

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Sr. Barbara Bowe to facilitate parish day of recollection

On Saturday, Feb. 8, Sr. Barbara Bowe, RSCJ, will both challenge and encourage St. Patrick's parishioners "with the divine power of the Gospel itself" as she facilitates the parish day of recollection.

The day will begin with Mass at 8 a.m. in St. Patrick's church, followed by continental breakfast in the parish center. Between the opening prayer at 9 a.m. and the closing prayer at 2:45 p.m. Sr. Barbara Bowe will offer three presentations on the biblical themes of the Lent/Easter Cycle. Time has been reserved for prayer or discussion.

Sr. Bowe is Associate Professor of Biblical Studies at the

Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she teaches courses in New Testament and early Christianity and serves as Director of the Biblical Spirituality Program. She has authored books and numerous articles in the field of biblical history. Before coming to CTU, she taught at Maryhill School of Theology and the Sister Formation Institute in Manila.

Registration for the day of recollection is necessary so that sufficient materials can be prepared for participants. To register, call the parish office (367-2665); please indicate whether you plan to "brown bag it" or prefer the catered lunch from Town and Country (\$8.50). The deadline for registration is Monday, Feb. 3.

Begin celebrating liturgical holidays

Make February a family affair

Perhaps one of your New Year's resolutions was to make more of an effort to incorporate religion into your family life. One way to create unifying family rituals and to educate your children in the faith is to celebrate the liturgical seasons, feasts, and holy days of the Church. February is loaded with opportunities for families.

The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) February 2

This feast celebrates the presentation of Jesus in the temple when he was but 40 days old. While Mary and Joseph were performing the customary ritual, the old priest Simeon came forward, guided by the Holy Spirit. Speaking his canticle, the "Nunc dimittis," he provided the theme for this feast:

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your work, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

"A light for revelation to the Gentiles." Today's Mass celebrates Christ, the Light. On this day the candles are blessed for use

in churches and homes throughout the year, hence the name Candlemas. In former times the blessing of candles was followed by a procession of lights symbolizing Christ as Light of the world and celebrating the Light's victory over darkness and sin.

What use for blessed candles in the home? A former practice called for the lighting of a blessed candle during a storm as a visible reminder that we are protected by an unseen divine presence. Blessed candles can also be used for family birthday or feastday celebrations, as well as on baptismal anniversaries and during times of illness. In many homes blessed candles are used to light the Advent wreath, and often a white Christ candle replaces the four Advent candles in the wreath at midnight on Christmas Eve.

Feast of St. Blase February 3

Legend has it that St. Blase was a physician before becoming a bishop. While in prison he miraculously cured a young boy who was choking on a fishbone.

On the feast of St. Blase the Church provides for blessing of throats, in our day usually before or following Mass. The priest

(Continued on page 4)

Langendorfs say "Thanks!"

To St. Patrick's parishioners, priests, and staff:

We want to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has done so much for our family. Your prayers, help with the chili supper, and contributions have been overwhelming.

We feel that many of your prayers for us have already been answered.

We know that many, many people spent numerous hours preparing, baking, and working to make the chili supper fund raiser a huge success. We wish we could thank everyone individually here, but we are afraid of omitting someone.

We are so fortunate to have such wonderful families, friends, and church community! Everyone's thoughtfulness means more to us than we will ever be able to express.

The money will be used to help purchase the special equipment Mitch will need.

The Langendorf Family



Welcome to new parishioners: India and Jeramy Anderson, Brent and Melissa Burnett, Brian and Mary Dilger, Janet Mary Joyce, Linda Kleiss, Shane Kolata, Dat K. Ly, Robina Martin, Sylvia Prince, Mary Stenger.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Robert and Stacy Althoff, Agnes Brugger-Hill, Katherine and Robert Harrington, Kathy and Steve Marsh, Lisa Williams.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: Emily Ercel Alameda, Matthew Dean Raab, Claire Noel Young, Ryan Michael Allen, Maria Gutierrez, Abigail Gutierrez, Alyssa Renee Jones, Courtney Lynn Manning, Annie Donovan Rasmussen, James Robert Maier, Brian Daniel Sroka, Allison Kay Cimarusti, Eric George Houston II, Elizabeth Ann Pierson, Kaitlin Marie Reinhart, Dana Williams, Lauren Williams.

Congratulations to the following couples recently married at St. Patrick's: Mary Thuan Thi Nguyen and Steve Anh Phi Vu, Angela Jane Craddock and Michael Henry Curletti, Amy Lynn McDade and Mark Ryan Goudschael, Delroy Alexander Robinson and Michaelene Marie Ostrosky, Michael Jerard Pratt and Trudy Lynette Good, Therese Marie Slabe and Todd Dedrich Schumacher.

Please pray for parishioners: Helen Louise Barrymore and Cheryl Casto.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus*, March 1997, is **February 9**.

Liturgy of Evening Prayer refreshes the soul

During the two holy seasons of Advent and Lent parishioners gather at St. Patrick's to participate in the liturgy of Evening Prayer.

Evening Prayer is one portion of the Divine Office, also called the Liturgy of the Hours. Its purpose is to sanctify the day—through prayer the whole course of the day and night is made holy by the praise of God.

Historically, ordained men and members of certain religious communities have been obligated to celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours by praying together at appointed times during the day and night. Monastic communities sang or chanted the Hours of Matins, Lauds, Prime, Terce, Sext, None, Vespers, and Compline. (If you've read historical fiction or mysteries with a monastic setting, you may have seen these names for the Hours.)

With the liturgical reforms following the Second Vatican Council, emphasis has been placed on Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer as the "hinges on which the daily office turns." Other current elements of the Liturgy of the Hours are the Office of Readings, Daytime Prayer, and Night Prayer.

Evening Prayer is celebrated in the evening, when the day is almost over. At the setting of the sun we direct our prayer of praise and thanksgiving, our hopes to Christ, the Light that never ends. This Hour, reflecting in its components the liturgical season or feast being celebrated, is made up of an opening hymn, psalmody, canticles, a reading from Scripture, intercessions, the Lord's Prayer, and a concluding prayer and blessing.

The Divine Office is not just for priests and religious; as one of the official liturgies of the Church (Mass, or Eucharist, is another, one to which the Office is closely allied), it is intended to become the prayer of the whole Church,

the people of God. "The laity, too, are encouraged to recite the Divine Office, either with the priests, or among themselves, or even individually" (Vatican II document on the Sacred Liturgy).

When you see Evening Prayer listed in the parish weekly bulletin for the Wednesdays of Lent, consider participating in St. Patrick's celebration of this world-wide liturgy, the prayer of the *entire* Church.



Archives Committee to offer "Sneak Preview"

Last month the Archives Committee brought *In Focus* readers up-to-date on members' projects. This month the committee offers a sneak preview of a coming event—and asks for parishioners' help.

On a Sunday in March the group plans to set up a display of photographs and other parish memorabilia culled from items collected over the years. Members hope parishioners will be able to put names to the faces in the photographs, some of which were taken some time ago. (Is that shy-looking fellow with the sweet smile your dad as a fourth-grader? Was that impish little girl in white dress and veil a classmate of yours "way back when"?)

Some prayer books, a sick call set, and some other items will be displayed to give an idea of the kinds of things the committee

has been collecting. Perhaps you can offer similar items that might help show how things once were in this parish, established nearly one hundred years ago.

A computer will also be set up for those who want to check on dates of sacraments received at St. Patrick's. And notebooks containing histories of parish organizations will be put on view.

Committee members think you'll have a good time looking at some of St. Patrick's history. They also hope that, with an idea of the kinds of items and information they're looking for, you'll remember some events or activities or bits of parish history that will make an interesting addition to the archives they are building.

Watch for details in the next issue of *In Focus* and the weekly bulletin about this preview of the parish's centennial celebration!

Five youth welcomed into Church at December children's mass

Every Sunday is marked by a great sense of celebration at Children's Liturgy, but the liturgy on Dec. 15 was especially memorable. On this day St. Patrick's families helped welcome five children into the Church. An overflow crowd of children and adults listened and watched with enthusiastic, prayerful hearts.

Fr. Remm invited all to renew their baptismal vows as he spoke the words "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" and poured the water of life over the youngsters' foreheads. Everyone present was filled with joy and a sense of oneness. After Mass the children who had been baptized continued their celebration with their families at a reception in the parish lounge.

These children and their families had begun their preparation for this day last October by coming together for two special sessions. Rosemary Mathy, Family Life Coordinator, and Ellen Amberg, Children's Program Coordinator, collaborated in developing a baptism preparation program for families with children aged 3-12. The sessions will be repeated this winter on Feb. 13 and 20. Families interested in participating in the program may call Rosemary or Ellen at the parish office (367-2665) for information.



The St. Patrick's faith community welcomed (from left) Eric Houston, Kaitlin Reinhart, Elizabeth Pierson, Lauren Williams and Dana Williams into the church community during Children's Liturgy Dec. 15.

It is God who elects!

Catechumens, candidates take another step on first Sunday of Lent

On the first Sunday of Lent we are given a powerful reminder of the profound truth that it is God who elects, God who chooses, God who take the initiative. It is on this Sunday that several men and women, who have been meeting

regularly for months, acknowledge and affirm their recognition of a call from God leading them to explore full communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

For these men and women, whom we call catechumens and candidates (the unbaptized and the baptized), election can be traced to an earlier time when they first felt the tug, the invitation, the call to explore more fully the teachings of the Church. In recognition of this call as issuing from God, the Church (in the persons of catechists, staff, sponsors, and indeed of all the faithful of St. Patrick's) publicly accepts them in God's name. Catechumens and candidates inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect, the book of names of those who have been chosen for initiation.

Inquiry and catechumenate sessions have brought to catechumens an awareness of who Jesus Christ is, how he gives meaning to our lives, and how the Church lives out her call to Christianity. Candidates, already baptized in a Christian faith, have become acquainted with the ways the Church lives out this call in her liturgies and mission. The entire process calls for a change

of mind and heart and a conviction to follow Christ more closely in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Rite of Election, with the enrollment of names of the Elect on the first Sunday of Lent, marks the beginning of a period of enlightenment and purification, a time during which these men and women will explore more deeply the Church's sacramentality, spirituality, and commitment to social justice. These six weeks of Lent are a time of deepening awareness.

As members of St. Patrick's faith community, we can do no less than share this time of enlightenment and purification with the Elect. We walk with them in their journey of faith, and we pray God to walk with them—with us—during this time of deepening awareness of God's call and its meaning for all of us.

And now I speak to you, my brothers and sisters in this assembly: Are you ready to support the testimony expressed about these catechumens and include them in your prayer and affection as we move toward Easter?

From the Rite of Election

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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February loaded with faith opportunities for families

(Continued from page 1)

places two blessed candles, crossed, on either side of the person's throat and prays, "May God deliver you from trouble of the throat and from every other evil through the intercession of St. Blase, bishop and martyr."

Ash Wednesday February 12

At the onset of Lent, the Church's penitential season, gold and white and green give way to purple. The paean of praise we call the Gloria and the beautiful, untranslatable Alleluia are omitted. Words and music in our liturgies take on a haunting note of supplication, a hunger and thirst for reconciliation, for justice, for mercy. The palms of victory, praise, and honor have been rendered into dust and ashes.

On this first day, as in the days of Abraham and the prophets of old, the people of God heap ashes on their heads and implore God's mercy and forgiveness. We are reminded, as our foreheads are marked with the dust of last year's palms, of our mortality: "Remember, you are dust, and to dust you will return." "In all you do, remember

the end of your life, and then you will never sin," says Sirach (7:36). *Parce Domine*, "Spare us, O Lord, O spare us, your people; let not your wrath be upon us forever," we pray.

Attend Mass as a family on this day if at all possible.

Lent

How will your family use this season to grow through prayer, almsgiving, and penance?

You might gather your family for a time of common prayer each day during this season, perhaps attend weekday Mass together if circumstances permit. Each family member might take a turn at leading the family's prayer of thanksgiving and asking God's blessing at mealtime or bedtime.

Almsgiving can mean giving treasure, time, talent, or even things no longer needed, like toys or clothes. We may wish to remember these words of St. Basil: "It is the bread of the famished that you retain, the cloak of the naked that you keep in your cupboard, the shoes of the barefoot that rot in your keeping, the money of the needy that you keep hidden away. As much as yet remains

in your power to give, by so much do you harm others."

While penance is often viewed in terms of fasting from a particular food, we can also fast from other pleasures. What would be a sacrifice—not watching TV? not using the telephone from 6 to 8 p.m.? eating a sack lunch instead of dining out? Perhaps something extra instead of something less, like reading a book that helps us grow in spirit, or volunteering help in the neighborhood where needs are visible. What other penitential acts can we perform as a family during Lent?

St. Valentine's Day February 14

Although St. Valentine is no longer included in the official calendar of the Church, the day is widely celebrated in the secular world. Perhaps you could share the legends of St. Valentine and discuss the meaning of love with your children while together you make valentines for friends and family members. In what other ways do you as a family demonstrate your love for one another and for other people? How does God demonstrate his love for you?

St. Patrick's children celebrate First Reconciliation

On Dec. 3 St. Patrick's children and their families came together to pray for God's peace, for God's light, for God's forgiveness and healing love, in a celebration of First Reconciliation.

After singing and praying together, listening to God's Word and reflecting on that Word, and offering their petitions to the Father, both the children and their families participated in an examination of conscience and prayed for forgiveness in those time-honored words, "O my God, I am sorry . . ."

After presenting their children to the priest, parents and other family members who wished to do so made their individual confessions, united in this communal celebration of reconciliation with God and with one another. Then all retired to the parish hall to continue their celebration with refreshments.

St. Patrick's faith community rejoices in this occasion of great grace for these

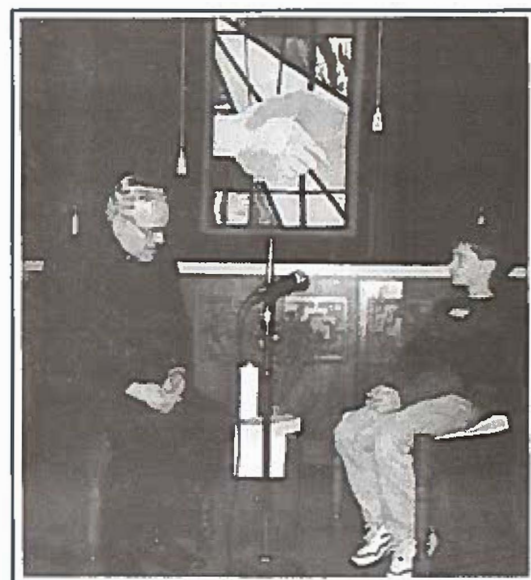
children, for their families, and for this community. Congratulations to one and all:

Timothy Beckenholdt, Michael Beckwith, Camille Bookter, Charles Booth, Will Booth, Christopher Brown, Tuan Anh Bui, Christian Bunyan, Thomas Bunyan, Rebecca Crawford;

Joshua Daly, Maria Dorsey, Cody Downes, Nakita Downes, James Ducey, Nathaniel Foote, Daniel Golaszewski, Laura Golaszewski, Jessica Grove, Jennifer Guan, Michael Handal, John Hogan, Morgan Holbrook;

Kathryn Jean, Juliana Kalipeni, Ashley Kerr, Jared Kimball, Adam Kirby, Rachel Krein, Danielle Lepar, Anna Mayer, Charles McTaggart, Todd McTaggart, Eric Melander;

Brendan Peters, Christopher Plunk, Collin Reinhart, Thomas Rohl, John Schingel, Bradley Schnizlein, Nicholas Shoda, Hanna Sons, Timothy Turner, Emily Westervelt.



As part of First Reconciliation preparation, Fr. Remm invited one of the children to role-playing celebrating the sacrament. What a fine job by "Father" Morgan Holbrook!

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Betty Christian

MIRACLE COBBLER

1 c sugar
1 c flour
1 c milk
1 t baking powder
1/8 t salt
1 stick margarine
#2 1/2 can (28 oz) fruit

Mix all dry ingredients and milk. Melt margarine in 9 x 13 inch baking pan. Pour batter over margarine. Add fruit and half the juice. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown.



Fr. Vincent Bui to go to Africa in August

My Dearest Friends:

I cannot believe it! I have been ministering at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, the only Catholic parish community in Flushing (Mich.), for 18 months. Fr. Steve (our pastor) and I are ministering to about 2000 families with more than 6000 parishioners and about 500 students in our school. We also serve at Good Shepherd Parish in Montrose. Last week we buried our beloved retired priest, Fr. Jacobs, who was our pastor for 20 years and helped the parish to build both the church and the school. He will be missed very much by all of us at St. Robert's.

When I left Vietnam in 1981 I never thought that one day I would be going home, but I did! In February 1996 I spent 20 days in Vietnam with my 93-year-old grandmother, parents, 7 siblings, 18 nieces and nephews, and many friends and relatives. About 300 family members and friends and I gathered together for a Mass of Thanksgiving and a joyous celebration. It was a great trip, and I enjoyed every minute of it!

Many of you may have already heard that I will be leaving America for Africa. Yes, it is true that with the priests of the Society of St. Sulpice, I will be training the future priests for the Catholic Church in Zambia, Africa. I probably will leave for Africa in August 1997. Right now I am committed to a three-year assignment. I know it is a challenge—and I thank God for the opportunity to be challenged!

I thank you for your support and prayers in my first 18 months of priestly ministry. And I thank you for your love and friendship that have helped shape my life as a priest. May God continue to shower you with his love and grace.

Your grateful brother,

Vincent



Parishioner learns lesson from purchasing new auto

A few years ago I sold my car and bought a new one. I did a lot of research beforehand, and the result was a shiny new, well-built, fuel-efficient car at a reasonable price.

A week after I bought it, I stopped on my way home from work to run an errand. When I got to my house and got out of the car, I discovered, on the side of my week-old shiny new car, a dent. A dent made, evidently, by someone's red car door while I was on my errand.

I was incensed. How could anyone be so careless and irresponsible? I planned how I'd stake out the parking lot and pounce on the first red car owner I saw. I'd run an ad in the paper: "Would the person who so inconsiderately bashed my car door in the parking lot please repent and come forward?" I lay awake for a couple of nights stewing about it. How dare someone do this to me?

Then I listened to myself. To me? Nobody did anything to me. Someone did something to a car, a car that I owned.

I like to think of myself as not very materialistic. I supposedly know that the value of life is not found in possessions. I hang around churches and talk about the lilies of the field and all that. From this experience, however, I realized that even I can let my identity and being get tied up in a possession, an object, a thing.

After all, it was only a car, albeit a shiny new one. I bought it because I wanted a car that got good gas mileage and would last a long time. None of those things were affected by the dent. It wasn't even that noticeable; the light had to be just right, and you had to be looking for it.

I learned something that week. I learned that I could get hooked by something I own, hooked enough to get angry on its behalf, which means that I was extending my own ego boundaries to include that car. And that's pretty dumb.

I don't think God gives us dents to teach us lessons. I do think God works on us from the inside to help us learn from the dents that happen in our lives. I think I did—at least, I hope so.

Name withheld on request



To our readers: Happy Valentine's Day! . . .

Parish Council News

Members turn attention to 1997 objectives

At their December and January meetings Council members directed attention to objectives for 1997, those of the Council itself as well as those of the standing committees of the Council and other parish groups.

Council members acknowledged the receipt of a bequest of \$5000 and \$2775.64 as a rebate from the Diocese of Peoria's Annual Stewardship Appeal (another rebate is expected when the diocese issues the ASA year-end report). They agreed to allocate this income to the parish's Centennial Fund, which will be used for refurbishing the church in preparation for its centennial celebration in 2001.

Fr. Remm described plans for the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, to be located in Washington, D.C. American Catholics are being asked to contribute to the construction of the building and funding for seven scholars, who will be studying papal documents and culture through the centuries. The goal of this campaign is \$80 million. The Diocese of Peoria is conducting a pilot project, with St. Patrick's one of several parishes invited to take part; the rest of the parishes in the diocese will be invited to participate at the end of Lent. St. Patrick's goal is \$25,000.

Lenore Nagele, Evangelization coordinator, provided a written report on an evangelization conference attended last fall and mentioned that an evangelization team of parishioners is being formed. The team will begin meeting in January or February with a view to discerning directions for evangelization both in the parish and in the local community. They will keep the Council informed of their activities and plans.

Hugh Phillips, of El Centro por Los Trabajadores (a local group established in 1994 to serve the needs of area Latino urban migrant workers), thanked the Council for St. Patrick's support of their work. He said that there are approximately 2500 Latinos in C-U now. Most of them are 16-22 years old, legal immigrants with work permits who intend eventually to return to their homes. About half of them work full time, others longer hours; most are in low-paying jobs. Many, he said, are lonely and feel out of place. The Mass in Spanish at St.



Patrick's, attended by 200-300 people, has provided a friendly place for them to worship and a way for them to get to know others. Most of the Latino population are Catholics, and they place a great emphasis on family values. The group El Centro por Los Trabajadores helps to put them in touch with agencies and individuals providing health care, legal advice, education, housing, and counseling. English classes are offered on Saturday mornings at St. Patrick's parish center.

Steve Peet provided information in writing about licenses granted to the parish permitting duplication of music for parish liturgies and other services and events. Groups wishing to make copies of music for use during services are encouraged to obtain a copy of the requirements for doing so (they are easy to comply with) so that the parish does not infringe on copyrights owned by the publishers.

The search committee for a music director to succeed Steve Peet when he leaves at the end of June will be chaired by Beth McDonald by reason of her position as chair of the Liturgy Committee. Other members, as provided by the Council's by-laws, are: for the Liturgy Committee, Ellen Amberg; for the Personnel Committee, Jean Daly; for the Council, Cathy Salika; and Fr. Remm, pastor. The position is being advertised in centers for liturgical music and in appropriate local and regional publications. The deadline for applications is Mar. 31; interviews and auditions will be held during April. Parishioners are invited to attend the auditions, which will be held in the church—watch the weekly bulletin for information as time draws near.

St. Patrick's Catholic Education Fund continues to grow; more than \$300,000 has

been pledged.

The Building and Grounds Committee is looking into improvements to the ramp at the east side of the church and will make its recommendation later.

Plans are being made to conduct a statistically meaningful needs assessment of the parish by July 1. Peter Bloome will serve as interim chair of the planning committee, assisted by Frank Modica and Joe Tobias. The survey is expected to provide information valuable in setting long-range parish goals (1998-2002) next fall. Council members have as one of their objectives the broad involvement of parishioners in the setting of those goals.

Three proposals for new programs have been received and will be discussed and acted upon at the February Council meeting: a new stipended position, Coordinator of Youth Activities; establishing a Computer Reserve Fund; and extension of the position of Coordinator of Evangelization to a three-year term.

This year's Parish Council election will take place on Apr. 19-20, when four new members will be elected to fill vacancies left by out-going members. The election committee will include out-going president Dick Justice and Allen Booth, with three others from the parish at large.

The next meeting of the Council will begin at 7 p.m. on Feb. 20. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings.

Fr. Abdel-Nour sends greetings

*Dear Father George Remm,
dear benefactors,*

*We will pray for you, your
parishioners, and all your dear
ones during Midnight Mass, on
Dec. 25, near the Holy Grotto.*

*Merry Christmas, and a Happy
New Year.*

Letters to Fr. Abdel-Nour should be sent to:
P.O. Box 3
Beit Jala, Palestine



in our parish library

Our Greatest Gift: A Meditation on Dying and Caring by Henri J.M. Nouwen

"Where and how do you wish to die?" This question was raised at a meal Henri Nouwen shared with two friends soon after the death of a mutual friend. It was a question that came from their new awareness that, like their friend, they would soon die.

"Our awareness," Nouwen writes in *Our Greatest Gift*, "prompted us to ask ourselves: Are we preparing ourselves for our death, or are we ignoring death by keeping busy? Are we helping each other to die, or do we simply assume we are going to always be here for each other? Will our death give new life, new hope, and new faith to our friends, or will it be no more than another cause for sadness?"

"The main question is now how much we will still be able to do during the few years we have left to live, but rather how we can prepare ourselves for our death in such a way that our dying will be a new way for us to send our and God's spirit to those whom we have loved and who have loved us."

The question "Where and how do you want to die" brought him face-to-face with a great challenge, he added: not only to live well, but also to die well. He decided that he "wanted to write about befriending my death so that it can become my best gift to the world I love so much." And he did.

When Joseph Cardinal Bernardin was told that he could expect to die in a few months, Henri Nouwen gave him this "best gift," which the cardinal gratefully and publicly acknowledged. Not long after, Nouwen himself died.

In this moving, personal look at human mortality, Nouwen shares his own experiences with aging, loss, grief, and fear. He eloquently reveals the gifts that the living and dying can give to one another. He challenges us to accept our own death as a part of our spiritual journey, not its end.

We remember them!

*In the rising of the sun and its going down,
We remember them.*

*In the blowing of the wind and the chill of
winter,
We remember them.*

*In the opening of the buds and the rebirth
of spring,
We remember them.*

*In the blueness of the sky and the warmth
of summer,
We remember them.*

*In the rustling of the leaves and the beauty
of autumn,
We remember them.*

*In the beginning of the year and when it
ends, We remember them.*

*When we are weary and in need of
strength, We remember them.*

*When we are lost and sick at heart,
We remember them.*

*When we have joys we yearn to share,
We remember them.*

*So long as we live, they too shall live,
for they are now a part of us,
As we remember them.*

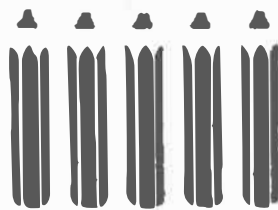
A Jewish Prayer

Holy Cross School Newsline

Students ready to celebrate Catholic Schools week

Holy Cross students prepared for Christmas with many "ADVENT-ures" in service. Kindergarten youngsters sang at area nursing homes and gave Christmas cards, stamps, and other gifts. First-graders collected books, art, and school supplies for the Center for Women in Transition. Second-graders made cards and placemats for residents of local nursing homes. Third-graders donated books for a used-book sale, with proceeds to be used to purchase mittens for children at Columbia School. They also sang at the Holy Cross Parish Senior Citizens Luncheon.

Fourth-graders collected money for gifts for children at the Catholic Worker House and decorated Crisis Nursery bags and Humane Society bags for gift shops. One fifth-grade class held a charity basketball game, with proceeds going to the Catholic Worker



House; the other made Nativity scenes for children at Swan School and nursing home residents.

Sixth-graders collected money for needy families. Seventh-graders collected toys for Catholic Social Service, supervised in the visitation program, or collected items for the Humane Society. Eighth-graders held an Advent Basket raffle; one ticket for each can of food donated. They also collected cookies for area shelters or goodies for the Humane Society.

Students returned to classes on Jan. 6,

and on the following day Jacob Thompson won the Geography Bee. Finalists for the school's Spelling Bee include Lauren Bohn, Tim Larsen, Emily Kacich, and Theresa Lawrence; one of these will emerge as winner in the finals, to be held during Catholic Schools Week, the last week of January.

First Reconciliation was celebrated at Holy Cross Church on Jan. 11. Congratulations to Vincent Christman, Brooklyn Clevenger, Jennifer Fitton, Jacob Krueger, Kathryn Millsap, Dustin Sanchez, and Jonathan Vimr.

The theme of this year's Catholic School Week, observed throughout the nation from Jan. 26 to Feb. 1, is "Celebrate Catholic Schools." At Holy Cross School, this special week will feature the Spelling Bee finals and an all-school Mass at 8:15 a.m. on Jan. 31.



Looking to the Year 2000: The New Evangelization

by Thomas Curran

Some time after these events, God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Ready!" he replied. (Gen 22:1, NAB)

Two qualities that most influential leaders possess to a high degree, and which they foster in others, are *awareness* and *preparedness*. Very few leaders stumble into successful efforts or find themselves suddenly in charge of a flourishing initiative. Rather, over time and through many trials and tribulations, great leaders develop a keen sense for naming the present opportunity and responding to it. Through decisive and determined action on these occasions, great leaders have accomplished amazing things.

Jesus calls for these very qualities in the first words of his public ministry: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel" (*Mark 1:15*). Jesus' discernment is clear: the kingdom of God is breaking into history right now (*be aware!*). The response this moment requires is also clear: repent and believe (*be prepared!*).

Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, is such a leader. From the beginning of his pontificate he has sought to discern the "signs of the times," seeking a clear sense of how God is moving today. He is convinced and convicting in his discernment and his call. Today we live in a specially graced moment when God is presenting the entire church with an opportunity and a challenge to proclaim the gospel as the essential way of preparing for the year 2000.

In 1987, the pope said: "I would like to talk to you about an event that concerns the whole Church. It is the Great Jubilee Year 2000. This anniversary requires of the whole Church a period of serious preparation. The Holy Spirit is truly able to effect in the Church a new Pentecost. The Church must be totally absorbed with the task of bringing Christ to the world. The year 2000 is the most important anniversary that humanity has ever known."

This opportunity to proclaim the Gospel is so great, he continues, that it is unparalleled in history. The call of the moment is for a dynamic new evangelization to prepare for the Great Jubilee Year 2000.

In his apostolic letter, **On Preparation for the Jubilee of the Year 2000** (*Tertio Millennio Adveniente*), John Paul II explains the concept of a "year of jubilee" in the Old Testament and in the Catholic tradition, and points to the grace which God is preparing for the church as we approach the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ. A jubilee year is "a year of the Lord's favor" (cf. *Lk 4:19*), marked by forgiveness of sins, the granting of special graces and indulgences, and calls to special acts of repentance and reconciliation. The year 2000, as the ending of the second millennium and the doorway to the third millennium, is unlike any jubilee year ever celebrated. For this reason Pope John Paul II refers to it as the Great Jubilee Year. He calls for universal recognition of this important moment and for extraordinary responses on the part of the church. In

short, he wants a church *aware* of this specially graced moment, and fully *prepared* to meet it.

He writes: "Everyone is asked to do as much as possible to ensure that the great challenge of the year 2000 is not overlooked, for this challenge certainly involves a special grace of the Lord for the Church and for the whole of humanity." (TM #55)

Being a prophetic leader at this point of history is serious business. Opportunities pass by. Missed occasions of grace might involve tragic consequences. The pope is intent on making sure that the entire People of God responds to the call of God today, and by doing so helps usher in a new springtime in the life of the church. We are blessed to have such a man as pope today. My prayer is that each Catholic will soon hear of his call for a new evangelization towards the Great Jubilee Year 2000, and repeat with courage the word of Abraham, our father in faith: "Ready!"

About the author

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February 1997

St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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 of In Focus is February 9.

1
6:00pm Ladies Knight Out

<p>2 9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed 9:00am RCIA 10:15am Children's Liturgy 3:00pm Spanish Mass 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Religious Ed 6:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>3 11:00am Rosary-Champaign Cty NH 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm Pro-Life Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Holy Week Planning Mtg</p>	<p>4 6:00pm Catechist Appreciation Dinner</p>	<p>5 6:45am Men's Bible Study 5:15pm Childrens Choir 6:00pm Religious Ed, Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Re-Membering Church</p>	<p>6 9:30am Moms Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH</p>	<p>8 Collection for John Paul II Cultural Center 9:00am -3:00pm Lenten Retreat on Biblical Spirituality</p>
<p>9 Mardi Gras 9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed 9:00am RCIA 9:00am -11:00am Lenten Library Display 10:15am Children's Liturgy 12:00pm Teen Liturgy 3:00pm Spanish Mass 5:00pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Religious Ed 6:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>10 11:00am Rosary-Champaign Cty NH 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>11 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:30pm Parish Council Executive Com</p>	<p>12 Ash Wednesday 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00am 12:10pm & 5:15pm Mass 9:30am Funeral Schola 6:00pm Religious Ed, Urbana 6:15pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Religious Ed, St. Joe 6:45pm Evening Prayer 7:00pm SVDP 7:30pm Distribution of Ashes</p>	<p>13 6:30pm Building & Grounds Com 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Baptism Prep</p>	<p>14 10:30am Mass-Urbana NH 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed 9:00am RCIA Rite of Election 10:15am Children's Liturgy 3:00pm Spanish Mass 5:00pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Religious Ed 6:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>17 11:00am Rosary-Champaign Cty NH 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 6:45am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Childrens Reconciliation Service 6:45pm Evening Prayer 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Re-Membering Church 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20 9:30am Moms Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Parish Council 7:30pm Pax Christi</p>	<p>21 10:30am Mass-Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9:00am RCIA 3:00pm Spanish Mass 5:00pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>24 9:30am Archives Com 11:00am Rosary-Champaign Cty NH 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Liturgy Com</p>	<p>25 7:00pm Homily Prep</p>	<p>26 6:45am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm Meager Meal 6:45pm Evening Prayer 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Knights of Columbus 7:00pm Communications Com</p>	<p>28 10:30am Mass-Manor Care 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry</p>	

