

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



John Paul II Cultural Center

We're already being made aware that the next millennium is only a few years away. Some are anticipating significant changes in lifestyle; others are viewing the new century as more of the same. Still others are getting excited, not knowing exactly what to expect.

For us as Catholics, the Third Millennium holds a very special meaning since the millennium itself marks the time of Christ on this earth. While the year 2000 is certainly a cause for thanksgiving and celebration, it is also an opportunity to recommit the global Catholic community to the work of Jesus. Towards this goal, Archbishop Adam Maida of Detroit is heading an effort to establish The Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C. It will be located in the vicinity of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and Catholic University.

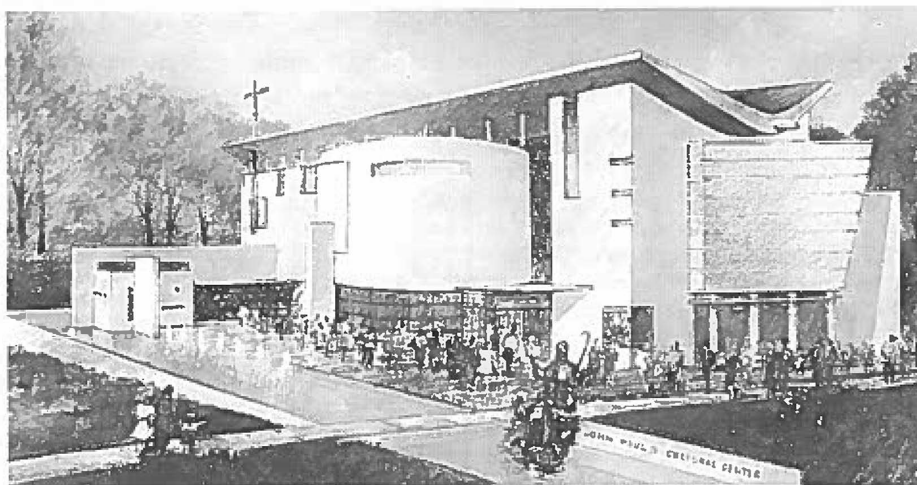
The primary goal of the Cultural Center is to strengthen the Catholic Church in the United States. Towards that end, the center will:

1) inspire evangelization by broadening and deepening our self-identity as Catholics.

2) preserve and perpetuate the Church's teaching on peace, justice, and human dignity.

3) establish a center for scholarship and research of the papacy, the Church, and its historical impact on world cultures.

The Center will house a museum, a study center, a library, along with space for exhibits, performances, lectures, and seminars relating to the interaction of faith and culture.



What does incarnation mean?

An artist was commissioned by a great church to do a sculpture for a shrine. He wanted the work to express all he was feeling as a human person. After working very hard on it, and nearly finished, he called in some children to look at it. One child said "it's a statue of a great man," and the others agreed, "a great man." The artist shook his head and went back

to work. Then he called the children back. This time it looked like a "good man." Disappointed, he went back to work again. Weeks later the children came back and immediately, one of them said, "it is Christ."

Now he was happy, satisfied, because what he was trying to say in the statue is what the gospels try to tell us in every line: "it is Christ—not merely a great man, not merely a good man, but the GOD-MAN."

Christmas celebrates Jesus, the eternal and divine son of God the Father, being born as the son of a human, Mary. This is the mystery of the incarnation. Jesus born in flesh.

Father Kane

We asked--you gave.

This Thanksgiving dinner is donated by the people of St. Patrick's Church, Urbana. "We thank thee, Heavenly Father, for every earthly good, for life and health and friendship and our daily food."

This message and prayer was included in every basket which was delivered to the very needy this past Thanksgiving week. Also included were colorful cards made by the 28 Jr. High Religious Education students, who also filled the 204 food baskets. Our plea for the less fortunate, from our parishioners, you were most generous, which made our project a huge success. 178 parishioners donated \$4,363 to cover the food cost. Volunteers were many and outstanding. The youngest was Christina Bonse, 9 years old, and the oldest was Tom Shay, age 87, who is a S.V.D.P. member from Holy Cross. Kay Gingerich, from The Mental Health Center supplied us with over 80 clients' names. Their counselors who helped to deliver their dinners were Jean Parks, Ed Hawkes, Diani Daily, Kay Villarosa and Kay Gingerich.

Family Services and Louise Tanner supplied us with the families who they knew who were in need, the ones who otherwise would have gone without a Thanksgiving dinner.

Our project had help from many. Joe Tobias saw that we had our food baskets donated, which were picked up by

Byron DeHaven, Joe Tobias and Bill VanCleave.

The three faithful ones who carried up the canned food from the church basement were Ray Wait, Oscar Kocher and Bill VanCleave.

Dick Barrett ordered the pies and delivered them to the parish center. Joe and Mary Sleeter ordered the eggs and they picked up by Sophia Zeigler and Betty Christian.

We thank Lauren Bonse and her Jr. High Religious Education class. After they filled the heavy boxes with food, Carolyn McElrath treated them to pizza, drinks and candy. A job well done by Megan Blair, Georgina Bonse, Ann Marie Brown, Michael Downes, Laura Fahey, Robert Grove, Ines Hubler, Darlena Keller, Gregory Kingery, Eric Portis, Nicholas Tazik, Patty and Josh Bane, Micheal Bullard, Ted Turner, Anne Crosetti, Laura David, Rose Dipietro, Mark Douglas, Trisha Downs, Robbie McCartney, Nicole Parker, Tom Touthendeaux-Pollard, Jason Retz, Cain Delves, Allen Strong, Josh Pullian Testory, Abby Yeazel and Lauren Westhusing. (If your name isn't here, you didn't sign in.) We have nothing but praise for these young volunteers. Parents, you may be proud of them. They said that they put extra love in each basket. Sunday afternoon, we asked, they came. Smiling faces to sort the food on the tables in the

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St. Patrick's In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Written materials must include the name and telephone number of the writer.

Please leave news items in the Communications Committee mail bin in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee. By-lines are generally omitted.

Editorial board: Mary Lee Brady, 344-3752; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701 (mmenches@uiuc.edu); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (c-salika@uiuc.edu); Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Carol Schrepfer, 384-2060 (cschrepf@uiuc.edu); Peggy Whelan, 367-3668 (m-whelan@uiuc.edu).

Associates: Joan Apperson, Carol Bosley, Mary Fonner, Julie Herman, Barbara Higgins, Dorothy Maduzia, Lori and Tom McDonough, Cristy Nowak, Marty Perry, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika.

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Mary Lee Brady, Judy Conover, Fr. Gene Kane, Miriam Lancaster, Lori McDonough, Dorothy Maduzia, Susan Nagele, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Uyen Du Vu, Peggy Whelan, Barb Wysocki, Sophia Zeigler. This issue was paged by Cristy Nowak.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of ...

Ida D'Urso

Candy Coated Chex Mix

- 2 c. Cheerios
- 2 c. Rice Chex
- 2 c. Wheat Chex
- 2 c. Corn Chex
- 2 c. thin pretzel sticks



- 1-1/2 c. peanuts (regular or dry-roasted, salted or unsalted)
- 1 lb. white almond bark
- 1 T. vegetable oil

Mix dry ingredients in large bowl. Melt the almond bark with the vegetable oil. Stir mixture until smooth, then pour over the dry ingredients. Mix well and spread out on wax paper in thin layers. Let cool and dry; break apart and store in tight containers or freezer bags. Good munching!

Bringing faith to life

Eileen Westervelt has been teaching CCD to preschoolers for the last three years with all her heart. To get the stories and concepts across, Eileen tries to engage the children with as many senses as possible during each class so there is always an art project, songs, stories, games or playacting, and prayer. Playacting out the bible stories is by far the

class favorite--whether it be parting the Red Sea, knocking down the walls of Jericho, being the Good Samaritan or re-enacting the Christmas Story--the classroom is temporarily transformed into the bible lands with enthusiastic characters and an assortment of garage-sale towels, sheets, canes, etc. for costumes and props.

In an effort to get religion into the home and get the parents involved, Eileen sends home a weekly bulletin to parents summarizing the day's projects and giving suggestions for home activities including discussion questions. (She presents prayers for the children to say at home and encourages the children to teach their families--table graces, bedtime prayers, songs of praise. She aims for art projects which will be displayed in the home as a sign and reminder of our faith and a teaching tool--a Christmas creche made from toilet paper tubes, and this year's paper plate creation mobile have been family favorites.

Additionally, her classes have put together bound prayer books decorated with the child's artwork as a keepsake and reinforcement

Continued on p. 6



Parish Council News

When the Council met on November 21, Chuck Milewski was welcomed as a new Council member. Chuck will complete Alta Tarter's term.

Fr. Remm presented an update on the Champaign County Catholic High School issue. Work is underway to determine the feasibility of getting sufficient donations to make the school viable. The consultant's report on this phase of the project is expected in March.

The team that planned this year's Objectives workshop was dismissed with thanks. Committee Liaisons were reminded that two things are due on January 10: the status report on each group's 1996 objectives and the final version of their 1997 objectives.

A progress report from the Committee on Committees generated a lively discussion. The Committee asked the Council to weigh the merits of a rules-based approach to the way the Council relates to its committees versus a Spirit-based approach. Is it good for each committee to have its own way of doing business or should the Council lay down some basic rules about membership and charges? Is it possible to have a discussion with a committee of more than 8-10 members? Maybe committees should have "associate members" who help with specific projects



but don't normally attend committee meetings. The final report from the Committee on Committees will touch on these and other areas of committee work.

Steve Peet reviewed the many activities of the parish music program as this month's "Know Your Parish" presenter. There are 5 ensembles: the 9:00 Choir, the 10:30 Choir, the Funeral Schola, the Children's Choir and the Junior/Senior High Handbell Choir. Both the 9:00 and 10:30 choirs

have gained members this fall, partly as a result of the Time and Talent drive. The two young peoples' groups are small but enthusiastic. The Children's Choir in particular is enjoying the opportunity to use the xylophones and other instrument which were donated recently.

Steve also announced that he will not be renewing his contract next summer. He plans to move his career in the direction of opera coaching.

The Council briefly discussed plans for an Epiphany Party on the evening of January 4 as a way to recognize and thank committee members for the many ways in which they contribute to the life of our parish.

Making history: the Archives Committee

You might think the parish archives are dry as dust, but the Archives Committee is one of the most active groups at St. Pat's. The archives give a picture of the life of our parish community through the years. They contain committee minutes, blueprints, photographs, newspaper clippings, bulletins . . . a wide variety of material. Deciding how to preserve them all is an important job.

The parish centennial is coming up in just 4 years, and this group will be ready! Each member of the committee has his or her special project, and the group comes together once a month to share their progress. The group plans to pull all their work together and publish a parish history in time for the centennial.

Fr. Remm serves as Chair of the Committee.

Connie Knake and Florence Chevalier have saved parish materials through their years at St. Pat's, and are now sorting and preparing them for inclusion in the permanent records. Florence also keeps busy clipping News-Gazette and Catholic Post articles about St. Pat's and its parishioners.

Judy Conover is wrapping up a 38-month project to computerize the sacramental records. This will make things easier for the parish office when parishioners need to document the sacraments they have received. It will also make it easier to chart the parish's growth over time. Judy,

Florence Chevalier and Ruth Shaw are preparing bulletins, minutes, newsletters and other archive files for preservation on microfilm.

Grace Bowen has researched and developed an accession procedure for materials received by the committee. Donors sometimes want to know how their gifts will be used, and some of the materials are sensitive. Grace also has prepared an Archives policy statement to help make the records more usable by researchers into local history.

We have a long history of active parishioners and groups, and Nancy Steerman is writing histories of various parish organizations, committees and individuals, a

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Christmas in Viet Nam

Christmas is a very important holiday in Viet Nam, perhaps the most important next to New Year's. I remember how we celebrated in my town, Dong Nai.

In most homes, the family built a 4-to-6 foot long stable with cardboard and brown spray paint. There was room inside for plaster statues of the baby Jesus, Virgin Mary, Joseph, the three kings with their gifts, the shepherds, donkeys, cow and angels. On top there was always a lighted star. Each family added its own decorations, making the stable large enough so neighbors passing by could look in and see it right away.

Our relatives all lived close by, and were all invited to a big party at our house on Christmas morning. Later, when it came time to go to church, we girls and everyone else made sure to dress in our best outfits.

At church, before mass, we put on a play about Jesus' birth. I was in the play too. It was always fun. I especially liked to do what I think of as Catholic dancing: a candle dance and a flower dance, which had taken hours of practice. After the play, the priests had gifts for the honor roll students in religious education class.

In my town, there was a Catholic church every few blocks. Almost all of the churches were Catholic because most of the people who lived there were Catholic. Each year we had a contest to see which church had the best decorations. On Christmas Day, my family, friends, and I rode our motorcycles to look at all the churches. Every one was beautiful. My church, Tien Chu, usually won, thanks to my artist uncle, who helped build the stable and figures of papier-mache.

In Viet Nam, Santa Claus was not very popular. Children did not write to him to tell him what they wanted. In fact, our parents never told us about Santa. They told us only that Christmas was Jesus' birthday. We did not ask for or receive gifts. And, as far as I know, in my town we did not have Christmas trees. But my family had a big lantern in the shape of a star, with candles inside and a picture of the manger, Jesus, his family, and all the animals. We hung the star lantern up high on the balcony, in front of the door, or in a tree, to shine on our home and give us peace. Sometimes I miss Christmas in Viet Nam. It was so much fun.

Here in the United States, my family has a Christmas tree and we exchange gifts. However, one custom here is just the same: we dress in our best outfits and go to church!

*by Uyen Du Vu ("Zu")
Freshman at Urbana High School*

This month and next month, In Focus will include excerpts from a talk given by Dennis Cockrum at the parishwide memorial service on November 13 at St. Patrick's Church.

Good evening.

I am honored to be with you tonight as we join together to remember your loved ones who have died. I am here to share some thoughts with you about grief and about recovery.

Although death is as natural a part of life as birth, we are never prepared to handle this intense pain that results when someone we love dies. Death abruptly changes our lives. When worked through patiently and persistently tremendous personal growth and understanding can result.

What is grief?

Grief is an emotional response to the death of a loved one. It is a process that we must go through in order to come to completion with the relationship that was lost. Grieving allows us to honor our loved one's life and claim the wisdom that was learned and shared with them.

Grief affects our minds, our bodies and our world as we know it. The intensity and length of your grief process will depend on the closeness of the relationship that was lost, how the death occurred, whether or not you perceive the death was preventable, your personality, and your prior experience with loss. Your grief will be more intense if the death was unexpected, the result of an accident or an act of violence and if the person who died was young.

What can help you recover?

I would like to share some suggestions with you that might help you on your personal journey towards recovery.

What can help you recover

You will likely feel *anger* at yourself, the deceased, God), *guilt* (over things you did or did not do, not being able to prevent), *fear and anxiety* (that you are losing your mind, that you might lose someone else), and *depression*. The only way to eventually resolve your grief is to go through this pain. It is important to give yourself permission to feel what you're feeling. To cry when you need to cry. To ask for someone to listen when you need to talk. Because grief work is exhausting you need to take care of yourself and give yourself breaks. *Plenty of sleep, good nutrition, exercise, leisure and prayer* can make a big difference.

You will need to adapt to the separation

Learn to be in the world without the person who shared your unique relationship. You will need to learn to live without all the different types of interactions, validations, and reinforcements that they gave you. You will have to change your hopes, dreams, expectations, feelings, thoughts, and needs that involved his/her presence.

You will need to readjust to the new world without your loved one. All of the things that your loved one did for you and all the things you did for them will need to learn to do some things for yourself and to ask for help from others when necessary.

More suggestions on recovering from grief will be in next month's **In Focus**.

Parish History

(Continued from page 4)

monumental project. She has completed 39 histories, with 53 to go.

Lori McDonough is interviewing longtime parishioners to gain insights into life in our parish and the larger community. She is also collecting and reproducing old photographs of parishioners and parish life. A real "find" appeared recently when Betty and Jim Conerty loaned a photo of the current church with the original frame church (used for 2 years before the present church was built) behind it. The exact location of the original building was previously unknown.

Virginia Alane is identifying the people in photos in the albums kept near the reception desk in the Parish Center and is helping with Guild records.

Besides helping Judy and Lori, Ruth Shaw is a great resource person, having lived in the parish all of her life.

Intrigued? The Archives Committee meets with Fr. Remm at 9:30 a.m. one Monday a month. They welcome new members.

Nimule, Southern Sudan

13 November 1996

mailing address:

Box 52802

Nairobi, Kenya

Dear family and friends,

Greetings once again from Nimule. This is now the fifth Christmas letter from the same place. Given all the concerns in past letters about the war and insecurity you will certainly take what I write with a grain of salt. But I, for one, am very happy to have been able to stay in the same place. In February, Marj Humphrey (a Maryknoll Associate and physician assistant) and I attended the biannual medical conference in Nairobi which we have both attended several times in the past. It is sponsored by the Christian Medical and Dental Society in the U.S. and is always a good opportunity for professional and spiritual rejuvenation. After that, Marj took some leave for medical reasons and unfortunately has not been able to return. We all miss her and hope her health improves and allows her to return.

When I returned to Nimule after the meeting I found that all expatriates had been relocated to northern Uganda for two days because of renewed insecurity. A group of Ugandan rebels had been trained and armed by the Sudanese government. They passed through one of the camps in Mogali where we work and injured 37 people. The number killed was unknown because people feared to look for their bodies. They were afraid that mines had been planted nearby. The Ugandan rebels moved into Uganda and made the roads used for overland transport unsafe. The roads are still unsafe and since April we have had to bring all our medicines and supplies in by plane.

In May I went back to the States for a month. My niece, Becky, graduated from high school. Then I attended

the wedding of my brother, Paul, who married the woman of his dreams, Milagros. I received the Distinguished Alumna award from my medical school. And finally, twelve hours before I was scheduled to board a plane at O'Hare to return to Nairobi, my sister, Jean, delivered another beautiful daughter, Jenna Maria. It was the perfect ending to a month of being with family and doing normal everyday things. After living in a war zone, where life is so abnormal, that is a very great blessing.

In August Sr. Sean went for her three month leave and Sr. Petronella Wawa, a Sudanese Sister and nurse/midwife came to help. In September another Sister came from Uganda for six weeks. They both know three local languages and began a literacy program for women and young girls. At the same time Fr. Arkangelo Lokoro came from Juba to be the new parish priest. It has been quite a privilege to be a part of this new community and hear their stories of faith and persecution in Sudan. They have all been threatened and intimidated because of their Christian faith. Fr. Arkangelo had to leave Juba because his life was in danger. Sr. Petronella's brothers and sisters are in Khartoum and are trying to get out because of persecution. We are all shocked when we read an article from The New York Times in which Louis Farrakhan praised the Sudanese government and denied that slavery exists in Sudan. Alumna award from my medical school. And finally, twelve hours before I was scheduled to board a plane at O'Hare to return to Nairobi, my sister, Jean, delivered another beautiful daughter, Jenna Marie. It was the perfect ending to a month of being with family and doing normal everyday things. After living in a war zone, where life is so abnormal, that is a very great blessing.

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Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is January 12.

Sunday School (Continued from page 3)

of the class lessons.) This year Eileen has begun writing and illustrating Old Testament coloring booklets to further familiarize the children with Scripture. (Building a sense of community is very important to Eileen and so games for learning each others' names in class is a high priority; she also sends home a class photo/address list, and has occasionally invited the parents to gather together with the class at coffee shop and Lenten fish fries. A surefire way to bring the parents into the class activities has been to have the children put on plays and singing programs at Christmas and the end of the school year.) Although Eileen's class is quite active, she recognizes the limited impact of a three hour a month class. Her hope is that the class activities serve as an outline and stimulus for learning at home, where the day-in and day-out lessons of the faith take place.

Giving

(Continued from page 2)

parish center--Freda DeCerbo, Mike Hodits, Andrew and Katie Duncanson, Lauen Bonse and children Alan, Georgina and Christina, Mike Larsen, Ellen Roney, Tim Larsen, Elizabeth Talbot, Carla and Christian Kurtz, Margaret Norton, Zabrina Atkins, Betty and Walley LaBerge, Ruth Ann and Kevin Kingery, Jill Krueger, Chuck Matz, Betty Christian, Theresa Zapp, Norma Kroes, Kay Gingerich, Lynn Trevarthen, Ben Pointer, Leslie Risatti, Karen Coperich and Norman Smith. These Holy Cross S.V.D.P. members, 2 by 2, walked in Monday and Tuesday to help us with the deliveries. They were welcomed: Jim Davis, Tom Shay, Jack Dickerson, Mike Ducey, Joe Lamb, Jim Gorman, Paul and Brad Miller, John Sherlock, and Harry Forrester. Thank you, fellows.

Our parishioners who helped with deliveries were Ruth Ann Kingery, Ruth and Bill Plymire, Joe Tobias, Leonard Butler, Norm Donze, Kay Gingerich, Michella Beilman, Rita Lampe, Bernie and Corky Gasts, Francis Silvers, Grace and Will Conlee, Jean Parks, Louise Tanner and Ray Wait.

Reactions were many from the ones receiving, thank you, God bless, smiles, said it all. (Grace was hugged and kissed by one person whom she delivered to.) We also thank Keith Lindquist for donating the tape and guns which we sealed 204 boxes.

Words cannot express our appreciation to each and every one of you at this time of giving. We are saying God bless you for supporting the St. Vincent De Paul Society.

Sophia Zeigler

News from the Sudan *(Continued from page 6)*

young girls. At the same time Fr. Arkangelo Lokoro came from Juba to be the new parish priest. It has been quite a privilege to be a part of this new community and hear their stories of faith and persecution in Sudan. They have all been threatened and intimidated because of their Christian faith. Fr. Arkangelo had to leave Juba because his life was in danger. Sr. Petronella's brothers and sisters are in Khartoum and are trying to get out because of persecution. We were all shocked when we read an article from The New York Times in which Louis Farrakhan praised the Sudanese government and denied that slavery exists in Sudan. All of us can confirm that slavery still exists in Sudan, both in the minds and hearts of people as well as in actual practice.

All of this abuse, hatred and war has made people become angry, aggressive and close to despair. We see it among ourselves, too, in everyday life and work. So, we really need this season of Advent to help us prepare for another, more peaceful, way of living. It looks like this fighting will continue on for a long time unless we take the Christmas message of peace and love into each of our hearts and change the way we live our lives.

Thanks to each of you who has kept us in your hearts and prayers during this past year. We pray for you, too, that you'll find an abundance of peace and joy in the New Year.

Merry Christmas,

Susan Nagele

Community ecumenical memorial prayer vigil

Share in this memorial declaration of the sanctity of human life on the 24th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision on abortion. This is sponsored by Lutherans for Life--St. John's Lutheran Church, Pro-Life Committee--St. Patrick's Church and the Right to Life Champaign County. Babysitting will be provided and there will be refreshments served after the vigil.

Please come and pray with us at St. John's Lutheran Church, Tuesday, January 21, 1997, at 7:30 p.m. St. John's is located at Mattis and Green in Champaign.

ST. PATRICK'S STAFF



Stephen Peet
Music Director



Carolyn McElrath
Dir. of Religious Education



Sr. Charlene Cesario, S.S.C.M.
Pastoral Associate



Bill VanCleave
Maintenance



William McClellan
Deacon



Fr. George Remm
Pastor



Fr. Eugene Kane
Retired, Assisting



Raymond Alane
Business Operations



Leslie Risatti
Parish Secretary



Evangelization and Ecumenism: Invitation and Welcome

by Fr. Michael McGarry, CSP

Some people can walk; others can chew gum...but can you walk and chew gum at the same time? Would you want to?

Some Catholics seek to evangelize their neighbors (evangelizers); others work at promoting unity and cooperation among the various Christian communities (ecumenists)...but can you evangelize and work for Christian unity at the same time? Would anyone want to?

In their pastoral letter *Go and Make Disciples*, the American bishops claim that, far from being opposed or unrelated, work for evangelization and for Christian unity are two sides of the same coin: "Evangelization [in its] outward direction...addresses those who have not heard the Gospel...[and it] calls us to work for full communion among all who confess Jesus, but do not yet realize the unity for which Christ prayed." The bishops did not just dream up this link between evangelization and ecumenism. On the night before he died, Jesus linked evangelization and working for unity when he prayed: "As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (*Jn* 17:22). We seek oneness precisely so that the world may believe; working for Christian unity includes a missionary goal as part of its purpose. In a most creative sense, then, evangelization and ecumenism complement each other.

Go and Make Disciples is about our sharing the faith, our becoming evangelizers. We appeal in the freedom of God's Spirit to those who are curious about our Catholic way of life. A commitment to ecumenism enriches and shapes our work for evangelization. The context of the Spirit's *freedom* provides a clue as to how evangelization must have an ecumenical spirit; and this, I propose, might be defined as *invitation* and *welcome*.

Our Catholic style of evangelization should be an appeal to others' freedom, to *invite* them to attend to the Spirit's deepest promptings within themselves. We do not seek to prove their present or former traditions wrong or inadequate, so we leave out of our evangelizing toolbox arguments, one-upmanship, browbeating, and disparaging other traditions. In humility, we hold up the beauty of our Catholic tradition and share with others how our life has been enriched by it. In the end, the truth of what we say will be embraced by others, not so much because of our unassailable arguments, but because of our no-strings-attached love. Furthermore, should they decide to become members of the Catholic family, we do not want them to suppose that putting down another Christian or the Jewish tradition is part of being a good Catholic. On the contrary, the precious gifts new members bring from their former traditions may be just what we Catholics need to enrich ours.

Similarly, our Catholic evangelizing efforts need to be marked by *welcome*. Persons searching for a religious home need to feel that they are welcome *as they are*, not simply as potential Catholics. We show that we genuinely care for them *just as they are*, even as we also present the Gospel challenge to live a life of justice, courage, and integrity. The best way to test whether we are welcoming—not proselytizing—is to heed the following two suggestions.

First, Catholic evangelists must, as Jesus prayed, seek unity. This they do by introducing themselves to local ministers and rabbis, and sharing with them their intentions, materials, and good will. Catholic evangelists should assure the rabbis and ministers that we are not involved in "sheep stealing." When we enter into discussions with

neighbors committed to their faith, we assure them of our prayers, and encourage them to continue practicing faith according to their own tradition. Secondly, the Catholic evangelist asks the religious seekers what *they* are interested in and tries to extend a welcome which the inquirer can recognize. Even simply saying, "I hope you feel welcome. What attracts you to the Catholic faith? Which of the traditions you were raised in do you treasure?" clearly expresses our heartfelt welcome—and it shows that we may sometimes learn from others as well.

The evangelist and the ecumenist are not in contradictory roles. The faithful Catholic evangelist strives to be both—not because they are the same, but because neither is complete without sensitivity to the other. We have our distinctively Catholic style of evangelizing, marked by welcome and invitation.

About the author

Rev. Michael McGarry, CSP, is pastor of Newman Hall/Holy Spirit Parish in Berkeley, CA, and serves on the US bishops' Advisory Committee on Jewish-Catholic Relations.

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January 1997

Please Review this Calendar for Jan 1997 and return by Dec. 15, 1996 to communications mailbox.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			New Year's Day Masses: 9:00am and Noon	9:30 am Moms Group 7:00pm Choir	10:45 am Mass CCNH	Council Epiphany <i>6:00pm</i>
			1	2	3	4
Epiphany 5:00pm Senior Bells <i>3:00 Hispanic Mass</i>	7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Education 7:00pm Pro-Life	7:30pm Executive Council	9:00am Funeral Schola 5:15 pm Childrens' Choir 6:00pm Rel Ed Urb 6:30pm Rel Ed SJ 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm SVDP	6:30pm Bldg & Grounds 7:00pm Baptism Prep 7:00pm Choir	9:00am - 4:00pm Catholic Social Service 10:30am Mass ⁴⁵ CCNH 10:45am Care ₃₀ Center	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 & 11:00am Rel Ed 9:00am RCIA 10:15 Children's Liturgy 3:00pm Mass in Spanish 5:00pm Jr Bells 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Rel Ed	7:00pm Centering Prayer	7:00pm Financial Affairs 7:00pm Homily Prep	12:40pm Guild 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Rel Ed, U 6:00pm Rel Ed, St. J. 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm SVDP	9:30am Moms Grp 1:00pm Discussion 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council	9:00am - 4:00pm Catholic Social Service 10:30am Mass @ Clark Lindsey 10:45am Mass @CCNH	4:00pm Chili Supper
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 & 11:00am Rel Ed 9:00am RCIA 10:15 Children's Liturgy 5:00pm Sr Bells 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Rel Ed	7:00pm Centering Prayer		9:00am Funeral Schola 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Rel Ed, U 6:00pm Rel Ed, St. J. 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm SVDP	1:00pm Discussion 7:00pm K of C 7:00pm Choir	9:00am - 4:00pm Catholic Social Service	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00am RCIA 5:00pm Jr Bells 6:30pm Bible Study	9:30am Archives 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Liturgy	7:00pm Homily Prep	5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm SVDP	1:00pm Discussion 7:00pm Comm 7:00pm Choir <i>5:00pm John Paul II Cultural Center Dinner</i>	10:45am Mass @CCNH <i>3:00 Pius Pinckney Church Con. Meeting</i>	
26	27	28	29	30	31	