

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Time and Talent

Precious commodities, the two Ts!

"Many hands make light work," or so we've heard from our parents and grandparents. In a community like St. Patrick's, many hands can work miracles.

Christ told us there is much to do, but too few willing to help. In working for Christ and his Church we are storing up a different kind of treasure, a treasure that is worthy of the People of God. (That is who we are, the People of God!)

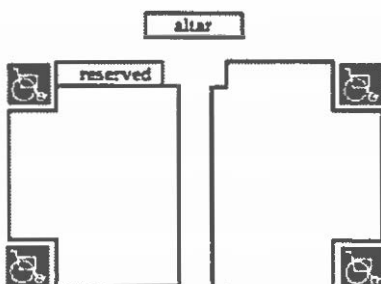
These days, time is a precious commodity. We always seem to have too much to do and too little time to do it. Our days are full of our job, our chores,

Special seating reserved for parishioners with special needs

Participants in weekend liturgies who wish to receive Holy Communion while seated in the pew will find the front pew on the west (tabernacle) side of the church reserved for them.

Wheelchairs can be accommodated at the four corners of the church, as indicated on the accompanying diagram.

A wheelchair is available for use; it is kept at the top of the ramp inside the east entrance to the church.



our errands. We give our time to a variety of different tasks. We don't seem to have time for anything extra. But if something we like to do comes up, whether a game of golf or time on the computer to "surf the Net," we find time for it. We certainly make time for things we enjoy doing.

How much more important than fun and chores is work for the Church? Is an hour or two a month too much extra? The rewards are far more satisfying than the temporary enjoyment we find doing something for ourselves alone.

You may be asking yourself what you could do that would be helpful. Well, what is it that makes you special? You could have great organizational skills, be a terrific cook, or good with people. Maybe you have an especially pleasant speaking voice. Or you may have experienced the loss of a loved one and could help someone else who is grieving. Even shopping or giving a ride to a person who does not drive would be an enormous help!

Is going to church on Sunday all there is to loving God? Jesus asks us to live our lives so that all will know us to be his followers by how we love and serve one another.

On our Sunday envelopes appears the question "What shall I give to God for all he has given me?" The gift of your precious time and your God-given talent is as necessary as your financial support. In serving one another we serve Christ. What we do for him, no matter how insignificant it may seem to us, will be like the ripples of a stone dropped in a pond. Who can say how far the good of an individual act of service will reach?

Greetings to all new parishioners!

On behalf of the Parish Council, I want to welcome to all of you who have joined St.

Patrick's Parish in recent months. As you look around your new parish, you will notice that St. Patrick's is richly blessed with families and individuals that represent a wealth of diversity in backgrounds and cultures. I am confident that you will find here a faith-filled and faithful parish community, a community ready to welcome you wherever you are in your own faith journey.

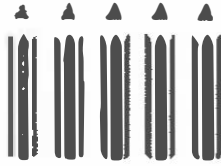


Cindy Mottin Kelly

As Catholics, it is our coming together to celebrate the Eucharist that helps provide our spiritual nourishment. It is also how we connect within our parish community. There are a number of ministries associated with the weekly liturgy. I encourage you to observe the many ways our parishioners are involved with the liturgy and ask you to consider how you might want to participate.

I hope you will take advantage of all your parish has to offer. Our weekly parish bulletin contains listings of all the activities at St. Patrick's. You will also find that the monthly edition of *In Focus* contains parish news and information that will certainly enrich your knowledge about St. Patrick's. Copies of both are available in the church as well as in the parish center. One way to

Holy Cross newsline



Welcome back, students! Registration began Aug. 6 for the first day of school, Aug. 31. Holy Cross enrolled 421 students this year, including 67 students from 49 St. Patrick's families. Tuition is \$1925 per student, plus \$140 book fee, plus \$100 charge for operating expenditures.

A lot has been going on at Holy Cross School this summer:

- A new multipurpose room has been provided on the first floor.
- The former library has been converted to an eighth-grade classroom.
- The second floor has been remodeled to include an administrative office, a learning disability office, and a remedial math room.



Welcome to new parishioners Brian and Dianne Bollman, Bridget Brandes, Louis and Suzanne D'Andria, Ed Delso, Karrie Doebel, Ernestine and Qnesime Faustin Epouhe, Garry and Lisa Herzog, Deborah and Stephen Hogan, Bernard Huelsbusch, Sr., Bridget Jarvis, Anna Kasten and Jim Urban, Dennis and Nadia Keefe, Jennifer Merry, Janice Mouschovias, Sr. Theresa Palmisano, Amy Reynolds, Deborah and Jeff Riley, Melissa Szewczykowski, Joseph Thompson, Jennifer Jean Walburn, Patti Watts, Joseph Dale Williams, Richard Michael Wyninger.

Farewell to parishioners who have left C-U: Annette and Jason Cookson, Mercedes Crawford-Munoz, Joanne Donovan, Terese Engolz, Christina Holman, Jamie and Marti Kocher, Judy Krajnak, Cristy and Kevin Krakora, Melissa Kramer, Dat K. Ly, La'Shonna Deon Madison, Sheila Matson, Patricia Merkin, Cristy and Phil Nowak, Amy Reeder, Margaret Schulte, John Valenziano, Cindy Walker, Marilyn Warmburton.

• A tower has been erected to include a first-grade classroom, a new library, and a computer lab; with completion expected in late November, the first grade will hold classes in the multipurpose room on the first floor. The library will open after Christmas.

• Lesson plans have been developed for computer technology, and one computer will be placed in each classroom.

• New IBM computers have been purchased to replace the Macs.

A special PTC meeting is scheduled Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m. with Sr. Kathleen. She will share with parents her goals and expectations for the coming year. All are welcome!

New faculty members include Sherri Bolen (librarian), Sharon Kane (computer technology coordinator), Angela Palmer (small math groups and cafeteria coordinator), Ms. DeComyn (part-time teacher), Katie Hlavach (seventh-grade teacher), Kathy Kain (kindergarten teacher), Julie Blixin (first-grade teacher). Faculty changes: Roseanne Kelton has moved from first grade to kindergarten; Rose Costello will be Assistant Principal, in the office in the afternoons; Jennifer Deponai will conduct a sixth-grade reading class in the afternoons.

Upcoming events: Basketball begins Sept. 1; regional basketball tournament Sept. 19-24; cross-country begins Sept. 4; Scouts, Sept. 13, 4 p.m.

Fund raisers (help the students out!):

- Magazine drive, Sept. 3-22
- Car wash, Kirby and Prospect, Sept. 19
- Hot Dog Day, Sept. 25
- Kris Kringle craft group, Sept. 30 (great opportunity for you crafters!)

Terra Nove Achievement Tests will be administered to grades 3-8 from Sept 21 through Oct. 2. This testing process is re-evaluated every five years and has replaced the California tests this year.

Special prayers: All-school Mass on Sept. 14.

Comments or questions? Call Morene Christman (359-7003).



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is September 13.

A message from the Evangelization Coordinator

It is with great excitement that I begin this new job as Evangelization Coordinator for St. Patrick's. Under the direction of Sr. Charlene, the Evangelization Team is expanding, and we eagerly look forward to working with many parishioners to bring a new excitement to our parish community.



Jesus says (Luke 12:49), "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing."

I want to share with you our dreams for evangelization. Evangelization means that we represent Jesus Christ in all we do and say, in how we live. One of our goals is "to bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others." Sharing our faith can be done by welcoming someone new and inviting them to Coffee Shop, asking friends to join your Bible study or to come on a Cursillo weekend, telling someone how powerfully God has answered your prayers, witnessing with your life and with your faith story. This is being an ambassador for Christ; we are all called to this role.

Sr. Charlene and I recently returned from a week-long summer institute on "The Creator" at Sacred Heart School of Theology near Milwaukee. We came away refreshed spiritually, challenged with new ideas, and thinking creatively about how to work collaboratively in the parish as we try to draw in people of all ages and ethnic groups. We welcome suggestions you may have, too!

Here are some ideas we'd like to implement:

• Pray, pray, pray together for the Spirit of God to blow freely through our parish and renew in us all an appreciation for what an adventure we are on with God.

• Welcome and reach out to new parishioners. We are forming a Welcome

From Susan Nagele

Susan's letter, which arrived just too late for inclusion in the last issue of *In Focus*, was sent from Nairobi a few days after Easter. She begins by describing the arrival of a Kenyan nurse/midwife, Flora Lukhumwa, who joined the team despite a rather arduous trip, and a workshop with local leaders to introduce the team and to listen to the leaders' ideas and concerns. She continues:

I want especially to tell you about the services during Holy Week. There are very few Christians here, but everyone believes in God, whom they call Nyakuj. The Eucharistic Liturgy on Holy Thursday was held in a clearing of trees by the river, where we hold our Sunday liturgies. It was attended by 15-20 people, most of whom are workers here at the mission who came from Turkana in northern Kenya.

Our pastoral team includes Fr. Tim, Flora, Clement, the catechist, and me. (Fr. Leo had gone to another part of the parish for these services.) We each



Lay Missioner Dr. Susan Nagele greets a health worker ministering with her to displaced persons in Nimule.

helped to wash the feet of 3 or 4 of the workers to show our service to the mission of the Church and to them.

On Friday we left at 6 a.m. for Lonyakapil, over an hour away by car. There are more Christians in this area, but when we arrived no one was present. We met three young girls drawing water from the river, and so we started talking to them. The oldest was particularly bright and self-confident. Last year in Nimule I had asked people at Easter what were their signs of new life. They told me one was a small, red, furry bug and the

other was the black and white bird that circles in spirals. Both appear just before the rains and are, therefore, signs of new life. I found this red bug on the ground and showed it to this bright young girl, asking her what it was. She answered simply, "That is something of Nyakuj [God]." She said it was called melekare in their language and appears just before the rains. Already, I felt that we had the beginnings of Easter!

Soon three men arrived, one of whom was Chief Lopur, the father of this bright girl. He said he was a Christian and sent the girls off to call the women for prayers. While we were waiting, we set up our simple altar on the bank of the riverbed. An African crucifix was placed on a stick in the ground next to the altar. Chief Lopur stood, walked over to it, and looked at it intently for several minutes. Then he made the sign of the cross, turned, and went back to his seat. I was touched by his reverence and was sure he had been praying to Nyakuj.

One of the local funeral customs is for people to pass the grave in which

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Celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit on Catechetical Sunday

Every Sunday at Mass we profess our belief "in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son." Yet how well do we truly recognize and appreciate this divine Person of the Holy Trinity? For that matter, how often do we acknowledge all those who serve as the Spirit's instruments in educating, assisting, and inspiring parishioners and nonparishioners alike who seek spiritual guidance in their faith journey?

At all Masses on Sept. 20 St. Patrick's will observe Catechetical Sunday by recognizing and commissioning over a hundred volunteers who will be actively involved in the parish's religious education ministry for the coming academic year.

1998 has been designated as the year in which we honor and proclaim the Holy Spirit as "Source of Unity." It is the



Spirit who guides and draws us together spiritually in our pursuit of God's Kingdom and therefore is ultimately responsible for maintaining the strength and unity of the Church.

The Spirit works within each of us in establishing our faith and grants us the insight and the desire to learn and follow the Word of God. The Spirit is the source from which all divine wisdom, grace, and inspiration flow. It is these gifts that both enable and compel us to spread the Good News and to serve as positive role models for others.

All who have made the commitment to serve the parish as religious education and family life ministers deserve our thanks. They fulfill the essential mission of the Church, and it is through their efforts and example that the Holy Spirit touches all of us as "the Lord, the giver of life," and "Source of Unity."



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; Artha Chamberlain, 344-6645; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701 (mmenches@uiuc.edu); Frank Modica, 367-4133 (modicaf@knight.cmi.k12.il.us); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@uiuc.edu); Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Peggy Whelan, 367-3668 (m-whelan@uiuc.edu).

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Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Joyce Baird, Mary Lee Brady, Morene Christman, Judy Conover, Bonnie Ellis, Meg Grady, Cindy Mottin Kelly, Fr. Kane, Mary Long, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Susan Nagele, Fr. Remm, Leslie Risatti, Marlene Shiraki, Joe Tobias, Irma Wait, Peggy Whelan, Chris Whippo. This issue was pagged by Andrew Hunt.

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the body has been placed and lay branches of leaves over the body. So for the veneration of the cross we laid the crucifix on the ground and each person placed leaves on it to show respect. It seemed a meaningful gesture to them. Altogether about 25 Toposa men and women attended this simple service to commemorate Jesus's death. We held another service in the evening for the workers at the mission.

On Holy Saturday we began the Easter Vigil on the far side of the river, where the big fire was lit. We didn't have a paschal candle, so Fr. Tim picked up a burning piece of wood and carried it across the river with all of us following, remembering the safe crossing of the Jews across the Red Sea. At the other side, in the same place where the goat had been roasted for the nyakiriket of the workshop, we had another pile of firewood, which he lit. We sat in a semicircle facing the mountain in the east, with the smoke from the fire drifting over us. Our small group of about 25 people included Toposa and Nyangatom from Sudan, Leuya, Turkana and Kikuyu from Kenya, an Ethiopian, an Irishman, and an American. We took turns singing and sharing our traditional Easter songs in Turkana, Swahili, Amharik, and English. Meanwhile a full moon was rising over our fire in the east. After the Liturgy of the Word, Fr. Tim blessed the water in a traditional calabash. Then the eldest Toposa man, George Loki, stood to offer the Prayers of the Faithful (in the same way the prayers are offered at the nyakiriket) and blessed all of us with the new water.

The next morning we had the Easter morning liturgy in the same place as the Vigil, but now with the sun rising in the east. At the end, as we were walking home, one of the Nyangatom men said to me, "Look at those birds," pointing to large black and white birds circling in the sky. "I always feel so good when I see them because they mean the rain is coming." I smiled and knew we had begun Easter.

I hope each of you has seen signs of new life, be they springtime, Easter eggs, butterflies, melekare, or black and



in our parish library

Let There Be Light

Based on the Visionary Spirituality of Hildegard of Bingen

John Kirvan, editor

Let There Be Light is an invitation to experience the light of God's wisdom through the visions of Hildegard of Bingen. This twelfth-century abbess, whose extraordinary talents and accomplishments have captured the imagination of contemporary seekers, views heaven and earth, their history and their future, in the coded language of images, reporting what she has seen and then decoding the imagery.

The aim of this book is to bring together passages of spiritual wisdom from many different places in her writings for reflective reading and meditative prayer. "This is not a book for mere reading," John Kirvan writes. "It invites you to meditate and pray its words on a daily basis over a period of thirty days, and in a special way to enter into prayer through the unique doorway of Hildegard's visionary experiences, and your own imagination."

This little book is one in the series "30 Days with a Great Spiritual Teacher." Each book in the series is based on the spirituality of an indi-

white birds. I also hope you've seen signs of the risen Christ, the triumph of life over death, and hope for the future.

Susan

Dr. Susan Nagele is the daughter of parishioners Lenore and Tom Nagele. She served St. Patrick's in many ways during her years here before undertaking her great adventure with Maryknoll. Many parishioners have asked how they can contribute to her support. Checks payable to MMAF or Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful, with "For Susan Nagele's mission account" in the memo line, should be sent to MMAF, Attn Promotions, P.O. Box 307, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0307.

vidual saint. They vary as much as do the saints themselves, yet each provides a real avenue to a deepening of spirituality. Suggestions are made for different ways of using the books, leaving to the reader the choice of the way found to be most helpful on the journey to greater closeness to God.

For each of the thirty days there is a brief reading developed from the writing of the saint, a meditation in the form of a mantra for reflection throughout the day, and an end-of-day prayer. The reader is advised to proceed slowly, to savor each word, each phrase, each image. "There is no predicting, no determining in advance, what short phrase, what word, will trigger a response in your spirit," writes Kirvan. "Give God a chance."

Books in the series so far (all are in our parish library):

All Will Be Well Based on the Classic Spirituality of Julian of Norwich

God Awaits You Based on the Classic Spirituality of Meister Eckhart

Let Nothing Disturb You A Journey to the Center of the Soul with Teresa of Avila

Peace of Heart Based on the Life and Teachings of Francis of Assisi

True Serenity Based on Thomas A Kempis's *The Imitation of Christ*

Simply Surrender Based on The Little Way of Therese of Lisieux

Where Only Love Can Go A Journey of the Soul into *The Cloud of Unknowing*

You Shall Not Want A Spiritual Journey Based on the Psalms

Living in the Presence of the Lord Based on the Everyday Spirituality of Brother Lawrence

Would you like to review a book occasionally for *In Focus*? The book can be recent or a classic—anything that is available in our parish library. Interested? Contact Mary Lou Menches (344-1125) or put a note in the Communications Committee's mailbox in the parish center.

The "real" homily was unspoken!

In the parish where I lived four or five years ago, the homeless alcoholics who regularly bedded down on the church porch at night would often come in for early morning Mass. At times, temptation must have been great; someone would stumble forward to receive Communion and, in a flash, drain the chalice dry.

One morning I was in church a little early. The door opened and in came a tall man, unshaven, unkempt, wearing high-top tennis shoes slit at the bunions. He clutched a beat-up purple plastic airline bag (the kind with broken seams you can find at a rummage sale for 25 cents). He rushed up the aisle and went right into the sacristy. "Oh-oh, here we go again," I thought, certain he was in search of the altar wine.



A couple of minutes later, two priests came out, vested for Mass. "I want to introduce my friend, Henri Nouwen," our pastor said. "He will give the homily today." The homily was about how Jesus calls us to live a gospel life and how we are to follow him. But for me, squirming in shame in the pew, Henri Nouwen didn't need to preach a word. The teaching I had from his cameo appearance in my parish that day was about my own blindness to gospel truths and how easy and wrong it is to judge others.

I tell this story so I never forget what I learned that day. And I thank Henri Nouwen for teaching it to me. May the eternal light shine upon him!

Lillian K.

When we share our faith stories, we are changed; those listening to us are changed as well. 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. Names will be withheld on request.

Vocations Committee being formed

"We believe that God calls certain individuals to the priesthood or religious life," said Joe Tobias. "No recruitment on our part is really necessary. But we can cultivate an awareness of God's call"—and that's what the Vocations Committee is all about. An officially designated parish program or group to cultivate this awareness has long been a desire of Joe Tobias, parish trustee. The Parish Council gave it reality by approving the formation of such a group last April.

"This is a new committee," Joe points out, "and both ladies and gentlemen are earnestly invited to become a part of it." The group will meet three or four times a year to coordinate the efforts of its members.

The objectives of the group are as follows:

- Encouraging prayers for vocations at home and in gatherings of all parish organizations
- Providing educational and information materials on the priesthood and religious life, including the nearly worldwide vocations crisis
- Organizing special programs or exhibits on the Church's Vocations Sunday
- Participating in Serra Club, Knights of Columbus, and diocesan vocations programs
- Affirming priests and religious who serve us

For information call Joe Tobias (344-6521) or Jim Moffitt (367-5221).

Q&A Q: How do present-day understandings of angels compare with the Church's teachings about angels?

A: Each week one TV show presents a story about people being "touched by an angel." In the show, the angels help people relate to one another, they help them solve problems, they teach them to see things differently. They carry two basic messages: "God loves you" and "It's never too late to turn to God."

The basic theology behind the show is correct; angels are part of the Christian tradition as well as Biblical witness. The existence of angels is a doctrine of the Fathers of the Church (Augustine, Basil), Catholic writers through the centuries (Bernard), and Scripture (Genesis, Job, Psalms, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, Acts, Hebrews). Jesus himself referred to angels (Matt. 13:49). And the Universal Catechism of the Catholic Church devotes a section (#328-#336) to angels.

Angels are essentially messengers of God. They guide, guard, and

protect us. St. Augustine said it so beautifully: "'Angel' is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is 'spirit'; if you seek the name of their office, it is 'angel,' from what they are, 'spirit,' to what they do, 'angel.'"

The current Vatican Museum exhibit on the subject of angels, now in St. Louis, shows them to be almost every size, shape, and color. Angelic images decorate paintings (the angel helping Matthew write!), tapestries, chalices, etc., down the centuries. It is a masterful collection, drawing thousands, and—for me—illustrating the "sensus fidelium," the sense of the faith in angels within Christianity.

Me? My morning prayer (my body up, my spirit only half-way) has always been:



St. Matthew writes, guided by one of God's messengers. Detail from a painting by Guido Reni.

Prayer for vocations

God our Father,
you will all to be saved
and come to the knowledge of the truth.
Send workers into your harvest
that the gospel may be preached to every creature
and your people, gathered together by the word of life
and strengthened by the power of the sacraments,
may advance in the way of salvation and love.
Please grant this through Christ our Lord.

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Parish Council News

At their August meeting Council members heard from Linda Peggs, representing the Eastern Illinois FoodBank, which serves 200 agencies and approximately 13,000 people in a 14-county area. The Urbana chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which operates out of St. Patrick's parish center, is one of the largest user agencies. While Champaign County has 28 agencies providing food to about 1000 people a month, the SVDP provides food to about 400 people each month. Approximately \$50,000 in food items was given to applicants by SVDP last year, foods purchased from the FoodBank for much less than would be spent in a supermarket (e.g., the cost to SVDP for a 14-pound grocery sack of food items is \$1.96). Sixty percent of the FoodBank's income is from the agencies that get food for distribution; the rest is raised through the community. The FoodBank is also a member of United Way.

Mary Long and Sr. Charlene attended a four-day institute on evangelization, on the theme of "The Father," the focus of the third year of preparation for the millennium. The Evangelization Team is expanding its membership and developing a Welcome Committee as an extension of its efforts. Members of the Welcome Committee will visit new parishioners in their homes and leave a packet of information about the parish and a booklet of Catholic prayers.

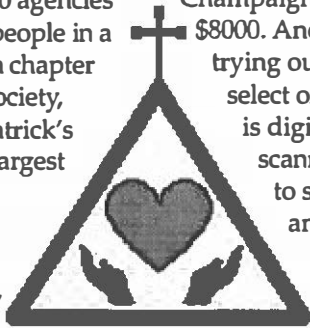
Office space is being prepared for the new Parish Nurse program; it will include a dedicated telephone line to preserve confidentiality for callers. Meanwhile, the three parishioner-volunteers (registered nurses) are reviewing documents for keeping files and activities confidential and are working on job descriptions. A presentation to parishioners at all Sunday Masses is planned for a future date.

The workshop to develop objectives for 1999 will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10 (instead of Oct. 9-10 as previously announced). A planning committee is being formed, and a facilitator for the event is being sought.

The Building and Grounds Committee will paint the main hall during the week following Labor Day and hopes to

replace the ceiling tile in the main hall a week or two later. A new telephone system is to be purchased from Champaign Phone Company for about \$8000. And the office staff will be trying out a couple of new copiers to select one for purchase. Each copier is digital and operates like a scanner; each can also be set up to serve as a network printer and used for faxing.

On Sept. 9 Fr. Remm will attend a meeting of Vicariate priests with Bishop Myers and Howard Braren for an update on the new Catholic high school. Kickoff of the general fund drive will be in October; meanwhile substantial advance gifts are still being sought from individuals—with a goal of \$8 or \$9 million. Plans, still in development, are to be completed in January so bids can be let and construction started next spring, with completion of the building in time for the start of classes in September 2000.



"Thank you for your gift . . ."

In a recent letter to Fr. Remm, Geoffrey H. Goodnow, director of development for the Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful, writes:

"What has impressed me most since joining MMAF is the generosity of our donors. Thank you—and the parishioners of St. Patrick's Church—for your recent gift of \$4,822.58. ... Your contribution will go far in helping Dr. Susan Nagele provide material and spiritual support to the most neglected and vulnerable people in Sudan. Your contribution also affirms her work, encourages and energizes us all!"

Yes, generous parishioners made possible this donation, a tithing of unspent funds at the end of our fiscal year in June, in support of Susan's work in Africa. As Mr. Goodnow notes, "It takes gifted men and women fired up in the Christian spirit to spend years overseas serving the poorest of the poor. And it takes friends like you to help make this ministry possible.

"God bless you for your generosity."

A late October date was tentatively set for a welcoming event for new parishioners, and planning was started for the Time and Talent weekend (Sept. 26-27).

The next Council meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings. For those interested, complete minutes of the most recent Council meetings are posted in the main vestibule of the church and on the bulletin board in the office wing of the parish center.

An open letter to St. Patrick's community

From Bonnie Ellis

As we look toward the fall and prepare for our next community Bible study, I have been invited to share my experience of St. Patrick's Bible study.

I have participated in it since its inception in the fall of 1994. I am an inquisitive person and have thoroughly enjoyed reading throughout my life. I found myself challenged by the fact that I had yet to read the Bible, except for bits and pieces now and then and the passages read in our Sunday worship. I decided that I did not want to leave this challenge unmet, so when Bible study came to St. Patrick's I was eager to join.

I like learning in groups because the group helps me to think and to grow from a different perspective than my own. It is also supportive, friendly, and humorous, and gives me a sense of community as I strive to understand the written word of God.

In preparing my weekly lessons, I have learned much as I read, listen, and soak up scripture. My understanding has gone from one who insisted on logic to one who is willing to sit with the Bible and the study and be inspired by the moment. My faith has found literal meaning that goes beyond weekly worship that is now nested in my daily living.

Scripture has given me a foundation from which to meet the difficulties and challenges of life because I have learned from the Bible that I am not alone in this endeavor. After

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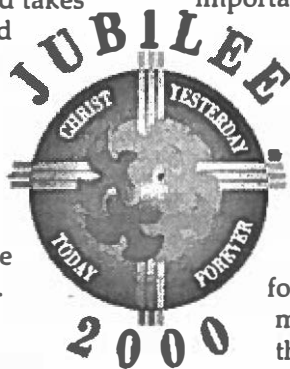
From Chris Whippo:

An Evangelization Minute

Something I find fascinating is listening to personal accounts of how God has worked in people's lives—their faith journey. How God takes us, loves us, changes us, and challenges us. My speaking to all of you is proof of my own journey. I am nervous, but not afraid to share with you. My story is probably similar to many of yours—the same struggles, the same themes, a work-in-progress.

Until my young-adult years my faith was very much tied to obedience, trying to do the right thing. I was bored with Mash and with Church traditions. It was in my early twenties that I felt a deep longing to know God.

Then some women in my apartment building in Chicago invited me



to a Bible study. I like doing new things, and I wanted to go, even though I felt embarrassed about my lack of knowledge of the Bible. Today I want to say that I have enjoyed every Bible study I have made in the last twenty years. Prayer, scripture study, and faith sharing have deepened the importance of God's word for me in my daily life.

Bible study as evangelism has helped me to recognize God's work. What I used to think was a coincidence I now know is part of God's plan. It doesn't make me uncomfortable to say "God taught me this" or "God showed me that" or "God was really there for me."

Like most of you, I have felt God's presence most strongly in time of crisis. Last summer my sister dies, and I wanted very much to deliver a eulogy at her funeral. The day before the funeral, my friend Sara, a grief counselor, called. I was sobbing as I told Sara how much I wanted to speak at Mary's funeral. God had Sara tell me to have my sisters and brothers stand by me for support and to pinch me if I started to lose control. The eulogy got done and I maintained my

physician, writer, poet, preacher, musician, playwright, and environmentalist. She wrote *Book of Simple Medicine* along with four books on animals, two on herbs and trees, three on gems and metals; she also composed music and wrote plays. Most importantly, she was a messenger. She had powerful spiritual visions that were wide-ranging and authoritative. She viewed heaven and earth, their history and their future, expressed these visions in images, and then decoded the images to tell with great self-confidence and painstaking detail many things, from the fall of angels to rules for the marriage bed.

If you are interested in her visionary spirituality, you may want to read *Let There Be Light*, edited by John Kirvan (see the book review in this issue in the section "In Our Parish Library").

We celebrate St. Hildegard's life on Sept. 17.

composure. I feel that the eulogy was a gift from God to comfort my parents. My point: I have grown strong in my faith, I was willing to be used, and with God's help and love I accomplished a loving task.

I wish you well on your own faith journey as you let God take you, love you, change you, and challenge you.

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become better acquainted with your parish community is by reading these publications.

Parishioners would also like to get to know you better. There are many opportunities for prayer and study available at St. Patrick's. Please check into our religious education programs—there is something available for a wide range of age groups. The popularity of Bible study groups continues to grow here; they offer yet another opportunity for prayer and fellowship.

Would you like to help, but perhaps don't know how? On Sept. 26-27 we will hold our annual Time and Talent weekend. Our parish is full of people with gifts and talents, and each of us will be asked to reflect on how we might share those gifts and talents with others. Your help or participation will be welcome, whether on an occasional basis with special events, or more regularly as a member of a committee. I know you will find that being an active participant at St. Patrick's will afford surprising blessings.

We are so glad that you decided to join us at St. Patrick's! May God bless you!

Cindy Mottin Kelly
President, Parish Council

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*Angel of God, my guardian dear,
to whom His love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side
to light, to guard, to rule and guide.
Amen.*

G. K.

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

St. Hildegard of Bingen, God's messenger

Hildegard was born to noble parents in Germany in 1098. At age five she began having visions. Her parents sent her to live with a spiritual director named Jutta. Over time, other women came to live with her and Jutta; they adapted the Rule of St. Benedict, and an abbey was built for them. When Jutta died, Hildegard was elected abbess and retained that position until her death in 1179.

Knowledge of Hildegard's goodness and wisdom spread, and many came to the abbey for reasons that ranged from simple prayer to medical attention to guidance from Hildegard. In time, two more abbeys were built to accommodate the growing numbers living at the abbey. When the abbeys were running smoothly, Hildegard began a series of four preaching journeys through Germany and France. She was into her seventies when the last journey took place.

Hildegard is truly a saint for all times, places, and people. She was a

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Team to visit the homes of new parishioners to welcome them personally into our community.

- Evangelization Minutes and *In Focus* testimonies continue, with parishioners sharing their stories of God at work in their lives. Do you have a story to share? Call me!

- Involvement in ecumenical outreach, such as the March for Jesus, the National Day of Prayer, Prayer Walks, social action projects, etc., witness to the community the active and exciting spirituality that Catholics experience and unite fellow Christians in joint projects.

- Draw together base communities, Bible study groups, Cursillo groups, Promise Keepers, etc., to take a more active and visible role in the Church, openly supporting and encouraging them. I'd like a representative of each group to call me so I know who is involved and so we can share information and work together. Let me know what your group is doing or needing, how we can support your efforts. If you have a heart to start a Bible study group with friends, contact me for information.

- Intergenerational activities get all ages interacting, involved and excited. What would interest you?

- Continue to offer retreats and

Finding God in Daily Work

The special program "Finding God in Daily Work," offered this fall at St. Patrick's Parish, begins Sept. 28. The goals of the program are:

- To learn how to see and hear God in the workplace
- To discover ways of responding to God in work and in prayer
- To find peace and fulfillment in work and in prayer

Sessions will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Sept. 28; Oct. 5, 12, 26; Nov. 2, 16, 23; and Dec. 7. An off-site, overnight retreat will be held Oct. 16-17. (Fee for the retreat is \$41 per person.)

The program is facilitated by Sr. Charlene Cesario, sscm, assisted by Joyce Baird. For more information, pick up a brochure and application form in the parish center.

missions with dynamic speakers.

- Increase our visibility and role modeling of evangelization by participating in as many parish events as possible.

We'd like to welcome people as they enter the church for services, talk with people at Coffee Shop, welcome newcomers, introduce ourselves to those we don't know well.

- Interact with the Parish Council and committees to involve them in the evangelization effort.

- See the "big picture" of evangelization for everyone in the parish. (Yes, it's happening in pockets, but we need the fire to spread throughout the parish.) Tell me what your group is doing and how we can help.

Sr. Charlene, the team, and I welcome ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to drop by my office in the south hall of the parish center most mornings (call to see if I'm in), or call me at the parish center (367-2665) or at home (328-2989).

—Mary Long

Sinai Temple needs child care for high holy days

Each Christmas and Easter, Sinai Temple volunteers serve patients' trays at Covenant Medical Center so that Christian aides can have the day off. Sinai people also staff the office of Lutheran Social Services so that children in foster care can have supervised visits with their families. Twice a year Christians have the opportunity to repay this kindness.

Parishioners are asked to volunteer for child care at the Temple during services on two high holy days: Rosh Hashanah (Monday morning, Sept. 21) and Yom Kippur (Wednesday morning and/or afternoon, Sept. 30).

It will not be necessary to give an entire morning or afternoon. For specific "shifts" (about 2 hours) and more information about children's ages, call Peggy Whelan (367-3668), our parish's representative on the Council of Congregations.

St. Patrick's Parish shares membership with Sinai Temple in the Council of Congregations. The month of September presents two opportunities for us to live out our inter-faith relationship.



Archives Committee Question of the Month

Most parishioners are familiar with the grandfather clock that stands in the reception area of the parish center. Does anyone know its origin? Can you tell the Archives Committee anything about how it came to St. Patrick's?

Responses can be left in the Archives mailbox in the parish center, or call Judy Conover (367-2109).

Parish Wish List

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

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

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

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

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

- A fireproof file cabinet for the parish archives, at \$800.

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.

Council appoints liaisons

Parish Council members received their committee liaison appointments for the year at their June meeting. Even though many groups enjoy a brief summer hiatus, most liaisons have already been welcomed by the members of their committees:

Dave Palmisano, appointed to Building and Grounds; Frank Modica, Communications; Judy Huelsbusch, Education; Dwain Berggren, Financial Affairs; Marnie Fuesting, Liturgy; Pat Holden, Social; Richard Keane, Social Action; Tom Korder, Personnel.

As liaison, the Council member's primary responsibility is to serve as communicator between Council and committee, reporting to the committee about relevant Council matters and to the Council about relevant committee matters.

The Council member who serves as liaison with a committee is an active, voting member of that committee and is expected both to attend committee meetings and to participate actively in the work of the committee.

The life of a Council member is a busy one!

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studying Job, I now fully and literally understand when I hear someone referred to as having "the patience of Job"; I will always be deeply impressed by this spoken attribute.

My prayer life finds direction through biblical knowledge. Just as my gardens become more lush, colorful, and abundant with each new year that I break the soil, so does my faith as I break the soil of my spiritual life through Bible study and inquiry. I am grateful and thrilled to be part of it, and I invite you to join us as we inquire together.

Jesus teaches us the pure truth—with passion. His teachings have the power to transform our finite and sometimes seemingly shallow lives into lives of spiritual adventure without limits. The next 10-week study, beginning the week of Sept. 13, is titled "Jesus Christ: What Did He Teach?" Please join us.

For more information call Mary Long (328-2989), Margy Palmisano (367-5510), or Elenor Rentschler (359-8873).



Life Watch

*I sit at the foot of your bed
and see just your head
and shoulders
above the purple quilt
as you sleep your way
into a new reality.
You waken seldom now,
your moments of coherence
rare and treasured,
your breathing measured
by the rise and fall
of your quilt-covered chest.
Your arms are thin,
your shoulders gaunt.
Your eyes, when open,
seem haunted by your view
of other worlds.
I cannot go with you
on your journey,
God alone is your companion.
I am merely the love
you leave behind
to walk—bereaved—this
earthly space.
I face the future
within God's plan
and know we both lie safe
in the hands of One
who is with us always ...
"Io, to the end of the age."*

—Janet Muller Benway
Alive Now May/June '98
Used with permission.

Help Wanted!



Liturgy Committee seeks volunteer Liturgical Arts Coordinator (two-year term) to plan and coordinate "dressing" the church for liturgical events and seasons and to attend committee meetings 7-8:30 p.m., last Mondays. (Beth McDonald, 328-7603 or 337-7238)

Married couples needed to meet with engaged couples to help them complete the pre-marriage inventory requirement. Time requirements very flexible. Inter-faith and retired couples especially needed. (Wayne or Franne Davis, 359-6322)

If you are interested in helping out at the parish with small odd jobs like painting and yard work, call the parish office (367-2665). (Bill VanCleave, Building and Grounds Committee)

Communications Committee seeks 3-4 volunteers to page *In Focus*. If you can use paging software (PageMaker or QuarkXpress) and can spare a few hours 3-4 times a year, call Mary Lou Menches (344-1125 or 244-4701).

Parish groups can use this column to fill vacant positions, to involve new people in special projects, or to find volunteers who can fill specific needs. Ads are limited to 30 words (give or take a few), including the name of the sponsoring group and the name and telephone number of a contact person. Deadline for ads for the next issue is Sept. 13.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of ...

Irma Wait

Meat Loaf

2/3 c shredded carrots
2 lb ground beef
2 eggs (or Egg Beaters)
2/3 c chopped onions
2/3 c skim milk
crumbs made from 3 slices of bread

2 t salt
1/4 t pepper



Sauce
1/4 c brown sugar
1/4 c ketchup
1 T mustard

Mix meat loaf ingredients together and back in loaf pan at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Meanwhile mix sauce ingredients together; put sauce on meat loaf and bake 15 minutes more.



September 1998

St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com	2 9:30am Moms Group 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm RCIA 7:30pm Personnel Com	3 7:30pm Building & Grounds Com	4 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	5
6	7  Labor Day 9:00am Mass & Breakfast	8 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com	9 6:45am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Choir	10 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Baptism Prep 7:00pm Knights of Columbus	11 10:30am Mass-Urbana NH 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	12
13 6:30pm Leaders' Bible Study	14 7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work 7:00pm Social Action Com 7:00pm Education Com 8:00pm Pro-Life Com	15	16 6:45am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Moms Group 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Choir	17 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council	18 10:30am Mass-Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	19
					K of C Tootsie Roll Drive	
20 Catechetical Sunday  1:00pm Parish Picnic-Hessel Park 6:30pm Leaders' Bible Study	21 7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work	22 7:00pm Homily Prep	23 6:45am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Choir	24 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Communications Com	25 10:30am Mass-Manor Care 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	26 Evangelization Minute at all masses this weekend
					Parish Council Retreat	
27 Stewardship of Time & Talent 6:30pm Leaders' Bible Study	28 9:30am Archives Com 7:00pm Liturgy Com	29	30 6:45am Men's Bible Study 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Choir			