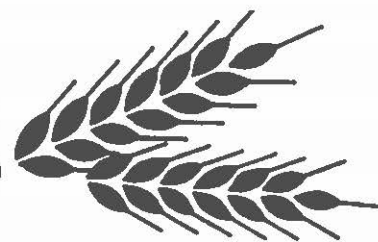


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Evangelization is first God's work

For those who first encountered it, the empty tomb was a shock. The phrase "death and resurrection" flows so smoothly from our lips that we can easily miss the fact that, whatever Jesus may have said about his vindication after death, his followers were as unprepared for the enigma of the empty tomb as they had been for the scandal of crucifixion.

For most of Jesus' disciples, it took an appearance of the risen Lord to impress upon them the reality of his

glorification. It would take some weeks for the realization to dawn fully, but soon the frightened and confused group would become a joyful community with a clear mission to continue the preaching and healing of their risen Lord.

We get a glimpse of the fuller understanding in the reading from Acts for Easter Sunday, where Luke gives Peter's speech to the centurion Cornelius and his household, the first example in Acts of preaching to a non-Jewish audience. Already a

"God-fearer"—that is, a gentile who has adopted Jewish faith and prayer—Cornelius tells Peter about his own visionary experience and says, "We are all here in the presence of God to listen to all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

This whole episode and the speech that crystallizes it provide a wealth of insights for the Church's current focus on evangelization.

Evangelization is first God's work. Peter describes the whole of Jesus' ministry as a matter of God's "evangelizing peace through Jesus Christ." The word Luke uses is the same Greek word from which we get "evangelizing" and that Luke himself apparently got from Isaiah (see Is. 52:7, which refers to spreading the good news of redemption from captivity as "evangelizing peace.")

Evangelization presumes God's universal salvific will. "In every

ASA 1998

"Where your treasure is, . . ."

St. Patrick's Parish will participate in the Annual Stewardship Appeal (ASA) of the Diocese of Peoria on May 2-3. The ASA is the diocese's way of funding programs, offices, activities, and special events that benefit all parishes in the diocese.

Through contributions to the ASA, parishioners support efforts to address social concerns, such as the Cabrini Home for Unwed Mothers, the Family Life Office, and Hispanic ministry. We also support our clergy through the training of seminarians and future deacons, continuing education for active priests, and health care for retired priests. Pastoral needs are also met through support of the Marriage Tribunal, the Office for Divine Worship, and the King's House Retreat Center. We also support the administrative costs of the diocese. Needs such as these cannot be adequately

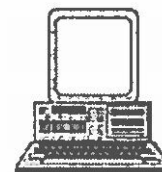
addressed by any individual parish, but they can be met at the diocesan level through the collaborative support of all parishes.

The diocese has set St. Patrick's goal at \$66,734, which is an 8% decrease over last year's goal. Anything over that amount contributed by parishioners will be returned to St. Patrick's for use here. The Parish Council has maintained our overall goal at \$75,000, hoping that the generosity of parishioners will enable St. Patrick's to augment our Centennial Fund.

The theme of this year's ASA is "Give from the heart." It is based on "Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be" (Matt. 6:21). Please consider whether your heart is with the needs of people in this parish and in the other parishes of the diocese, and give as generously as you can.

Continued on Page 7

Take a turn . . . paging In Focus



If you can use page-layout software and spare a few hours to page this newsletter, please volunteer. If 3-4 volunteers can take rotating responsibility for this task, it can remain a pleasant and creative one rather than a burden. Help/advice available on request! Call Mary Lou Menches (344-1125 evenings, 244-4701 days). Help keep your newsletter in focus!

Rejoice with our neophytes!

This year seventeen neophytes, or "new Catholics," were welcomed into the Church and St. Patrick's faith community at the Easter Vigil through the sacraments of Baptism (for those not yet baptized in Christ), Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. You have witnessed their dismissal to "break open the Word" each Sunday; you have also been asked to pray for them as they prepared for their big, joyful step into a new relationship with God and with St. Patrick's community. The men and women in this year's RCIA group have experienced a wide variety of faith journeys, which they share here with *In Focus* readers.

Many came to investigate Catholicism on their own. *Marlene Shiraki*, born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, grew up in a "non-religious environment"; her parents, though Protestant, never attended church. She went to an Episcopal high school but veered away from God and was immersed in the occult in college. Then, prodded by a book about God, Marlene



researched the various Protestant sects and denominations and "I came to the clear conclusion that the Catholic Church is *the* one and only church founded by Jesus. It has remained true and relatively unchanged since its beginning—that, along with its doctrines and beliefs, has convinced me that I belong to this church." A graduate of the U. of Oregon, Marlene lived in California before moving here to start her life over ... so to speak.

A native of Monticello (Ill.) *Jennifer Merry* works at the UI and is a student majoring in French and Spanish; she also works part-time at a restaurant. She tells us, "A friend brought me here to Mass, and I enjoyed the Mass and the sense of a community of faith. I had been struggling to find a church, and St. Patrick's and the Catholic faith were an answer to prayers."



Thuong Le has "been a Christian for eight years but was ignorant about the Catholic Church." She wanted to inquire into the Catholic faith and looks forward to growing in her new faith. A native of Vietnam, Thuong has lived in the United States for 20 years and teaches at Parkland College.



"I was initially drawn to St. Patrick's because of the history and appearance of the building—I knew no one in the parish," says *Deb Rowley*, a DVM completing her residency in theriogenology at the UI College of Veterinary Medicine. Deb's original attraction to the church building led her inside, where she enjoyed the feeling of community and the atmosphere and ritual of the formal Mass. "I am pleased with the friendships I have developed and my acceptance into this community," she says, and adds that she really appreciates Fr. Remm's and Fr. Kane's styles. One of five children, Deb is raising a five-year-old son, Christopher.



For the rest of our neophytes, the initial impetus to inquire into our faith came from being married to or about to be married to a Catholic spouse. As

they relate their stories, our readers will realize the deep faith and commitment they have acquired along their four- to six-month faith journey.

Alan Bonse, a Champaign resident for over half his life, joined our faith because of his "wife's faith and Fr. Remm's kindness. I grew up in a Polish Catholic neighborhood on the south side of Chicago. I always knew I'd marry a Catholic girl. I didn't realize she'd be from Cleveland. I came to Champaign, met Lauren, married her.... I have three beautiful daughters, Alayna (16), Georgina (13), and Christina (10)."



Before they were married last May, *Angie Wanserski* and her then-fiance, Pete, attended all the Catholic churches in the area to choose one they were comfortable in. "We somehow kept coming to St. Patrick's more than the others—it seemed to have a warmer, more personal, friendly atmosphere." They ended up getting married at St. Patrick's because "my whole experience with everyone I encountered here had been positive and friendly—pushing me to want to learn more about this faith." Angie was transferred here about four years ago through her job. She works at First Mid-Ill. Bank & Trust in the mortgage loan department. Angie and Pete have been spending their free time working on the house they bought last year.

"I was looking for God in my life. My wife attends here, so I started to come with her and felt very welcomed," says *Brian Schreiber*, an operator at the Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District. Brian and his wife live in Urbana; she is a student at the UI.



"I like the friendliness and openness of this parish," relates *Kristi Kastl*, a second-grade teacher at Ogden Grade School, who has been attending Mass at St. Patrick's for two years with her fiance, Mark. They were married at St. Patrick's in September, 1997, and live in Ogden. Kristi grew up in Normal (Ill.), where her



Welcome to new parishioners Cynthia Keyes Churchill, Edward and Martha Darbonne, Gary DeVault, La'Shonna Deon Madison, Jolanta Swiech.

Farewell to parishioners who have moved from C-UI: Torben Rothgeb.

Congratulations to these couples married at St. Patrick's: Sheila Ann Lyons and Stephen Thomas Sobaski, Shelley Ann Isaacs and Paul Buckley Campbell.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: Caitlin Della Schutz.

Please pray for deceased parishioner Laura Jean Leach.

parents and her sister still live. Kristi says of St. Patrick's, "I really liked the friendly atmosphere, the lively songs and the prayers that were said and talked about in the Masses."

Robert Stanford, a controller at Alloy Engineering and Casting Company, inquired into Catholicism because his wife, Madonna, and children are Catholic and because of the sense of community among his many Catholic childhood friends. He was also influenced by his admiration of Fr. Remm. Robert describes his five children as a "yours, mine, and ours" group. Originally from Decatur (Ill.), his free-time activities include reading, model building, Bible Study Fellowship, and volunteering through empty tomb, inc.



"I felt led by God to come into the Catholic faith," says Tracy Like, a full-time student and mother of four who works two jobs. In her spare time Tracy likes to read, be outdoors, garden, cook, and be with her family: her husband, Thomas, and her children, Amber (17), Amy (15), D.J. (14), and Amanda (11). "I have enjoyed what I've learned and look forward to learning more and continuing in my walk. I have always been interested in the Catholic faith, it was just a matter of timing."



Charles Simpson, a manager at Lowes since 1996, says that he inquired into the Catholic faith because of the openness of our church and the devotion to allowing our faith to show through. Born in Decatur, Charles graduated from Urbana High in 1988, then served in the Air Force until 1992. He and his wife, Megan, were married last year and have a beautiful ten-month-old daughter.



"The death of a relative with a strong faith increased my desire to improve my spiritual life," Shelley Campbell says. As well, she and her Catholic husband, Paul, wanted to raise their children, Meghan (3) and Matthew (9 months), in one faith. A convert from the Lutheran church,

Shelley was born in Urbana, raised in Mahomet, and now lives with her family in St. Joseph. Shelley works half-time for the Dept. of Real Estate Research at the UI. She enjoys sports, volleyball, golf, and swimming.



St. Patrick's "seems to be a very loving parish," relates Brian Bollman, Vice President of Sales at Rogards Office Supply Plus. Brian and his wife, Dianne, who teaches at Kenwood School in Champaign, were blessed with twins: a boy, Jakob, and a girl, Jordanne, on Feb. 16, 1998. With the birth of his children, Brian wanted to join his wife's church.



"I started at St. Pat's with the Spanish Mass, and when I got engaged I joined the RCIA because my fiance, Alejandro, is Catholic, and I wanted to learn more about his religion (I grew up without one)," says Rachel Wallace. Rachel is working on her M.A. in Teaching English as a Second Language at the UI. Originally from Washington, D.C., Rachel will be married in Guadalajara, Mexico, in August and then move to Houston, Texas. Her RCIA experience at St. Patrick's has "grown into more (than an inquiry,) it has turned into an exploration of my own faith."

"The driving force behind my inquiry into the Catholic faith was my children (Erich, 7, and Jessica, 5) and my wife, Amy," Rob Kerby tells us. "Along the way I have discovered and enhanced a personal relationship with God. The strong sense of community, the fresh delivery of God's word, and a strong personal expression of faith have drawn me to St. Patrick's." Rob and Amy's two children are in religious education classes at St. Patrick's and attend Children's Mass. Originally from Hamilton (Ohio), Rob is Assistant Technical Director and an Instructor of Technical Theater at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and a candidate for an MFA in Technical Theater Production at the UI.

A native of Lockport (Ill.), Alan Schuele graduated from the UI in Computer Science, then lived in Seattle (Wash.) for 5 years, where he earned an

M.S. in Software Engineering from Seattle U. Alan's main reason for joining the Catholic Church is that his wife, Amy, is Catholic and they are raising their daughter, Betsy (5), and son, Daniel (3), Catholic. Alan works for the UI and looks forward to attending St. Patrick's for a long time to come.



The "sense of community, the warmth and closeness you feel at Mass, the rituals that are performed that have been passed down from ancient times, always feeling welcomed" are some of the things that drew Karen Koziarz to St. Patrick's. Married 6 1/2 years to Paul, Karen is a stay-at-home mom for her 14-month-old son. She tells us, "I am enjoying my son's toddling stage. I am searching for more fulfillment (in the spiritual sense) in my life and my son's life. I'm sure I'll find this at St. Pat's."



Truly this Easter has been "the day the Lord has made" for our neophytes. Rejoice with them and welcome them to our faith community.

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH
In Focus 

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

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

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

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Judy Conover, Dick Frechill, Fr. Gene Kane, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Carl Nelson, Carole Rebeiz, Fr. George Remm, Leslie Risatti, Zoila Risatti, Cathy Salika, Joe Tobias, Peggy Whelan. This issue was paged by Andy Hunt.



in our parish library

Hymnal Companion to Worship—Third Edition

By Marilyn Kay Stulken and Catherine Salika

Did you know that *Worship—Third Edition* contains two hymns that have as their source “St. Patrick’s Breastplate,” ascribed to St. Patrick? That Thomas Aquinas gave us the well-known hymns “Tantum Ergo,” “Adoro Te Devote,” “Pange lingua gloriosi,” and “O Salutaris”? And that Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote the hymn “By Gracious Powers” as a New Year message to his friends from prison in 1945, just four months before he was killed for conspiring to overthrow Hitler?

The *Hymnal Companion to Worship—Third Edition* is the first hymnal companion ever produced for American Roman Catholics. In it can be found the known story of each hymn in *Worship III*, including when it was written and why, what the author was trying to express or what inspired a particular text. It also includes the biographies of each author, composer, translator, and arranger, with references to published sources as known.

In his foreword, Robert Batastini writes, “This information adds a human dimension to the hundreds of mostly unfamiliar names found in the ascriptions attached to each hymn.” For example, Jacopone da Todi was subjected to long imprisonments at the hand of the pope for speaking out against abuses by the church hierarchy of his day. From his sufferings came the “Stabat Mater.” And Joachim Neander, after whom the Neanderthal valley was named—where the skeleton of the “Neanderthal man” was later discovered—gave us the hymn “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.”

You may have recognized the name of one of the authors as that of Cathy Salika, whom many know as a

member of St. Patrick’s and a cantor at Sunday Masses. Cathy helped research the information that is printed at the ends of the hymns in *Worship III* and in the doing compiled such a great quantity of interesting material that publishing it in the form of a hymn companion seemed a natural outcome. Her work on the project spanned 12 years, starting back in her college days.



“[The *Hymnal Companion*] helps us see the hymns as literature, as a body of work written by a lot of faithful Christians from many times and places. What I enjoy the most,” Cathy said, “is recognizing the faith of the authors and the individual needs addressed by writing a hymn. I think about Philipp Nicolai, a pastor in Germany around 1597 when the Black Death carried off many members of his congregation. In that dismal setting he wrote the Advent hymn “Wake, O Wake, and Sleep No Longer,” a hymn full of peace and hope in the resurrection. Stories like this enrich my singing of hymns and give me wonderful models of faith.”

Cathy likes to share one of the lighter stories in the *Hymnal Companion*, told by the hymn author herself. Suzanne Toolan, SM, writes of her hymn “I Am the Bread of Life”: “[It was] written when I was a high school teacher. My room was next to the school infirmary, where kids came to avoid exams and other pressures of the school world. I spent my free period composing this hymn. As the bell for the next period rang I tore the manuscript in half thinking that the music was rather sentimental and I would have another go at it later. As I left my classroom, I was confronted by a little blond freshman who came out of the infirmary saying, ‘What was that? It was beautiful!’ I went immediately to that waste basket, took it out, taped it together, and it has had a life of its own ever since.”

“You Are There” with Joan of Arc

In *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc*, the author states that he has translated a 14th-century manuscript written by Joan’s childhood friend, who went to war with her and became her scribe.

Reading it, you will find yourself with Joan in little-known scenes from her childhood and learn the full story of her teen years when she led an army to save France.

See her in white armor, adjusting on her helmet the blue ribbon her mother sent her or wearing the plumed velvet cap given her by the liberated city of Orleans.

Her soldiers, and everyone else, called her “the Maid.” Be with her as she camps with her army, laughs at their lurid oaths (but commands them to “break it off”), and persuades them to attend daily Mass.

See her weigh the battlefield and cry, “Follow me!” See her simplicity in success. Notice her tears when her soldiers—and she, too—are wounded.

Hear the courage and wit of her replies to her captors. Witness her trust in God at her martyrdom.

Joan’s feast day is May 30.

This book can bring Joan of Arc to life for you, today and forever, if you let its authorship remain something of a mystery. Just look up the book by its title, accept the translator and the sources, and never mind Mark Twain’s part in putting it all together.

(The author later modified the text for inclusive language.)

The book has several useful indexes, one of which (the Humming Index) is intended to help the reader who just can’t remember the title or first line of a hymn in order to find it in the hymnal, but knows the tune and can even hum the first line or two. The Humming Index offers help. Check it out, it’ll get you humming all right!

Wanted: Your family history

By now all parishioners should have received the letter from Fr. Remm and Cecelia Weir requesting family histories for the Archives Committee's first parish centennial publication. (If you didn't receive one, please call Cecelia, 344-7604, who will get one to you.)

The committee is excited about this wonderful opportunity for you and your family to be included in what will become a permanent record of the families that have come together to form what was and is St. Patrick's Parish. Whether you are from one of the founding families, came here in the postwar years to complete your college education, or have only recently arrived, the committee wants you to be included in this publication.

The letter you received was accompanied by sample histories, but only you can provide the information about you and your own family. Take this opportunity to tell about your great-grandparents, grandparents, or parents, their arrival in this country, where they met and married, what led them or you to come to the Urbana-Champaign area, occupations, sisters and brothers—in short, whatever you want to share. If your family has been here for many years, why not do a separate history for each generation or branch of the family?

Yes, do include what brought you to St. Patrick's, but it's your family background that will add fascinating detail to your story. It takes everyone to make St. Patrick's what it is, and the makeup of the parish changes regularly as families move in and out. Please take this opportunity to illustrate parish unity in diversity by the inclusion of your family history in the story of St. Patrick's. What better way to demonstrate to ourselves and to newcomers that this parish welcomes and embraces everyone?

Just think how much fun it will be to read about the cultural diversity that blends in our worship and communal life!



Q: What is the meaning of the symbols on the Paschal Candle?

A: The best way to answer this question is to show you a page from the official book used in our liturgies, the *Sacramentary*, for the blessing of the Paschal Candle during the Easter Vigil service:

After the blessing of the new fire, an acolyte or one of the ministers brings the Easter candle to the celebrant, who cuts a cross in the wax with a stylus. Then he traces the Greek letter alpha above the cross, the letter omega below, and the numerals of the current year between the arms of the cross. Meanwhile he says:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Christ yesterday and today | (as he traces the vertical arm of the cross), |
| 2. the beginning and the end | (the horizontal arm), |
| 3. Alpha | (alpha, above the cross), |
| 4. and Omega | (omega, below the cross); |
| 5. all time belongs to him | (the first numeral, in the upper left corner of the cross), |
| 6. and all the ages | (the second numeral in the upper right corner); |
| 7. to him be glory and power | (the third numeral in the lower left corner), |
| 8. through every age for ever. Amen. | (the last numeral in the lower right corner). |



When the cross and other marks have been made, the priest may insert five grains of incense in the candle. He does this in the form of a cross, saying:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. By his holy | 1 |
| 2. and glorious wounds | 4 2 5 |
| 3. may Christ our Lord | |
| 4. guard us | |
| 5. and keep us. Amen. | 3 |

The priest lights the candle from the new fire, saying:

**May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.**

So the candle symbolizes the risen Christ. The alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The numbers are the date of the current year. The red nails are nails covered with red wax; they represent Christ's wounds.

Happy Easter! G.K.

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

Archives Question of the Month

It's spring cleaning time! If you have served on parish committees in the past but are no longer working with them, you may have files tucked away in a closet or filing cabinet. The Archives Committee has records of parish committees and organizations,

but these are incomplete. If you have minutes, membership lists, meeting agendas, etc., please consider donating these to the Archives Committee. If you are not quite ready to give them away, the committee will duplicate and return them to you. If you can help, please call Judy Conover (367-2109).

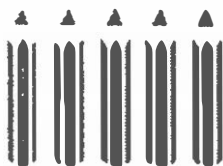
Home again, led by the Holy Spirit

On October 13, 1997, Father Remm received my wife, Bernadette, and me back into the Catholic Church after 24 years of membership in nondenominational charismatic and evangelical churches. We are happy to be back home in St. Patrick's. And we are grateful for the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit, over several years, that brought us both to that Monday last October.

I would like to share several steps of the path that God used to lead me back to Rome. (Bernadette's story is similar, but different in many important respects. I won't presume to speak for her.) My story starts in October 1973, when God grabbed hold of me and filled me with His Holy Spirit because of the loving outreach of some college classmates.

In my college years, God laid a spiritual foundation of personal experience of the Holy Spirit, daily prayer, and inductive Bible study. A personal relationship with Jesus, based on his loving gift of salvation, was central. Daily verbal prayer and bible study were the means to grow in the relationship. Connection with Christ's Church across space and time and receipt of sacramental grace were missing. The absence of these sources of spiritual sustenance would be felt more deeply over time.

Holy Cross newsline



In Focus seeks a volunteer to gather and write about information of interest to parishioners about Holy Cross School programs, activities, and calendar events. More than 70 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.

For the next twenty years verbal prayer, bible study, and committed fellowship with a local body of believers served as the foundation for growing closer to Jesus. At the same time, Bernadette and I continued to feel a need for the sacramental life of Roman Catholicism. For example, we temporarily returned to the Catholic Church for a time prior to our marriage because we sensed the importance of a sacramental marriage in the Church. Yet in each place we moved to we found ourselves drawn to nondenominational fellowships that had common roots in the renewal movements of the early 70s. We are grateful for the loving fellowship, worship of Christ, and discipleship in Christian living that we experienced in those churches.

About three years ago I read several popular books about New Age spirituality. They made me feel a need for an authentic, direct mystical experience of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—as it has been experienced by believers through the ages. I felt that I knew a lot about God, but

that I did not know God. I recognized that most of my prayer life centered around me speaking to God, instead of God speaking to me.

The teaching of Saints Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross provided the direction and sustenance I needed. These Doctors of the Church showed me, through their writings and what I learned of their lives, about how deep prayer given by the Holy Spirit causes the light of Christ to burn in the heart. And they showed that this heart on fire causes our transformation and inspires our service of love in the world.

Both Teresa and John taught that verbal prayer and meditation reach a point where they are unable to lead us deeper into the heart of God, and they explain how prayer given by the Holy Spirit is needed to lead us further. This insight addressed a frustration that I had experienced for at least twenty years. I had been trained in verbal prayer and meditation on the word of God, and I tried to use these spiritual disciplines regularly. But I periodically

Continued on Page 7

From our sister parish in the Holy Land: Thank you!

Dear benefactors,

We gratefully acknowledge having got the lovely charitable gift of \$200 through the care of Fr. George Remm, the cheque signed by Sr. Charlene Cesario, Pastoral Associate, whose picture and name we have identified in the directory of St. Patrick's Parish, while unfortunately we didn't find the picture of the dear couple Barbee.

Dear Rev. Pastor G. Remm, you are daily in our intentions and prayers, as well as we promise the Barbees to celebrate for their intention three Masses in the Holy Grotto of Bethlehem, hoping to see them one day with us in the Holy Land.

The ladies of the St. Vincent Society are taking care of a parishioner 60 years old, father of a numerous family, who suffers from a chronic Brucellosis Melitensis fever. They have paid (thanks to your kind charity of \$200) all the expenses for three cure courses, hoping that he will be okay very soon.

Our letter will surely reach you around Easter festivities. May the Risen Lord fulfill your hearts, dear Myron and Janet Barbee, with his spiritual joys and blessings.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Fr. Abdel-Nour P.P.

Correspondence with our sister parish may be sent to Fr. Abdel-Nour, P.O. Box 3, Beit-Jala, Palestine.

Continued from Page 1

nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him" (Acts 10:5).

God's plan for evangelization exceeds our own preconceptions. Peter had to be divinely stretched beyond his own limited notion of the mission.

Evangelization is mainly storytelling and witnessing in a situation of hospitality. To a group of people who are ready to hear it, Peter tells of his experience of God in Jesus of Nazareth. This creates the occasion for the listeners to receive the gift of faith.

The good news of Jesus "healing the oppressed, leading to death and vindicated by resurrection, is at the core of the message shared.

Evangelization is also a summons to conversion. The promise of forgiveness entails the admission of sinfulness. The risen Lord will judge the living and the dead.

Evangelization itself is not an "extra" but a divine mandate. "He commissioned us to preach to the people" (Acts 10:42).

And so Mary Magdalene's carrying the news of the empty tomb and Peter's speech help us learn about our own call to share the good news that springs from Easter.

—Dennis Hamm, S.J.
From *America*, April 4, 1998
Used with permission

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 second 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.

Continued from Page 6

entered dry periods where these disciplines seemed to do nothing to strengthen my relationship with God. So I would stop practicing the disciplines for a time, until my spiritual hunger drew me back.

I learned from Teresa and John that discursive prayer eventually leads to dryness because our finite expressions can take us only so far in reaching the infinity of God. They gave me an understanding that this dryness is a sign of a need to move on to a deeper, infused prayer that is given by the Holy Spirit. My brief experience since gaining this understanding confirms the truth of the teaching. Infused prayer has been a source of daily strength, and it has given new life to discursive prayer, meditation, and bible study. This is purely a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Well, it seems rather anticlimactic to report that my growing appreciation for Teresa and John led me back to my roots in the Church that has declared them Doctors of the faith. I think the rich history of faith and experience of those who have gone before us is a source of great strength and blessing for the Catholic Church, along with the teaching authority that traces back to Christ's commission of Peter. And all the practices of spiritual discipline that I learned outside of Catholicism are part of the instruction that has been maintained by the teaching authority through the ages. In the Catholic Church I have found support and sustenance for my attempts to live out Jude's exhortation to "build yourself up in your holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit" (Jude 20).

—Carl Nelson

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Zoila Risatti



Frozen Cranberry Banana Salad

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1 20-oz can pineapple tidbits | 1/2 c sugar |
| 5 medium firm bananas, halved lengthwise and sliced | 1 20-oz carton frozen whipped topping, thawed |
| 1 16-oz can whole berry cranberry sauce | 1/2 c chopped walnuts |

Drain pineapple juice into a medium bowl; set pineapple aside. Add bananas to the juice. In a large bowl combine cranberry sauce and sugar. Remove bananas, discarding juice, and add to cranberry mixture. Stir in pineapple, whipped topping, and nuts. Pour into a 13 x 9 x 2 inch dish. Freeze until solid. Remove from the freezer 15 minutes before cutting. Yield: 12-16 servings.

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.

Parish Council News

News of the April meeting of the Parish Council will be included in the next issue of *In Focus*.



Three elected to Parish Council

From a slate of eight candidates, with 565 ballots cast, parishioners elected three to the Parish Council: Dwain Berggren, Judy Huelsbusch, and Pulchratia Kinney. Congratulations to all the candidates for their nomination by co-parishioners, and to those elected to a three-year term that will see the parish into the next millenium!



Berggren



Huelsbusch



Kinney

On behalf of the children of Dorothy Freehill, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who sent flowers and cards and to those who offered Masses and donations to St. Patrick's Education Fund in memory of our mother. Additionally, we deeply appreciate all who volunteered their time and donated food for the dinner at the church hall. We will always remember our mother's love for the community of St. Patrick's.

—The Freehill Family

Developing vocations awareness

Among the new programs approved by the Parish Council is the formation of a parish Vocations Committee. Its principal function will be to respond to the Church's call to promote vocation awareness.

The Holy Father and the U.S. bishops have reminded us repeatedly that the Church needs more priests, brothers, sisters, deacons. Sunday, Apr. 26, will be observed as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, but these petitions should not be confined to just one Sunday. It will be up to the Vocations Committee to insure that the urgent emphasis on vocations awareness is extended throughout the year.

Although the committee will not function as a recruiting agent for seminaries and religious orders, it should be expected to provide helpful and prayerful support to any individual responding to the call of the Holy Spirit to religious life or to ordained ministry.

During its first year, the committee will explore ways in which it can best work toward its objectives. Some preliminary ideas include the following: (1) promote prayer for vocations; (2) collaborate with the Serra Club, the Knights of Columbus, and other organizations on activities relating to vocations; (3) gather literature and other vocation resource materials and make them available to any parish group; (4) cooperate with the diocesan Vocations Director; and (5) assume leadership in providing affirmation for our priests, deacons, and religious men and women.

Parishioners are invited to serve as "charter members" of the committee. If you wish to serve or want to talk about it, please contact any of the following individuals: Parish Council officers Cindy Kelly or Tom Korder; parishioners Dr. Jim Moffitt, Ray Timpone, Darrell Kessler, Chris Stohr, or Joe Tobias; or Leslie Risatti, St. Patrick's parish secretary, who will relay your request.

Emmaus Change

After all—
the death, loss,
mourning, and mystery,
after Easter's miracle
and word of new life,
they met a man
on the road to Emmaus.

In the teaching, leading,
walking,
they marveled at his wisdom
and finally,
in the breaking of bread,
their eyes were opened—
they recognized Christ
and were changed.

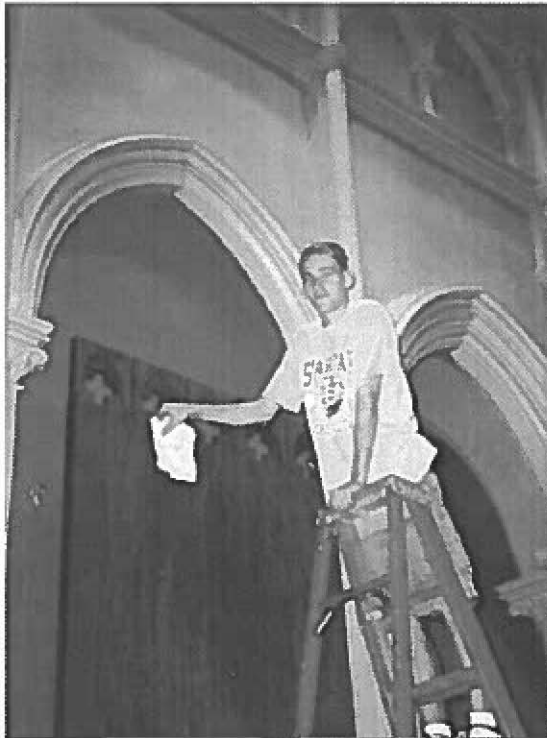
And today
in all the meetings,
committees, decisions,
in the teaching, cooking,
planning,
could we also stop,
give thanks
and be changed,
to see each other,
and to recognize among us
the presence
and the leading
of our Lord?

— Roberta Porter
From *Alive Now*, March/April 1998
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Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is May 17.

The Many faces of Spring!





May 1998

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 May 17.

1 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	2 Annual Stewardship Appeal this weekend
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3  1:00pm Religious Education Picnic at St. Pat's	4 7:00pm Pro-Life Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Education Com	5	6 9:30am Mom's Group 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SVDP	7 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Building & Grounds Com	8 10:30am Mass- Urbana NH 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	9
10  Mother's Day	11 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Social Action Com	12 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:30pm Parish Council Executive Com	13 9:30am Funeral Schola 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SVDP	14 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Knights of Columbus 7:00pm Baptism Prep	15 10:30am Mass- Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	16
17  9:00am R- ecognition for Graduating Seniors 2:00pm Guild Meeting	18 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Liturgy Com	19 7:00pm Holy Cross Graduation Mass	20 9:30am Mom's Group 5:15pm Ascension Mass 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SVDP	21 Ascension Day 7:00am 12:10pm & 5:15pm Masses 7:00pm Parish Council 7:00pm Evangelization Team 7:00pm Choir	22 10:30am Mass- Manor Care 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	23
24  Dedication of St. Patrick's Church, 1903	25 Memorial Day  9:00am Mass at the Cemetery & Breakfast 7:00pm Centering Prayer	26 7:00pm Homily Prep	27 9:30am Funeral Schola 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm SVDP	28 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Communications Com	29 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	30
31 Pentecost 1:00pm St. Joseph Baccalaureate						