

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Joe Tobias is succeeded by Steve Beckett as parish trustee

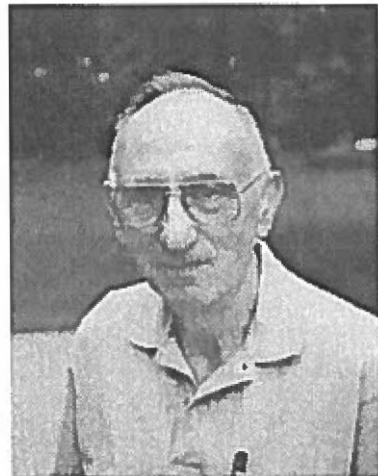
A "changing of the guard" at St. Patrick's has just taken place. After three years of service, parish trustee Joe Tobias steps back, and newly appointed trustee Steve Beckett steps forward.

Asked to look back and compare his thoughts on leaving to his thoughts as the time of taking on the responsibility, Joe came up with the following observations.

When first asked to be a trustee, he hesitated because of his age and his impaired hearing. Could he be effective? Encouraged by Fr. Remm, he accepted the challenge. Three years later he leaves with a mixture of satisfaction, gratitude, frustration, and relief.



Steve Beckett



Joe Tobias

Joe is satisfied that he did the best he could for the parish. He speaks particularly of assisting with, or supporting, three projects that he believes were of major importance to the parish. One was the parish needs assessment survey, which yielded much useful information (and education on how to write a survey better next time). Another was the remodeling of the parish kitchen, a great boon to the parish's social life. And finally, he was instrumental in establishing the Vocations Committee, which he currently chairs.

Joe is grateful for the generous financial support of parishioners, eliminating the kinds of financial problems that sometimes plague a parish. He terms St. Patrick's parishioners "responsive and responsible."

He has been impressed by the many hard workers in the parish, and cited the Building and Grounds Committee as an example. However, the fact that so much is done by so few has been a cause of frustration for Joe. He hoped to find more and better ways to help less active parishioners understand that they are welcome and needed.

Another source of frustration for Joe has been the unrealistic expectations of some parishioners in regard to a trustee's problem-solving ability, yet the trustee's role is a purely advisory, not authoritative, one. And he found the many evening meetings difficult because of his age.

see Parish Trustee on page 3

Dr. J. Mark Baker brings his talents to St. Patrick's

Dr. J. Mark Baker, new parish music director, is making himself at home in his office and the choir loft and looking forward to making music with the people of St. Patrick's. "I hope both to increase enrollment in the St. Patrick's choirs and to exploit the potential for a vibrant, exciting choral sound," he said.

Choir rehearsals begin right after Labor Day. The children's choir (grades 3-6) will have their first rehearsal at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8, and the 10:30 Mass choir will meet at 7 p.m. that evening. The 9:00 Mass choir will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 9. The Funeral Schola will have their first rehearsal with J. Mark on Wednesday, Sept. 15, at 9:30 a.m.

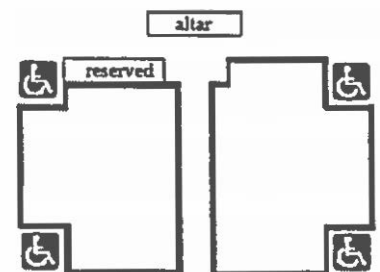
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Special seating reserved for parishioners with special needs

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

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

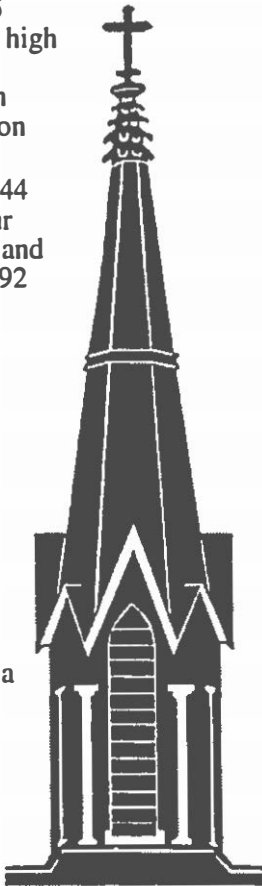
A wheelchair is available for use. It is kept at the top of the ramp inside the east entrance to the church.



Did you know that St. Patrick's Parish...

- * boundaries extend 4 miles north and 4 miles south of Urbana city limits?
- * includes an estimated 2723 active Catholics and 686 Catholic families (i.e., "adult wage-earning units")?
- * welcomed 86 infants and 5 adults to our faith community through baptism?
- * services four local nursing homes, visiting and celebrating Mass weekly (Champaign County Nursing Home) or on a rotating basis (the three others)?
- * has an outreach program to fallen-away Catholics?
- * conducts adult education classes?
- * participates regularly in several ecumenical activities?
- * teaches Catholic practice and tradition through its RCIA program?
- * enrolled 74 children in a local Catholic grade school, 305 in public elementary schools, and 234 teens in public high and junior-high schools?
- * enrolled 285 children and 115 high and junior-high students in parish religious education classes?
- * welcomed 144 newcomers to our faith community, and bade farewell to 92 parishioners?

--From St. Patrick's annual report to the Diocese of Peoria for FY 1998-99, and from St. Patrick's newsletter, *In Focus*.



Parish Council News

At their August meeting Council members discussed parishioners' responses to question 24 of the Needs Assessment Survey (taken over a year ago):

"I believe it would be prudent for the parish to plan for the future by

a. acquiring a tract of land for a new parish complex to be built sometime in the future (no, 30.5%; yes, 19.8%; don't know, 46.9%; no response, 2.8%)

b. planning the expansion of the parish center (no, 27.1%; yes, 26%; don't know, 45.8%; no response, 1.1%)

c. appointing a committee to develop alternatives (no, 11.9%; yes, 59.3%; don't know, 24.9%; no response, 4%)"

Fr. Remm suggested the need to begin looking at the possibility of building a new St. Patrick's parish complex between Urbana and St. Joseph. His suggestion arises from the fact of the declining numbers of priestly vocations, making the establishment of a new parish to serve the Catholic population in St. Joseph unlikely. (About 100 families there are registered St. Patrick's parishioners, though what percentage this is of the total number of Catholic households in St. Joseph is unknown.) The long-range planning committee, yet to be established, would be expected to give this important matter serious attention.

A facilitator for the fall objectives workshop (Oct. 16) is yet to be decided. A suggested theme is the Jubilee Year 2000, what it means for the parish and for the local community. Members were asked to invite their committees to discuss possible objectives for the year 2000 for consideration at the workshop.

The Knights of Columbus's plan to have a food booth at the Urbana Sweet Corn Festival was affirmed by the Council as an activity of St. Patrick's Parish.

A delayed welcome for J. Mark Baker, new parish music director, will be included in the welcome extended to new parishioners at a pancake breakfast tentatively set for Oct. 31.

This year's Sacrificial Giving weekend will be Nov. 13-14.

Plantings for the new patio outside the parish center have been completed. One of the birch trees at the site is dying, afflicted by one of the diseases to which

birch trees are particularly vulnerable. It's likely that the other birches there will suffer the same fate, so future plans may have to include replacement of these trees.

Plans are underway for about 50-60 teenaged parishioners to undertake a mission to help make home repairs in a needy area. Mike Andrejasic, who has experience in working with such groups, will assist with this group. To underwrite expenses of about \$18,000-\$25,000, the teens are planning fund-raisers for the mission, planned for August 2000.

The next Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Sept. 16. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings.

For interested parishioners, minutes of Council meetings are posted in the church vestibule and on the bulletin board in the office wing of the parish center.

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 and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

Editorial board: Mary Lee Brady, 344-3752 (marylbrady@msn.com); Tim Brenner, 384-2060 (Timothy.Brenner@vesuvius.com); Artha Chamberlain, 344-6645; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701 (mmenches@uiuc.edu); Frank Modica, 367-4133 (modicafr@knight.cmi.k12.il.us); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@uiuc.edu); Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Peggy Whelan, 367-3668 (m-whelan@uiuc.edu).

Associates: Carol Bosley, Morene Christman, Mary Fonner, Julie Herman, Linda Jackson, Lori and Tom McDonough, Marty Perry, Joan Poletti, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika.

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Joyce Baird, Carol Bosley, Judy Conover, Frances Drone-Silvers, Mary Fonner, Tom Kacich, Leon Mayer, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Nikki Parker, Fr. George Remm, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Peggy Shannon, Nancy Steerman, Margaret Stewart, Linda Weber, Peggy Whelan. This issue was paged by Joan and Ed Poletti.

Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **September 12**.



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Parish Trustee

Now Joe is relieved to be able to hand over the reins to Steve Beckett, whom he considers "an excellent successor," and he believes that his wife, Agnes, is also relieved to see the end of his term, although she has been very supportive.

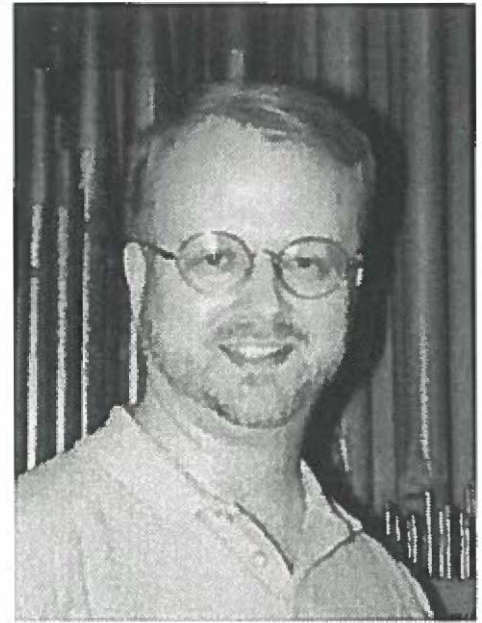
Well, so who is Steve Beckett? Many parishioners can quickly point out Steve as the willing and cheerful guy pitching in at numerous parish functions, such as Sunday morning Coffee Shop, the Knights of Columbus fish fries, Ladies' Knight Out, and other special events. Fewer people, however, know about the behind-the-scenes hours Steve put in as co-chair of the ad hoc committee to oversee the parish kitchen remodeling project. Rumor has it that he even makes great biscuits for the Cellar-to-Garrett workers.

Born in Urbana, Steve grew up in St. Patrick's neighborhood. After obtaining his J.D. Law degree from the UI in 1973, he worked for a Champaign law firm for 15 years before establishing his own in 1988. Although his is a general

practice firm, he is known for his litigation efforts in high-profile cases, including UI athletes. Since 1987 Steve has been on the faculty of the UI College of Law, and he is currently the Director of Trial Advocacy; he teaches White Collar Crime for the College. He has been active in the community in youth sports through the YMCA and Boy Scouts.

Steve and his wife, Barbara, who teaches second grade at Holy Cross School, live in rural Urbana. They have been members of St. Patrick's Parish for over twenty years. They are parents of two adult sons, Chad and Don.

How does Steve feel, on the brink of his three-year term as trustee? Honored to be asked by Fr. Remm and appointed by Bishop Myers. What are his goals? To be a good listener, to address the concerns of the parishioners, and to provide the best advice he can to Fr. Remm. Steve sees this term as an opportunity to make a return to the parish for the love, friendship, and support his family has received for many years.



J. Mark Baker

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New Parish Music Director

Skilled instrumentalists of all ages are welcome at almost any Mass; they may be asked to come to rehearsals with the choir or to meet individually with J. Mark at mutually convenient times. In addition, with J. Mark's cooperation, Deborah Riley hopes to build an ensemble of instrumentalists to play at teen liturgies, celebrated at noon one Sunday a month during the academic year.

Planning for all these choirs, cantors, and instrumentalists should be enough to keep our new music director busy for a while, but his thinking has already moved beyond the immediate future. Noting that the U.S. bishops have selected the traditional hymn "Te Deum" as the official hymn for the Church's celebration of the Jubilee Year and Millennium, J. Mark said, "An idea I have for our parish's celebration of the Jubilee Year 2000 is to commission a local composer to write a musical setting of the 'Te Deum' just for St. Pat's choirs and congregation. Of course," he added, "we'd need some financial support for such an undertaking!"

If you are interested in making music at St. Patrick's, come to one of the rehearsals or call J. Mark at the parish office (367-2665). He'd like to meet you and get to know you and your voice a little better.



Welcome to new parishioners: Claudia Barragan, Ed and Eve Cassidy, David Z. Cole, Jess Cole, Jr., Ginny and Mike Conron, James Vincent Hagan, Theresa Marie Hughes, Brigit Kelly Madonick, Jennifer and Robert Pahre, Maribel and Robert Rizon, DorRae and Mike Venable, Ewa Kirkor-Veeranaghavan, Jared Wouters.

Farewell to parishioners who have left C-U: Grazina Hay, Chris and Jeff Hegstad, Jane and Mary Joyce, Dennis and Nadia Keefe, Shane Kolata, Mike May and Noelle Borders, Randall Rewerts, Lisa Roberts, Ralph and Sheryl Trummer.

Congratulations to these couples, recently married: Matthew Ryan Johnson and Jennifer Lyn Kammes, David Brian Weber and Rachel Ellen Meador, Christopher Michael Elston and Kathy Lea Keith, Matthew Mark Garrett and Bridget Lynn Jarvis, Chad Michael Gross and Jennifer Elizabeth Rabbitt, Colin Lee Kremitzki and Colleen Byrne Tracy.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: Emily Danielle Davit, Dana Claire Herman, Nicholas Allen Jackson, Caitlin Marie McKay, Vasanthi Malina Balaji, Stanislaw Aakil Balaji, Jenna Lynn Keefer, Trevor Albert Lance Partin, Kyle Joseph Rasmussen, Zachary William Twohey, Alison Sheryl Lee, Grant Edward Cassidy.

Please pray for deceased parishioners: August Kosowski, Henry Duffy, Judy A. Hepler.



Volunteer Opportunities for Social Action

The harvest is bountiful, but the workers are few. You can show that you love your neighbor as yourself by volunteering some time and effort to help some of the local community organizations that provide programs and services for the poor, the neglected, the abused, the homeless, the hungry, and the otherwise needy people of this community.

The Social Action Committee of St. Patrick's Parish networks with and contributes some funding to the following community organizations. You may volunteer by contacting the associate member of the committee who serves as liaison between the committee and the organization listed below.

* **The Center for Women in Transition** provides shelter and support services for homeless women and their children. (Kathy Sims, Executive Director, 352-7153)

* **The Women's Safe House** reaches out through a residential program and provides rehabilitation services to women who have substance abuse problems and are homeless. (Teresa Davis, 367-2158)

* **The Catholic Worker House** provides temporary shelter, food, and support services for homeless individuals and families and operates a soup kitchen for the hungry who come to their door. (Carole Rebeiz, 344-7967)

* **Council of Congregations** is an inter-faith organization that provides a variety of services and financial assistance to people in need, including payment of utility bills, money for bus tickets for stranded travelers, rent payments, payment for prescription medicine, and other emergency needs. (Peggy Whelan, 367-3668)

* **The Crisis Nursery** provides, at no cost to the family, a temporary "island of safety" for children, newborn through five years of age, whose families are experiencing a crisis which may put the children in harm's way with no other resource available.

* **empty tomb** provides a variety of services and programs, including home maintenance and repair, free distribution of used clothing and household items, and a nurse for their Christian Health Services Program. (Josee McKeon, 356-2262, or Richard Keane, 351-6461)

* **Matthew House** is a community house for the children of north Champaign. It is not a social service agency or a day care center, but rather a Christian minority that provides needy children with opportunities to grow spiritually, emotionally

see Volunteer Opportunities on page 7

Religious Education Programs Start Up In October

All St. Patrick's religious education classes meet for their opening session on Sunday, Oct. 3.

Children's Liturgy will be celebrated for the first time this fall also on Sunday, Oct. 3.

The Parents Cooperative Nursery, however, gets a head start, opening Sunday, Sept. 5.

Questions about programs, schedule, registration? Call Carolyn McElrath, Director of Religious Education (367-2665).



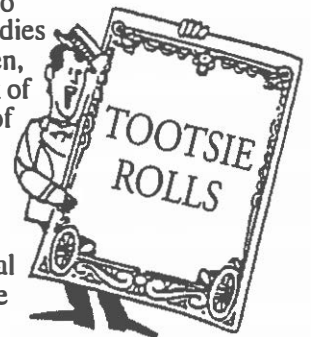
KC's Tootsie Roll Drive approaches

The Urbana Knights of Columbus will participate in the annual KC's Charities fund drive for the mentally handicapped and developmentally disabled on Friday and Saturday, Sept 17-18.

Look for the Knights as they distribute Tootsie Rolls and collect money for projects to help the handicapped.

The fund drive is registered with the Illinois Attorney General's office. Among the groups that benefit from the Tootsie Roll sales are the Illinois Special Olympics and, locally, the Very Special Arts Festival of the Urbana and Champaign park districts.

In addition to the sale on Sept. 17-18, the Knights will be selling boxes of Tootsie Rolls at Coffee Shop in September and October. It's a perfect opportunity to purchase goodies for Halloween, help the work of the Knights of Columbus, and give needed assistance to state and local social service agencies.



Finding God in Daily Work

St. Patrick's Parish will offer the program Finding God in Daily Work this fall. Participants meet for 9 weeks beginning Sept. 27, 7:00-9:00 p.m. and make a one-day retreat on Saturday, Oct. 23.

The goals of this program are:

- * To learn how to see and hear God in the workplace

- * To discover ways of responding to God in work and in prayer

- * To find peace and fulfillment in work and in prayer

Everyone is involved in a "workplace" daily, whether taking care of children or parents at home, helping others in the community, studying for future careers at college, or working on a farm, in a school or hospital, in an office or store. Finding God in Daily Work gives the participant an opportunity to see God more fully in one's daily work, to experience a sense of wholeness, peace, and well-being.



For more information about this program, pick up a brochure and application form in the parish center.

The program is facilitated by Sr. Charlene Cesario, sscm, and Joyce Baird.

*When night comes
and you look back
over the day and
see how fragmentary
everything has been,
and how much you planned
that has gone undone,
and all the reasons
you have to be
embarrassed and
ashamed:
just take everything
exactly as it is, put
it in God's hands
and leave it with him.
Then you will be able
to rest in God,
really rest,
and start the next day
as a new life.*
--St. Edith Stein



Sinai Temple Needs Child Care for High Holy Days

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

Twice a year Christians have the opportunity to repay this kindness.

Parishioners are asked to volunteer for child care at the Temple during services on two high holy days: Rosh Hashanah (Saturday morning, Sept. 11) and Yom Kippur (Monday morning, afternoon, or evening, Sept. 20).

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

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



From our Sister Church:

Dearest Fr. George Remm, Dear Parish Council, Dear people of St. Patrick's Parish,

Greetings from Beit-Jala. We gratefully acknowledge having received your generous donation, \$2850, for the needs of our Community of Beit-Jala.

As the Millennium approaches, we look forward to seeing you in Bethlehem. Your presence in the Holy Land will be an encouragement for our local Christians, who are really depressed, between two non-Christian blocks. The Bethlehem area is still cut off from Jerusalem; consequently thousands of our people are jobless.

There are a lot of social cases to deal with. An interesting one is worth relating in detail: A ten-year-old boy was suffering from a sick liver and condemned to death unless he could get a new liver. We sent him to Germany; his mother offered him a part of her liver, and his aunt offered him one kidney. All these surgeries were successful, and the kid, called Milad Kassis, is so far in good shape.

We could tell you several similar social cases.

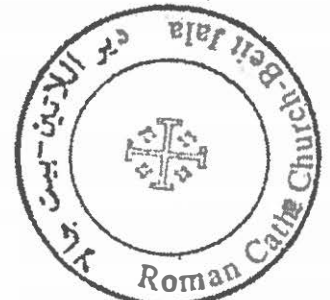
The arrival of the Palestinian Authority has disappointed our people. A lot of casinos and huge hotels (Intercontinental, Meridien...) are in construction instead of hospitals and medical-care services. As a result, we have to support our parishioners.

Dear Fr. George, do convey our best wishes and deep feelings of gratitude for the members of your Council as well as for each parishioner. Only Almighty God is able to reward all our benefactors of St. Patrick's Church in Urbana, Illinois. May your patron, St. Patrick of Ireland, the island of saints, bestow upon your families his graces.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Fr. Abdel-Nour

Fr. Abdel-Nour



Parishioners may address correspondence to: Rev. Jakob Abdel-Nour, P.O.B. 188, Beit-Jala.

WATCH comes to St. Patrick's

WATCH, a parish renewal program that has become so popular that about 36 parishes will be sponsoring it this year, will come to St. Patrick's Sept. 24-26.

WATCH is an acronym for We Are The CHURCH; it seeks to help people love and care about Jesus and about others, and to share their faith with others.

The program is flexible and experiential. Its design makes it possible to acknowledge the work of the Holy Spirit and to respond to it during the weekend retreat. WATCH is a teaching program as well as a spiritual renewal and witness program. It is very visual, using 400 slides paired with music and prayer services to help participants remember the messages.

The WATCH weekend begins on Friday evening, continues on Saturday until about 10 p.m., and concludes on Sunday at about 4 p.m. A team of 14 people who have previously experienced WATCH present the weekend. Six lay people and three clergy give talks, and time is set aside for recreation, private meditation and reflection, worship services, and making new friends. Deacon Dan Murphy of St. Patrick's is spiritual adviser for the WATCH program in this parish. Deacon Don Efinger will be spiritual adviser for the first weekend.

Since the program is new to St. Patrick's, the team in September will be made up of parishioners from Holy Cross, Champaign, where WATCH has been operative for several years. Dave Ashlinger and his wife, Sharon, will

also be on the team. Recalling his own experience with WATCH, Dave said, "Not only did WATCH strengthen my relationship with the Lord, but I met and got to know other parishioners in a different, deeper way, on a more spiritual basis. Now when we see one another we each relive the WATCH experience."

Talks on the weekend are structured around the concept of the Cross. On Friday the program deals with the vertical. The theme is self and our relationship with God. Participants are challenged to look at their priorities and determine what they need to let go of in their lives to strengthen that relationship.

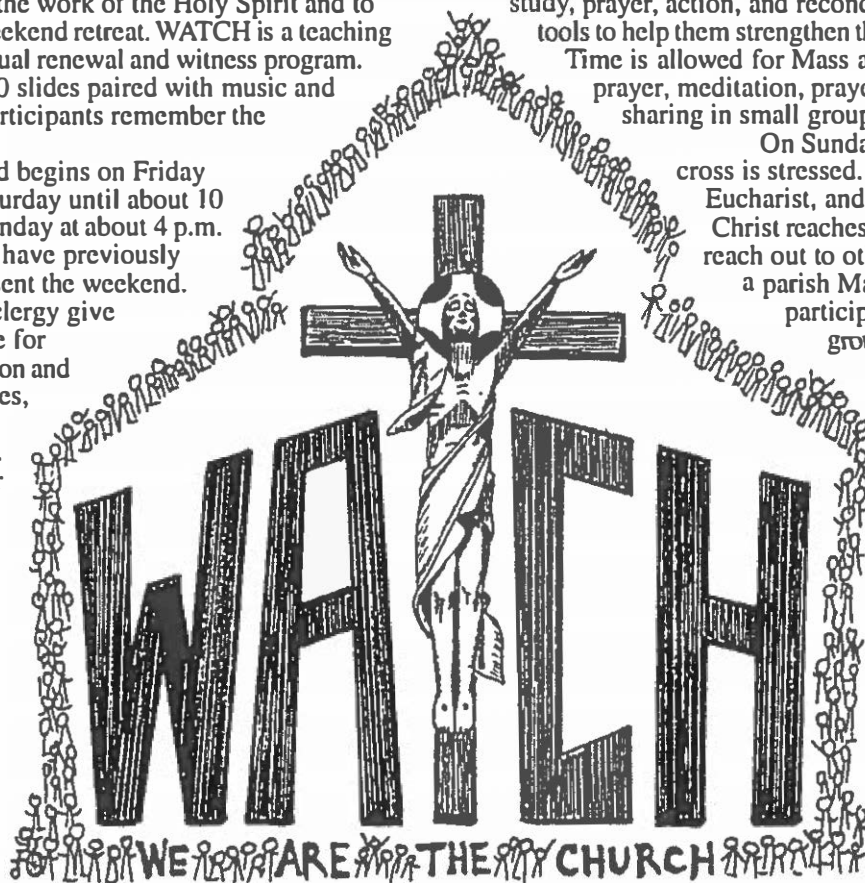
On Saturday the vertical aspect is continued. A clergy talk on God's grace lays the foundation for the day. Lay talks on study, prayer, action, and reconciliation give participants tools to help them strengthen their relationship with God. Time is allowed for Mass and for reflection through prayer, meditation, prayer services, and personal sharing in small groups.

On Sunday, the horizontal of the cross is stressed. Talks on Trinity/Sharing, Eucharist, and community show how Christ reaches out to us and how we can reach out to others. Participants attend a parish Mass and are encouraged to participate in ongoing sharing groups following the weekend.

Registration for the September weekend opens Aug. 28-29. The WATCH brochure included in the bulletin that weekend contains a form that may be used to register. For more information call Mary Long (367-2665) or Dan Murphy (359-2186).

The number of participants for each weekend is limited to 40, so early registration is encouraged. Registrations will be taken on a first-come, first served basis; those

who cannot be included will be put on a waiting list and, if necessary, included on a list for the second WATCH weekend, which will be offered Feb. 25-27.



Have you taken the "Short Course in Christianity" yet?

Cursillo. For many folks the word itself is a mystery. The first question is how do you say it; the second is what does it mean?

Cursillo (pronounced "kur see' yo") is a Spanish word meaning "short course," and Cursillo in Christianity is a short course in Christianity.

Boring? It can be anything but that. For many of St. Patrick's parishioners it was the Cursillo Weekend that changed their lives. For others, the Cursillo gave that quiet boost needed during a time of spiritual drought.

There are lots and lots of St. Patrick's "Cursillistas" (folks who have participated in a Weekend). What many of them found especially inviting about Cursillo is its ecumenical aspect, together with the opportunity it offered to experience a spiritual renewal weekend with fellow Christians of different faiths and from various Central Illinois churches, parishes, and towns.

Cursillo also extends many avenues for continual spiritual growth after the Weekend: participating as a member of

the team that puts on a Cursillo Weekend for others, joining a small group reunion that meets on a weekly basis with fellow Cursillistas, or simply being part of the Cursillo community that includes fun and fellowship.

If you are interested in talking to someone one-on-one about Cursillo, call Pat and Ellen Noonan (328-7680) or Bill and Ruth Plymire (355-0615). They will be pleased to talk with you—just give them a call or spend a few minutes with them at Coffee Shop on a Sunday morning.

The upcoming Men's Weekend is Oct. 14-17; the upcoming Women's Weekend is Nov. 11-14. The location is St. Joseph's Church in Pesotum (Ill.).

From Nancy Steerman

An Evangelization Minute

When visiting with my granddaughter recently, I attended a parochial school Mass. The experience reminded me of my own parochial school days and the development of my cradle Catholic faith.

My faith has never been blindly accepted by me. I questioned everything that was taught to me by the nuns, and later in high school I dared to question God the Father, whom I perceived as an angry, punishing God. As a young adult, I pulled away from this God altogether because I was disillusioned with him.

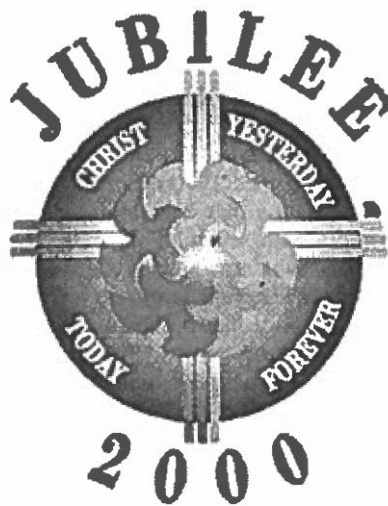
Why am I still a Catholic?

I never gave up on prayer. I may not have prayed directly to God, but I prayed daily to Jesus and to Mary. Each time I tried to live without my faith, I came back to church because I was lonesome for Jesus and the sacramental life of the Church. On that foundation I began to build my adult faith.

A prayerful relationship with Jesus, however, did not dissipate my anger toward a God I blamed for the injustices in the world, including my own. Giving birth to a special child in the midst of a broken marriage followed by divorce, and unable to practice birth control knowing that five children within seven years had been born into this mess, only intensified that anger. My relationship

with Jesus, however, grew. I talked to him all day long.

Here at St. Patrick's there are many opportunities to nurture and deepen a prayer life. Christ Renews His Parish, for example, set me in the presence of



God in such a way that it opened my soul to what God had to say to me.

He helped me to realize that it was I who was angry, not God. I had been angry with God since I was a very small child because of very troublesome experiences at too young an age. God helped me to understand. He healed me and replaced my anger with forgiveness so that I was able to pray for the person

who caused so much pain to my family and me.

Through the annulment process God helped me to resolve the angers that had built up through the years of adultery.

Through Beginning Experience God helped me to resolve the angers caused by the divorce.

Sr. Charlene's invitation to participate in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius led me to an even deeper form of prayer. Through guided imagery she led me to the potter's shed (Jeremiah 18:2-6). God was the potter and I was the broken pot. No more questioning Him. I felt a God of love. A love so deep and so strong that I was able to forgive and pray for the father of my children. He healed all my hurts and gave me a big hug.

Seeds of faith and an active prayer life are evident everywhere at St. Patrick's. One place in particular was Sunday morning during Mass. I was lector at that Mass. While sitting in the chair I observed the shadow of The Rising Christ on the floor, his arms extended. Then Fr. Kane raised his arms for the Eucharist Prayer. His extended arms merged with those of Christ.

For the Lord's Prayer, Father gathered us in and we became an integral part of the extended arms of our Lord, Jesus.

This is my parish, this is my faith.

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Volunteer Opportunities

and socially, preparing them to cope in society and to break away from the poverty cycle. (Mary Fonner, 367-0026).

* **Men's Emergency and Community Day Care Center** provides meals, shelter, referrals, and transitional services to those who find themselves homeless or needy in Champaign County. (Barbara Peckham, 344-3475)

* **Habitat for Humanity** is an organization with a mission to help eliminate substandard housing in Champaign County. Using volunteer labor, new houses are built or old houses are rehabilitated and then sold to a needy family at cost, with no interest. (Ann Knollenberg, 337-5856)

* **Project Good Start** provides snacks before their after-school projects or activities, including reading enrichment or remedial reading instructions by children from

economically deprived families. (Chris Freidhof, 344-4059)

* **East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center** helps refugees to this area of Illinois to get settled and to cope with the many problems they must overcome in order to be successful in becoming new American citizens. (Their office, 344-8455)

* **The Illini Prairie Chapter of the American Red Cross** has an office in Urbana (507 W. Springfield). This office organizes and responds to local, regional, and national disasters. (Kathleen Cullop, 344-2800)

* **The St. Patrick's Social Action Committee** participates in two major activities each year: the **Make-a-Difference Day** project and **Operation Rice Bowl**. Volunteers are needed to assist with these activities.

Membership on the Social Action Committee is open to all parishioners. There is a need for regular members and associate members. Regular members participate in the overall business of the committee. Associate members help with specific activities of interest or related to their unique talents, assist with our major activities on a stand-by basis or serve as liaison representatives between committee and community organizations.

The committee meets bi-monthly (January, March, May, July, September, and November) on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the parish center. *Visitors are always welcome!* To express a concern or make a presentation, advance notification is required. For information about the committee or to volunteer, call Leon Mayer (344-6038) or Bob Haessly (344-7123).

The CREW Review

Christ Renews Everyone's World (or CREW, as they like to call themselves) is the name of St. Patrick's high school youth group. Much change and growth has taken place in the last year, and the teens have committed themselves to spreading the Word of God to all young people.

It is a fact that 80 percent of the 30 million teens in this country don't attend church. Yet 80 percent of all those who believe in Christ make that decision between the ages of 12 and 18--very risky numbers for our youth, when you consider the pressures and risks they face today. There is hope, however, and CREW is a small part of that hope. They have dedicated themselves to reaching out to other teens and spreading enlightenment and messages of joy in God.

*One of the many ways they will reach out is through regular articles in *In Focus*. "The CREW Review" will serve as a forum for our teens to write about their experiences with the youth group. Please pray for our teen group and for a continued outreach to all young people.*



I never understood how I could express my faith in a world like today without ridicule. I searched for a way to openly share God's love and found it in the March for Jesus. March for Jesus is a worldwide march on Pentecost weekend. It welcomes any religion and focuses on Jesus Christ and his love. Every year the march has a theme; this year it was "Jesus said, 'Love one another,' so do it!"

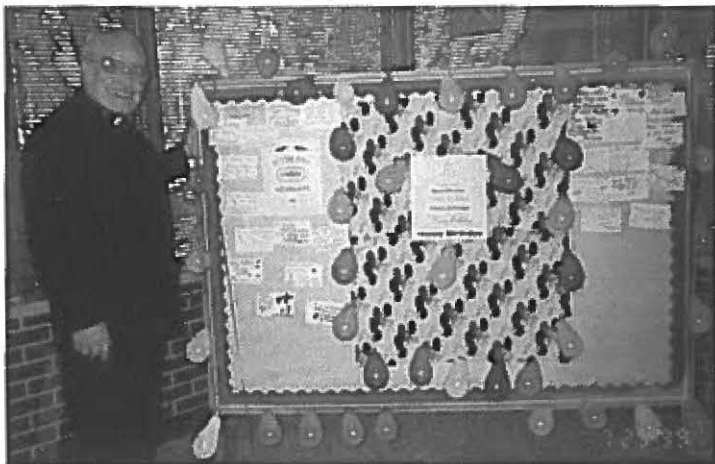
May 22 came, and I was reluctant to participate in the march. Our CREW Core group met for breakfast and then headed to Westside Park, ready to march. Before the march, our group was to welcome people, get them signed in, and give them a song book. It was then that I began to realize God's impact. When looking at the sign-up sheets, I saw that under "church/religious groups" there were dozens of variations. And in greeting the people, I saw all different colors, shapes, and ages. The march brought together Christians of every tradition, age, and color. It mattered not your income or race, but your simple love for the Lord.

I had felt God's love before the march even started. We lined up behind large speakers (where the joyous music was coming from) and raised our banners. The banners had nothing to do with our denomination, but with praise. The march started and soon the songs were being blasted through the streets. I'm not the greatest vocalist, so I was very hesitant about singing praises to the Lord. But soon enough I was caught up in the spirit and found myself singing.



The image I found most inspiring at the march was when we were on the last leg of the march. We walked by the Catholic Worker House and saw several men on the porch, some handicapped and some elderly. It was then that an old man stood from his chair and began to dance. He was full of life, dancing to the joyous songs of celebration of Christ Jesus. My Saturday morning had not been wasted. I was touched by God and witnessed others receiving his love. I hope that I had a part of others' new relationship with Jesus. I encourage everyone to march next year!

By Nikki Parker



The Ice Cream Social was just the beginning!

Ice cream cones and sundaes filled tummies, and square dancing burned off some new calories at the recent annual Ice Cream Social! The Social Committee thanks Leon Mayer for supplying the music, and Jim Mayer for doing the calling. Many were new to square dancing, but even if some didn't quite get the hang of it, they had a lot of laughs.

Some folks, shy about joining in the dancing, enjoyed the air-conditioned comfort while visiting with friends. Others became quite creative in decorating ice cream cones, place mats, and cards for Fr. Remm's birthday. Father was surprised at the social with an ice cream cake to celebrate his birthday. All joined in singing and wishing him well on the "birthday board" (see photos).

Parishioners who were unable to participate in the Ice Cream Social will have other chances for a good time with family and friends. Future activities sponsored by the Social Committee include:

- * Parish Picnic, Sunday, Sept. 19
- * Potluck Lunch and Polka Dance, Sunday, Oct. 24

If you have ideas for other parish social events, please share them with a committee member or leave your suggestions in the Social Committee's mailbox in the parish center.

Social Committee members are Peggy Shannon, Margaret Bronson, Morene Christman, Leo Wood, Julie Herman, Linda Weber, Chuck Milewski, Frieda DeCerbo, and Jane Lawrence. New members are welcome. If you can help with even just one event, let them hear from you!



Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . **Cathy Salika**



Spitzbuben

- 1/2 lb butter
- 2 1/4 c flour
- 1/4 c sugar
- 1 t baking powder
- 3 t ground cinnamon

- 1/2 t ground cloves
- 1/2 t salt
- 2 eggs
- jelly

Mix all dry ingredients; add butter and eggs; mix until bowl comes clean. Press 3/4 dough into a 9 x 13 inch baking pan; spread with jelly. Use the remaining 1/4 dough for criss-crosses on top of jelly. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-30 minutes.

Clare: A romance made in heaven

When a 17-year-old turned down a suitor in Assisi, Italy, she met a new love which has endured for 8 centuries.

The teenager was said to be pretty. We can imagine that she had all the small vanities and attachments of a 17-year-old surrounded by the riches and privileges of an aristocratic family.

The rejected young man was even more desirable, in her family's eyes, than the others she had refused. His parents were angry.

The young girl turned to her Aunt Bona for comfort, which came in the form of a little treat: an afternoon's outing to hear the preaching of the town's sensation, the Little Poor Man, Francis. Afterward her Aunt Bona took her behind the scenes to meet him. Sparks flew. There were more meetings, always chaperoned, but secret because of the parents.

The young girl, Clare, had fallen in love with the liveliness and joy, the freedom, that their philosophy of poverty gave Francis and his friars.

A year later, on Palm Sunday night, Clare dressed herself in a bridal veil and jewels. Accompanied by her aunt, she slipped out a side door of her castle. They went into the woods to the place

where Francis and his friars lived and prayed. It was midnight of Mar. 18-19 in the year 1212.

Francis welcomed Clare and covered her silks and jewels with a gray habit like his. It is written that he also cut her hair, and a blonde curl said to be Clare's is still preserved in Assisi.

Clare hoped to follow the same life of freedom on the roads as the friars, but Francis sent her to a Benedictine convent. There her sister Agnes joined her. When a permanent place at San Damiano was found for her, she was joined by her mother, Ortolana, and his sister Beatrice. They called themselves the Poor Ladies. Francis came occasionally to visit and consult.

With the Pope's approval they later adapted St. Benedict's rule of life and took a vow of poverty, declaring to the world for all time their intention to live as poor as Christ.

Clare was sick and bed-ridden during the last 25 years of her life. She died in 1253 and was canonized just two years later. Her feastday is celebrated on Aug. 11.

St. Clare is the patron of good weather and of television. (Once when she was too ill to attend Mass in the



chapel, she had a vision of the Mass at her bedside.) Her intercession is sought also in cases of eye disease and in childbirth.

Nowadays Franciscan men and women serve the world in many ways. But St. Clare's followers have opted for the seclusion of the cloister. There they find solitude, silence, fasting, and prayer for the world a way to live the Gospel. As a touch of the freedom that first attracted Clare, her nuns are usually barefoot.

A nearby monastery of Poor Clare nuns, Our Lady of Mercy in Belleville (Ill.), welcomes visitors to the chapel. One may also talk with the Sister Portress, or doorkeeper, and sense the merriment and the enthusiastic spirit of the girl Clare, who lived nearly 800 years ago.



in our parish library

Here are some new books, recently acquired for our parish library, that you may want to read. They are on the New Books shelf, to the right as you enter.

Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul: 101 Stories to Open the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit. (242 Can) Here are stories that will warm your heart and make you smile. You'll be reminded of how Christian values can be woven into everyday life. You will find stories of forgiveness, faith, charity, hope, and love.

Who Needs God? (296 Kus) Written by Harold Kushner, author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, this book addresses the spiritual vacuum at the center of many people's lives. Chapter titles include "Does God Really Make a Difference?" "What Makes Some Things Wrong?" and "Why Is God So Hard to Find?"

36-Hour Day: A Family Guide to Caring for Persons with Alzheimer's Disease, Related Dementing Illnesses, and Memory Loss in Later Life (649.9 Mac) Highly recommended by a parishioner who cares for a parent with Alzheimer's Disease, this is an excellent and practical guide to home care of those in the early and middle stages of progressive dementing illness. It defines dementia and suggests ways of coping with daily care issues, decisions about moving, depression, and mood disorders. The authors talk about issues concerning caregivers, financial arrangements, and nursing homes and alternative living arrangements.

If you have trouble locating books or other materials in the library, call Frances Drone-Silvers (398-1458), parish library coordinator. She will be pleased to help.

Help Wanted!

The Communications Committee needs 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).





September 1999

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 September 12.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5:00pm SVDP	2 7:30pm Building & Grounds Com	3 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	4
5	6 Labor Day 9:00am Mass & Breakfast 7:00pm Centering Prayer	7 7:00pm WATCH Board Mtg 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com	8 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Childrens Choir 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Personnel Com	9 7:00pm Baptism Prep 7:00pm Choir	10 10:30am Mass- Urbana NH 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	11
12 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders	13 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm Pro- Life	14 9:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Homily Prep	15 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm CREW Mission Board	16 7:00pm Parish Council 7:00pm Beginning Experience 7:00pm Choir	17 10:30am Mass- Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	18
19 Catechetical Sunday 1:00pm Parish Picnic at Crystal Lake Pk 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders	20 7:00pm Centering Prayer	21 9:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Liturgy Com	22 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir	23 7:00pm Choir	24 10:30am Mass- Manor Care 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	25
					WATCH	
26 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders	27 9:30am Archives Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer	28 9:00am Bible Study	29 10:30am Guild Mtg 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir	30 7:00pm Com- munications Com 7:00pm Choir		
WATCH						

SVDP=St Vincent de Paul NH=Nursing Home