

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



*Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in
your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.*

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.



All I REALLY want for Christmas is . . .

By Carol Bosley

One night this past week at a family gathering, our 6-year old niece, Brittany, asked if she could sing the song to us that her first-grade class had been practicing for the school's Christmas program. Since Brittany is a shy little girl, we were thrilled that she wanted to perform for us. She immediately went into a rendition of, "All I want for Christmas are my two front teeth," as she showed a mouth of many gaping holes! It was as if the song had been written for her!

So what do *you* want for Christmas this year? Parishioners were asked to respond to the following question: "What three things would you like to receive for Christmas?"

Okay, can we talk? Let's put a given on the table. If you received a questionnaire at your church asking you

what you wanted for Christmas, chances are you would have "peace and love throughout the world and justice for all humankind" on your list! (Come on, *Father Remm* might read it!) So, with that as a given, let's now talk about what we REALLY want for Christmas this year. The answers often speak to where we are in our life as we celebrate Christmas 1998.

Leslie Risatti, parish secretary, would like jobs for her graduating daughters, one from undergraduate school and one from law school in May. Cindy Shaw has a computer with Internet hook-up on her Christmas list. Fortunately, Cindy has a father who can do most anything when it comes to electricity. Hey, you have to plug in the computer, don't you! (My husband just informed me there's a big difference between working with electricity and working with electronics—whatever.) The way I see it, Cindy, you can cross that gift off your list—your father will take care of it!

Ellen Amberg wants a mailbox full of Christmas cards instead of Christmas bills. It's a nice thought, but don't count on it! And some of the children you are teaching have items on their Christmas list that will bring some bills into their parents' mailboxes. One little boy wants a basketball, games for Nintendo 64, and happiness. When asked "If you could have only one of these, which would you REALLY want," he answered happiness. Let's hope Santa doesn't deliver only on honesty! Another little boy said he wanted a color game boy, computer games, and happiness. When he was

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).

continued on page 6

"Turkey Day" a special one for 210 families

This year's St. Vincent de Paul's "Thanksgiving Event" was very successful, from beginning to end. Parishioners (148 of us) donated \$4515 to feed the hungry (210 families) this Thanksgiving. Four others donated large turkeys, which were delivered to large families.

Kay Gingerich, from the Mental Health Center, supplied 96 names of clients who were in great need and look forward to getting a food basket from the parish. Health Center staffers helped by delivering food baskets personally to 73 of them. All send their thanks to St. Patrick's.

Family Service, "First Call for Help," supplied the names of 30 families in



need, to whom food baskets were delivered.

SVDP members from Holy Cross helped too. They are always happy to fill their vehicles with Thanksgiving food baskets, even Tom Shay, senior member at 85+ years of age!

From St. Patrick's, 18 parishioners made sure that all other food baskets had been delivered by noon on Tuesday.

"Thanks to everybody who helped!" said Sophia Zeigler, president of the local chapter—thanks to all those who delivered the food baskets, but thanks also to the men who ordered and picked up 200 pumpkin pies from Kmart, to the couple who drove to Arthur (Ill.) for the 200 dozen eggs, to the 36 parishioners who met in the parish center on Sunday afternoon to arrange all the foods on tables (3200 items, in all!), to the 35 junior- and senior-high students and their catechists and the 16 base community members who helped make up the food baskets, and to the two who readied the 200 baskets for filling.

Each food basket contained ham, stuffing, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, apple sauce, carrots, green beans, corn, Jello, Raisin Bran, coffee, soup, dinner rolls, sweet rolls, cookies, eggs, and pumpkin pie.

"Feed the hungry, we hear from the altar, and you came through," Sophia said. "Fr. Remun remarked that St. Patrick's members are very generous, and we certainly agree! I know I haven't mentioned everyone who was involved—308 in all!—but I'd have missed a lot of names. Thank you, each and every one of you. Thank you!"

Parish groups to study the Psalms

The energy and intense emotion of the Psalms can inflame hearts to greater praise or an expression of honest feelings before God. Through a ten-week Bible study of the Psalms (beginning the week of Jan. 10) you are invited to discover what a great God we have, a God whose love for us is limitless. Participants will also explore the connections between Old and New Testaments.



Two coming events you won't want to miss!

The parish's *Lenten Retreat*, on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., will be presented by Fr. John Dietzen, retired priest from Peoria. He will lead St. Patrick's faith community in a retreat centering on "God the Father," this year's evangelism theme. Fr. Dietzen will focus on the Father's great love for us, the gift of life, and living out the truth of our life with the Father.

Box lunches will be available for a small fee, or participants may bring their own lunch. Watch for more information in the weekly bulletin in early February.

...

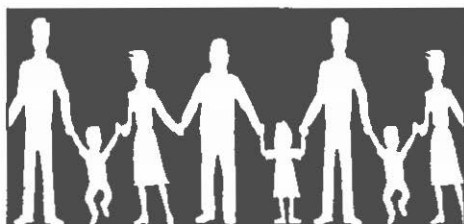
Plan to join people of all ages at a parish-wide *dinner theater* on Saturday evening, Apr. 17. After dinner, the "Good News" will be presented in a fun and reverent performance by entertainer Tom Sparough, "The Space Painter." Tom is a juggler, storyteller, and comedian who involves the audience as he tells stories from scripture, which he illustrates through juggling and plenty of action. Some of St. Patrick's own parish talent will be highlighted also.

"Kids" from 1 to 100 will thoroughly enjoy the entertainment, and the dinner will be a wonderful way to build community among those who have gathered to share a meal and celebrate Spring! Watch for more information in the New Year.

You will enjoy the comfortable atmosphere, faith sharing, and spiritually renewing small-group format. There are many days and times to choose from. If you'd like to get some friends together to study God's Word, the leaders

will help you to form a new group. Leadership training and support are part of the Leaders Bible Study Group that meets on Sunday evenings.

Please call Mary Long (328-2989), Margy Palmisano (367-5510), or Elenor Rentschler (359-8873) for more information or to sign up.



Welcome to new parishioners David and Dawn Buchanan, Huong and Phuc Bui, John and Mary Collins, Hermie and Lou Fernandez, Camille Goudeseune, Rebecca and Richard Roeper Hansen, Bill Heffernan, Veronica McCann, Debbie and Kevin McGuire, Janina Perez, Delia Roman.

Farewell to parishioners who have left C-U: James Kouzamanoff, Maureen and Michael Weier.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: Bailee Bui, Claire Marie Cowser, Michael Jacob Rajlich, Sarah Grace Reardon, Meghan Danielle Reiter, Nolan Andrew McGuire, Rachael Marie Meyer, Courtney Le, Lyndsay Renne McArthur, Anwyn Adele Payonk.

Congratulations to Holly Jeannette Hardenbrook and Richard Michael Wyninger, recently married at St. Patrick's.

Please pray for deceased parishioner Mary T. D'Amato.

*"Lord, we are sorry.
Forgive us."*

On Dec. 1, 38 youngsters from St. Patrick's were welcomed to the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time:



Timothy Anderson, Christopher Berg, Maggie Bergan, Andrea Betenia, Sophie Bui, Hai An Bui, Duat Dac Bui, Samantha Caragher;

Hillary Casey, Jacob Cocagne, Zachary Cocagne, Sarah Cylkowski, Mary Danner, Jordan Dimit, Ashleigh Ducey, Hermieleen Fernandez;

Michael Fitzgerald, Peter Floess, Aaron Helregel, Erich Kerby, Evan Kersey, Patrick Keane, Andrew Koch, Anne Machesky;

Alexander Mouschovias, Khai Nguyen, Hannah Noonan, Collin Price, Katie Reinhart, Jeremy Towns, Paige Whippo, Dominique Youakim.

In a service that included singing, a reading from the Gospel of Matthew, prayers of petition, an examination of conscience, and an act of contrition, children were joined by family and friends. Afterward all were invited to the parish hall to continue the celebration with a pizza party.

Fr. George Remm and Fr. Gene Kane were assisted by Fr. John Horton, Fr. Richard Mullen, and Fr. George Wuellner. Sr. Lori Kirchman, music director, provided music for the sacramental celebration, and catechists Linda Bowers, Anne Pierce, Mary Tierney, and Tracey Wszalek helped prepare the children for First Reconciliation. Liz Amberg, Amanda Heater, and Jean Tierney provided child care.

Congratulations to all First Reconciliation children, and to their parents and catechists who helped to prepare them for this sacrament, with special thanks from Ellen Amberg, children's program coordinator, to all who helped in any way to make this experience richly meaningful for the children.

Happy New Millennium!

The Church has known instinctively that the highest title she could bestow was "pontiff"—"builder of bridges." It is in this spirit, to honor this spirit, and to extend the influence of this spirit, that the lectures series "Dialogue into the Millennium" has been planned. The series is intended to foster interaction among those who love, and who love to think about, God, emphasizing not the different ways in which we worship but the common ground. It is this ground on which all must stand as communities of faith in order to address meaningfully the problems that face our culture and our world.

The series has been planned specifically to draw and reward with new insights adult students and practitioners of "mainstream faiths": Jewish, Protestant, Catholic.

Designed to punctuate the coming three years leading to and celebrating St. Patrick's Parish centennial, each unit in the 11-unit series will feature a talk by a person whose thinking has been widely recognized as helpful, cogent, inspiring. Most of the speakers are nationally recognized as such, some internationally.

For instance, have you ever thought of study as a form of prayer? Those who know the phrase *lectio divina* have. So has Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, one of the speakers:

Healing the Wounds

The fifth flyer for "Healing the Wounds" (Project Rachel) challenges the assumption that legal abortion advances the cause of women's rights and reveals how legal abortion has actually undermined the social and economic advancement of women.

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.



Reading, reflecting, studying for Jews may be the primary religious act. ... It is not uncommon, during a prayer service, to find a few people in the back of the room studying. Study is a meditative and transformative act. ...

Every word [in the biblical text] ... is an entryway to meaning. Through allusion, association, imagination, secret, mystical tradition, we are ultimately led to ... every other biblical word—or, to borrow an image from the Internet, hypertext. (From *Eyes Remade for Wonder: A Lawrence Kushner Reader*, 1998)

To initiate and somewhat formalize the dialogue aspect of the series, the main speaker's presentation of approximately 45 minutes will be followed by two ten-minute responses, one given by a person chosen from the academic community at the UI or at Parkland, the other given by an ordained minister.

Plan now to support with your prayers and your presence this series of opportunities to hear some of the leading thinkers of our time, to move toward a happy new millennium.



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); Artha Chamberlain, 344-6645; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701 (mmenches@uiuc.edu); Frank Modica, 367-4133 (modicafr@knight.cmi.kl2.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, Marlene Shiraki.

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Carol Bosley, Joan Causeman, Judy Conover, Frances Drone-Silvers, Sr. Marie Golla, Fr. Gene Kane, Mary Long, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Lu Pillar, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Elizabeth Talbot, Joe Tobias, Pat W., Sophia Zeigler. This issue was paged by Andrew Hunt.



in our parish library

"The major religions of the world urge us to have love for one another by following the Golden Rule, but love implies acceptance. We cannot truly rise to love unless, and until, we strive to understand and accept one another," says John Catoir. Our parish library has a number of books that can help us understand the beliefs, practices, and customs of other faiths. Among them are the following (call numbers are given in parentheses to help you find the books).

World Religions: Beliefs behind Today's Headlines, by John Catoir. In plain language Catoir provides the history and beliefs of Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Taoism, and Shintoism. Very interesting to read is the section that gives variations on the Golden Rule in

each of these faiths. (265 Cat)

Religions of the World, by John A. Harden. 2 vols. Harden says there is a "universal instinct to know all we can about our fellow men in order to better know ourselves.: In vol. 1 he covers primitive religions, Judaism, and Eastern religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Shintoism. In vol. 2 he discusses Roman Catholicism, Islam, Protestantism, and Eastern Orthodoxy. (290 Har)

World Religions, by F. G. Herod. If you want *very* short and easy-to-read overviews of the major religions, try this book. It focuses on what the major religions have in common. (290 Her)

Basic Judaism, by Milton Steinberg. Rabbi Steinberg covers the beliefs, ideals, and practices that make up the Jewish faith. Written for Jews and non-

Jews, this book tells about the Torah, God, Israel, and Jewish law. (296.3 Ste)
The Bible in the Churches: How Different Christians Interpret the Scriptures, by Kenneth Hagen et al. This book gives the history of scripture in the Church and provides Catholic, Evangelical, and Lutheran interpretations of the Bible. (220.6 Hag)

Looking for briefer information? Try *The New Catholic Encyclopedia* for short articles on various faiths (REF 203 New) or any of these pamphlets published by the Claretians: "The Baptists," "The Episcopalians," "The Lutherans," "The Methodists," "The Presbyterians," "The Unitarian Universalists," and "What Is Christian Science" (all shelved under the call number 280 Wha).

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 please to help.



Q: What is the greatest problem in the ecumenical movement today?

A: I don't know for certain. You need a theologian and 3000+ words to answer that. But my personal conjecture follows.

In Chicago at Old St. Patrick's Parish, on the near west side of the city, there are more and more mixed marriages between Catholics and Jews. They've formed an educational and social group that meets monthly over Sunday coffee. They now call themselves "The Cashews." That's true ecumenical spirit!

On the other hand, in a mission town I once served, there were six churches, one of them Catholic. One denomination would not meet for any reason with the rest of us; another attempted to lead, to dominate the whole group; the Lutheran pastor and his wife invited me for dinner every other Wednesday; and a medical doctor was sent to represent his congregation at all meetings. Difficult ecumenism!~

My own answer to the question, put succinctly, is: the *complications* of

the problems connected with the effort to reach Church unity.

These complications are at several levels and have many branches. There are, first of all, *theological grounds that must be reached*, even after 40+ years of trying. Then there are problems of a *pastoral nature* (congregation to congregation), *political* (who is the true authority, etc.), *complexity of groups* (Catholics, Protestants, Evangelicals, Orthodox, and the 100+ denominations found in any city). Approximately 25,000 Christian denominations are listed in the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, and there could actually be twice that estimated number; with each one there are rites, traditions, ecclesial hierarchies, structures, etc., that must be handled, passed through, freed (or whatever) in the effort to reach common ground and joint works. And all of that is frequently fought with inborn antagonisms, need-to controllers, common pettiness, blamers, haters. Even within the Catholic Church there are many rites that must be dealt with: Coptic, Malakite, Maronite, etc.

These complications are what make so important the new declaration +

government of Northern Ireland, the Catholic-Lutheran dialogs, development of agreed-upon creedal statements, the strong desire and hope of John Paul II for an ecumenical meeting with other religious leaders in celebration of the millennium, and the meetings of local religious leaders of different churches.

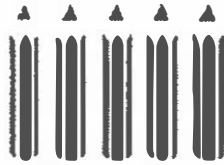
As the Church Unity Octave (Jan. 18-25) draws near, I am reminded of Church life in the last fifty years: (1) the efforts of the Graymoor Fathers, with the Unity Octave and their prayer movement, (2) the document on ecumenism from Vatican II, and (3) the problem of inter-communion brought to both Catholic and non-Catholic congregations; "we want to receive communion at your wedding" exemplifies the practicality of the problem.

Christian unity is truly an intention to be prayed for, worked for; it was Christ's prayer, that we may be one in him.

G. K.

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

Holy Cross newsline



Announcements: A memorial Mass will be celebrated on Dec. 18 at 1:15 p.m. for Peggy Valentine, former secretary at Holy Cross School for many years.

The Christmas concert presented by children in grades K-5 will take place at 2 p.m. on Dec. 13 in the gym.

The Christmas break begins Dec. 18; school resumes Jan. 4.

In observance of Catholic School Week, Holy Cross School will hold an Open House on Feb. 4, 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-2:15 p.m. An opportunity for anyone who wishes to visit classrooms or obtain information about the school.

Prayers: Please continue to keep Ms. Beiser in your prayers. Cards for her can be sent to Holy Cross School or to Clark-Lindsey Village.

Prayers for Sr. Kathleen resulted in successful surgery. She is already back at school full-time!

Parents interested in praying the rosary together will gather in the school cafeteria every Wednesday at 1:45 p.m. All are welcome.

Donations needed: Service opportunities are a part of Advent at Holy Cross School. Each class is donating time, proceeds, or articles to community agencies that include the following: Humane Soci-

ety, Center for Women in Transition, Crisis Nursery, Mittens for Children, St. Jude Catholic Worker House, Roundhouse, Parish Peace and Justice Committee, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and local shelters. Anyone who wishes to make a donation is asked to contact the school office. Best of luck to each class, with appreciation for undertaking something that will make a difference for others!

Sr. Kathleen has asked for donations to make possible the purchase of small cafeteria tables for kindergartners. Donations should be sent to the school office.

Congratulations: Congratulations to all 88 students in grades 5-8 who qualified for the first-quarter Honor Roll!

Sales for the Magazine Drive totaled \$50,000, with net proceeds of \$20,000 going to Holy Cross School. Congratulations to the students who made this possible!

What is a dynamic vocations ministry?

"We need to promote a culture of vocations in every diocese and religious community," said Bishop Robert Carlson of Sioux Falls (S.D.) at the National Symposium on Vocations sponsored June 20-21 in Pittsburgh by the U.S. Bishops Committee on Vocations.

Carlson focused on four elements of a dynamic vocation ministry. In addition to promoting a culture of vocations, he said that "vocations to the priesthood need more than a vocation director; the bishop is key to a successful vocation ministry; and we need to form partnerships with lay ministry and develop a new vocations network."

The bishop observed: "I am amazed at the large number of young people I have met who have never been exposed to the whole idea of vocation, whether it is holiness, the vocation of each Christian, or the plurality of vocations at the service of the Church."

He added, "In meetings with thousands of lay leaders, priests, and religious, I was amazed how many

Prayer for vocations



Lord of the harvest,
your Word finds a home
in our hearts,
calls us into community,
invites us to generous service
of the human family.
Bless with courage and spirit
your priestly people,
called to full participation
in the one Body of Christ.
May many choose to respond
in public service
to your call
offered in Jesus's name.

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin

still fail to realize that there is a vocation shortage or that they need to play a significant active role in addressing the situation."

What is a "culture of vocations"? According to Bishop Carlson, it means that we need to be the ones asking, seeking, knocking, and inviting young people to consider vocations. It means offering opportunities for service; young people, he says, are looking for leadership options and searching for honest meaning in their lives, and we need to provide those options. It calls for biblical catechesis that can help us to understand better the style and characteristics of God's call to men and women of every age. And it encompasses the ecclesial dimension—all in the Church encourage vocations.

People should be invited, urged, to pray for vocations, to encourage vocations, to ask, to invite.

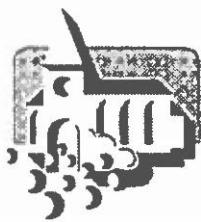
The St. Patrick's Vocations Committee urges St. Patrick's parishioners to encourage vocations in all of these ways.

The full text of Bishop Carlson's address may be obtained on request from St. Patrick's Vocations Committee.

Help Wanted!

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.

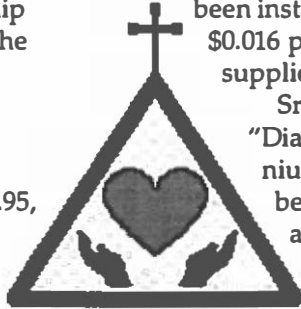
Parish Council News

At their November meeting Council members received a report on the status of St. Patrick's pledges for the diocesan Annual Stewardship Appeal: to date, \$64,871 of the \$82,890 has been received.

The St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation has received \$280,822.69; with investment gains of \$28,861.95, the Foundation's balance now exceeds \$300,000.

The 22 families who came to the Newcomers Welcome event (125 invitations were mailed) expressed appreciation for the special welcome extended at the Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast.

Council members approved the motion, tabled from the October meeting, for the purchase of revised Worship III hymnals. Proceeds from the Guild's Christmas auction will



augment donations from parishioners through envelopes provided in the church for this purpose. Parishioners who give at least \$13 will be invited to take one of the current hymnals home for personal use when the new hymnals arrive.

The new copy machine (\$6610) has been installed; operating costs, \$0.016 per copy, include copier supplies.

Sr. Marie Golla outlined the "Dialogue into the Millennium" lecture series that will be held between Feb. 1999 and Feb. 2001 in observance of the parish's centennial.

A \$10,000 grant from the Illinois Humanities Council has been received, and corporate sponsors are being sought (\$1000 minimum donation). There are presently 11 lectures in the series, to which members of all area churches will be invited.

Members rejected a proposal to hold a parish open house in the fall in conjunction with the Time and Talent stewardship campaign. They made

I believe God understands



When I was growing up, there was a beautiful stand of elm trees behind our house. I used to spend time sitting under these trees watching the light and singing to God. (I was in the church choir at the time, so I was singing Gregorian chant, of all things!)

When I was ten years old, the first of these trees died from Dutch Elm Disease, and a family friend told me they would all be dead in one or two years. I had nightmares about this—I'd be looking out my bedroom window and see them all dead and brown, and I'd wake up crying.

In those pre-Vatican II days, some sister had given out holy cards with the "Unfailing Prayer to St. Anthony" that was to be followed by 13 Our Fathers, Hail Marys, and Glory Be's. I said that prayer nightly for those trees from the time I was ten until I

was 19 and left home to enter religious life. They died after I stopped praying. (Reforestation of the area with saplings was what led my little brother, when he was ten, to become interested in his eventual profession of forestry.)

This is a long personal anecdote to explain why I never discount any kind of prayer. In fact, somewhat to my private embarrassment, I still use such prayers when confronted by a situation I care a lot about and feel helpless to do anything else about. I believe God understands, whatever vehicle we use to appeal for help or to draw close in love and with a grateful heart.

Pat W.

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.

plans for the party following their December meeting and decided to move their annual Epiphany celebration to Jan. 16.

For parishioners who want more complete information about issues discussed at Council meetings, minutes are posted in the church vestibule and on the bulletin board in the office wing of the parish center. The next Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Jan. 21; all parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings.

News from the December meeting will appear in the next issue of *In Focus*.

continued from page 1

asked what he REALLY wanted, he said a color game boy. This kid racks up a lot of points for honesty.

Tom Kacich was overheard (I got this third party twice removed) saying he would like either peace on earth or to be a par golfer in 1999. Tom, from what I hear, I think we're much closer to world peace.

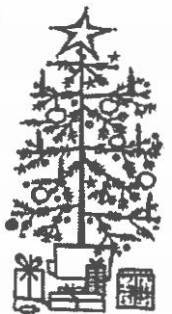
Marilyn Murphy, 10:30 choir member, has two things on her Christmas list, a coffee grinder and a completed dissertation. Fellow choir member Palmer Stolte wants nice weather for golfing; Christmas came early for Stolte this year. Jane Lawrence has only one thing on her list, more sopranos in the 10:30 choir. (Any takers? Better yet, any recommendations for someone else to do the job?)

Okay, what do I REALLY want for Christmas? It's easy, the same thing I want each year—a sense of humor to survive all that life has to offer. Let us laugh well and let us do it often. And, with the motley crew of family, friends, and co-workers that I hang with, I get my wish each year!

May you receive everything on your Christmas wish list this year (get real!).

A FINAL NOTE:

Wilma Deem, a homebound parishioner, has at the top of her list "to be able to get to church on Christmas." Let's all add that to our wish list.



Pilgrims found Lourdes a special and holy place

Next pilgrimage May 4-11

Where to begin a description of Lourdes? When members of St. Patrick's most recent pilgrimage to Lourdes were asked about what was the most memorable experience for



them, a whole gambit of responses came: the processions, the Grotto and the atmosphere of prayer in the Grotto area, the prayer time before going into the Baths, Mass and the Sacrament of the Sick at the City of the Poor, the Adoration Chapel, the

experiences with the donkeys at Gavarnie, and finding special stones near Bartres. Everyone had special moments to recount.

The faith of the other pilgrims who go to Lourdes touched our parishioners deeply. On the flight from Chicago to Paris, a young Polish couple across the aisle from one person in our group noticed the Lourdes materials, asked if they might read them, and told the group that they too were going there. Henry and Grace, refugees from Poland about



ten years ago, were residents of Chicago. Henry has a very rare cancer and was going to Lourdes between treatments.

Since Henry and Grace were



traveling by themselves and had no idea of how to get to their hotel or where to go or what to do during their 24-hour stay, our group became a community of support for them, walking in the procession with them and seeing to it that Henry was able to get into the Baths before they had to return to the airport. Shortly before Thanksgiving a call from Grace informed the caring group that Henry was continuing chemotherapy and hoped to have a liver resection performed before the end of the year.

No matter when or how one travels to Lourdes, the sense of privilege and the importance of sharing the experience, the Lourdes water, and the care and concern extended, especially to the sick, remains a constant reminder of a very special and holy place.

The next group travelling to Lourdes will go in the spring (May 4-11), with both Fr. Tim Nolan and Sr. Marie Golla accompanying the pilgrims. Costs for the trip will vary for each person according to room accommodations but will be under \$1250. The fee includes transfers, trips to Gavarnie and Bartres, and tours of the museums and Chateau Fort in the region. To secure space for the dates chosen, it will be necessary to book air travel during early January. Anyone interested in making this pilgrimage to Lourdes may direct questions to Sr. Marie at 344-3702.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Joan Causeman

Cake Deluxe

1 pkg cake mix (yellow, lemon, chocolate)
4 eggs
1/2 c cooking oil
3/4 c water
1 pkg instant pudding (lemon with lemon, chocolate with chocolate)

French Creme Frosting
1 1/2 c sugar
1 T cornstarch
1 egg
1 c milk
1 t vanilla
2 sticks unsalted sweet cream butter



Beat all ingredients together. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour in springform pan or angel food cake pan. Cut in half to make two layers, and frost with French Creme Frosting.

Mix 1/2 c sugar and cornstarch in pan on stove; add egg and beat until well mixed. Add milk slowly; cook over medium heat until custard forms. Cool. Stir in vanilla.

Beat 1 c sugar and butter together until creamy; add cooled custard and whip. (For chocolate frosting add 1 1/2 T cocoa.)



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is January 17.



January 1999

St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 9:00am & noon Mass	2
3	4 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Pro-Life Com	5 9:30am Moms Group 5:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:00pm Homily Prep	6 5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Rel Ed, St. Pat's 6:30pm Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir	7 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Building & Grounds Com	8 10:30am Mass- Urbana NH 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	9
10 9:00am & 11:00am Childrens Rel Ed 9:00am RCIA 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders	11 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Education Com	12 9:00am Bible Study 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com	13 9:30am Schola 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Childrens Choir 6:00pm Rel Ed, St. Pat's 6:30pm Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA	14 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Baptism Prep 7:00pm Knights of Columbus 7:00pm Bible Study	15 10:30am Mass- Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	16 6:30pm Parish Council Epiphany Party
17 9:00am & 11:00am Childrens Rel Ed 9:00am RCIA 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Rel Ed	18 7:00pm Centering Prayer	19 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Moms Group 7:00pm Liturgy Com	20 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Childrens Choir 6:00pm Rel Ed, St. Pat's 6:30pm Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA	21 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council 7:00pm Bible Study	22 10:30am Mass- Manor Care 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH 7:30pm Pro-Life Vigil	23
24 9:00am & 11:00am Childrens Rel Ed 9:00am RCIA 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders	25 9:30am Archives Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer	26 9:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Homily Prep	27 9:30am Schola 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Childrens Choir 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA	28 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Communications Com 7:00pm Bible Study	29 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH 7:00pm Children's Choir Concert sponsored by the Guild	30
31 9:00am RCIA 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders						