

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



William H. Sutton opens the "Dialogue into the Millennium"

"Where do we come from?" "What are we?" "Where are we going?"

These are the questions that William H. Sutton will explore in his presentation on Feb. 4, drawing on the living example of spiritual attitudes manifested in the recent spectacular baseball season. He will trace the historical trends that have contributed to these attitudes and suggest where it is that we might be headed and what we could do to contribute to the community's choice of future directions.

Dr. Sutton earned his Ph.D. in history in 1993 from the University of Illinois and has taught at the University's Laboratory High School ("Uni High") since 1992, except for 1994-95, when he was Visiting Assistant Professor in the University's Department of History. He has published articles on labor history and working-class religion as well as a book (*Journeymen for Jesus: Evangelical Artisans Confront Capitalism in Jacksonian Baltimore*), which was awarded the Kenneth Scott Latourette Prize for Modern Religious History.

To start us off on our three-year "Dialogue into the Millennium," Dr. Sutton's choice of theme brings us immediately into the context of our place in history, our place in time.

Time fascinates us. It seems to be a demanding master that keeps us from what we'd like to do, or the space that we fill up with work. The approach of the new millennium causes us to face squarely the concept of time to see it as it is, God's time. More than ever, thoughts of the millennium remind us that God is making all things new. Life is never meant

to be a repetition of what has gone before; we are always in the process of being made anew, as we are reminded by God, the Potter in Jeremiah. But for what end? Ah, this is what the series sets out to explore.

The series is intended to foster community, improve interfaith communication, increase the application of intelligence and enthusiasm to the solution of social problems, familiarize local audiences with trends in thinking among recognized contemporaries, and inspire a courageous

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Lenten reflection

In nature the spring season is likened to new life, a new awakening. Over winter, the land lies dormant and trees remain barren as they prepare for new seeds and sprouting greenery, the signs of new life. We Christians also experience a tinge of dormancy between the activities of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Lent. (The word "Lent" is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word that means "spring.")

We can think of the Lenten Season as part of the continuous process of discovering new life here and now within the sinfulness and unhealthiness of our world and ourselves. Specifically, Lent is a time of conversion, a time of repentance and a change of heart and mind from alienation to a right relationship with God. Jim Wallis, in his book *The Call to Conversion*, states that "repentance turns us around from selfishness, darkness, idols, demons, any form of bondage, both private and public, and refocuses our direction toward a faith that sees the activity of Jesus and calls us to enter into that activity in order to give life to others."

Refocusing is significant. A refocus is basically a matter of attitude. Just as we can look upon a glass of water as half full or half empty, so too repentance can be openness to the process of conversion of mind and heart or an attitude and feeling of guilt for past sins. While both positive and negative aspects may be present since not mutually exclusive, the focus we take can determine how we will live out our Lent.

No doubt many of us will engage in penitential practices, like the famil-

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Fr. John Dietzen to lead Lenten retreat

A Lenten retreat will be offered at St. Patrick's on Saturday, Feb. 27. Led by Fr. John Dietzen, a retired priest from Peoria, the retreat will focus on our relationship to the Holy Trinity, how the Father's will comes into our lives, the truth of our lives—the meaning, value, uniqueness, importance of our lives.

The retreat will begin with Mass at 8:00 a.m., followed by a continental breakfast in the parish center, and close with prayer at 2:30 p.m. Participants can bring their own lunch or reserve a box lunch—watch the weekly parish bulletin for details.

Fr. Dietzen will give three presentations during the retreat. With each

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Larry Brunette nears ordination



Many parishioners will remember Larry Brunette, active locally for many years in Cursillo and TEC (Teens Encounter Christ). Larry has maintained a kind of correspondence with some through an illustrated newsletter, but many others may not realize that for Larry his boyhood dream, ordination to the priesthood, will become a reality on May 29.

It was no surprise to his friends when Larry Brunette announced, after the death of his wife, Barbara, his desire to become a priest. Following Christ had always been his life, and he and Barb had worked for 20 years in Cursillo and TEC, as well as the "encounter" program for prisoners known as REC (Residents Encounter Christ).

In his journey to priesthood, Larry re-



Welcome to new parishioners Erin Loughrey, Brent and Kathryn Martensen, Linda Donovan and Nick Navarre, Jason and Kim O'Connor.

Farewell to parishioners who have left C-U: Eric and Margaret Boder, Johanna and Richard Bradley, Steve and Susan Bunch, Cathy Corley, Elizabeth and Michael Erwin, Michael and Rita Herbert, Michael Hudson.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: Liam Edward Buchanan, Sophia Cherie Nelson, Matthew William Oldham, Katelyn Marie Kramer, Mary Ellen Wipfli, Hanna Noel Atwood.

Congratulations to Tammy Carol Corzine and William Edward Johnson, recently married at St. Patrick's.

Please pray for deceased parishioner Brenda Ann Manzano.

members that his bishop, Bishop Daniel Ryan of the Diocese of Springfield (Ill.), worked REC weekends with prisoners because he said that was where Jesus would be. Larry notes that in some 54 encounter weekends he never failed to see the miracle of conversion.

Larry left his career of 32 years in the computer business, retiring as vice president of a software firm in Champaign, to enter Pope John XXIII National Seminary in August 1995, six months after his wife's death. "Everything was falling into place," he said, "God closed one door only to open another."

He has enjoyed the seminary, particularly the exceptional friendship of others who have answered Christ's call. Larry will be remembered there, as he has been here, for promoting good will through his sense of humor—and for his enjoyment of New England with his classmates.

Larry is 52 years old in his fourth year at the seminary, a widower with three children: a daughter, Tammy (36), and two sons, Michael (29) and Steve (27). Tammy has given him a granddaughter (8), and Steve has given him a grandson (5 mos.). His home parish is Our Lady of Lourdes, Decatur, where he served for 12 years as a cantor and in many other activities. He looks forward to continuing in TEC ministry—perhaps being the first priest to direct a TEC weekend with a son (Steve) as lay director.

His ordination will be a special event to all who know him and his family. He writes: "I want you to know how much I have appreciated your support over the years, whether monetary or spiritual. I look forward with great anticipation to coming back home and beginning to serve the people of God."



Remembering those we love

A bereavement service will be held for families and friends to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the death of loved ones who died in the fall and winter of 1997-98. The service will take place in the multipurpose room of St. Patrick's parish center on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m. Afterward all are invited to join friends for refreshments.

RCIA

Chosen by God

For several months now, a group of men and women has been gathering weekly to learn about the Catholic faith and to consider whether they are called to accept it. At first, we called them inquirers. At the beginning of Advent they stated publicly before parishioners gathered for Mass that they hope to join the Catholic Church, and the faith community welcomed them as catechumens. Since then, members of St. Patrick's parish have been meeting with them to help them enter more deeply into the faith and a life of prayer.

At the beginning of Lent some or all of these men and women will take another step: they will enter their names in the Book of the Elect, and henceforth they will be known to us as "the elect."

The catechumens become the elect when they and their teachers, pastor, and sponsors agree that they are ready for Christian initiation. The Church "elects" them by choosing them as people of faith. The catechumens "elect" to become members of the Church. But, and most significantly, the elect are chosen by God, who is giving them the gift of faith.

Each of us has a role to play in the growth of the elect. Pray for their advancement in faith and knowledge, and welcome them warmly when you meet them. In this way we can all help to teach them about the love of God and the love of the Christian community.

Lord God, you created the human race and are the author of its renewal.

Bless all your adopted children, and add these chosen ones

to the harvest of your new covenant.

As true children of the promise,

may they rejoice in eternal life,

won, not by the power of nature,

but through the mystery of your grace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.



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

St. Scholastica a persistent sister to Benedict!

Saints sometimes run in families, as we see among the disciples of Jesus: Andrew and Peter, James and John. But due to the writings of St. Gregory the Great, Benedict and Scholastica may be the most famous saintly siblings of all.

Scholastica was the sister (possibly the twin) of Benedict. Like her brother, she dedicated her life to God at an early age. Benedict founded the abbey of Monte Cassino, in Italy, where he wrote a rule of life for monks. Scholastica also wanted to live under this rule; she established a convent at Plombariola, about five miles to the south.

Scholastica was a willing and wise collaborator in Benedict's work, and both are linked to the origins of Benedictine monasticism.



The most famous incident in their lives was told by St. Gregory. It seems that brother and sister allowed themselves one day a year to talk about God together. They would meet at a little house halfway between the convent and the abbey, since Scholastica could not enter Benedict's monastic cloister.

At what would be their last meeting, Benedict was preparing to leave even though his sister had urged him to stay the night to continue their talk. Scholastica prayed to God to prevent Benedict from leaving, and a storm of such force arose that it simply wasn't possible for him to set out. The two continued their conversation about God until morning.

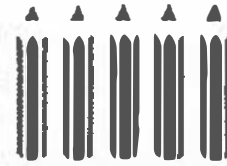
Three days later Scholastica died, and Benedict saw her soul departing in the guise of a dove. Brother and sister are buried together at Monte Cassino.

On Feb. 10 the entire Church celebrates Scholastica's saintly life and her entry to eternal life.

Help Wanted!

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).

Holy Cross newsline



Awards and Recognition. Andres Black won the Geography Bee on Dec. 18. Nick Donaldson was a finalist in the school's Spelling Bee (the final will take place during Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 31-Feb. 6).

First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Jan. 30, when St. Patrick's Bridget Fahy, Ian Tate, and Laura Welle will celebrate this sacrament. Congratulations!

Holy Cross students donated \$2000 during school Masses to Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict, Catholic Relief Victims of Hurricane Mitch, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the purchase of library books.

Reminder. As part of Holy Cross School's observance of Catholic Schools Week, an all-school Mass will be celebrated on Jan. 31 at 8:15 a.m. and an Open House is planned for Feb. 4, 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:45-2:15 p.m.

Auditions for the musical "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" will be held Jan. 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The sixth-grade Medieval Fair on Feb. 7 will begin at 7 p.m. in the school gym. Come to see the students dance, knights in armor fencing, and a display of medieval crafts, weapons, and castles, built by students. It promises a great time for the entire family!

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there will be times for prayer, discussion, and quiet reflection.

Former associate editor of *The Catholic Post*, Fr. Dietzen has led parish missions and retreats throughout the Diocese of Peoria. He will be well known to many parishioners for his popular "Question Box," a regular feature in the *Post* for several years. In this way Fr. Dietzen has clarified many teachings and practices of the Church for Catholics and non-Catholics alike, and he continues to do so by way of his book, *Catholic Life in a New Century: The New Question Box*, published in 1997 in a revised and updated edition.



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and thoughtful people. You are invited to become a part of this endeavor, important for the Church and for our community.



William H. Sutton

Many parishioners have worked to make this series a reality in celebration of St. Patrick's centennial, 1901-1903. Sr. Marie Golla was assisted by an ad hoc committee made up of Dwain Berggren, Barb Wysocki, Nick and Ann Britsky, Robert and Joyce Dodd, Lyle and Pat Fettig, Alice McLaughlin, Dave and Barbara Powell, Walter and Shirley Splittstoesser, Clarence and Fran Walton, and Mort and Ceil Weir.

Don't miss this opening of the "Dialogue" on Thursday, Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the main hall of the parish center. Dr. Sutton's presentation will be followed by two responses, one from the academic/professional community and one from the ecumenical community. The evening concludes with a reception. There is no admission charge.

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. Bylines are generally omitted.

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

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Ellen Amberg, Joanne Arie, Joyce Baird, Mary Lee Brady, Artha Chamberlain, Morene Christman, Frances Drone-Silvers, Tom F., Sr. Marie Golla, Tom Kacich, Lori McDonough, Alice McLaughlin, Mary Lou Menches, the Milewski family, Frank Modica, Lu Pillar, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Donna Smith, Elizabeth Talbot, Joe Tobias, Peggy Whelan, Sophia Zeigler. This issue was pagged by Andy Hunt



in our parish library

How do we change spiritually as we grow older? Although the process varies for each person, the following books in the parish library offer ideas and suggestions that many may find helpful in meeting changing spiritual needs.

Aging: The Fulfillment of Life, by Henri Nouwen and Walter J. Gaffney (170.2 Nou) The authors see aging as "the turning of the wheel, the gradual fulfillment of the life cycle." This book helps to understand and affirm aging as a "process of growth by which the mystery of life is slowly revealed to us." The authors view older persons as



Q: I remember celebrating Candlemas Day on Feb. 2, but I don't find it on the Church calendar. Doesn't the Church observe this feast anymore?

A: Candlemas is a feast with three names. On Feb. 2 the Church observes a feast that was once called Candlemas, for it was on that day that all candles to be used during the coming year were blessed. It was celebrated in Jerusalem as early as 386 with a torchlight procession and the singing of hymns. It was a vigil of expectation for the Lord who comes to meet his people with the light of salvation.

By the seventh century the feast had come to Rome, where its observance involved a candlelight procession. The use of candles is believed to have been introduced in about 450 in Jerusalem by a Roman matron named Ikalia; by the 18th century it was customary for dignitaries to present ornate candles to the Pope on this day.

The feast soon acquired a Marian character, perhaps because the procession in both East and West terminated at a church dedicated to Mary. Because it was observed 40 days after Christmas, following Luke's computation of the Jewish rite of the infant's presentation and the

teachers and see the later years as a source of hope.

How to Live Life to the Fullest: A Handbook for Seasoned Citizens, by Mary Lewis Coakley (305.2 C) Isn't the phrase "seasoned citizens" great? This book offers practical advice for making our "bonus" years both wholesome and holy. There are chapters on how retirement affects marriage, second careers, volunteering, widows and widowers, and more.

Wintergrace: Spirituality for the Later Years, by Kathleen Fischer (248 Fis) Fischer views spirituality as "the basis for transforming our individual and societal stereotypes of aging, providing both young and old with more positive images of old age. ... The losses which accompany the aging process can lead to freedom and new life. The later years take us into the heart of the Christian paradox of death/resurrection. It is in living the pattern of that mystery that people discover the graces of life's winter season and share them with us all."

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

parents' purification, it came to be known as the Feast of the Purification of Mary.

The calendar reform effected in the 1960s by Vatican II restored the focus of the day to its Christological character, renaming it the Presentation of the Lord.

So there you have it, a feast with three names: Candlemas Day, the Purification of Mary, and the Presentation of the Lord! And yes, we do still bless candles on this day!

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

Thanks from the Mental Health Center

We would like to thank parishioners of St. Patrick's Church and the St. Vincent de Paul Society for the generosity shown to clients of the Mental Health Center. Church parishioners and members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, with Mental Health Center staff, delivered more than 90 Thanksgiving food baskets to our clients.



Many of our clients are currently feeling the crunch and cutbacks in the financial entitlements they receive. These Thanksgiving food baskets helped to supplement their food supply and reduced some of their monthly expenses. We continue to receive very positive comments from our clients regarding the variety, the quantity, and the quality of the food they received.

Staff and clients are most appreciative of your time, efforts, and the organization it takes to carry out this yearly tradition. Thanks once again for being so thoughtful and considerate of our clients during the holiday season by providing them with this extra special gift.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Kessler, MSW, LCSW
Community Support Manager

Prayer for vocations



O Lord, we pray for those who have yet to realize their call to a life of ministry to you and your people. We pray that they will come to this realization and stand open-armed to your love.

We pray also for those who are already preaching your Word to your people. Give them strength and hope. Fill them with your love and peace. Help them help others. Show them love so that they can follow your example. Fill them with your light and Spirit so that, through them, we can grow closer to you. Amen.

Volunteers needed for "Meals on Wheels"

If a friend or family member has ever had hot



noontime meals delivered with a smile, or if you have provided this service yourself, then you know just how much it is appreciated. In C-U the Meals on Wheels program is administered by Telecare, and Church Women United provides volunteers for almost half the daily routes.

For two weeks of the year men, women, and young people from St. Patrick's deliver meals on three routes. In 1999 volunteers will be needed from St. Patrick's parish Feb. 16-19 and again July 26-30.

Each day six volunteers are needed in addition to the two who are willing to substitute for them if necessary. Working in pairs, they pick up the meals at the Illini Union at 10:30 a.m. These are on a cart in insulated containers along with a notebook of the route and precise directions for finding each address. Usually the route is completed and containers returned to the Illini Union by 12:30.

Some volunteers, like Marilyn Taylor and Meg Grady, work the full week; others offer their services for a day or two. Last summer two families made this a parent-teen project. Many retired couples have been generous with their time, but individuals have signed up without a partner and made new friends in the parish.

The time commitment is really minimal, but the gratitude of the recipients assure volunteers of wise use of those hours. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call Elizabeth Talbot (351-6039).

"Lord, we are
sorry. Forgive us."



On Jan. 30 three youngsters from St. Patrick's celebrated their First Reconciliation with other students from Holy Cross School. Congratulations to Bridget Fahey, Ian Tate, and Laura Welle from their parish family. You are in our hearts and in our prayers.

Our Lady of Lourdes draws pilgrims

A group from St. Patrick's will pack their rosaries and sturdy shoes and undertake a journey to Lourdes, France, on May 4-11. Those known at publication date include Margaret Brown, Mary Corcoran, Margaret Larson Everett, Mary Fonner, Pat Gallagher, Sr. Marie Golla, Carol Haas, Rosemary Johnson, Lyman Larson, Fr. Tim Nolan, Eileen Placek, Walter and Shirley Splitstoesser, Catherine Watson, and (possibly) Peggy Whelan.

Lourdes is familiar to anyone who has read *The Song of Bernadette* or seen the movie. A Lady in a white dress with a blue sash appeared to a 14-year-old peasant girl. They prayed the rosary together during most of the Lady's 18 visits.

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iar deprivations, for forty days. Sometimes, however, these "giving ups" can become self-serving and ends in themselves. A more positive focus would be to accept the invitation to enter into Jesus's activity. When we prayerfully read scripture, reflecting on the life of Jesus, it is quite remarkable what we hear in ways to practice justice and peace with and among others here and now.

Matthew (chapter 25) summons us to find ways to respond to the least of God's people. Like Jesus, can we accept lovingly the events and people that life offers us, without expecting that our criteria for acceptance be met? How often Jesus reminded us that his words and actions were to make his Father known. What one activity can we engage in that will witness God among us?

Lent, which opens this year on Feb. 17, Ash Wednesday, can truly be a "spring," a new awakening, a process of conversion for us. It bids us to tear down barriers and make use of our gifts as individuals and as a community, so that Easter can be a reawakening to deeper relationship with God, self, and others.

The Lady caused a spring to appear suddenly, the waters of which still flow and are believed to have miraculous healing powers. In her final visit the Lady identified herself by saying, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Bernadette eventually became a religious and, on Dec. 8, 1933, a saint.

Not all pilgrims in literature and history have been holy, however, and few if any of those making the journey this year would claim sanctity. Most would more readily claim anxieties and doubts: Will the food be suitable? How will I communicate if I can't speak French? How warm will it be in France in May? Will I need new or special clothes? Perhaps even: How firm the mattress, how soft the pillow?

Tour leader Sr. Marie Golla has made the pilgrimage to Lourdes many times and has planned this journey with care and economy. The travelers' first activity on arrival will be a nap. They will enjoy a comfortable hotel, three plentiful meals a day, free time, a cable-car trip over the mountains to Gavarnie—and all those spiritual events so eagerly awaited: the Eucharistic Benediction of the Sick, the torchlight processions to the grotto where Mary appeared to Bernadette, the Baths in Lourdes water, the life-sized Stations of the Cross.

Lourdes is full of wonders. It is said that grace builds on nature, so each pilgrim may expect that the thrills of the journey will help to make it holy.

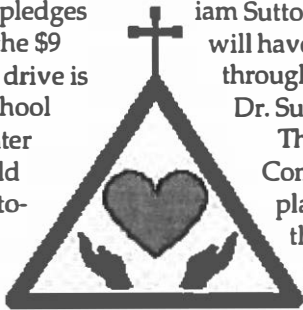
Healing the Wounds

The sixth informational flyer for "Healing the Wounds" (Project Rachel) reveals how legal abortion affects not only the mother, but the father, grandparents, siblings, friends, and even abortion providers. Please read and share the flyer with others and continue praying daily for the spiritual and psychological healing of women and men wounded by abortion.

Parish Council News

At their January meeting Fr. Remm brought Council members up-to-date on the status of the new Catholic high school: As of Jan. 8, gifts and pledges totaled about \$5.4 million of the \$9 million needed, although the drive is still in the large-gift phase. School colors have been chosen: hunter green and burgundy with gold stripes. Fr. Hallin is working toward a conference affiliation for an athletics program. Meanwhile, the groundbreaking ceremony is set for 1 p.m. on Mar. 24, and three open parish meetings have been scheduled to present information to parishioners: 6:15 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30; 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 31; and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 2.

The Vocations Committee, chaired by Joe Tobias, will be a standing committee of the Council and as such will be assigned a liaison from the Council. Parish-



ioners who have expressed interest will be contacted, and invitations will be extended to others. At its formation meeting the group will decide on meeting times, activities, and other procedural matters.

The Millennium lecture series will get underway at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 4, with William Sutton's presentation. The series will have gained local recognition through WILL-AM's interview of Dr. Sutton on Tuesday, Jan. 26.

The Building and Grounds Committee has received complaints that the glass doors to the parish center and the church are very heavy and hard to open. The cost for doors that open automatically in response to a push button would exceed \$6000 for the parish center alone. Committee members will look into other possibilities with a view to security issues and will contact the University's Rehab Center for suggestions.

It's time once again to establish the ad hoc Council Election Committee. Outgoing president Cindy Kelly, ex-officio member, and Frank Modica will rep-

resent the Council; three others will be sought from the parish.

The next Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Feb. 18; all parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings. More complete information about issues discussed at Council meetings is given in minutes of the meetings. These are posted in the church vestibule and on the bulletin board in the office wing of the parish center.

In gratitude

Jim and I and the entire Arie family want to thank our "St. Patrick's family" for all your prayers during Jim's illness. We had news on Dec. 23 that his tumor has shrunk by fifty percent.

We are grateful for your prayers and concern, and ask for your continued support as Jim undergoes treatment.

We wish you all a Blessed New Year!

—Joanne Arie

Who is looking after Dad?



My dad used to say that there were only two things we can be sure of in this life, death and taxes.

I was touched by the sharing of another parishioner on a death in the family, and I'd like to share a true story from my own family.

Four years ago, our daughter was going to have a baby, her second child. At three months, however, she had a miscarriage. The family gathered 'round, offering love and support. In the midst of all this, my granddaughter, who was just seven, asked, "Who will watch over the baby?" Chelsea understood about heaven, but she needed something personal, some connection that would reassure her that the baby was being cared for.

A short time later my dad died. Once again the family gathered. My daughter said that Chelsea had told

her there was nothing to worry about, that her grandpa was there to watch over the baby. So everything was okay.

My daughter became pregnant again, this time with twins. One died, and my daughter had to have a lot of bed rest to protect the remaining baby. Once again Chelsea was concerned—now there were two babies for her grandpa to watch over. How could he do that and fish? (Dad's idea of heaven was to fish for all eternity.)

When our family dog of 13 years died, Chelsea had her answer. Jitters loved children, so Jitters would watch over the two babies when Grandpa wanted to fish.

As I thought about Chelsea and her questions, I realized that her need for something personal was what I myself was experiencing. Who indeed would watch over the baby—or the mother or father or friend or pet? When a child leaves for college, who will be there to help? Who will bandage their cuts, kiss away their tears? When we can't be there, we hurt and worry and pray that someone will be there in our place.

When someone dies, sometimes our grief comes down to wanting to know that someone is caring for those we love. Chelsea found her answer in permitting my dad and a beloved pet to have a part in heavenly matters. Like her, I feel at ease knowing that my father has a dog that loves him and two babies to watch over. Dad would like that. But my grief is also eased in the certainty that One who loves Dad even more than I do, and loves me too, is looking after us both. God, our Father, will see that everything is okay.

I do hope that Dad saves me a place at his fishing pond. I'd like that, even though I still can't get a worm on a hook.

Tom F.

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 Chuck, Cheryl, Felicia, and Christine Milewski

An Evangelization Minute

Evangelization includes not only witnessing to the world, the Church, and our acquaintances, but also witnessing to our own *family*. The Holy Family has always been an important model for the Church; our faith is founded in and nurtured by our own families.

Family is where we first learn to have *fun*. Fun means having a good time together. When my family plays games, goes camping or fishing together, I always feel happy inside and close to them. I thank God every night in my prayers that he has given me a family who loves me.

A family is for *always*. My family is always going to be there for me, just as God is always there for us. When I need help with homework, when I'm happy or sad, I always know that my family will be there for me.

Family brings visions of sharing *meal-*

The Urbana Knights of Columbus will again sponsor six Lenten fish fries, beginning Friday, Feb. 19. The menu will include North Atlantic cod, french fries, cole slaw, and a beverage. Canned soft drinks and desserts are extra.

The fish fries will be held in the main hall of St. Patrick's parish center. Serving begins at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 7 p.m.—or when they run out of fish.

Fish fries are planned for Feb. 19 and 26, and Mar. 5, 12, 19, and 26 (no fish fry on Good Friday, Apr. 2). Ticket prices are \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens (60 years and older), and \$2 for children under 12.

Proceeds from the fish fries support a number of parish and community projects.



times. We try very hard to sit down together each day for our evening meal and to start the meal with prayer. At that time we share the day's events and experiences. It is one very special time to grow closer together.

A family shows genuine *interest* in each other. We need continually to ask ourselves whether we are truly listening to each other and caring what the other person needs. As Felicia gets into her teen years, I find it very hard to adjust my parenting of her to be more understanding of her attempts to establish her independence. One of my prayers is that I will handle each situation correctly and allow her to learn by her mistakes.

Christ's message to the world was *love*. What is one of the first images that comes to mind when you think of a family? It is the love they have for each other. Even though our own family's life includes disagreements, rude comments, and hurtful times, we do ultimately know that we love each other just as our God forgives and loves us in spite of what we do.

Yahweh needs to be the center of the family. The name "Yahweh" declares that God is completely faithful and will never change. Yahweh is there for each generation of a family in the scriptures. The values we live out come from the Word of God. One of the most important responsibilities of the family is to pass down through each generation the personal knowledge and acceptance of God. There is no greater evangelization than the evangelization of our own family.

1999: The International Year of Older Persons

Designating 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons, the United Nations seeks to honor seniors, to urge respect for their rights, and to raise awareness of their needs, particular issues related to seniors, and their contributions.

During 1999 the U.N. will sponsor conferences and other events to mark the celebration on the theme "A Society for All Ages." The theme reminds us that people are important because of their innate human dignity. The world gives many opposing messages, that people are important for what they can do, for what they have, for how they look, for wealth, for fame, for power, for youth. The gospel message is different.

What can we do? Well, we can tell people about the U.N.'s Year of Older Persons. If there is a local event celebrating this Year, we can publicize it and plan to attend it. We can ask for a prayer service or special liturgy on this theme in our own churches. We can support legislation respecting human rights, especially those of older persons.

We can work to build a society where all people have a voice, where all can participate. Older persons have much to say. They have much wisdom and experience to share. They are a reflection of our past, a reminder of our present, and a vision of our future.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Donna Smith

Apple Coffee Cake

4 c chopped apples	2 t soda
2 c sugar	2 t cinnamon
2 c flour	2 eggs, beaten
1/2 t salt	

Blend sugar into apples and let stand 15 minutes. Add dry ingredients and beaten eggs. Stir well and put into greased 9 x 13 inch baking pan. Bake 40 minutes at 375 degrees.

This recipe can be cut in half and baked in an 8 x 8 inch pan for 25-30 minutes at 375 degrees.





February, 1999

St. Patrick's Parish, Urbana

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Education 7:00pm Pro-Life	9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Moms Group 8:30-10:00am Parish Nurses 7:00pm High School Presentation 7:00pm financial Affairs	5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Children's RelEd, St. Pat's 6:30pm Children's RelEd, St. Joe 7:00pm Over 21 Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA	7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Building and Grounds 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Dialogue into the Millennium	10:45am Mass Champaign Cnty NH	
	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:00am RCIA 9:00 & 11:00am Religious Ed 10:15 Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Bible Study	7:00pm Centering Prayer	8:30-10:00am Parish Nurses 9:00am Bible Study 7:30pm Parish Council Exec. Com	9:30am Schola 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Children's RelEd, St. Pat's 6:30pm Children's RelEd, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Mem Prayer Serv 7:00pm RCIA 7:30pm Over 21 Bible S	7:00pm Baptism Prep 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	10:45am Mass Champaign Cnty NH	Ladies Knight Out
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:30am RCIA 9:00 & 11:00am Religious Ed 10:15 Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm Jr High Youth Grp	7:00pm Centering Prayer	8:30-10:00am Parish Nurses 9:30am Moms Group 9:00am Bible Study	5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Children's RelEd, St. Pat's 6:30pm Children's RelEd, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Over 21 Bible Study ASH Wednesday	7:00pm Parish Council 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	10:45am Mass Champaign Cnty NH Knights of Columbus Fish Fry	8:30am-12:30 Cursillo
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00am RCIA 9:00 & 11:00am Religious Ed 10:15 Children's Liturgy 10:15 Kof C 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm JrSr High Youth Grp	6:30 Liturgy Com 7:30am Archives 7:00pm Centering Prayer	8:30-10:00am Parish Nurses 9:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Homily Prep	9:00am Schola 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 7:30pm Over 21 Bible S	7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Communication Com	10:45am Mass Champaign Cnty NH Knights of Columbus Fish Fry	Lenten Retreat All Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
7:30am RCIA 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm JrSr High Youth Grp 10:30am Parents of Holy Cross Students	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <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 is February 14, 1999.</p> </div>					
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SVDP- St. Vincent DePaul
Rel Ed- Religious Education
Kof C- Knights of Columbus