

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Everyone can be a "sacrificial giver"

By Leon Mayer

In a few weeks all parishioners will be asked to make a commitment for the financial support of St. Patrick's Parish. This annual exercise, the "Treasure" part of the "Time, Talent, and Treasure" campaign, should be regarded as an opportunity and a duty, not only for the support of our parish but also for the support of the work of Jesus Christ in the local and world community.

The Mayer family has been blessed with opportunities to become sacrificial givers because we have lived in parishes with Catholic schools, making sacrificial giving a

necessity. When we were asked to serve on a local team to conduct increased-income campaigns for our parish, we had to examine our values and come up with a rationale and a family budget that would facilitate sacrificial giving. This experience was a faith journey for us.

We know from scripture that the Lord has knowledge of our basic needs and does shape events so that these needs will be provided for. In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus says: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where rust and moth consume and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither rust nor moth consumes, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."

The Lord will not be outdone in generosity. Our generosity will be rewarded a hundredfold. The Lord has certainly showered blessings upon me and my family as a result of our sacrificial giving!

It is feasible for everyone to become a sacrificial giver; all it takes is making the commitment. Our family budget plan is to write a check to our parish each payday, just as we pay our other bills. This approach enables us to tithe a sacrificial offering to the Church as a priority rather than to give only leftover crumbs. However, the Lord has always rewarded us by providing for our financial needs, including unexpected income windfalls.

The Lord will do the same for everyone!

New objectives set for 1999

The parish five-year goals (1998-2003) that were developed in Nov. 1997 reflect participants' prayerful and earnest hopes for the future of the parish as we move into the next millennium. At the workshop on Oct. 10, parishioners participated in developing several objectives for the coming calendar year to help the parish work toward achievement of those goals.

The objectives that were developed will be presented to parish groups in planning for the year ahead. They include:

- * Creating an awareness among parish groups to support other parish groups through participation in their activities and attendance at planned events, by monthly reminders to their members, and by affirmation
- * Raising awareness in the parish community of the broad scope of the Church's teachings on respect for life
- * Evangelizing beyond the parish community and encouraging ecumenism by offering such events as "Invite a friend to church" Sunday
- * Taking a multicultural and intergenerational approach in encouraging active participation in parish events, activities, ministries
- * Disseminating specific information that will enable parishioners to respond to global, national, regional, or local disasters
- * Increasing committees' visibility and understanding of their missions in the parish community
- * Increasing understanding of vocations, and awareness of the need for response to God's call, to ordained

Calling all families...

Did you find it difficult or daunting to write your family history? If so, you may be more comfortable using the form provided at the back of this issue of *In Focus*. Complete as much of it as you can or care to, and return it to the address at the bottom of the form. This is a relatively quick and easy way to make sure that your family history is included in the book to be published during the first year of our Parish Centennial!

If you have not yet registered in the parish but want to have your family history included in the book, do submit the form; the Archives Committee will be pleased to include it.

The deadline is Jan. 1; you still have time!

Bible study helps to keep focus on Jesus' mission

When I was presented with the opportunity to participate in a Bible study group several years ago, I hesitated for a couple of reasons. First was the worry that I would not have enough time to participate fully. Second was my lack of knowledge of the Bible. Although I was born and raised a Catholic, I felt that my religious education was marginal at best and I would be somewhat limited in my ability to contribute. Both of these reservations were unwarranted; I'm very glad that I discounted them and decided to join a Bible study group, because it has

proved to be a meaningful experience.

First, I have experienced a strong sense of fellowship among my group. Each of us knows about the others' families, and we have become friends while searching for knowledge and understanding through God's word. There is also the added advantage of meeting individuals from other churches in the community, as the Bible study is ecumenical.

Secondly, I have discovered that the Bible is a mirror of modern life. All of the various individuals and situations in the Bible can be applied to present life. When broken down into manageable parts and discussed in a casual group setting, the Bible seems much more understandable and less daunting. The

questions provided assist in leading to substantive and interesting discussions. Inevitably, our group finds humor in many of the sessions, which is especially refreshing.

It is important to be with others, to build community through prayer and caring relationships. Through baptism Jesus has commissioned each of us to bring the grace of the gospel into the world. If I stay close to Jesus in prayer and keep my attention focused on Him—which is what the Bible study group helps me to do—I will be able to stay focused on His mission of building good relationships with Him and others, which He has entrusted to me to do.

Marnie Fuesting



Welcome to new parishioners Lucy Frelichowski, Cliff and Diane Griswell, Peggy Harris, Stefan Krasa and Susan Larson, Mary Lowry, Fred and Mary Reiter, Natsumi and Yoshiaki Takezawa.

Farewell to parishioners who have left C-U: Celeste Bard and Patrick Santerre, Rebecca Cruz, Helen Crystal, Valeria Early, Jeff and Linnmarie Hein, Brenda Miller, Inre and Jolan Molnar, Wes Newport, Sylvia Prince, Amy Reynolds, Jason and Maureen Rothgeb, Amy Sass, Holly and Todd Spinner, Cathy Westhusing.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: John Brick Maier, Robert Anthony Stavins, Matthew Joseph Plotner.

Congratulations to these couples, married at St. Patrick's: Quan Huu Nguyen and Oanh Huynh, Anthony Albert Burgstrom and Reesa Danyel Hodson, Kerry A. Whitten and Maria E. Lozano.

Please pray for deceased parishioner Hazel D. Remesch.

continued from page 1

ministry and religious life through dissemination of informational materials and presentations to groups, particularly religious education classes

* Expanding the pool of people involved, and the methods used, in publicizing the adult lecture series planned in connection with the celebration of the parish's centennial

*If I do not love you, whom I see,
how can I say I love the One
whom I do not see?*

*After twenty years of living with my
wife*

*these words lie down in the
bed with us*

*sit at table with us
searching heart and reins
not as inquisitor
but as lover.*



After a hard day's work, they're still smiling! Parishioners, led by Cindy Kelly and Tom Korder (Council president and vice-president, respectively), developed parish objectives for 1999. *From the left, seated:* Mary Ann Luedtke, Cindy Kelly, Tom Korder, Judy Conover; *standing, first row:* Ellen Amberg, Lenore Nagele, Mary Lee Brady, Mary Long, Mary Grace Bowen, Jean Daly, Fr. George Remm; *back row:* Leon Mayer, Judy Huelsbusch, Fr. Gene Kane, Sr. Lori Kirchman, Mary Lou Menches. (Not shown is Joe Tobias, who took the picture.)

Voting: Privilege or burden?

Do you find that getting to the polls to vote has become a burdensome chore rather than a democratic privilege? It is sobering to consider that some people stay away from the polls due to disinterest, laziness, or lack of confidence and respect for government.

Through wars and many decades of years, our Founding Fathers and other citizens suffered terrible personal deprivations and losses to forge a democratic way of life and to preserve our personal and collective freedom in a moral culture within an ordered, responsive government. This freedom, however, is not one that exalts the individual in an absolute way without openness, solidarity, and service to others.



What should a Christian reflect on before going to the polls? Is the condition of the nation's economy always the primary issue? If my job seems secure and my general financial situation satisfactory, should I ascribe this to the government and vote for the party that apparently has made it possible?

There are many issues at stake that are too important to ignore. But we can heed the declarations of Pope John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae*, the Gospel of Life. He warns that ours is fast becoming a "culture of death" and pleads for us to join together in a new "culture of life."

For voters, the conflict between these two cultures is especially manifested in the issue of abortion. In our own country, abortion takes well over a million lives a year. The

Holy Father maintains that all of us share the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be pro-life. He makes it plain that this responsibility goes beyond merely avoiding personal involvement in abortion. All of us, he emphasizes, must be unconditionally pro-life (*Evangelium Vitae* #40). This imperative encompasses political responsibility with the obligation not only to vote but to vote with intelligence.

There are always many issues to consider, from the economy to crime, but life itself is the most basic human issue and a "society which destroys human life by abortion unavoidably undermines respect for life in all other contexts" (NCCB, *Pastoral for Pro-Life Activities: A Reaffirmation*). As Catholic Christians, then, let us exercise our democratic privilege of voting—not as a burden, but in the context of truth, solidarity, and justice for everyone, which, of course, includes the unborn, the physically disabled, and the elderly. Let us exercise our right to vote as privilege for the vulnerable in our society.

Women theologians seen as sacred storytellers

World Community Day, Nov. 6, will be observed by Church Women United of C-U in a service co-hosted by St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Faith United Methodist Church, and Morningstar Free Will Baptist Church. This year's series of services have looked at the biblical understanding of neighbor and hospitality.

This World Community Day celebration is an invitation to look at the world through the "windows" provided by the stories of women theologians: Sr. Jose Hobady, Dorothy Soelle, Mercy Oduyoye, Chung Hyun Kyung, and Ada Maria Isai-Diaz. These women are sacred storytellers, whose prophetic voices are shaping our understanding of the ways that God is moving and transforming life all over this planet. Through their witness they expand our understanding of the role of the Christian faith in the global village.

The morning will begin (at First United Methodist Church, 304 S. Race St., U.) with coffee at 9:30 a.m. The

service that follows will include music and the sharing of objects sacred to participants along their spiritual journey. Financial offerings will help support the ecumenical ministries of Church Women United for peace and justice and its commitments to advancing the social and economic power of women.

Child care is available for children five and under. Parking in the church parking lot and the Lincoln Square parking lot.

Prayer service Nov. 18 for deceased loved ones

The Church recognizes the month of November as the month of prayer for all souls. On Wednesday, Nov. 18, all parishioners are invited to gather for an evening of prayer to remember and honor deceased loved ones. The service will begin at 7 p.m. in the church, and will be followed by refreshments and fellowship in the parish center.

In Focus

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

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 and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

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in our parish library

Would you like to learn more about the New Testament? If you're participating in one of St. Patrick's Bible study groups, you may wish to supplement the materials you've received. Here is a sampling of books in the parish library that you may be interested in reading. (Location and/or call numbers given in parentheses.)

Reading the New Testament: An Introduction, by PHEME PERKINS

Beginning with what the New Testament is, and the political and cultural milieu out of which it sprang, the author guides readers through each book of the New Testament, examining how the books came into being and what they tell us about God's saving action among his people. (New Books shelf; 225 Per)

Mary in the New Testament, ed. by RAYMOND E. BROWN et al.

A collaborative statement prepared by a team of Protestant, Anglican, and Roman Catholic scholars who have reached substantial agreement on how Mary was pictured by Christians of the first two centuries. (New Books shelf; 232.93 Bro)

New Testament Introduction, by ALFRED WIKENHAUSER

Particular attention is given to producing a simple and clearcut analysis of the content and literary structure of each book of the New Testament, with the history of the text treated at length. (225 Wik)

Reading the New Testament, by RONALD J. WILKINS

By giving some background into the origin and purpose of the New Testament, a series of readings that provide the broad picture, and time for reflection on them, the author hopes to broaden and deepen understanding of the New Testament and of the meaning of Jesus for the reader. (225 Wil)

Men Who Knew Christ: Great Personalities of the New Testament, by WILLIAM SANFORD LASOR

Authentic biographical sketches of men who knew Jesus, who faced their world of events, problems, and people in the light of their dynamic new relationship to God through the one they knew as Jesus, the Christ. (226 Las)

The Growth of the Gospels, by NEIL J. McELENY

Leads the reader through the process of how our four Gospels developed, why the Gospels came to be written and how they took their present shape; prepares the way for a prayerful reading of each Gospel. (226 Mce)

Handbook to the Gospels: A Guide to the Gospel Writings and to the Life and Times of Jesus, by JOHN WIJNGAARDS

A comprehensive survey of biblical scholarship; includes political movements, religious and political leaders, and historical data. Chapters on the purpose, structure, and themes of each Gospel, daily life in first-century Palestine, Jewish calendar and feasts, temple and synagogue, religious life of the times, politics in Palestine, language and speech, miracles and parables. (226 Wij)

Who Do You Say That I Am? An Adult Inquiry into the First Three Gospels, by EDWARD J. CIUBI

The author's purpose is to utilize the best critical tools, methods, and conclusions of contemporary scholarship, and apply these to the Gospels in such a way that the ordinary layperson will better appreciate the power, vitality, and freshness of God's Word. (226.066 Ciu)

Jesus According to a Woman, by RACHEL CONRAD WAHLBERG

A fresh, compelling look at nine stories from the Gospels in which Jesus interacts with women, who are revealed as messengers and preachers chosen for these functions by Jesus himself. (226 Wah)

You may visit the parish library any time the parish center is open. Books are arranged on the shelves in call-number order, and there are directions for checking them out. If you need assistance, please call Frances Drone-Silvers (398-1458), library coordinator.



Q: Does the Church still believe in indulgences?

A: An indulgence is the remission of temporal punishment for already forgiven sin. For centuries, the Church has attached to indulgences some form of prayer or good work. They may be applied either to one's self or to those who have died; indulgences are a way of applying the fruits of Christ's redemption to the temporary condition of purgation that may follow after death. You will find indulgences explained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1471-79.

The Church has, particularly since Vatican II, tried to clarify the meaning of indulgences, reduced the number of

indulged prayers and works, reformed the indulgence structure, attempted to keep their use in harmony with the Gospel and with Vatican II teaching. "It is hoped that the faithful will be more effectively moved to live holier and more useful lives, thus healing the split between faith which many profess and their daily lives ... by gathering their humane, domestic, professional, social, and technical enterprises into one vital synthesis with religious values" (*Enchiridion of Indulgences*, 1968, #4, and *Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*).

G. K.

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

From John Minor
**An evangelization
minute**

I'd like to share how God has touched my life. Although I am a cradle Catholic, my faith was not necessarily from the cradle. A major portion of my life has been spent attempting to avoid the many growing pains in life. These attempts included alcohol and drugs. During those years I still attended church, but my personal spirituality was non-existent.

After the failure of a ten-year marriage, followed by some serious honesty about my life, I was given a wake-up call. For the first time I was blessed with the awareness of the presence of God in my life. I was surprised to feel that the presence of God had such a familiarity to me ... as if we had met long ago ... as if He had always been there for me.

Since that time I have attempted to maintain a relationship with God and have come to realize the need for daily renewal of that relationship. Faith is most important in those times when I don't feel the presence of God. I find it especially challenging to keep my heart softened to the will of God and not the will of John, but it sometimes seems to go against my very being!

Participating fully in the Liturgy is one way I am able to maintain that

relationship. I try to read over the readings a day or so before Mass; then the familiarity of the readings during Mass is like meeting an old friend.

Spontaneous prayer has also become a means of reminding myself of the presence of God in my life. Just saying what's in my heart and on my mind. It's

not easy praying vocally, though, when I'm angry or hurting, but those seem to be the times when I most need to reach out for help. And it's a good indication of my true need for prayer when I just don't feel like praying!

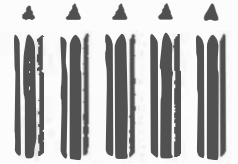
I've also taken considerable comfort in reading authors like Thomas Merton and Anthony De Mello, who are able to share the humanness of their spiritual journey.

Another important part of my spiritual life has been my involvement in Cursillo. Cursillo is essentially a short course in Christianity involving a weekend of spiritual renewal. It offers great opportunities for renewal of faith regardless of where a person is on his or her spiritual journey. Through my involvement in Cursillo I have developed a rich prayer life, becoming willing to call to God, in my own words, with cries for His help and gratitude for His blessings.

If you are interested in learning more about an upcoming men's or women's Cursillo weekend, please feel free to talk to me after Mass some Sunday.



**Holy Cross
newsline**



Awards, Honors: Fifth- and eighth-grade girls placed second in the 1998 St. Mary's Girls Basketball Tournament.

Sr. Therese Ann Harrington, osb, will be honored as a distinguished graduate of Holy Cross School at 8:15 a.m. Mass on Oct. 30.

Announcements: Ms. Beckett has joined the teaching staff.

Katie Hlavach will be married at the end of October and be known as Katie Bruemmer.

Construction: Continues on schedule for completion by Oct. 31.

Fund Raisers: The school plans a pancake and sausage breakfast and a Christmas Poinsettia Sale. Call the school office for information.

The Scout Troop plans to sell 22"-24" Christmas wreaths for \$20 each; contact the school office by Nov. 12.

The Fall Bake Sale is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 22; monetary or baked donations accepted.

The children's Pennies for Life collection totaled \$475.43.

The Booster Club washed 250 cars and raised \$1500 for the Athletic Department!

Special Program: The Commission of Education has suggested that Holy Cross address the special needs of middle school children. In response, seventh- and eighth-graders will be offered electives in Spanish and advanced computer science—also drama, art, history, and sewing if volunteer instructors can be found.

Prayers: "Prayer for Youth" group will meet Nov. 1.

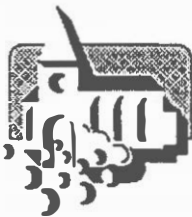
Continued prayers are requested for Ms. Beiser, who is recovering from her second brain tumor surgery. Her progress is slow; she remains unable to swallow, and she has made small improvement in resuming the use of her left side. She is in her third week of radiation therapy. Cards can be sent to her in care of the Holy Cross School office; they will be delivered daily.

**Help
Wanted!**

Liturgy Committee seeks volunteer Lector Coordinator

(2-year term) to recruit and train parishioners as lectors for parish liturgies and to participate in committee meetings 7-8:30 p.m., last Mondays. (Grace Conlee, 367-4353)

Married couples needed to help engaged couples 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 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 Lee Brady (344-3752) or Mary Lou Menches (344-1125).

Ads submitted by parish groups 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.

Parish Council News

At their October meeting Council members welcomed Sara Baum, senior in Sociology at UI, who spoke about the volunteer program at TIMES Center, the emergency shelter that serves the needs of men, women, and children. (See fuller description elsewhere in this issue).

As follow-up to the Stewardship drive (Time and Talent) in September, members were urged to be sure committees have contacted people who indicated interest in helping. Next year's Time and Talent drive will be moved up to the last weekend in August for the sake of those who need to incorporate new members in their plans earlier in the academic year.

The kickoff for the general fund drive to benefit the new St. Thomas More High School, scheduled to open in fall 2000, was attended by about 400 people from the C-U area. A video was

Jeff abides in love



When I was 12 years old, my brother was born. Jeff is a very special person, and he exemplifies how we can be touched and moved and experience God in everyone and everything, if we are open to the Spirit.

Jeff has Downs Syndrome. It is especially important for me to attempt to tell you how Jeff has brought and continues to bring me closer to God. John says "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him." Jeff taught me that. I had heard it and read it, but Jeff made me realize the truth that is stated here. Jeff loves anyone who will let him. He gives the best, most healing hugs I have ever experienced. He truly abides in love, and God truly abides in him.

To illustrate this point, I would like to share a story. The story is a tragedy in one sense, but a joy in another. When my nephew, Matthew, was killed in an

shown and plans presented. It was announced that about \$4.8 million in pledges and payments has been raised so far, plus a \$3 million endowment, about a third of which will be used for scholarships.

Having received clarifications requested, Council members approved the Social Action Committee's recommendation that St. Patrick's donate \$3000 in response to the proposal from Matthew House for funding to help in opening a Godparent Center in the C-U area. The Godparent Center will be located in Champaign or Urbana; funds will be applied to (a) the Godparent stipend, (b) a children's needs fund for clothing, school supplies, snacks, etc., (c) insurance for the Center, and (d) telephone and other miscellaneous expenses.

Objectives developed during the workshop on Oct. 10 will be disseminated to parish groups with an invitation to study them and to adopt those that make a good fit with an individual group's orientation.

Plans were finalized for this year's newcomers' welcome on Oct. 25, with about 125 new parishioners invited to

airplane crash, our whole family was devastated. My nephew was only 19 years old. He was a good kid, and he had always been a good friend to Jeff. Losing him was hard to accept. In his grief, Jeff was having trouble sleeping. One night Jeff says that God came to him and told him that Matthew was in heaven with my father and he was very happy and everything was all right. Jeff still missed Matthew, but he was happy for him.

Some of you may be skeptical about this story. I'm not. God did console Jeff personally, because Jeff has a special relationship with God. And in consoling Jeff, God sent his consolation to all of us.

Most Downs Syndrome children are very loving. Some people advocate eliminating children with Jeff's handicap. I can tell you from personal experience that if Jeff were not part of my life, my relationship with everyone and especially with God would be much poorer. Jeff is a gift I wouldn't exchange for anything. His

a pancake breakfast in the parish center.

Fr. Remm proposed that the revised Lectionary recently approved by Rome for use in North America be purchased for use at St. Patrick's. Changes in the readings will make it difficult for parishioners to follow along in the Worship hymnals, so it was proposed that the parish purchase new Worship hymnals that incorporate the changes to the readings. It is hoped that the purchase can be funded by donations and that a worthy use can be found for the present hymnals. Members agreed to the purchase of 400 hymnals for about \$5200, but tabled the matter for a month before voting on it. Input will be invited from the Liturgy Committee.

An ad hoc committee comprised of representatives from Council (Dwain Berggren, Richard Keane), Building and Grounds, and Financial Affairs will study the use of the main hall in the parish center, and policies governing its use, in order to make recommendations to the pastor and Council about rental by outside groups, fees, etc. Meanwhile, Council members decided to limit advance reservations for rental by outside groups to ten months as a way of avoiding a shutout of parish groups.

handicap is overcome by his love.

I wish everyone could experience that love. It is as close to God's pure love as we are ever likely to get, and yet some people say that the quality of Jeff's life is not good enough to merit life at all. I say that all life is a gift, and in my experience his life is full of more "quality" than the life of many others I could name. If abiding in love is not a "quality" life, then no such thing exists. Jeff constantly reinforces my faith and my joy and my love. I am closer to God and have a stronger faith because he is who he is.

Mary Lee Brady

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.

From Dr. Susan Nagele: Safe in Nairobi

Because I flew only 7 hours after the U.S. bombed Afghanistan and Khartoum, some of you may have been concerned about my safety and whereabouts. Actually, this was probably one of the safest times to travel. After such an incident, security is at its maximum and those who might retaliate need time to plan their next move. So I send this letter as soon as possible to allay any possible fear and reap the benefits of your prayers in the meantime.

The Kenyans I have spoken with about the bombing of the U.S. embassy seem to be managing to get on with their lives. However, there is a fair amount of resentment and anger for having to be the victims of other peoples' politics. Everyone knows someone who was hurt or killed. Others have told me that they would have been near the embassy themselves had it been another day or hour. It will take some time to recover from all this. I am concerned now that because the U.S. responded the way it did, the cycle will repeat itself and more innocent people will suffer. I wouldn't dare to think I have the answer as to how to counter terrorism, but when you fight fire with fire, you usually get more fire. We need to figure out how to pour water on it!

I was able to bring back a "Lab in a Suitcase" from International Aid, Inc. The suitcase weighed 65 lbs., but it will greatly assist our diagnostic capabilities on our safaris, and I am anxious to begin resurrecting the laboratory skills I learned long ago to see if they still function. The best thing would be to have a lab technician on our team, but we'll have to wait a while longer for that luxury.

It has been some time since I wrote a financial report. The last one was done at the end of 1996. At that time I was transferring funds to the Diocese of Torit for payment of medicines and supplies. However, I did not get any reports from the diocese in 1997 on the way funds were distributed in health care, and so I stopped using that route of payment. The lack of these reports is the main reason I

didn't make a financial report last year.

I used my Maryknoll mission account to purchase needed items after May 1997. In general, the diocesan health care project funded by Misereor paid for most of the medicines and worker incentives. I used my mission money for items not covered in the project—as well as to reimburse the Association (MMAF) for my personal expenses. That does not cover all of my expenses, as health care and travel for my furlough was not included.

I hope to produce a more timely report for 1998. Many thanks to all of you who have so generously supported our work!

Our medical team vehicle arrived 3 days ago—a Toyota long wheelbase land cruiser that we can use as an ambulance. (We've been waiting since Nov. 1997. Nine months must also be vehicle gestation!) I'm trying to get it fitted with a two-way radio, a metal box in the back, and seat covers. Fr. Leo comes to Nairobi from Ireland Sept. 3, and I plan to travel back in the vehicle with him. It takes two days through

Kenya, then two more days to Lotimor.

It was great to be with all of you again. My greetings to everyone!

Peace and love,

Susan

You can write to Susan at DOT c/o NCA, Box 52802, Nairobi, Kenya. Donations may be made by check payable to MMAF and mailed to MMAF, Attn: Promotions, Box 307, Maryknoll, NY 10545-307; put "for the mission account of Susan Nagele" in the memo section of the check.

Healing the Wounds

The third flyer for "Healing the Wounds" (Project Rachel) documents the psychological aftermath of abortion and reveals that even some who perform abortion acknowledge this aftermath. Please read and share this flyer with others. And continue praying daily for the spiritual and psychological healing of women and men wounded by abortion.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Ceil Weir

Sugar-Free Pumpkin Pie

Crust:

- 1 1/3 c graham cracker crumbs
- 1 1/2 t Equal Measure (or 4 packets Equal)
- 1/3 c butter or margarine, melted

Filling:

- 4 oz light cream cheese, softened
- 1 T milk
- 1/2 t Equal Measure (or 2 packets Equal)

- 1 1/2 c frozen whipped topping, thawed

Topping:

- 1 1/2 c milk (skim or otherwise)
- 2 1-oz pkg sugar-free instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 16-oz can pumpkin
- 1 t ground cinnamon
- 1/2 t ground ginger
- 1/4 t ground cloves

Combine crust ingredients, and press into 9-inch pie pan. Bake at 350 degrees 8-10 minutes. Cool.

Prepare filling by combining all ingredients, blending until smooth, and spreading evenly over cooled crust.

For topping, pour milk into bowl, add pudding mix, and beat with whisk or electric mixer 1-2 minutes. Mixture will be thick. Stir in pumpkin and spices; mix well. Spread over cream cheese mixture. Refrigerate at least 3 hours before serving.



Taste and see and hear the goodness of the Lord!

The simple human activities of sharing in one loaf and one cup at Sunday eucharist clearly express our relationship with one another and with the Lord: we are one bread, one body. But our unity is evidenced not only in the one loaf and the one cup. We share a common posture, standing throughout the communion rite. Each of us is addressed with the same words: "The body of Christ." "The blood of Christ." And we join our voices in psalms and hymns of praise.

The power of song to unite a group of people is well known. School songs, national anthems, and old favorites sung around a campfire all serve to confirm common identity and strengthen the bond among those who are present. Our communion song, too, expresses outwardly our inward union with one another and the Lord. Because communion is a time of procession to the table of the Lord, communion songs are by definition processional songs. And processions need music, music that moves our feet and our hearts.

Some of us might protest that we can't walk and chew gum at the same time, so how can we be expected to walk in procession, hold a book, sing,



and be ready to receive communion in the hand or hold the cup from which we drink? Ideally, at the time of communion, the assembly joins in a simple repeated refrain that does not require a book, freeing our hands and our eyes from the printed page.

Others of us complain that singing during communion distracts us from prayer. The moment of communion is, of course, an intensely personal time, but in Catholic liturgy it is not a private time. Allowing for a generous time of silence after communion can meet this need for silent prayer.

Liturgy, the public prayer of the Church, demands of us a disciplined surrender of our individual lives to our common life in Christ. Just as those who share the elements minister to us, we minister to one another when we join in singing the communion song. Thus we taste and see and hear the goodness of the Lord!

From *Liturgy 90*, Oct. 98.
Used with permission.



Archives Committee Question of the Month

In working with some old parish records, Nancy Steerman came across a reference to a group called "St. Patricia Society" or "St. Patricia Club." The group was active in the period 1933-40. Is there anyone in the parish today who remembers what this group was and what it did?

Nancy also found something about the "League of the Sacred Heart," from about the same period. She would appreciate knowing more about them.

If anyone can provide some information about these groups, please call Nancy (328-1217) or leave a note in the Archives Committee mailbox in the parish center.

Sister parish grateful

In a letter to Fr. Remm, Fr. Jakob Abdel-Nour (pastor of St. Patrick's "sister parish" in Beit-Jala) expressed his thanks and those of his parishioners for the gift of \$2350, a share of our parish's unspent income from the last fiscal year. Only Our Lord knows how to reward St. Patrick's, he writes, for such kindness and generosity.

If you plan to travel to Israel, especially to Bethlehem, you will gladden his heart and find a warm welcome if you stop by to give greetings from St. Patrick's!



Do you love me? Feed my sheep!

Each year at this time St. Patrick's parishioners have the opportunity to respond to Christ's admonition to "feed my sheep" in a very real way by supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Society's drive to provide the makings of a Thanksgiving dinner for the needy of the C-U community.

For this project the Society is asking for a donation of \$10 to cover part of the cost of a Thanksgiving dinner for a needy family. The food basket will include a canned ham, soup, sweet potatoes, stuffing, eggs, vegetables, fruit, cranberries, Jello, bread rolls, butter, pumpkin pie, and sweets—the total value of which is \$30.

The Society's goal this year is to feed 200 needy local families. The names of these families are provided by two North End residents who can identify those in need, the Mental Health Center, Family Services, and others.

Please enclose your donation in an envelope clearly marked "Thanksgiving Dinners" and place it in the Sunday collection or drop it by the parish office during the week.

The Society needs the help of volunteers as well if the drive is to be successful. Volunteers will open cartons of food and fill the 200 baskets on Sunday, Nov. 22, starting at 2 p.m. Fifteen teams of two will deliver the food baskets (during daylight hours) on Nov. 23, 24, 25.

Can you help? Call Sophia Zeigler (328-2671), president of the local chapter, or the parish office (367-2665) to leave your name and telephone number.

Feeding Christ's loved ones is a great responsibility—and a great privilege. What a wonderful way to give thanks for all that we ourselves have received!

Fr. Pro a saint of our century

Miguel Pro lived from 1891 to 1927, making him a saint of our century. He was born in Guadalupe in 1891 in a prominent, well-to-do family. He had a reputation as a practical joker that lasted throughout his life. His father was a mining engineer. You might think he was headed for a secure life, but it was quite the opposite.

From the time of Mexican independence from Spain in 1821, the country had been in constant turmoil and civil conflict. Some forces saw the Catholic Church as a major landowner and a supporter of the old, aristocratic order, yet almost everyone in the country was Catholic and Church leaders often spoke up for the poor. Nonetheless, when these forces were in power, the Church was persecuted.

Miguel began his novitiate in the Jesuit order in 1911. In 1914 he was sent abroad because the fighting had moved to an area near the seminary where he was studying. During the next 11 years, he lived in California, Spain, Nicaragua, and Belgium as he continued his studies and gained pastoral experience. He was ordained in Belgium in 1925. He had surgery for a stomach ailment during this period and never completely regained his strength. So his superiors decided to return him to Mexico for the good of his health.

Within a month of his arrival, persecution was renewed. All public worship was prohibited. Religious schools and organizations were suppressed, and many religious were banished or imprisoned. Fr. Pro was not known as a priest at first, so he had more freedom of movement than many of the clergy. He threw himself into his work, distributing communion to the faithful, celebrating the sacraments in secret, and caring for the poor.

He had several close scrapes with the police, but he continued his work for two years. Then, in 1927, a

Social Action: The harvest is bountiful, but workers are few

The Parish Mission Statement of St. Patrick's includes the following: "United by our common faith, shared hope, and mutual charity, we are called to grow into a people who ... serve God's will by loving and serving our neighbors, both near and far, and who tell of God's love by our words and deeds."

This excerpt gives rise to a long-term goal in social justice and social action: to provide opportunities for parishioners to become involved in identifying social concerns and studying them in the context of Christian teachings and values, guiding parishioners to development of an intelligent position, and enabling them to take action.

This is a big order! Several standing committees of the Parish Council and other groups in the parish relate to and attempt to implement this parish goal. The parish group to which this charge applies most directly is the Social Action Committee.

The Social Action Committee provides leadership and attempts

bomb was thrown at a general from a car that had once been owned by Fr. Pro's brother Humberto. The two were arrested and charged with the bombing. Although they had good alibis, their execution was ordered without a trial because Fr. Pro was recognized as a priest. The ruling general invited the press to the execution, expecting the coverage to intimidate other Catholics. But after taking a moment for prayer, Fr. Pro held out his arms to form a cross and shouted, "Long live Christ the King!"

Fr. Pro was beatified in 1988; we celebrate his life on Nov. 23. For more information about his life, check out this address on the Internet: <http://maple.lemoyne.edu/~bucko/pro.html>.

to facilitate involvement of other parishioners in responding to issues of social justice and action in our local and world community. Several important means for accomplishing these tasks are as follows:

1. Networking with other parish committees, groups, and programs engaged in similar or related work, including the Pro-Life Committee, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the Religious Education Committee.

2. Networking with and contributing funding to 12-15 local community agencies or organizations targeting social justice issues or concerns.

3. Participating in local workshops and conferences on social justice (social action) concerns.

4. Attempting to inform and motivate parishioners to volunteer to work for local community organizations engaged in social action.

5. Sponsoring an annual parish Make-a-Difference Day program, enabling parishioners to contribute items or labor to alleviate human needs.

6. Co-sponsoring, with the Religious Education Committee, the U.S. Bishops' annual Rice Bowl collections during Lent.

The harvest is indeed bountiful, and workers few. The Social Action Committee needs more active members to assist in these worthy endeavors. For more information or to become a member of the committee, call Leon Mayer (344-6038) or Bob Haessly (344-7123).

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 that 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.

Thank you, God, for everyone and everything!

In November our thoughts frequently turn to the good things in our lives for which we are grateful, grateful to God and grateful to those whom God has given us as companions on our journey. Discussion in small groups of adults, of teens, of older folks and younger folks, resulted in a list of so many things they were grateful for that not all could be included here.

You are invited to take up the subject in your own circles of family, friends, co-workers, etc., and make up a list of your own. What would your list include?

Thanks to Fr. — for being such a saint to my family that I wanted to be just like him.

Thanks to Sr. — for letting me start school at 5 years of age.

Thanks to all the holy and unholy nuns who taught me in elementary school, and special thanks to the nun who inspired me to read and enjoy English Literature.

Thanks to Fr. — and Mom, who conspired to send me to the new seminary for my high school education. Thanks to all the priests who taught me there.

What kids say to God

Dear God,
If You watch me in church Sunday,
I'll show You my new shoes.

Mickey D.

Dear God,
I would like to live 900 years like
the guy in the Bible.

Love, Chris

Dear God,
We read Thomas Edison made
light. But in school they said You
did it. So I bet he stoled your idea.

Pam

—From an e-mail correspondent



Thanks to my confessors, who kept me free of scruples and who inspired me to love my God and my neighbor.

Thanks to all my teachers for teaching me to think for myself and offering hope for change in the area of social justice.

Thanks to the Benedictine monks and nuns who showed me how peaceful true spirituality is.

Thanks to my pastor, who paid a poor kid's tuition for the best education available.

Thanks to God and Dean — for getting me into grad school a week after mid-term had started.

Thanks to all the people who put their problems into my hands and trust me.

Thanks to those who pay for my services—and for those who don't. I learn from both.

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, 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 intercessions. These prayers are always a part of daily Mass. And on All Souls Day the Church reminds us again to

Thanks to God for helping me to see [Him] in the homeless and the mentally ill. And thanks for the mentally ill people, who are God's special children.

Thanks to my mom for being God's taskmaster. Thanks to my dad for being such a gentle soul.

Thanks to my wife for putting up with me for so many years and for giving me love and comfort and three beautiful boys.

Thanks to God for giving me children who have never caused me any great alarm about behavior.

Thanks to God for giving me a loving child with learning disabilities, who made me more aware of my humanity and my inadequacies.

Thanks to God for allowing me to experience nature and giving me the grace to see God in all things.

Thanks to all who empathize with me (and those who don't), who help me accept my weaknesses and my gifts and help me understand what is important to me.

Thank you, God, for everyone and for everything!

pray for those people who have gone before us in faith.

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

This year we remember especially Terry Lee Langendorf, Daniel J. Gleason, John H. Wavering, Natalie Catherine Liesen, George Michael, Glenn "Gene" Lynch, Joseph A. Roedel, James C. Conerty, Dorothy Nell Freehill, Laure Jean Leach, Patricia Ann Arnold, Hilbern I. Osterhoff, Carolyn Gilliland, Theodore Joseph Burgin, Sr., Ellen Jane Baxley, Dennis J. DeHaven, Nathaniel "Abe" Dunn, Fran Byrum, Robert B. Veatch, H. Eugene Stoner, James W. Withers, Sr., Eleanor Ann Kern, Hazel D. Remesch, Michael Patrick Grice.

Happy feastday, everyone!

The "communion of saints" is all of us—those of us living in the workaday world, those who already rejoice in the presence of the Lord, and those who suffer the pains of separation from that holy company.

Sunday, Nov. 1, is the feast of all saints. Be prepared to celebrate!

Can you find the canonized saints among us? You should recognize St. Patrick, but can you find St. Therese, the "Little Flower," and St. Bernadette? Dorothy Day is here as well. They would probably be happy to be unrecognized among the "holy company," those living and dead, from St. Patrick's Parish!



"What you should say"—he [Bob Lax] said to me—"what you should say is that you want to be a saint."

A saint! The thought struck me as weird. I said: "How do you expect me to become a saint?"

"By wanting to," said Lax, simply.

"I can't be a saint," I said, "I can't be a saint." And my mind darkened with a confusion of realities and unrealities.... "I am satisfied to save my soul, to keep out of mortal sin," which means "I do not want to give up my sins and my attachments."

But Lax said: "No. All that is necessary to be a saint is to want to be one. Don't you believe that God will make you what He created you to be if you will consent to let Him do it? All you have to do is desire it."

A long time ago, St. Thomas Aquinas had said the same thing—and it is something that is obvious to everybody who ever understood the Gospels. After Lax was gone, I thought about it and it became obvious to me.

The next day I told Mark Van Doren: "Lax is going around saying that all a man needs to be a saint is to want to be one."

"Of course," said Mark.

From Thomas Merton's *Seven Storey Mountain*

Used with permission

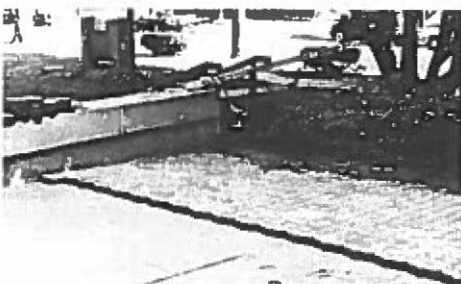
Today's Catholic Workers live Dorothy Day's legacy of radical love

When Dorothy Day died, on Nov. 29, 1980, I found myself remembering a comment made by John Cogley, former editor of *Commonweal* and a Catholic Worker in his own right. Speaking of Dorothy, he said that although none of us could do what she did, her life would be a touchstone for us.

We who volunteer at the St. Jude Catholic Worker House in Champaign know how true that is. Her spiritual integrity shines for us as inspiration. More than for any other gift, we thank God for her unswerving focus on establishing solidarity with the poor, her willingness to feel their pain, to bridle with anger at the oppression, poverty, and racism that grind them every day. She raised her voice again and again at the system, at the militarism and consumerism that erode our spirits, deaden our compassion,

Many hands make ... well, not light work, but good work!

Members of the Building and Grounds Committee, joined by other men and women from the parish, got the job done at last! Working in darkness with specially rigged lights, in rain and heat and cold, evenings after work and Saturdays, they tore out the former brick apron to the church and replaced it, brick by brick, on a bed of sand ever so carefully prepared. They got it done, and it looks just great! Thanks, everybody!



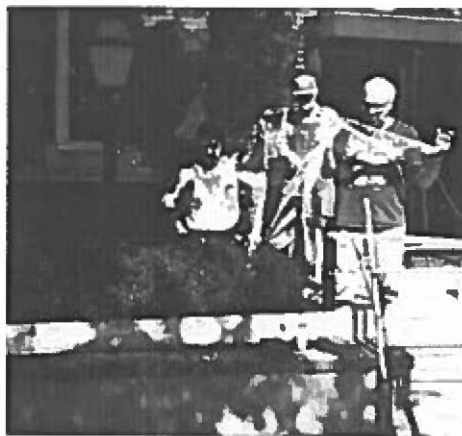
and rob the poor of their God-given dignity.

Dorothy didn't condemn us, those of us who are well fed, well housed, well clothed. She simply showed us the way. She helped serve the food at the table and sat down with the downtrodden and desolate to eat it. Often she quoted Dostoevsky: "Love is a harsh and dreadful thing." This radical love was the theme of her work.

She showed us that the Gospel is possible. It was all very clear to her: Christ meant the eucharist to be a symbol of our lives; as Christ gave his life for us and feeds us with his body, we give ourselves and feed the poor so that the broken body of humanity can become one in him. She called it a "revolution of the heart"—this daunting legacy from the life that began in Brooklyn, New York, on Nov. 8, 1897, and ended in the same city's Bowery, at Maryhouse, a Catholic Worker refuge for destitute women.

May her revolution never end!

Ellen McDowell



Social action focus is on community's Emergency Shelter

Sara Baum, a senior in Sociology at the University, has been a volunteer at the community's Emergency Shelter for a couple of years. She gave a presentation about the Shelter for Council members at their October meeting.

The Emergency Shelter (TIMES) serves as a day shelter for men, women, and children. Volunteers serve a lunch at noon and provide women's services during the day and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Only men are accommodated overnight.

Shelter volunteers help women suffering from domestic violence, assist women get their children into Head Start, etc. For many services, however, the women are referred to local agencies better equipped to help them.

For the men who stay the night, volunteers provide dinner and sleeping arrangements, laundry facilities, and personal hygiene items. They help guests prepare for job interviews and also offer the permanent address and telephone number needed when applying for a job. Four Americorps volunteers work independently with the men; anyone who stays at the Shelter for 30 days is required to meet with them.

The present capacity of the Shelter is 60, with accommodation in another room for another 12 or so men. Fire codes limit the number to 60 in the room with cots; men not fortunate enough to draw the room with cots have to sleep sitting up with no blankets.

A new building is planned (construction has not yet been started) that will provide sleeping quarters for 100 men as well as 20 apartment units for transitional guests.




Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is November 8.



November 1998

St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Feast of All Saints 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders	2 All Souls Day 7:00am & 12:10pm Mass 7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Pro-Life Com	3 9:00am Bible Study 6:45pm Reconciliation Class 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:00pm Over 21 Bible Study	4 9:30am Moms Group 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Pat's 6:00pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Building & Grounds Com	6 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	7
8 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Rel Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Rel Ed	9 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Social Action Com	10 9:00am Bible Study 12:45pm CDA Luncheon 6:45pm Reconciliation Class 7:00pm Over 21 Bible Study 7:30pm Parish Council Executive Com	11 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Pat's 6:00pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Baptism Prep 7:00pm Knights of Columbus	13 ??? Adult Ed 10:30am Mass- Urbana NH 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	14
15 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Rel Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Rel Ed	16 7:00pm Centering Prayer	17 9:00am Bible Study 6:45pm Reconciliation Class 7:00pm Over 21 Bible Study	18 9:30am Moms Group 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Pat's 6:00pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Parish Memorial Service	19 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Parish Council 7:00pm Communications Com 7:00pm Bible Study	20 10:30am Mass- Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	21
22 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Rel Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Rel Ed	23 9:30am Archives Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Liturgy Com	24 6:45pm Reconciliation Class 7:00pm Homily Prep	25 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	26 Thanksgiving Day 8:00am Mass & Breakfast 	27 10:30am Mass- Manor Care 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	28
29 First Sunday of Advent	30 7:00pm Centering Prayer	<p>Because the In Focus calendar is prepared in advance of scheduled events and meetings, please check the weekly bulletin to confirm dates and times for specific listings. Deadline for the next issue of In Focus is November 8.</p>				

The following form may be of assistance to those who have not yet been able to write a family history narrative. Simply complete the information requested as far as you are able and submit to the Archives Committee. We will use this for publication or compose in a narrative form. PLEASE NOTE - WE WILL USE THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE BELOW TO CREATE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY - YOU WILL NOT BE CONTACTED FOR YOUR APPROVAL.

FAMILY HISTORY INFORMATION FORM

Please Print

(Also use back of sheet if necessary)

Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number (in case of questions): _____

Your date of birth: _____ Location: _____

Father's Name: _____ His birth date and place: _____

Mother's Maiden Name: _____ Her birth date and place: _____

Parents' death dates, if applicable: _____

Date and place of your marriage: _____

Spouse name: _____ Date and place of spouse birth: _____

Spouse Father's Name: _____ His date and place of birth: _____

Spouse Mother's Maiden Name: _____ Her date and place of birth: _____

Children's names and places of birth and, if married, same information for spouse: For instance: Jane, b. 7/25/48, married 6/22/71 to James Smith b. 6/22/47. Their children: Mary b. 8/15/73; Robert b. 12/20/76 (who married 1/16/97 to Susan Jones b. 2/18/77), Emily b. 4/15/79. Timothy, b. 11/15/49 (married 7/5/73 to Jennifer Brown). Their children: Steven b. 12/30/75 and Lynn b. 3/22/78.
(Please use back of form for this information.)

Names, birth dates and spouses of your brothers and sisters: _____

Where did your parents/in-laws live? _____

Where did you live after your marriage? _____

Reason for moving to Urbana-Champaign: _____

When did you join St. Patrick's Parish? _____

Anything you would like to include about your education and/or work history: _____

When did your families come to the United States? From where? _____

Your ethnic background/ancestry; any interesting family stories or history you would like included: _____

What are your earliest memories of attending church? _____

Anything else you would like to share: _____

A family photo will be welcome. This may be recent or old; it may be of you or of your parents or grandparents. If you wish to have the photo returned, please indicate on the back. Also be sure to identify persons in the photo. If your picture is rare or priceless, have a black and white copy made for us.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS JANUARY 1, 1999.

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO: Centennial History, St. Patrick's Church, 708 W. Main, Urbana, IL 61801