997

## St. Patrick's Parish, Urbana



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Education 7:00pm FGDW 7:00pm Pro-Life	First Reconciliation 8:30pm Personnel	9:00am Guild 9:30am Moms Group 3:00pm Bible Study 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Rel Ed. Urb 6:30pm Rel Ed. St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA	7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Building and Grounds	10:45pm Mass Champaign County Nursing Home	
	1	2	3	4	5	6
8:30am-1:30pm Guild North Pole Expedition 9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 3:00pm Latino Mass 4:00pm Latino Coffee Shop 6:30pm-8:00pm Jr-Sr High	7:00pm Centering Prayer Immaculate Conception Masses: 7:00am 12:10pm 5:15pm	7:00pm Financial Affairs 7:30pm PC Exec Com and Development	3:00pm Bible Study 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Rel Ed. Urb 6:30pm Rel Ed. St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA	7:00pm Baptism Prep 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm FGDW 7:30pm Knights of Columbus	10:30am Mass Urbana Nursing Home 10:45 Mass Champaign County Nursing Home	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 12:00pm-2:00pm Lunch with Santa 3:00pm Latino Mass 4:00pm Latino Coffee Shop 6:30pm-8:00pm Jr-Sr High	7:00pm Liturgy 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Reconciliation, Holy Cross	7:30pm Reconciliation, St. Patrick's	9:00am Guild 9:30am Moms Group 3:00pm Bible Study 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Rel Ed. Urb 6:30pm Rel Ed. St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Reconciliation, St. Matthew's	7:00am Evangelization 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council	10:30am Mass Clark Lindsey 10:45 Mass Champaign County Nursing Home	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 3:00pm Latino Mass 4:00pm Latino Coffee Shop 6:30pm-8:00pm Jr-Sr High	9:30am Archives 4-5pm Individual Confessions 7:00pm Centering Prayer	7-8pm Individual Confessions	Masses: 7:00am 4:00pm Children's Mass 6:30pm Family 10:30pm Parish Traditional	Mass: 7:30am 10:30am 12:00 noon (No 9:00am Mass Today)	Office Closed  No Nursing Home Masses Today	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
3:00pm Latino Mass 4:00pm Latino Coffee Shop	7:00pm Centering Prayer	7:00pm Homily Prep	8pm-12:30am New Year's Eve Parish Dance	 <p>Because the In Focus calendar is prepared in advance of scheduled events and meetings, please check the weekly bulletin to confirm dates and times for specific listings. Deadline for the next issue is December 7, 1997.</p>		
28	29	30	31	<p>SVDP- St. Vincent DePaul FGDW- Finding God in Daily Work Rel Ed- Religious Education</p>		

1