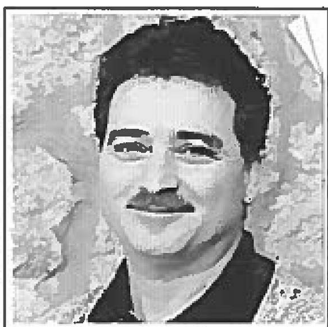


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus

Parishioners elect four to the Parish Council

The following parishioners have been elected to serve three-year terms on the Parish Council. Our prayers and cooperative support are the best gifts we can offer them in exchange for their commitment to the parish!



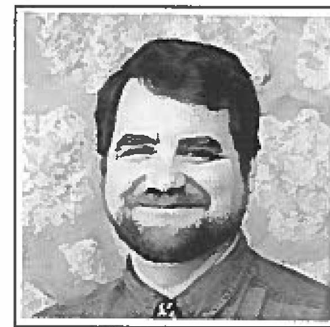
Dave Palmisano



Richard Keane



Cindy Kelly



Tom Korder

ASA 1997

"We're Catholic; it's what we do."

In his letter to all Catholics in the Diocese of Peoria, to all of us who make up the Church in this place, Bishop John Myers set before us the theme of this year's Annual Stewardship Appeal: "We're Catholic; it's what we do."

It calls for some reflection, that. The bishop's assumption is that if we really do think about what it means, we will respond to the best of our individual abilities to this appeal. What does it mean to say "We're Catholic; it's what we do"?

Well, if we've been listening, really listening, to the Sunday readings from the Acts of the Apostles during this Easter Season, we might think it

means that we look after our own. Remember how the first Christians lived in common, sharing their material goods and their income, so that "there was no needy person among them"?

Then, too, there was that first preaching of Peter—the man who publicly denied Jesus three times was gifted with great courage and even the words he needed to proclaim Christ's resurrection, to suggest the possibility of forgiveness and reconciliation. Perhaps "we're Catholic; it's what we do" means that like Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, we are to proclaim the good news of resurrection and to offer people the possibility of changing

their lives and knowing God's forgiveness. We not only look after our own, then, but we reach out to all those others, made in God's image and likeness, for whom God's only son took on human flesh, suffered, and rose from the dead for the forgiveness of sins.

Bishop John Myers says that the Annual Stewardship Appeal provides 80% of the funding for diocesan programs and services, and he clearly thinks that "We're Catholic; it's what we do" will help us focus on the good things we can accomplish by funding them. How do those programs and services enable us to look after our

(Continued on page 9)

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Mary Grace Bowen

Taffy Apple Salad

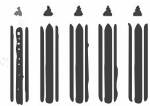
- 1 20-oz can pineapple tidbits
- 2 c miniature marshmallows
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 c sugar
- 1/2 T white vinegar
- 1 T flour



- 5 c diced peeled apples
- 2 c dry-roasted peanuts
- 1 8-oz carton whipped topping

Drain pineapple and reserve juice; mix pineapple and marshmallows, and refrigerate. Mix pineapple juice, egg, sugar, vinegar, and flour; cook over medium heat until thick, and cool thoroughly. Peel and dice apples (for color, leave some peel), and coarsely chop peanuts. Combine with whipped topping and other mixtures, and refrigerate until time to serve.

Holy Cross School Newsline
Graduation set for May 21



Crusader Corner was the name selected for the newly completed playground area at Holy Cross School. On Earth Day, Apr. 22, a blessing ceremony was held for this area during the 8 a.m. prayer and pledge time.

At the Medieval Fair, Apr. 9, sixth-graders dressed in period costumes danced to music from that time.

On Apr. 15 at the annual Spring Concert, boys and girls in grades 5 through 8 gave performances that were the culmination of their work with teachers from the University of Illinois Laboratory School of Music.

Eighth-graders were scheduled to leave on a trip to Washington, D.C., on Apr. 22, for 5 days of sightseeing in and around the D.C. area.

The PTC's spring bake sale will take place on Apr. 27 after all Masses at Holy Cross.



Welcome to new parishioners Eileen Harnew, Paula Long, Michael and Virginia Ngong.

Farewell to parishioners who have moved from C-U: Mai and Thu Cuc Ton, Jacqueline Bryant, Janice Cleary.

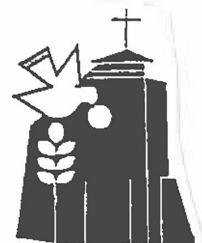
We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: Nicholas Paul Britsky, Stephanie Nicole Sass, Sean Thomas Kelly, Ryan Michael Schonken, Michael Patrick Dobbs.

Congratulations to Khank Ngoc Thai and Tran Mai Hue Nguyen, married at St. Patrick's.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Paul "Gene" Sharpf, Mary Elizabeth Fleming, Joseph Eugene O'Connell, Norman G. Donze.

First Communion, 1997

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.



Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for the world.

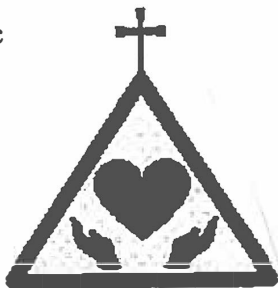


Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is May 11.

Parish Council News Budget for FY 1997-98 approved

The following report summarizes information from March and April Parish Council meetings. Information on matters discussed at both meetings is combined in one place for convenience.

The ad hoc Kitchen Renovation Committee presented a proposal for renovation of the parish



kitchen that included a revised floor plan and a cost estimate for equipment and labor totaling about \$80,000. The present kitchen was designed in the mid-1960s and does not meet present code requirements in many specifics. Keeping in mind that the main reason for the renovation is public health, and recognizing our responsibility not to be negligent in preparing and serving food, the committee proposed the following changes to the kitchen:

The current storage area for tables and chairs would be redesigned into a cleanup area, with a dishwasher and garbage disposal. All wooden cabinets would be changed to stainless steel. The stove and freezer would be replaced. Plumbing and electrical work would be required.

The kitchen renovation fund contains about \$15,000; the Coffee Shop group has pledged \$1000, and the Guild has offered financial support as well. Yet it is obvious that other fund-raising means must be sought. Council members approved the renovation plans in principle, but of course bids must be solicited and approval from the bishop obtained

Are you ready for Christmas yet? Neither is the Guild!

St. Patrick's Guild is already busy with plans for the annual ornament sale in December. Every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. several members gather in the parish center basement to share ideas and patterns and "how to" information. And, of course, they get busy actually making ornaments.

Proceeds from the sale of these ornaments will go toward the Guild's pledge of funds to support the cost of remodeling the parish kitchen.

Kay Evans designed and showed others how to make the Four Nativity Animals, made of felt and stuffed. These will be sold as a set or individually, each with this poem:

*Jesus, our brother kind and good,
Was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around Him stood.*

*"I," said the donkey shaggy and brown,
"I carried His mother up-hill and down;
I carried His mother to Bethlehem town."*

*"I," said the cow all white and red,
"I gave Him my manger for His bed;
I gave Him my hay to pillow His head."*



*"I," said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm;
He wore my coat on Christmas morn."*

*"I," said the dove on the rafter high,
"I cooed Him to sleep so He should not cry;
We cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I."*

*Thus ev'ry beast by some good spell,
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel.*

Guild members invite you to help with this project—they welcome samples or materials or ideas for unusual ornaments as well as help with making ornaments. So if you're looking for companionship, or have nimble fingers and perhaps even ideas to share, look for the group in the parish center basement on Wednesday mornings!

before any action can be taken.

Action is being taken to improve security of parish facilities. A proposal was approved that will see to installation of motion detectors in offices and the basement of the parish center, with special detectors that

respond to breaking glass activated at windows in the main hall. Food will be distributed from the main hall instead of from the reception area, and an alarm button will be provided for distributors. Arrangements have been

(Continued on page 8)



Busy with plans for the Guild's annual Christmas ornament sale are (from the left) Anne Britsky, Kay Evans, and Lori McDonough. Not pictured: Sophia Zeigler.



What is a "charism"? What is the "charismatic movement"?

There is a famous story about a cleaning woman working in a Chicago hospital. Nurses discovered that after she left a room, patients seemed better. Upon investigation they found that all she did was to assure patients quietly: "It's all right.... It's okay to groan, to cry.... You'll get better.... You're in the Lord's hands." She was made a nurse's aide and became very effective in consoling and reassuring others.

This woman had a charism, a gift of God meant to be used for others. Some can teach, others organize and direct (e.g., CEOs); some help heal, others counsel, produce works of art, songs, etc. Such gifts were given to apostles (Peter was a fisherman, but in his first proclamation of the Word he converted 3000!) and disciples in the earliest days of the Church in order that the Word--Jesus and the Kingdom--might spread, might be heard.

Charisms are a favor given by God to some for the benefit of others. The "gift of tongues" was given to Christians so that they could speak in various languages;

others served as translators to interpret their speech. (See I Cor. 14.)

Today Christ may be made known through the catholicity of the 2000 years of Church history or through the individual faith-filled actions of Christians. God does seem to give some individuals a special gift by which they pray in a language that is incomprehensible to others. It is often accompanied by deep faith and trust in God, and by an interpretation or translation by someone else present who is able to convey its meaning.

Charismatics meet, pray together in a spirit of joy, and discuss what affects their spiritual lives. The movement has the support of our bishops and has enriched the lives of many, but it sometimes suffers "backlash" from the emotionalism of some of its members, and from being viewed as elitist. We are assured by Scripture that if it is of God it will grow and if not it will come to nothing. Our Lord himself gave us the norm: By their fruits you will know them.

G.K.

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

Here we come

Here we come to the table again,
the holy table set for us unholy
saints.

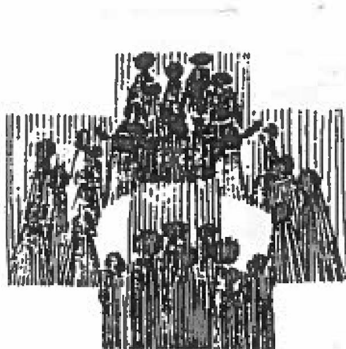
Here we come, the broken-hearted,
the unemployed, the fearful ones,
the guilty, the lonely, the anxious,
the despairing, the grief-stricken ones.

Here we come, men and women,
children and parents, poor and rich,
rolling and walking, left and right,
short and tall,
every color and class imaginable.

Here we come, because we're hungry,
used up, worn down, tired out,
hung up, cast off, stressed out,
turned off, put down, lost!

Here we are, eating again,
without credentials, without money,
without vouchers or coupons,
just because you say we belong.

Here we go, full, from the table again,
still unholy saints, but saints again
alive,
renewed in compassion and hope,
taking bread with us for those who
cannot come.



"We are a gift of God"

So in the very depths of our being, that which is most intimate to ourselves, there is this strange, mysterious element that opens out to God, the source of our being, and instinctively, if we think about it a little bit, we realize that we are a gift of God--we are nothing but a gift of God; all we have is this gift, and our whole being is suspended from God's loving care and continual renewal of this gift, so that our whole life is suspended from what we call g-r-a-c-e, and we are most truly ourselves when we are open to this grace that we need at every moment.

—Thomas Merton

Archives Committee thanks you!

The Archives Committee members want to thank everyone who came to the exhibit in the parish center Mar. 16. Jerry McArthur and his Coffee Shop crew deserve special thanks for their generosity in giving extra time to stay open after the 10:30 Mass and for the extra coffee and donuts they served up: "We appreciated it, guys!"

For parishioners who didn't make it to the exhibit, there will be another chance when St. Patrick's Parish begins its centennial celebration in 2001. The committee will have bigger and maybe even better things to show you then! To that end, members are asking for additional pictures and memorabilia that parishioners may have long hidden away in attics, closets, or basements:

Do you have pictures of Main Street in the neighborhood of the church anytime from 1901 to 1965 when the parish center was constructed? Photos of the houses that once filled the 700 block are especially sought.

Do you have pictures of groups or individuals taken at First Communions, Confirmations, TEC, CRHP, etc.?

Do you have memorabilia related to St. Patrick's—mementos of the parish such as the 75th anniversary rededication of the church, parish picnics, ice cream socials, dinners, dances, etc.?

Do you have memorabilia that you think might be of interest to other St. Patrick's parishioners?

Do you have old newspaper clippings for events taking place at St. Patrick's?

Do you have documentation on marriages at St. Patrick's in the 1930s? (Parish records are incomplete for that period.)

Do you have anything else that you think the Archives Committee might be interested in? Most things you bring to the committee can probably be copied or photographed for parish records and the originals returned to you promptly.

Bereavement

A Mother's Day opportunity

In the South on Mother's Day, children flock to the gardens to pick flowers for corsages, white roses for those whose mothers had died and red for those whose mothers were still living. For youngsters it is a game; Daddy's mom was dead, so he wore a white rose, and Momma's mom was still alive, so she wore a red one. Rose bushes take quite a beating that day!

The day comes when each of us must at least figuratively make that trip to the garden to pick a white rose. The loss of one's mother is different from the loss of any other loved one. And because each of us is different, how it affects each is also different.

There seems to be limitless

questioning ("Could I have done more?"), even to the point of reviewing childhood experiences and feelings of guilt. We tend to forget that our mothers love us not just for our good qualities but in our less than shining moments as well. No matter what we may think, no mother really wants a "perfect" child. Our humanness reaffirms their own humanness and gives them opportunities to forgive—an important aspect of any close relationship.

So, in honor of Mother's Day this year, take the time to remember your mother and all the women who have loved and cared for you in your life. If your mother has died, take a moment to pray for her. If she is still living, pray for her but also use this God-given opportunity today to give her a hug and to tell her how much she means to you. Many others would love to have the chance to hug their mothers and laugh again with them just one more time!



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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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 Grace Bowen, Sr. Charlene Cesario, Judy Conover, Fr. Gene Kane, Rita Lampe, Dorothy Maduzia, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Elise Pratt, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Chris Stohr, Peggy Whelan, Sophia Zeigler. This issue was pagged by Cristy Nowak.



Two parishioners honored

The University of Illinois annually chooses eight of its 5500 staff employees as recipients of the Chancellor's Distinguished Staff Award. This year two of the eight honored are St. Patrick's own, as well known for their exceptional contributions to their parish as to their employer.

The Chancellor's Distinguished Staff Awards are intended to express the university's appreciation of its employees, "who make a daily contribution that keeps the UI among the top-ranked universities." Those honored were nominated by co-workers and supervisors, evaluated by a selection committee, and approved by the campus director of personnel services, the vice chancellor for administrative affairs, and the chancellor. Here are a few quotes from those nominations:

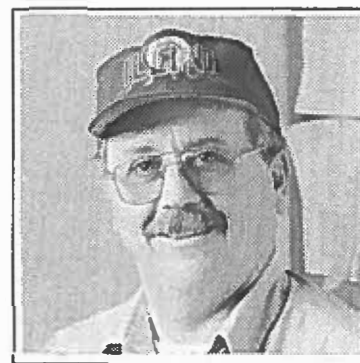


Connie Shaw (administrative assistant, business administration) "humanizes a bureaucratic system and takes the time to help solve problems even if the problem is outside her job responsibilities. She is reliable, trustworthy, keeps confidences, is an incredible resource, and is appreciated well beyond the

confines of the business administration department." And this: "Connie makes me a much better administrator by

being there. She demonstrates excellence in her work performance, creates a positive and supportive atmosphere in the department, and exhibits initiative and creativity to improve operations."

Jerry McArthur (automotive sub-foreman, housing division) "has extensive knowledge in the transportation field and especially in the area of communication.... He is always ready to accept new challenges and responsibility." And: "Jerry is always willing to do the



extra things that make him a valuable asset to the university. He takes a personal interest in a Dining Services program where unused food is donated to a shelter for the homeless; helps clean up after caterings; takes the time to see that all vehicle requests are filled in a timely manner."

Well, parishioners have known for some time that Connie Shaw and Jerry McArthur are not satisfied with doing only what is required.

Connie has served her parish in many ways, including service on the Parish Council as member and officer. For many years she and her husband, Chuck, have participated in a parish base community that grew out of their Christ Renews His Parish experience, and Connie has shared her love of Scripture in Bible study groups.

Jerry McArthur is familiar to all who enjoy coffee and donuts after Mass on Sunday in the parish center, and 7:30 Mass-goers have known him as usher for many years. When his good friends Norm Donze and Chuck Halpin needed relief as organizers of the parish's popular Sunday morning Coffee Shop, Jerry stepped in (with Steve Beckett) to do the job and enlisted others in expanding the team concept that keeps this sociable, community-building activity going.

They have made their mark at St. Patrick's too!

A little e-mail humor

A man was brought to the hospital and was taken immediately to the operating room for coronary surgery.

The operation went well, and as the groggy man regained consciousness, he was reassured to see a woman religious at his bedside.

"Mr. Smith, you're going to be just fine," the sister said, patting his hand. "We do have to know, though, how you intend to pay for your stay here. Are you covered by insurance?"

"No, I'm not," the man whispered hoarsely.

"Can you pay in cash?"

"I'm afraid I can't, Sister."

"Do you have any close relatives, then?"

"Just my sister in New Mexico," he replied, "but she's a spinster nun."

"Nuns are not spinsters, Mr. Smith," the sister said. "They are married to God."

"Okay," the man said with a smile, "then bill my brother-in-law."

"Fizzit, Mommy. It's broked!"

When my son was quite young, he had a small stuffed gorilla that he dragged around with him everywhere—and I do mean EVERYWHERE—he went. I could sometimes sneak it away for a quick laundering during naptime, but Heaven help me if my son awoke before his friend "Rilla" was out of the dryer!

As such "loveys" will do, Rilla's seams gradually weakened and his stuffing began to leak. Poor old Rilla was in desperate need of some corrective surgery, not to mention a stuffing transplant. One day my young son waddled up to me, held up his battered, beloved Rilla and said,

"Mommy, Rilla's broked." I explained that I'd be happy to fix Rilla—a little new stuffing, some seam reinforcement, and Rilla would be "all better" again.

When I reached down to take the little gorilla in my hands, I found that it had a two-year-old firmly attached to it. As all parents know, a tug-of-war with a two-year-old is frequently a losing proposition and is frequently accompanied by loud cries and copious tears. Finally, in exasperation, I said, "I can't fix it until you let go of it!" Just at that moment the Spirit of God tapped me on the shoulder, as it were, and I realized that God was waiting for me to let go of several things too.

This letting go is something that I suspect will always be a struggle for me. It's very hard for me to get out of the way and let my Creator "fizzit" in God's own good time—I'm living in the present moment, of course, and God is living in eternity.

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.

We have a feast all our own!

Most of the feasts we celebrate at St. Patrick's during the Church year are observed by the entire Church everywhere in the world. These are set out in a document called "General Norms for the Church Year and Calendar." But the General Norms also identify local feasts to be celebrated—the feast of the local patron saint, for instance. For our parish, that's the feast of St. Patrick, which we celebrate on Mar. 17.

Another is the feast commemorating the anniversary of the dedication of the local church. For St. Patrick's that feast is coming up on Saturday, May 24.

Just as individual Catholics celebrate the day of their birth and the day of their patron saint, so too each parish celebrates the "birth" of its church—its dedication—and the day of its patron saint. These feasts are important because they remind us of who we are and where we're going, both as individuals and as community. Every community has stories of its founders, its struggles to grow, its triumphs, its setbacks. The story of the universal Church is the story of all its local churches, so every church does its part by keeping its own story in mind.

That we celebrate the dedication of the church building instead of the anniversary of the founding of the parish does not indicate that we value the building more than we value the community. The church building is a visible sign of the community. It tells visitors where to find a community of the faithful. It shows that we are rooted in our town and



Artist: Nick Britzky

have a mission to our neighbors. It reminds all who see it to look beyond their day-to-day life and see God's work in the world.

Since the church building is a sign of our community, the feast of its dedication is the feast of every one of us. On Saturday, May 24, Mass in honor of the dedication will be celebrated in the church at 8 a.m. Come to celebrate this feast that is our very own!



in our parish library

Mary through the Centuries

By Jaroslav Pelikan

Although the days of May altars and May crownings seem to be "history," devotion to Mary definitely isn't a thing of the past. During the month of May, dedicated to Mary the Mother of God, why not do some reading and thinking about the role of Mary in your own faith life?

An excellent resource is Jaroslav Pelikan's recently published book *Mary through the Centuries: Her Place in the History of Culture*. (This is a companion volume to the author's highly acclaimed *Jesus through the Centuries*.)

If you are looking for a stimulating,

intellectual discussion of Marian doctrine, devotion, and art, then this book will not disappoint you. It is filled with beautiful art and makes many references to literature and music. Mary's impact on history is looked at not just from a Roman Catholic perspective, but also from those of Orthodox Christians, Protestants, Jews, and Muslims.

Pelikan uses a chronological approach for this broad study. He uses Mary's many titles—Miriam of Nazareth, Second Eve, Theotokos, Handmaid of the Lord, Mater Dolorosa, Mediatrix, Queen of Heaven, and others—as a framework.

The author's exploration of Marian doctrine ends with the Church's 1950 declaration of the dogma of the

Assumption of Mary into Heaven. In some ways the shift in our understanding of Mary since 1950 may be even more relevant; as a supplement to this book you may wish to read the documents of Vatican II and explore for yourself the Council's declarations about Mary.



Prayer after Holy Communion

*You have given yourself to us, Lord.
Now we give ourselves to others.
our love has made us a new people.
As a people of love we will serve you
with joy.*

(Continued from page 3)

made also for securing doors in the church. All detectors will be activated by a timer. Total installation cost, quoted by A-1 Alarm Systems, is \$3285, with about \$366 annually for operation costs.

The ad hoc Committee on Committees presented its report to the Council. With a few emendations it will be distributed to committees for discussion with current liaisons before the May Council meeting, at which newly elected Council members are seated. Committees are asked to address especially procedures related to selection of committee members and committee responsibilities with respect to parishioner input. The ad hoc committee, having discharged its assigned task, was dismissed with thanks for the quality of the document.

Council members gave final approval to the \$448,300 operations

budget for fiscal year 1997-98 (which begins July 1). A balanced budget was achieved by putting nothing in the budget for reserve funds and by reductions made in their budgets by the Education Committee and the Building and Grounds Committee.

The retirement party for Deacon Bill McClellan will take place on June 1, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Jean Daly, Miriam Lancaster, and Sr. Charlene make up the volunteer planning committee.

The Committee on Volunteers, having served the purpose for which it was established several years ago, was discharged with thanks. The materials the group developed will be added to the Development Handbook.

Tuition payments to the parish for Holy Cross tuition assistance are lagging by about \$21,600. St. Patrick's Parish agrees to pay 25% of the tuition for families needing assistance; some families pay the full amount. Parents

requesting assistance complete a form indicating what they will pay and whether the payment will be made weekly, monthly, or on some other schedule. Ways of informing parents where they stand regarding their commitment are being considered.

Cathy Salika, appointed chair of the Music Director Search Committee on Beth McDonald's resignation, reported that 22 applications had been received; 7 of the applicants were invited to interviews and auditions. Since May 10 is the deadline for auditions, the committee hopes to be able to make a recommendation for Steve Peet's successor to this position soon, perhaps by the next Council meeting.

The next Council meeting begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 15. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings.

(Continued from page 1)

own? How do they enable us to reach out to all the others of God's family?

It's pretty easy to see that through vocational development we help to look after our own. We provide for the needs of our future priests, health care for our retired and infirm priests, ongoing education for those now in service to God's people, and vocational training and development for our permanent deacons.

Religious education throughout the diocese is supported through training programs and services provided by the Peoria office, and the operation of Newman Centers, Teens Encounter Christ (TEC), and Cursillo programs is subsidized. In these ways too we help to look after our own, and we also reach out to others, especially through such programs as the RCIA, the process through which adults are initiated into the Church.

Through our diocese's commitment to social concerns we provide funding that supports operation of a home for unwed mothers. We also help to support family life through programs that serve needs of the engaged, married, divorced, separated, and widowed in the diocese. And we support the diocese's commitment to evangelization, through which we very directly look after our own and beyond to all God's people.

How effective can we be as individuals? Do we frequently find ourselves frozen into inaction by the enormity of the need we see all around us? Here, in this place, each of us can do a great deal, yes, through sharing our gifts for the good of all. (Will someone one day say of this Christian community "and there was no needy person among them"?)

Here is a practical consequence of people living the Easter faith—a spontaneous meeting of one another's needs, whether material or spiritual. What we see portrayed in the Acts of the Apostles is people acting out the consequences of accepting Jesus and his teaching, as confirmed by his death and resurrection. This has always involved letting go of a possessive grip on the goods of the earth and seeing them as gifts of the Creator meant to meet the needs of all.

It is to this our bishop calls us, for "we're Catholic; it's what we do."



Sharing faith memories with children

Many children love to hear stories of "olden times"—a term that can sting, depending on their parents' ages! When your children or grandchildren look at your black-and-white baby pictures, do you hear "Why weren't there any colors in the world when you were a baby?"

As you study old photos and reminisce about the past, have you ever noticed that May and June are months often filled with memories of anniversaries? Not just wedding anniversaries, but anniversaries of baptism, first communion, and confirmation?

Now may be the perfect opportunity to share the story of your own faith history with your children. Tell what happened on those special days, how you felt then, how it seemed that God was acting in your life. How did these experiences affect your life and the way you lived out your faith in the years that followed?

Some areas you might explore:

If you are a convert to Catholicism, who are some of the people who were instrumental in your decision to join the Church? What obstacles did you face? What were the

reactions of family members and close friends? How did your decision change the direction of your life? What were your feelings at baptism, confirmation, first communion? Who were your sponsors, and how did you select them?

If you are a "cradle Catholic," what were your family's Catholic traditions? Who were your godparents, and how were they involved in your life? Was there a special significance to the baptismal garment in which your tiny body was clothed? Did you attend a Catholic grade school? What do you remember about your first communion? How old were you when you were confirmed? What do you remember about the confirmation rite itself? Who confirmed you? Who was your confirmation sponsor? If you chose a confirmation name, what was it, and why did you select that one? What faith memories do you have about your wedding? About your child's baptism, first communion, confirmation?






Of course, our faith stories are not limited to memories of sacramental anniversaries. What other situations, places, and people have helped to enrich and deepen your faith? And how can these memories help you share your faith with your children and grandchildren?



May 1997

St. Patrick's Parish, Urbana



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <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 May 11, 1997.</p>				9:30am Moms Group 8:00pm Search Committee Audition	10:45 Mass - Champaign Cty NH	ASA Weekend
				1	2	3
ASA Presentation at all masses 12:00pm Teen Liturgy 1:00pm Rel Ed Family Picnic 3:00pm Latino Mass 	7:00pm - 8:30pm Bible Studies 7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer/P 7:00pm Pro-Life	1:00pm GROW 7:30pm Parish Council Exec. Com	9:00am Guild Ornament Wrkshp 5:15 Holy Day Mass 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir 9:00pm Ex ecutive Committee Parish Council	6:30pm Building & Grounds Com 7:00pm Baptism Prep 7:00pm Choir Ascension Thurs 7:00am, 12:10pm 5:15pm	10:30am Mass Care Center 10:45 Mass - Champaign Cty NH	10:30am Audition Search Committee
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00am Graduation Mass 3:00pm Latino Mass 	7:00pm - 8:30pm Bible Studies 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Social Action	1:00pm GROW 7:00pm Financial Affairs	9:00am Guild Ornament Wrkshp 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Memorial Prayer Service	9:30am Moms Group 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council	10:30 Mass - Clark-Lindley 10:45 Mass - Champaign Cty NH	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3:00pm Latino Mass 	7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Liturgy	1:00pm GROW	9:00am Guild Ornament Wrkshp 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir	7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Knights of Columbus	10:30 Mass - Manor Care 10:45 Mass - Champaign Cty NH	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
3:00pm Latino Mass 	9:00am Memorial Day Mass at Woodlawn Cemetery 7:00pm Centering Prayer	1:00pm GROW 7:00pm Family Prep.	9:00am Guild Ornament Wrkshp 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir	7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Communications Com	10:45 Mass - Champaign Cty NH	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NH - Nursing Home SVDP - St. Vincent DePaul Society