

S T P A T R I C K ' S P A R I S H

In Focus



Five-year parish goals to be set Nov. 14-15

Where is my life heading? How, with God's help, will I get there? And how will I know when I've arrived? Probably all of us have asked ourselves questions like these. Sometimes they can do a lot to help us to focus on what's really important to us.

Every five years, we ask ourselves these questions as a parish. Where is St. Patrick's heading? What should be our focus? We ask these questions as part of setting 5-year goals for our parish. One way to identify our goals is to take a prayerful look at our own needs and the needs of others in our community. Which of these needs can St. Patrick's fill?

The goal-setting process is sponsored by the Parish Council as a way to coordinate its own work and the work of its committees in moving parish life in the chosen direction.

Other parish organizations—everyone in the parish, in fact—are invited to participate as well. In 1992, a group of more than 60 parishioners met for 2 days and came up with goals addressing parish needs in these defined categories: Community Building, Religious Education—Youth, Religious Education—Adults, Social Justice, Spirituality and Family Life, Stewardship, and Volunteer Ministry.

Now it's time to gather to set goals for the next 5 years. The workshop will be facilitated by Barbara and Dave Powell, two newcomers to our parish who have led other groups in the goal-setting process. We will begin on

Friday, Nov. 14, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and continue after 8:00 a.m. Mass the next morning, wrapping up by 3:00 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on Saturday.

All parishioners are welcome, even urged, to join in the workshop. Participants will work together to identify needs in our community that St. Patrick's can meet, and develop

goals to help us focus on those needs. The workshop will be successful if many people come together to share their knowledge and love of our parish community and their understanding of how we can grow.

How about you? Please call the parish office to say that you're coming so that enough food and materials can be made ready.

Trust is the key to sacrificial giving

As I was growing up here in St. Patrick's Parish in the Fifties and Sixties, we hadn't heard of "stewardship" or "sacrificial giving." We were simply expected to contribute our fair share to the Church, adults and children alike. Every December we received a box of weekly envelopes for the year, and every Sunday we dropped one into the collection basket. My parents made sure my four sisters and I put some of our allowance into that envelope.

I remember the Old Testament example of Cain and Abel, where Cain "sacrificed" the defective produce and livestock instead of samples of the best, as Abel did. I also remember the New Testament parable about the widow who had nothing to her name, but who donated her only coin to the poor. I tried to remember those examples when my finances were

tight—when I struggled as a college student, a young wife, a mother in a single-income family with preschoolers, and later a divorcee with teenagers and college students to help support.

What I was told was to trust that God will give us what we need if we keep doing what is right. Sometimes it's tempting to cut back on contributions to the Church when there are bills to pay and things to buy. But stewardship means we take

responsibility for our part in seeing that the needs of our parish, diocese, and world community are met. Everything we have is a gift from our Creator; giving from our abundance, not our leftovers, is what is required of us.

—Terry Moreau





Welcome to new parishioners
Michael and Beth Brunk, Susan Casey, Annette and Jason Cookson, Terese Engolz, Jeff and Linnmarie Hein, Michael Hudson, Dan and Priscilla Murphy, Jim and Mary Onderdonk, David and Barbara Powell, Jason and Maureen Rothgeb, Diane Essex Sorlie, Henry and Helen Surowiec.

Farewell to parishioners who have moved from C-U: Declan and Elaine Fleming, Albert Galick and Robin Sanders, Elizabeth Parrino, Karen Pruit, Tom and Dianne Radecki.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community:
Nicholas Antonio Amaya, Cole Kenneth Rolston, Steven Crawley, Ana Maria de Guadalupe Patron, Amanda Marie Lowry, Jacob William Koziarz.

Congratulations to these recently married couples: Kristi Lynn Anderson and Mark Norman Kastl, Megan Christine Munds and Charles Richard Simpson, Margaret Jill Irick and John Gerald Mendoza, Linda Rose Kleiss and Kenneth Henry Felsman, Miriam Lancaster Nirider and Stephen Jerome Meyer.

Please pray for deceased parishioner
S. T. Owen.



From "Christopher News Notes" Let's talk about prayer

You do not have to be clever to please me; all you have to do is want to love me. Just speak to me as you would to anyone of whom you are very fond.

Are there any people you want to pray for? Say their names to me, and ask of me as much as you like. I am generous and know all their needs, but I want you to show your love for them and me by trusting me to do what I know is best.

Tell me about the poor, the sick, and the sinners, and if you have lost the friendship or affection of anyone, tell me about that, too. Is there anything you want for your soul? If you like, you can write out a long list of all your needs, and come and read it to me.

Tell me of the things you feel guilty about. I will forgive you if you will accept it. Just tell me about your pride, your touchiness, self-centeredness, meanness, and laziness. I still love you in spite of these. Do not be ashamed, there are many saints in heaven who had the same faults as you; they prayed to me and little by little their faults were corrected.

Do not hesitate to ask me for blessings for the body and mind; for health, memory, success. I can give everything, and I always do give everything needed, if you truly want it.

What is it that you want today? Tell me, for I long to do you good. What are your plans? Tell me about them. Is there anyone you want to please? What do you want to do for them? And don't you want to do anything for me? Tell me about your failures, and I will show you the cause of them.

What are your worries? Who has caused you pain? Tell me all about it, and if you will forgive those who hurt you, I will bless you. Are you afraid of anything? Have you any tormenting, unreasonable fears?

Trust yourself to me, I am here. I see everything. I will not leave you.

Have you no joys to tell me about? Why do you not share your happiness with me? Tell me what has happened since yesterday to cheer and comfort you. Whatever it was, however big, however small, remember I prepared it. Show me your gratitude and thank me.

Are temptations bearing heavily upon you? Yielding to temptations always disturbs the peace of your soul. Ask me, and I will help you overcome them.

Well, go along now. Get on with your work or play, or other interests. Try to be quieter, humbler, kinder; and come back soon and bring me a more devoted heart. Tomorrow I shall have more blessings for you.

Holy Cross newsline



In Focus seeks a volunteer to gather information of interest to parishioners about Holy Cross School programs, activities, and calendar events. More than 80 youngsters from over 50 St. Patrick's families are enrolled at Holy Cross School, and our readers are interested!

Please call Dorothy Maduzia (367-2819) or Mary Lou Menches (344-1125) if this role appeals to you.

Sons and Daughters evangelize through music

It probably is not often that you open a national magazine and see an article about a fellow parishioner. However, if you opened the May/June 1997 issue of the Catholic magazine *Envoy* and turned to page 14, you would have seen not only an article but a picture of two active and involved St. Patrick's parishioners, David and Cindy Howie! Their Christian band, Sons and Daughters, is featured in an article entitled "Evangelization You Can Dance To." And what a timely article this is for our parish, as we are in the midst of a major evangelization program!

The mission of Sons and Daughters is to evangelize through music--and, based on their increasingly heavier performance schedule and the recent conversion to Catholicism of the band's guitarist, that is precisely what they are doing. In 1996, Sons and Daughters gave 100 performances, 32 more than in 1995. They perform throughout the country, from smaller, intimate settings to conferences to large festivals. The article in *Envoy* states, "Sons and Daughters are poised for national prominence." And this seems the case;



Sons and Daughters (from the left): Chad Dunn, Jeremy Jones, David Howie, and Cindy Howie

as a result of the article, the band has been receiving phone calls from all over the country.

Ninety-seven of the 100 shows Sons and Daughters performed in 1996 were at Protestant events. Only three of their shows were at Catholic events. David did say that Sons and Daughters were invited to perform at a St. Patrick's Guild event. They turned their volume down a little, and were extremely well received by the women of the Guild and their guests!

Perhaps it is not a mere coincidence--but more the Spirit at work--that Sons and Daughters are

currently on sabbatical from performing. All band members are in the midst of life changes. David and Cindy recently became new parents; Daniel William was born on Dec. 14, 1996. The bass player is getting married Jan. 3, and the drummer will become a father around Dec. 25.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything. And a season for every activity under heaven." With just three years to Jubilee 2000, with our parish's

evangelization movement working toward spiritually feeding our parish, David states that he and Cindy, along with Sons and Daughters, stand ready to be used as a tool in evangelization. David said, "We have been tremendously fed by St. Patrick's, by the people, by relationships, by Bible Study, by the Eucharist. Cindy and I would love to be able to share with the people in what we call our home church."

A copy of the Envoy article featuring Sons and Daughters can be found on the bulletin board in the office wing of the parish center.

Give thanks by giving food this Thanksgiving

Every year members of the St. Vincent De Paul Society see that 200 or so needy families have food on their tables on Thanksgiving Day. Last year 206 families received food baskets prepared at St. Patrick's from the \$10 donations received from generous parishioners.

Names of needy families in the community are provided by Mental Health Services, Family Services, Catholic Services, North-End Residents, and other groups. With parishioners' donations, SVDP members purchase nonperishable

foods. This year's menu: soup, canned ham, stuffing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, vegetables, fruit, dinner rolls, eggs, Jello, pumpkin pie, coffee.

"We are asking for volunteers to come to the parish center on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 22, to arrange the food on tables so that our young people in religious-education classes can fill the baskets that evening as their service project," said Sophia Zeigler, president of the local SVDP chapter. "We also will need volunteers to deliver the baskets on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Thanksgiving (Nov.

24-26)," she added.

Please call the parish office to list the times that you will be able to help with delivery.

Donations can be placed into an envelope clearly marked "Thanksgiving Dinners" and put into the Sunday collection basket. If you prefer, you can deliver it to the parish office on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.





Q: What is the "Communion of Saints"?

A: A little girl was put to bed one night for the first time on a train, in the upper berth of a Pullman car. She kept crying until her mother told her not to be afraid, because God would be watching over her.

"Mother, are you there?" she cried.

"Yes."

"Father, are you there?"

"Yes."

A fellow passenger lost all patience at this point and shouted: "We're all here! Your mother and father and brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles and cousins. All here! Now, go to sleep!"

There was a pause; then, very softly: "Mama!"

"Well?"

"Was that God?"

This story illustrates, however imperfectly, the ancient tradition within the Catholic Church, since the days of the earliest followers of Jesus, that we are all one body of believers in Christ. We are "in communion with" all who are in Christ, sharing his life with one another. Some are heroic saints, whom the Church canonizes; some are "last-minute entries," like the good thief assured of Paradise

by Christ himself as they hung side by side on Calvary. Most are saved after lives lived in good and bad days--like Matt Talbot, the Irish alcoholic-turned-sober; or Peter, betrayer-turned-martyr; or Paul, persecutor-turned-missionary.

By God's gift, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we who are sinful, imperfect, weak in faith and trust and love, become God's people, God's family, God's temple--a communion of saints.

Although this teaching is not based primarily on Scripture, the Book of Revelations (5:1-4) provides a magnificent vision of the thousands upon thousands whose voices cry out before God, and in Maccabees we read that "it is a holy and wholesome thing to pray for the dead." Just as in this life we support one another by prayer, so too in God's mysterious providence we gain powerful support from these members of Christ's Body who have gone to God already.

God watches over us, our brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles and cousins, all who are alive in Christ, our head and our brother. We are, because of Christ and the Spirit, a holy nation, a people set apart, a communion of saints.

G.K.

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

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Patricia Donze

Cheesy Sausage Balls

1 lb Bob Evans regular sausage

1 lb Bob Evans hot sausage

3 c Bisquick

2 c grated sharp cheddar cheese

1 small minced onion



Allow sausage to come to room temperature. Mix all ingredients together and form into 1-inch balls. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Drain on paper towels. Makes about 100 balls. May be served hot or cold; may also be frozen and then warmed.



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is November 9.

Parish Council News

At their October meeting Council members welcomed Marcia Gruschow, who spoke on Empty Tomb's programs and activities. Empty Tomb, located at 301 N. Fourth St., C., is celebrating its 25th year as a non-denominational Christian service organization. The group's 11 on-going programs help people in the C-U area except for one (Bread from Jesus) that helps people in N.E. Brazil. They are funded entirely by contributions, with 75 percent coming from individuals and the rest from local churches.

Empty Tomb receives canned goods and funds from 30-40 congregations to support their food pantry, which last year provided a week's groceries in 743 deliveries to needy local families. A family is eligible to receive groceries once every three months. The group also accepts donations of clothing in the mornings, which they sort (10,073 boxes last year) for selection by needy folks in the afternoons. Empty Tomb also picks up good



used furniture in C-U and Savoy—beds, couches, chairs, tables, etc.—and delivers it to anyone who has asked for these items. Last year they delivered 1518 articles of furniture.

Empty Tomb is planning several fund raisers and will be issuing posters for a Lenten program they refer to as "saying grace twice before meals," which encourages people to donate the equivalent of their bill when dining out or the amount they might have spent at a restaurant when dining at home. Empty Tomb is also planning a "First Annual Christian Children's Choir during the Easter Season, in which churches are invited

to participate by bringing their children's choirs.

The parish needs assessment surveys will be especially valuable to the five-year goal planning workshop in November, Father Remm observed, particularly in light of the drive for the proposed Catholic high school. Of 260 surveys mailed, about 200 have been returned, and analysis should be complete in time for the goal-planning workshop.

Lists of parishioners' responses to the Time and Talent stewardship campaign in September have been given to the parish secretary to send out to groups with a cover letter from Fr. Remm.

The diocese reports that \$61,045 has been received from St. Patrick's parishioners, leaving only \$11,392 to meet our parish's goal for the diocesan Annual Stewardship Appeal.

The Kitchen Renovation fund has grown to a little more than \$38,000, including a \$5000 donation recently received. Ed Perry, from the Building and Grounds Committee, expressed the committee's concern about the kitchen supplier's ability to meet quality standards and construction deadlines and asked that the alternate supplier be approved even though the cost of the project would be increased by about \$10,000. The committee's recommendation was approved so that work could begin in January as scheduled.

Complete minutes of this Council meeting will be posted by Nov. 16, on the bulletin board in the office wing of the parish center and also on the east side of the church vestibule, for parishioners interested in reading more about what transpires at these meetings. The next meeting of the Council will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20; all parishioners are welcome to attend this open parish meeting.

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

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

Editorial board: Mary Lee Brady, 344-3752; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701 (mmenches@uiuc.edu); Frank Modica, 367-4133 (modicafr@knight.cmi.k12.il.us); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@uiuc.edu); Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Peggy Whelan, 367-3668 (m-whelan@uiuc.edu).

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

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Carol Bosley, Yvonne Brady, Sr. Charlene Cesario, Judy Conover, Patricia Donze, Fr. Gene Kane, Cliff Maduzia, Dorothy Maduzia, Lori McDonough, Ellen McDowell, Mary Lou Menches, Frank Modica, Terry Moreau, Cristy Nowak, Elise Pratt, Carole Rebeiz, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Linda Weber, Sophia Zeigler. This issue was paged by Cristy Nowak.

Focusing on staff...

It is with considerable pleasure that we introduce to our readers three members of the staff of St. Patrick's. You've already met them, you say? Well, that's quite likely, especially if you've lived in the parish for any length of time at all. But take another look, find out something you haven't known yet, and let them know they're appreciated when next you see them.

We hope to follow with other staff members and coordinators in the coming months. But for now, meet our pastor, Fr. George Remm; our pastoral associate, Sr. Charlene Cesario; and our music director, Sr. Lori Kirchman.

Fr. George Remm, pastor

All parish priests have an obligation to take a retreat and some "continuing education" each year. When asked about his continuing education this year, Fr. Remm replied that he'd not had time for an interesting course in Scripture at



Fr. George Remm

Mundelein last summer, but that he planned to attend a study day for priests in the Diocese of Peoria on "The Role of the Laity and the Priesthood."

For 11 years Father has been a member of an ecumenical study group that meets regularly during the school year.

This year the group is reading Engaging the

Powers, by Walter Wink. Last year they studied *A Marginal Jew (Rethinking the Historical Jesus)*, by John P. Meier. Father also belongs to a group of priests and religious who meet to read and study such books as *The Real Jesus*, by Luke Timothy Johnson, and *Inside the Vatican*, by Thomas J. Reese.

Father has appreciated the growth and sharing that has come out of these two groups. They also force him, he says, to read material he might not

make time for otherwise.

An avid flyer (but don't tell his mom), Father Remm is a member of the National Association of Priest Pilots. The group is special to him because all are priests who share a love of flying and who support the missions by periodically giving a sizable donation to priest pilots in such places as Alaska, New Guinea, and Tanzania who need the funds to buy gas or to pay for repairs on the planes essential to their missionary work.

In his hard-to-be-found spare time, Father Remm visits his mother every day at Champaign County Nursing Home. A candidate in the Carle Foundation Hospital's chaplain program described Father as a priest who "includes service in his concept of the priesthood." Father explained that St. Patrick's priests may simply be more visible at Carle because they visit all the Catholics there, whereas priests from other parishes may visit only their own parishioners.

Disclaimers aside, St. Patrick's parishioners know that their pastor really does work hard serving them, God bless him.

Sr. Lori Kirchman, O.P., music director

St. Patrick's newest staff member, Sr. Lori Kirchman, hopes that she and the parish choirs will not only help people pray and encourage active participation of the assembly, but also help parishioners realize that worship is a relationship between God and one another.

Sr. Lori, a native of Bradley (Ill.) and a religious of the Springfield Dominicans, is no stranger to St. Patrick's. She earned her B.A. in Music Education at the U of I and found St. Patrick's a welcoming parish at that



Sr. Lori Kirchman, O.P.

Staff

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time. Because her life of prayer is important to her, she is happy to be able to live in community with other Dominicans in the convent of St. Thomas in Philo.

Before receiving an M.A. in Liturgical Music from St. John's University in Collegeville (Minn.), Sister studied for and obtained a certificate in the Kodaly Method at Holy Names College in Oakland (Calif.). Kodaly, a Hungarian musician and composer, devised a method to teach people how to use the musical instrument they are born with--their voices.

Sr. Lori directs four choirs: the 9:00 a.m. Mass choir, the 10:30 a.m. Mass choir, the children's choir for 4th- through 8th-graders (vocal and handbell, combined), and the funeral schola. She hopes to encourage high school students to join one of the adult choirs "as a place to go, to move on into."

Her parish duties include meeting with brides-to-be to plan the music for weddings and, in the case of a death of a parishioner, to meet with the families to plan appropriate music for the funeral Mass. She also heads up the Homily Preparation sessions, held monthly, and meets with the Liturgy Committee as an ex-officio member.

In her spare time (when there is some), Sr. Lori likes to swim.

Sr. Charlene Cesario, S.S.C.M., pastoral associate

Quiet but enthusiastic (have you heard her contagious laugh?), Sr. Charlene views her ministry at St. Patrick's as her response to God's call, using her gifts for the empowerment of people in our faith community. In her own words, "What I do comes out of my commitment to the gift of presence in people's lives in a pastoral and caring manner."

Sister has been given responsibility for pastoral care ministry, bereavement ministry, and spirituality in our parish. She says she ministers by

"BE-ing there" for us as a guide, a respectful and sensitive presence, in moments of loss and grief and by training and providing support to the Eucharistic ministers and visitors who call on the sick, the aged, and the dying, whether at home, in hospitals, or in nursing homes.

She also assists in providing retreats, individual spiritual direction, and seminars.

She has introduced and facilitated such programs as BeFriender Ministry and Finding God in Daily Work.

Soon after Sr. Charlene arrived at St. Patrick's, she was invited by Fr. Remm to attend the Midwest Conference in Canon Law at Mundelein. She has since been trained by the Diocese of Peoria and appointed by the bishop to work with people who are divorced and seeking an annulment. This is what Sister calls her gift of "BE-ing" an advocate, by listening, praying, and encouraging them to walk through the healing process of an annulment.

As pastoral associate, Sister responds to pastoral needs in Fr. Remm's absence. As the member of the staff charged with oversight of the evangelization process in the parish, Sr. Charlene tries to be open and receptive to all who have not heard the Word of God, to encourage those who were baptized but have yet to discern their response to the call as well as those who have lost their connection to the Church.

Sr. Charlene enjoys decorating her office in the parish center to give it touches of warmth and welcome. She is delighted to be joined by another woman religious on the staff and shares Sr. Lori's appreciation of living in community. Sister is a Servant of the Holy Heart of Mary and lives in community with others at Covenant Hospital in Champaign.



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

Catholic Worker House seeks live-in volunteer

The Worker House has new neighbors! The Men's Emergency Shelter, temporarily evacuated from its site at McKinley Foundation, has found short term refuge nearby.

Understandably, numbers have increased at daily Soup Kitchen, and crews are regularly preparing meals for 70 to 90 guests. This meal includes Sophia

Zeigler's inimitable soup, a main dish, vegetable, salad, dessert, and a sandwich to go.

If you are thinking we are being "eaten out of house and home," you are correct—but it is the joy of our Soup Kitchen volunteers to serve, and they do it generously. Most of our food is purchased from Eastern Illinois Foodbank by our thrifty food storage manager, Carole Rebeiz. We make a shopping trip weekly to get items not available at EIF, and best of all, we receive a steady stream of serendipitously selected food donations—30 lbs. of frozen lobster tails donated by U of I Food Service await creative cuisine as we speak!

An Oct. 4 workshop on non-violence, conducted by the Institute for Peace and Justice, offered important insights on communication, racism, economic injustice and its effect on the poor. It was an inspiration to the Soup Kitchen volunteers who participated.

Overnight hospitality is once again "on hold" as we seek another live-in volunteer. Having a full house of 14 homeless guests—women and families—is too much responsibility for one person. Our current live-in volunteer, Cindy Churchill, is at Marquette U. in Milwaukee attending a conference that commemorates the

centenary of Dorothy Day (1897-1997). Since many Catholic Worker Houses will be represented, we hope to learn how other Houses of Hospitality are dealing with the

challenge of finding live-in volunteers willing to practice Gospel values, sharing their lives with the poor.

Pray with us that

a new live-in volunteer appears on our doorstep before this mild October weather ends and winter clenches its fist.

Faithful Ten-Dollars-A-Month

Club members continue to help us pay our utility bills and maintain the House and Annex. We welcome new members! Our mailing address: St. Jude Catholic Worker House, P.O. Box 1612, Champaign, IL 61824-1612.

New Soup Kitchen workers are urged to call Ellen McDowell (356-7101) to volunteer. Contributions of canned goods, coffee, packaged meats, toiletries, and men's socks are always happily received. (Bring donations to the front door at 317 S. Randolph, C., between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. or call 355-9774.) But the greatest gift is prayer—pray for the House and the guests! It is heartening to all our volunteers to know that so many friends are with us in spirit.



Everything is going to be all right

I remember an incident from my childhood when my father and brother and I picked up a woman by the side of the road. She was crying and looked like she needed a ride. She told my father that her husband had abandoned her by the roadside. She was far from home, sick, confused.

I remember that my father tried to comfort her. "Everything is going to be all right," he said. I remember thinking how that did not seem possible.

I don't know how the woman's story ended. But the point that, in the end, everything is going to be all right has stuck with me. Isn't this the Easter message? That in spite of everything, every disturbance, every life event, every tragedy or painful experience, large or small, at the end of the day everything is going to be all right.

Name withheld by request

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

November 24 Andrew Dung-Lac and companions

St. Andrew Dung-Lac was one of 117 martyrs who met death in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862 during three periods of severe persecution. Members of this group were beatified on four different occasions between 1900 and 1951. In 1988 all were canonized by Pope John Paul II.

Andrew, born to Buddhist parents in 1785, was brought up in the Catholic faith and later became a catechist. When nearly 40 years old, he was ordained a priest—and it was at just about this time that the first wave of persecution drove priests into hiding.

He worked in many parishes. One day he was arrested and ransomed from jail by his parishioners. After that he changed his name from Dung to Lac, for safety's sake, and moved to a new area to work. In 1839 an edict was issued that was designed root out all Christians. The law demanded that all citizens take part in ancestor worship and the building of temples.

Soon after that Andrew was captured with another Vietnamese priest, Peter Thi; they were beheaded in Hanoi in 1839.

Christianity was brought to Vietnam by the Jesuits, who opened the first permanent mission there in 1615. Despite determined efforts to wipe it out, Christianity flourished. By 1954 there were over one and a half million Catholics in the north. Although nearly half had fled to the south to avoid persistent persecution, in 1964 833,000 Catholics remained—many in prison.

In the south, Catholics were enjoying the first decade of religious freedom in centuries, their numbers swelled by refugees. During the Vietnamese war Catholics again suffered in the north and fled to the

south in great numbers. Now the entire country is under Communist rule.

The cross has long been a part of the lives of the people of Vietnam. "The Church in Vietnam is living out the gospel in a difficult and complex situation with remarkable persistence and strength ... alive and vigorous, blessed with strong and faithful bishops, dedicated religious, and courageous and committed laypeople." (Statement of three U.S. archbishops returning from Vietnam in Jan. 1988)

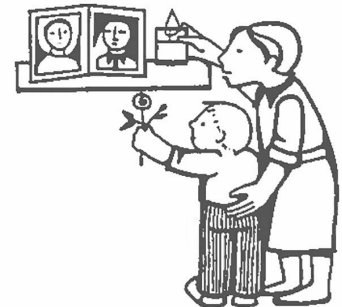
Parish-wide memorial service planned for Nov. 19

In our faith tradition, November is the month especially dedicated to prayer for all who have died, who have gone before us in faith to eternal life. On the first day of the month, All Saints Day, we celebrate with all our holy women and men, our saints, known or unknown, honored or forgotten, who have shown love, joy, and service of God in the people they rubbed elbows with while here on earth. On the second day, All Souls Day, we are reminded that it is good to speak about the dead, to remember and honor them, to pray for them even as they pray for us.

To help us remember and pray for our own "holy ones," our loved family members and friends who have died—whether recently or long ago—St. Patrick's Bereavement Team has planned a special evening memorial service to which all parishioners are invited.

The service will be led by Victoria Jean Lannie, Coordinator of Hospice Services in Peoria and a Pastoral Theology counselor and retreat leader, who specializes in ministry to those suffering from grief and loss. She will speak about remembering those we love, giving thanks for God's gifts, and reflecting on the resurrection. The service will include periods of prayerful meditation and thanksgiving for the lives of our departed loved ones.

The memorial service will be held in St. Patrick's church on Wednesday, Nov. 19, beginning at 7 p.m. Following the service, all are invited to gather for refreshments and fellowship in the parish center. Invite your friends to join you; everyone has someone to remember.



*God of all consolation,
open our hearts to your word,
so that, listening to it, we may
comfort one another,
finding light in time of darkness
and faith in time of doubt.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

From Cliff Maduzia: An Evangelization Minute

My family and I have been parishioners of St. Patrick's for 11 years. As a member of the St. Patrick's Evangelization Team I would like to use this opportunity to tell you how Jesus has helped my family in the past year.

A year ago my employer began considering reorganization of the area in which I worked. As you can imagine, I began to feel insecure and threatened. I prayed that I would have the grace to respond to changes in a loving way. I began to feel called to reach out to help others rather than to dwell on my own problems. I worked with several other people to set up a prepared food rescue program to help shelters in the area.

It became increasingly clear that restructuring would soon occur at work. We felt a stronger sense of fear and insecurity. My wife and I began praying each night for the grace to respond lovingly to this adversity.

As the food rescue program began to take shape, my wife and sons found ways to help. Joseph designed several logos. Anthony set up a computerized donor tracking mechanism. Matthew helped to apply mailing labels. We began to grow closer as a family.

In May of this year I was told my job was to be eliminated, possibly as early as July 1, 1997. Several new positions were created, one of which I have applied for. (No decision has been made as yet.)

By God's grace I have found helping others a good response. I have helped my employer make the transition to the new structure a smooth one. I found that I held no ill will toward anyone.

We have grown closer, helped others, and found a deeper spirituality than we probably would have found had we not experienced this. God answered our prayers. And I thank God for that; I wouldn't trade this past year for anything.

I have told you this story because the greatest gift we can offer to each other is the telling of and listening to our stories. This empowers us to live out our own stories, unifies us in our diversity, and leads us to reconciliation, which is the mission of the Church.



*God of the universe
you speak to us in all of creation,
and call to us most surely in the depths of our hearts.
Help us to listen for your voice today,
gentling our work, our recreation, and our relationships with
others
in ways that let us hear you.
Deepen in us our faith in your presence in us.
Grant this through the intercession of all your prophets
who listened in sincerity and truth.
Amen.*

Let's join together in prayer for God's grace to make us an evangelizing parish so that we may all witness to God's grace in our lives.

Grief: It takes as long as it takes

When someone loses a loved one, a parent, a spouse, a child, it is hard to know what to say to give comfort. Although death is something that touches all of us, society has made it seem like something to be acknowledged (the funeral) and then ignored. But for the person who has suffered loss, grief is a journey that continues for some time.

Grief is encountered at first moment by moment, then day by day (or night by night). Slowly, sometimes very slowly, the bereaved makes the transition from what has to what is.

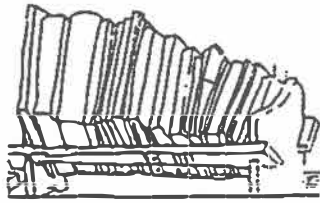
Don't be afraid to ask the grieving how they are doing, to share a memory about the person who has died, to acknowledge an anniversary or holiday. And don't be afraid of the tears shed by a grieving person. Those tears will help to move the person toward healing.

Unfortunately, there is no set schedule for the grieving process. It takes as long as it takes.

Finding a book in the parish library is easy--really!

The other day a friend of mine recommended a book by Bernadette Snyder that she had checked out of St. Patrick's library. Intrigued, I set about to find this book. Never having visited the library before, I asked for directions at the reception desk in the parish center lobby and was directed to the classroom wing of the parish hall. The library is the last door on the left (or the first door on the right if you are coming in from the outside door). The room was locked but the key, attached to a big silver ring, was easily located on the wall in the hallway.

Once inside, the first thing to catch my eye was the card catalog by the window. By card



I mean the traditional drawers with index cards. Those of you who are over twenty will know what I am talking about.

Quickly and efficiently, I looked under "Snyder, Bernadette," only to find nothing. A quick look at the shelves confirmed my worst fear: the books were not simply shelved alphabetically by author. There was a cataloging system.

Puzzled, I took a closer look at the room. It was then that I noticed the computer monitor and figured that St. Pat's must have a computer catalog. And why not? Everyone else does these days. In fact, I was to learn, the computer

(Continued on page 12)

Call for action on hunger legislation: write a letter!

The current Bread for the World Newsletter proposes the following as "Action this month":

Please write to White House chief domestic adviser, Bruce Reed, who advises President Clinton on domestic food assistance matters. Urge Reed to recommend that the fiscal year 1999 budget

include increases for the food stamp and child nutrition programs as called for in the Hunger Has a Cure Act (H.R. 1507). Mention that this legislation has strong bipartisan support.

Address: Bruce N. Reed, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20500.

Scores of churches are now preparing for offerings of letters this fall in support of the Hunger Has a Cure Act.



Diocesan Family Resource Center offers materials, services

A remarkable resource center is available to all families in the Peoria diocese. The Family Resource Center, founded in 1980 by the diocesan Respect Life Board, is located at 321 Main Street, Peoria.

The center promotes reverence for life, from natural beginning to natural end, through a large lending library of videotapes, books, magazines, brochures, audiovisual materials, posters, and displays. Topics include family life, sex education, marriage, parenthood, family planning, fetal development, abortion, parenting skills, Catholic spiritual development, values, and caring for the sick, the disabled, and the aged.

The center also offers both educational and entertainment videotapes and books for children.

A catalog of resources can be obtained from the center. All materials are lent free of charge; however, a donation to cover the cost of postage and handling is requested.

Other services offered by the Family Resource Center include aid to distressed pregnant women, free pregnancy tests, teenage sexuality programs, and post-abortion counseling. The center also runs a speaker's bureau and publishes a quarterly newspaper.

To contact the Family Resource Center, call 309/637-1713. Hours are 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; on Wednesdays the office is open to 5:00 p.m. during the school year.



RCIA precatechumenate: Where inquirers find answers and we share the good news

Where do you go when you have questions about God? about the meaning of life? about prayer or sin or Mary or the saints? How do you respond when you are touched by another person's faith or selflessness or goodness? To whom do you go in times of sadness or uncertainty? What do you do when you feel blessed?

We Catholics have many answers to these questions. We may seek out our pastor or another parish minister, or we may turn to another believer, perhaps a friend or family member. Maybe we seek the intercession of the saints or go directly to God in prayer.

But where does someone go who doesn't belong to a community of faith? Many of them, too, seek out a Catholic minister or friend. This may be the first step in wanting to learn more about what Catholics believe and

perhaps even the first step in joining the Catholic Church. If so, they may be invited to join with others who have similar questions. These people, called "inquirers," meet with some members of the community, both clergy and laity, to seek the answers to their questions and learn about what the Church believes.

This first, though informal, step in the Christian initiation process is called "precatechumenate" because it precedes the time of decision and commitment that people in the "catechumenate" are called to make. This period is a time of inquiry. But it is also called the "period of evangelization" because in this time we tell the good news that we have to share--the Christian faith as it is lived in the Catholic communion.

We tell the good news through the great stories of scripture, through

the history and tradition of the Church, through the lives of ordinary Christians. And because the questions that urged the inquirers to learn more about God and the Church are signs of God already present and active in their lives, we listen too and help the inquirers see how God has always been with them and where God is leading them.

At St. Patrick's a group of inquirers has already gathered, and they are starting to ask their questions. But there is always room for more people of faith with questions to ask, who want to learn about God and the Church. For information or for a schedule of meeting times, call Lenore Nagele (384-1125), RCIA coordinator, or Carolyn McElrath (367-2665), religious education director.

Find your book...

(Continued from page 11)

contained a listing of all new acquisitions from the past five years. I was happy to see instructions posted right on the computer desk, since every computer and every system is different. The instructions were clear, concise, and easy to follow. I urge you to try it yourself!

Computers can be intimidating, though, especially if the computer in question is not already turned on and ready for your commands. The computer in the library is controlled by a power strip located on the floor behind a small table next to the computer desk. Simply push the black button, and--presto!--the computer and monitor come to life. All relevant

software automatically loads itself. Simply use the mouse to point and click (following directions of course).

A few pearls of wisdom I gleaned from my journey through the library database. Once you have completed your search and the relevant records have been pulled, they are displayed just like index cards, one on top of the other. To move between cards simply press the "Alt" key along with the "Page Up" and "Page Down" keys.

If you are searching for a particular author, as I was, enter the last name followed immediately by a comma (first name appears to be optional). The program searches for exact matches. Since the authors are entered by "last name, first name," you will need to include the comma in

order for the computer to make a match.

Once you are finished, simply exit out of the program by clicking on the "-" in the box in the upper left-hand corner. If, for some reason, the computer prompts you to save your changes, please do not. You may have unintentionally altered a record or two during your searches and you wouldn't want to save those changes! Now you may simply turn the computer off from the power strip.

Oh, in case you were wondering, I did find my book. Now it's your turn. Happy hunting!

--Cristy Nowak

Why display the Scroll of the Dead?

Praying for the dead is a "Catholic thing," stated essayist and poet Kathleen Norris in her book *Dakota, A Spiritual Geography*. Norris, a Presbyterian layperson, is a Benedictine Oblate; she found great comfort in the prayers for the dead that she encountered in the Catholic liturgy.

Praying for the dead reminds us that the people we've known and loved are still with us, still a very real part of the Church, praying for us as we also pray for them. We are all part of the great "communion of saints," a great cloud of witnesses in heaven and on earth.

Often prayers for the dead are included in our Sunday petitions. These prayers are always a part of daily Mass. And on All Soul's Day the Church reminds us again to pray for those people who have gone before us in faith.

At St. Patrick's we remember the people who have died in the past year by inscribing their names on a large Scroll of the Dead. This scroll is hung near the altar for all to see, so that all can pray for, and remember, our beloved dead--our saints.

This year we remember especially Helen Louise Barrymore, Cheryl Casto, Carlow Claire, Paul "Gene" Sharpf, Mary Elizabeth Fleming, Joseph Eugene O'Connell, Harry McCloud, Norman G. Donze, Dorothy J. Emery, Chris M. Kouzmanoff, Dorothy Elliott, Judith Saak, Donald W. Chamberlain, Anne Duchene, Viona G. Parry, Lucille B. Sansone, Helen Margaret Thompson, Mary Catanzaro, John V. Maier, Louise Lawhead, S. T. Owen.

Our contributions to CHD fund self-help projects



The Campaign for Human Development offers poor people a hand up, not a handout.

Created by the U.S. Catholic bishops, the Campaign for Human Development helps fund self-help projects such as worker-owned cooperatives and housing coalitions. The CHD provides seed money for these different development

projects, investing in human capital and sweat equity instead of junk bonds and exotic stock option plans.

The CHD is funded by contributions from parishes throughout the United States. Our contributions to the campaign make a real difference, helping to build independence and self-respect for people in difficult economic circumstances in the local community, in the state of Illinois, and around the country.

St. Patrick's second collection on the third Sunday in November will be sent to the bishops' Campaign for Human Development.



Parish Wish List

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

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

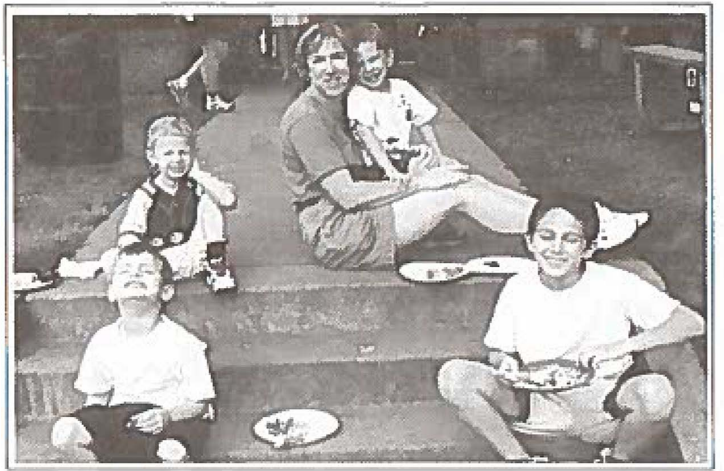
The Archives Committee has requested that the following items be placed on the parish wish list:

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

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

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

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



Fall gets off to a great start at St. Patrick's

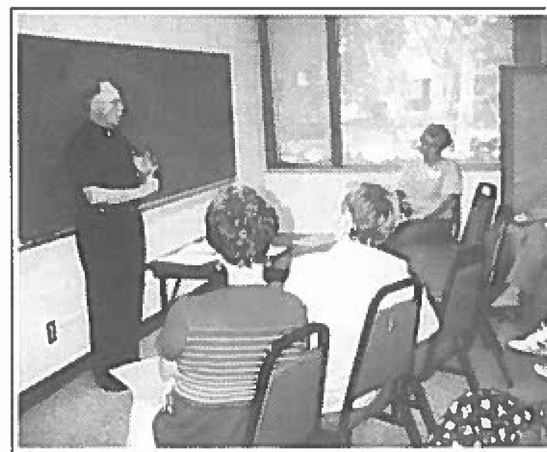
Parents looking for Children's Liturgy found it at last with the startup of religious education classes in October. And parish committees that had enjoyed a summertime hiatus took up their tasks once again. The parish center is replete with "good vibes" on Sunday mornings with people greeting people, tiny tots dashing about gleefully, youngsters seeking parents or answers (or maybe both), parents seeking children, grownups renewing friendships over coffee, catechists asking questions or shepherding boys and girls here or there.

Our "roving photographer," Fr. Remm, has captured some pleasant moments enjoyed by young and old at the parish Fall Festival, our annual parish picnic. The turnout was great, the food plentiful and tasty, the games enjoyed by all participants. Some new friendships got off to a good start, and some old friendships were renewed. Refreshed, relaxed, ready for another year. . . .

Carolyn McElrath, armed with the Polaroid camera, found coordinator Brandon Lipska with junior-high catechists for lesson planning (*below*) at a lunchtime meeting.

Carolyn also caught (*at the right*) some moments during this year's RENEW Catechist Day, sponsored by Area Coordinators of Religious Education, that was held at St. Patrick's on Oct. 4. Over 90 catechists from Champaign and Danville vicariates, or regions, in the diocese participated. Fr. Remm gave the keynote address on "Jesus Christ: Yesterday, Today, and Forever," the theme for the gathering. Workshops were given by Bill Janicki ("Stepping off the pages: Bringing Jesus' message to life in your classroom"), Msgr. Hallin ("Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist"), Sr. Marcelline Koch, O.P. ("Jesus calls us to work for justice"), and Pat Prall ("To teach as Jesus did").

Off to a good start, yes!





November 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 November 9.

1
All Saints Day
8:00am Mass

<p>2 All Souls Day 9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed 10:15am Childrens Liturgy 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Religious Ed 6:30pm Leaders' Bible Study</p>	<p>3 7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work 7:00pm Pro-Life Com 7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>4 7:00pm First Reconciliation Class</p>	<p>5 9:00am Guild Wkshp 9:30am Moms Group 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Childrens Choir 6:00pm Religious Ed, Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA</p>	<p>6 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Building & Grounds Com</p>	<p>7 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>Parish Council Retreat</p>						
<p>9 9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed 10:15am Childrens Liturgy 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Religious Ed 6:30pm Leaders' Bible Study</p>	<p>10 7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Social Action Com</p>	<p>11 7:00pm First Reconciliation Class 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com</p>	<p>12 9:00am Guild Wkshp 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Childrens Choir 6:00pm Religious Ed, Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Baptism Prep</p>	<p>13 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Knights of Columbus 7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work</p>	<p>14 10:30am Mass-Care Center 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>Parish Goals Planning</p>						
<p>16 10:15am Childrens Liturgy 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Religious Ed 6:30pm Leaders' Bible Study</p>	<p>17 5:15pm Childrens Choir 7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work 7:00pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>18 12:40pm Catholic Daughters Lunch & Mtg 7:00pm First Reconciliation Class</p>	<p>19 9:00am & 11:00am Religious Ed 9:00am Guild Wkshp 9:30am Moms Group 5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Religious Ed, Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Memorial Prayer Service</p>	<p>20 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council 7:00pm Evangelization Team 7:00pm Communications Com</p>	<p>21 10:30am Mass-Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH</p>	<p>22 7:30pm Youth Group Lock-in begins</p>
<p>23 6:30pm Leaders' Bible Study</p>	<p>24 9:30am Archives Com 7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work 7:00pm Liurgy Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>25 7:00pm First Reconciliation Class 7:00pm Homily Prep</p>	<p>26 9:00am Guild Ornament Wkshp 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP</p>	<p>27 Thanksgiving Day 8:00am Mass & Breakfast</p>	<p>28 10:30am Mass-Manor Care 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 6:30pm Leaders' Bible Study</p>						