

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Graduating seniors "an amazing group"

"Twelve years and I'm done at last!" Is *that* what we heard from high school graduates this year? Far from it! Having reached another plateau, they're preparing for that next step, college.

Melissa Althausser will attend the U of I next year, majoring in Animal Science. She plans to be a veterinarian.

Alayna Bonse will start in General Studies at Webster University, with interest in history and French.

Johanna Burke will attend Parkland College, starting in General Studies, with interest in Math and History.

Kristin Cantrell will study Civil Engineering at the U of I.

Katie Gordon will major in Music Education at Illinois State University.

Sara Ingram will attend Illinois Wesleyan University, majoring in Chemistry.

Adam Long will attend Parkland College, with interest in Mechanical Engineering.

Kristin McCartney will attend the U of I, majoring in Biology, with interest in becoming a physical therapist.

John Rinkenberger will attend Illinois State University as an Education major, with interest in a teaching and coaching career.

Laura Kate Schrepfer will attend Occidental College in Los Angeles, majoring in Marine Biology.

Sandra Shannon will attend the U of I, starting in General Studies, with interest in physical therapy.

Uyen du Vu will pursue a pre-med curriculum at Los Angeles University.

. . .

This year's graduating seniors are "an amazing group," Steve Beckett said. "Grade point averages were

fantastic!" One achieved 5.75 in a 5.0 system, with the addition of earned extra points.

Steve Beckett, acting on behalf of the Urbana Knights of Columbus and assisted by Jim Ducey, presented each of the graduating senior scholarship applicants with a Fr. Charles Martell Scholarship. The total value of scholarships awarded was about \$2500, financed primarily by St. Patrick's Lenten Fish Fries, sponsored by the K of C.

To qualify, a scholarship applicant must show financial need, have provided service to the parish, and be a graduating senior going on to college.

Congratulations to all our graduates. You can be assured of our continued interest and prayerful support!

Remembering those we love

A memorial service for deceased members of St. Patrick's Parish who died in the spring and summer of 1998 will be held on Wednesday, June 2, at 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the parish center.

The evening includes a time to share your grief and to remember with joy the times you spent with those persons you are honoring. This will be followed by a short prayer service conducted by Fr. Remm and the parish's Bereavement Team. A social gathering will conclude the evening's program.



Back row, from the left: Alayna Bonse, Fr. Remm, Kristin McCartney, John Rinkenberger, Steve Beckett; second row: Kristin Cantrell, Melissa Althausser, Adam Long, Laura Kate Schrepfer, Johanna Burke, Sandra Shannon; front: Katie Gordon, Uyen du Vu. Not shown: Sara Ingram.

St. Thomas More, model for today's youth

Over the centuries many individuals have died for their faith. In recent weeks news reports have carried the story of Columbine High School student Cassie Bernall, who calmly



affirmed her belief in God while a gun was pointed at her head, a declaration of faith that directly led to her death. On June 22 we honor St. Thomas

More, another martyr for the faith.

More was an English scholar and aristocrat in the sixteenth century. He was beheaded for treason because he refused to accept King Henry VIII as the head of the Church of England. He had served the king as a diplomat and was Lord Chancellor of England for several years, resigning his post because he opposed the religious policies of King Henry.

Our popular image of More has been shaped by the play "A Man for All Seasons" and the stunning portrayal of More by the English actor

Paul Scofield in the 1966 movie based on that play. Yet his life was much deeper and richer than any movie or play could present to the public.

Thomas More was one of the leading humanist scholars in sixteenth-century England. He wrote *Utopia*, a popular book about an idealized community, as well as poetry and history. During his travels he befriended Erasmus of Rotterdam, a prominent European humanist and advocate for reform in the Church.

Though he was a layman who married twice and fathered four children, More greatly admired the monastic life. For several years he lived in a monastery, and he contemplated becoming a monk.

Martyrs are fascinating people, individuals who both inspire and amaze us. And Thomas More was certainly a complex individual. In person he was warm and generous, yet he was also a fierce polemicist against the Protestants of his day and didn't shirk from advocating the burning of "heretics" at the stake.

We remember Thomas More, however, because he faced his own death with tranquility and courage. More had many opportunities to retreat from his position, but he wouldn't submit to the will of the king, and so he died.

Cassie Bernall had only moments to take a stand for her belief in God. More's courage was tempered over the course of several years as he resisted efforts to compromise his beliefs and save his life. Nevertheless, the willingness of these two individuals to affirm their belief in the face of mortal danger serves as a potent example of the power of religious faith.

St. Thomas More was chosen as

patron for the new Champaign County Catholic high school because he exemplified the merits of both scholarship and courage. We have already seen that resoluteness, fortitude, and serenity are attributes not only of a sixteenth-century scholar but also of a twentieth-century teenager.



Archives Committee gets advice from an expert

Members of St. Patrick's Archives Committee, already several years into their assigned task of archiving significant documents related to parish history, visited a local expert for advice. On Apr. 26 they spent a couple of hours with nationally recognized U of I archivist Bill Maher, informing him of the kinds of parish records being archived and in what format.

They found that they are already doing a great deal "right," having chosen media best suited to the task—and to the future. Tens of thousands of pages of documents have been preserved for the future in the software-independent medium of microfilm. These include Parish Council minutes and other records, parish bulletins, even issues of *In Focus*. Other records are being saved on non-rewritable CDs, a longer-lived medium than either disks or tape.

Already sensitive to the need for "acid-free" materials (i.e., having a neutral pH), members have been using acid-free ink, paper, folders, cartons, plastic sleeves, etc. (No paper clips or rubber bands, please!)

They came away from their meeting with Bill Maher with increased respect for archiving necessities and principles, and a handful of catalogs for materials that can help them in their important work of preserving the past for future researchers into the history of St. Patrick's Parish.



Welcome to new parishioners Mary Bovine, Michael T. Cain, Rami Dass, Rachele Domingo, Kevin Engel, Matt Garcia, Colin Lee Kremitzki, Johnny Ray and Linda Palmisano, Angie and Mark Thiesen, Kristi and Matt Tompkins, Colleen Byrne Tracy, Rae Witruk.

Farewell to parishioners who have left C-U: Kathy and Larry Goulet, Mark Kastl and Kristi Anderson, Kris Kasperski and Greg Mazurek, Sr. Theresa Palmisano, Keith Walker.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community:

Please pray for deceased parishioners



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).

Parish Council elects officers

At their May meeting, after celebrating the generous dedication of outgoing members and the commitment of newly elected members, the new Council gathered to elect its officers.

The ad hoc nominating committee presented its slate of nominees and the Council, with no other nominations from the floor, elected them "by acclamation": Tom Korder, president; Pulchratia Kinney, vice president; and Carol Schrepfer, secretary.

As president, Tom will preside at Council meetings, is responsible for setting the agenda, and represents (at the pastor's behest) the Parish Council and/or the parish.

As vice president, Pulchratia will assist the president in performing the duties of that office and assume those duties in his absence, serve as Council liaison with the Personnel Committee, and oversee the functioning of all standing and ad hoc committees of the Council.

As secretary, Carol will keep a record of all Council proceedings, publish the meeting agenda and minutes of Council meetings, keep the attendance record of Council meetings, maintain a membership roster of the Council and its committees, attend to all Council correspondence, and provide a copy of Council minutes to the parish archives.

Each officer also serves on the executive committee of the Council, which is made up of the elected officers, the two parish trustees, and the pastor.



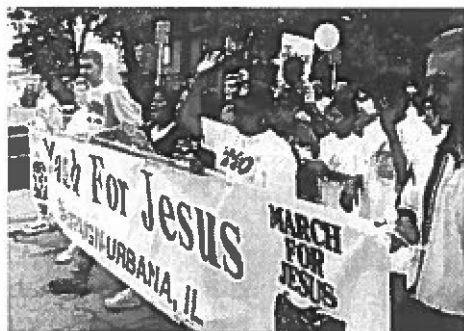
Pulchratia Kinney



Tom Korder



Carol Schrepfer



St. Patrick's joins March for Jesus

On May 22, a beautiful Saturday morning, parishioners from St. Patrick's joined other local church congregations in the 1999 March for Jesus through downtown Champaign. The one-and-a-half mile march started at 10 a.m. and arrived at Westside Park about 40 minutes later. During the concluding ecumenical prayer service, St. Patrick's teens took an active role in leading those present in a responsory-type prayer.

Estimates of the number of people participating ranged from several hundred to as many as a thousand people of all ages. According to participant Beth McDonald, "It was a great time, a good way to start Pentecost weekend!"

A nonagenarian's prayer

Why?

Dear Lord, why did You let me live so long?
Many friends, co-workers, relatives—all are gone.
Is there some work for me to carry on?
Or else, why did You let me live so long?

Perhaps I should smile to cheer some on their way,
Or a friendly "Hello" to someone I could say.

A handshake, a hug, or just a warm touch
To some lonely one could MEAN SO MUCH.

A telephone call to one who's shut in;
A letter I promised now I should begin.

I should wear perfume for one who can't see,
Or speak slowly, distinctly, to one deaf like me.

Is this some of the work I should carry on?
Is this why, dear Lord, You let me live so long?

—Dorothy Mueller, aged 95,
sister of parishioner Artha Chamberlain

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); 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 (mwhelan@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 Joyce Baird, Artha Chamberlain, Judy Conover, Frances Drone-Silvers, Fr. Gene Kane, Sr. Lori Kirchman, Rosemary Mathy, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Frank Modica, Lenore Nagele, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Mary Sleeter, Joe Tobias, Peggy Whelan. This issue was paged by Andrew Hunt.



in our parish library

"Just as a whole world of beauty can be discovered in one flower, so the great grace of God can be tasted in one small moment."

"Everything we are given and everything we are deprived of is nothing but a finger pointing out the direction of God's hidden promise which we shall taste in full."

Looking for some summer spiritual reading? Frances Drone-Silvers, parish library coordinator, suggests some books by Henri Nouwen, author of the above-quoted passages. One of the great spiritual writers of modern times, Nouwen offers a consistent message of hope for a despairing world.

These and other Nouwen books are displayed on top of the library bookshelf to the left as you enter the library.

Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life. (248.4 Nou) Nouwen wrote this book in response to friends' questions about spiritual life. He notes that our world is full of worry and loneliness, but that Jesus offers us life in the Spirit of God. He suggests disciplines of solitude and community as well as prayer as ways to become aware of the divine presence of God.

The Genesee Diary: Report from a Trappist Monastery. (248 N) This is Nouwen's spiritual journal written while he spent seven months in a Trappist monastery. Insightful, compassionate, often humorous, always realistic, this book is an inspiration and a challenge to those who are in search of themselves.

The Road to Daybreak: A Spiritual Journey. (248 Nou) In 1985 Nouwen left Harvard Divinity School to spend a year with a L'Arche community, where mentally handicapped people live together in the spirit of the Beatitudes. This is a day-by-day account of his first year there, facing a new vocation that eventually led him to the Daybreak community in Toronto.

Seeds of Hope: A Henri Nouwen Reader. (242 Dur) Editor Robert Durback brings together a selection of passages from Nouwen's work, addressing the human hunger for success, for knowledge, for peace, for love. He examines the mysteries of life and death, of prayer and compassion, of loneliness and intimacy, of God and humans. He looks at issues such as political oppression and the threat of nuclear annihilation, and points the way to a triumph of the human spirit.

Sabbatical Journey: The Diary of His Final Year. (248 Nou) Henri Nouwen passed away on September 21, 1996. A year earlier he had taken a sabbatical from Daybreak to reflect, write, and visit family and friends. This is his journal during that time. The publisher calls this book Nouwen's "last good deed on earth for all of us."

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.

Prayer for vocations



*Spirit of holiness,
who pour out your gifts on all
believers
and, especially, on those called to be
Christ's ministers,
help young people to discover the
beauty of the divine call.
Teach them the true way of prayer,
which is nourished by the Word of
God.
Help them to read the signs of the
times
so as to be faithful interpreters of
your gospel
and bearers of salvation.*

Pope John Paul II



Q: I will be traveling quite a bit this summer. If I can't find a Catholic church for Mass, can I go to some other church?

A: A good question. Simply put, the obligation of Sunday Mass is serious, and so there must be a serious cause for excusing oneself, e.g., sickness. Today, when Mass is offered on Saturday evening and two or three times on Sunday, and when travel is simple (get in the car and go, plan ahead), it is difficult to excuse oneself. Obviously if you are off in the woods or fifty miles away, that is an excusing cause!

Here is the more complex answer. First, the Church has made this one of its precepts because it is the carrying out of the command of Christ himself ("Do this in remembrance of me") and because that command has been part of the life-giving *tradition* of the Church since Christ celebrated and gave this command to the Apostles. It teaches us, gives us the *experience* of belonging to him and to one another; it is the gathering together of his people in faith so that we know who we are, who we commit ourselves to, and to whom we belong—Christ and his Mystical Body. It is the constant renewal of the New Covenant, whereby we show that we belong to him and he to us.

Second, the sacrifice of the Mass is *our* sacrifice, with Christ; our sign of surrender and need for the food of Eucharist, Word, Community. We are (most of us) not saints, but sinners. This power of Christ and his Spirit is our way to a true relationship with him, a spirituality that according to his promises leads to eternal life. That vision, that motive is what will draw us to him. If we neglect it, we spiritually thirst or starve ourselves, we neglect the relationship, to say nothing of the possible decline in a good moral life, isolationism, an uncommitted life that can occur.

Third, we live in what Pope John Paul II has called a "culture of death" evidenced by abortion, euthanasia, genocide, violence in homes and

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cities and schools and some fifty wars now going on among nations and ethnic groups. We must change that by developing a "culture of life," nurturing both the divine and human in all of us through both liturgical and personal prayer, a rededication to family life and Christ-virtues. The Church worshipping—in Christ, by the power of his Spirit—provides that through the sacramental system experienced together; the transcendent Lord of all life tells us the story of his love, redemption, life with us, the Kingdom.

As to whether one may fulfill this precept by attending a non-Catholic service: simply put, no. We may pray, worship with our separated brethren, but with the theology of sacrifice, sacrament, Catholic identity, community already described, doing so would be incomplete, imperfect, contrary to our belief and practice. We are Catholic Christians, and that form of Christianity is activated in the Church's liturgy. One good, concrete illustration of this difference is seen in the sanctuary arrangement of non-Catholic churches, where the altar is a small table standing against the back wall and the pulpit is large and predominant.

Here are some good references should you want to read more on this very complex matter:

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The Sacrament of the Eucharist" (#1322-1419) and *"God's Salvation: Law and Grace"* (#473-496).

The New Question Box: Catholic Life for the Nineties, by Fr. John J. Dietzen, pp. 131-196.

Whether traveling or relaxing at home, have a good summer, y'all!

G.K.

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



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is June 13.

"St. Patrick's Rose" a sell-out!

The yellow rose with a light green tinge at the edges of the outside petals proved to be popular with parishioners. Illini FS reserved 150 of the St. Patrick's Rose for the parish, and wouldn't you know, that just wasn't enough! Regrettably, many parishioners were disappointed—the tremendous response indicated that half again as many rose bushes might have been sold had they been available.

A few resourceful parishioners were able to obtain the St. Patrick's



Rose from local nurseries and other places that stock plants for customers, but many are voicing the hope of another sale of the rose at St. Patrick's next year.

From Sr. Lori Kirchman *An evangelization minute*

In today's readings [Fourth Sunday of Easter] Jesus is revealed as the Good Shepherd. We are promised a life full of abundance. We are told that we are healed by Christ's wounds. Each and every one of us is called to share this good news that Jesus has brought us. But none of us can do it in the same way.

Some of us share God's love through marriage, some through religious life or the priesthood, others through a single life-style. All of these life-styles are important; none is better than another. I like to think of these life-styles as the different facets of a diamond, all necessary, all dependent on each other to radiate the beauty of God's love for the world.

Since I'm a religious, I'm going to talk about my particular life-style. When I entered the convent, I was 24. I was teaching music at a public school, I had my own apartment, I had experienced falling in love, I enjoyed being with my friends, and I was involved with the music in the parish I belonged to. But something was missing for me. I wanted something more. I wanted to share my passion for God with other people. I wanted to belong to something bigger than myself.

When I prayed with our sisters for the first time at our Motherhouse, I knew I had found what I was looking for. These women prayed together, worked together, lived together, and they seemed very happy. That day I knew I could dedicate myself to that, and today this life-style still excites and energizes me. Private morning contemplation, prayer in common sung twice a day, sharing in common life sustain me and enable me to go forth into my ministry each day to proclaim God's love.

If you've ever been attracted to religious life, if you've ever thought that God was calling you in that direction, pursue it. Look into it. It can be an option for you.

If you are a parent and your child seems interested in religious life, encourage her or him.

If any of you would like to talk about religious life, I would welcome the opportunity.

The Good Shepherd calls each of us to listen to his voice. But we decide if we will listen to that voice.

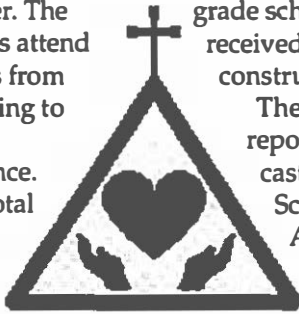
There are prayer cards for vocations in the back of church for any of you who would like to take one home. As we go forth from our worship today, let us remember that we are all called to be people of hope, that we all have a responsibility to spread the Gospel message.



Parish Council News

At their May meeting Council members were introduced to the Family Life Skills Learning Center by guests Dixie and Larry Carter. The center is a place where adults attend classes to be taught life skills from the "Learning to Live, Learning to Love" curriculum, with an emphasis on domestic violence. The goal of the program is total restoration of the individual and giving hope of possible reconciliation to the family.

On the first weekend of the diocesan Annual Stewardship Appeal, May 1-2, St. Patrick's parishioners pledged over \$62,000, meeting the diocesan goal for our parish. Three weeks later, it appears that pledges still coming in from generous parishioners



will meet or even exceed the parish goal, augmenting our Centennial Fund.

A principal for the new St. Thomas More High School has been hired; he will provide input for classroom and lab designs, work with the curriculum, hire teachers, and participate in promoting the school, especially in area grade schools. Pledges have been received for about 69% of the construction costs.

The ad hoc election committee reported that 542 ballots were cast in electing Carol Schrepfer, Tim Brenner, and Alice McLaughlin. Candidates Peter Tan, Chris Stohr, and Richard Bronson will be asked to stand ready to fill any vacancies that may occur on the Council before the next election, in April 2000.

Outgoing members were warmly thanked for their service to the Council and the parish; newly elected

members were welcomed and seated on the Council. The first order of business for the new Council was election of officers to serve until May 2000. The nominations presented were unopposed, and the following were elected by acclamation: Tom Korder, president; Pulchratia Kinney, vice president; Carol Schrepfer, secretary. Judy Conover agreed to serve as recording secretary for another year. Commissioning of new members and officers was set for the 9:00 Mass on June 6.

Fr. Remm updated members on the Music Director search. The committee has identified four candidates, who will be interviewed and auditioned. Parishioners are invited to participate in the process by coming to the auditions, which are to be held in the church on May 24 and May 27 at 7:30 p.m., and on May 29 at 10:00 and 11:30 a.m.

The next Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on June 17; 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.

God has great sour pickles



This is a true story of my one and only sharing of an embodied image of God. It really is. True, I mean.

I was on a retreat several years ago and experimenting or experiencing a new sense of relation with God. The retreat director knew me pretty well, and knew that I was feeling "out of sync" with the usual images of God as "father," "mother," "friend," etc.

At one point the director asked, "Well, what kind of image of God do you have?" I was quiet for a bit because an image of God had been arising during our conversation, but the image I was having seemed a bit "out of the way." I'd not read anything quite like it in any of the religious literature and was feeling unsure of myself.

Finally I decided I'd share it. "Well," I said, "it's the image of a Jewish delicatessen owner of a corner store in the Bronx, back when community reigned in local stores."

In my mind I saw one who would lean on the counter and talk, and give

heels of meat to little kids, and have wonderful sour pickles. Someone who seemed to look into your very being and not be afraid of your seeing his spirit hanging out. Not sentimental or gawky, but on those tough days saying something positive as you step back out in the evening rain.

The director sort of swallowed and then said something positive (I don't remember what, exactly), but I sensed that my image of God was, well, not for general consumption or discussion. And I've never worked at allowing another to rise up since. But I still think that surely God has the sort of interest, wisdom, and informality of those old-time deli owners in their white aprons and gray shirts. And surely God has great sour pickles and pastrami—and a heel as a present for the neighborhood kids, especially on the days they are looking a bit down!

Name withheld on request

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.



Parish Wish List

A list of items not considered a necessity but nice to have, useful and perhaps even advantageous to the operation of the parish, but not included in the parish's operating budget—this is the parish's "Wish List."

One item is on the list at this time:
• The Advent Wreath Stand, made by the father of a parishioner, made it possible to display the wreath attractively, accessibly, and safely. Made of walnut, it cost a modest \$250.

Fr. Remm will be happy to discuss the purpose of the wish list with interested parishioners or to answer questions about items listed.



Pope John XXIII:
A pope of saintliness and simplicity

He found his red, green, and white papal slippers too tight to walk in for any distance and missed his Italian Army shoes. "All we Roncallis have big feet," he said. He could not wear his heavy papal crown and felt that some rules of Vatican life were too restraining. Yet he considered that his discomfort came from his own inability to meet expectations.

Pope John XXIII, who served the People of God from 1958 to 1963 and changed many rules for the world's Catholics, regretted that he could not change "the rules around here" to permit

Rome's street children to play in the Vatican gardens, "to hide, to dig tunnels, and to play in the woods."

In *The Artist and the Pope*, author Curtis Bill Pepper delights in the intimacy of the pope's portrayal. The book is based on taped recollections of Manzu, an unbelieving sculptor from the pope's home, Bergamo. Manzu was commissioned to create doors for St. Peter's and a bust of Pope John. He tells of trying to find the real man in the pope before recreating him in bronze. Pope John sensed the difficulty; his many kindnesses during the sittings put the artist at ease and led him to appreciate the pope's faith.

Pope John invited the sculptor to his private apartments. In his bedroom he showed Manzu his family photographs and images of his favorite saints. He opened his closet to point out his papal slippers and his crown. Manzu noted the bedside table with an old-fashioned radio, a call button, a breviary, and a Bible next to the mahogany four-poster bed where four popes before him had died.

Death took Pope John XXIII to that bed

in 1963. His great work, the Second Vatican Council, was underway when the stomach cancer he had been enduring overcame him. Pepper describes the pope's gentle acceptance. For several days John tried to be aware of each step of death as it neared. Dressed in a short-sleeved white nightshirt, he joked to console his sorrowing household and family members, and he admonished them to be joyful. When he'd made sure that no business was left unfinished, he made his confession. He slipped in and out of a coma; once, when his view of the crucifix on the wall was blocked, he roused sufficiently to blurt out "Get out of the way!" A few hours later, on June 3, he left the earth "for his heavenly trip."

His obedience, discipline, and self-denial are among the heroic virtues that may win beatification and sainthood in the year 2000 for Pope John XXIII, who has already won the hearts of God's People through his unassuming humility, gentle kindness, down-to-earth practicality, and the shepherd's care for his flock.

Out of Africa

Dr. Susan Nagele updates health-care program in Sudan

Dr. Susan Nagele, daughter of Lenore and Tom Nagele, joined a team that officially inaugurated the primary health-care program in Eastern Toposa in 1998. The new parish in Lotimor, Diocese of Torit, is occupied by the Nyangstom, a small group of agropastoralists. There is no modern development in Lotimor. About three-fourths of the parish is inhabited by the Toposa, a larger semi-nomadic group of cattle herders. They live peacefully with the Nyangstom and have had more contact with traders and other cultures.

Following are excerpts from Susan's recent letter detailing the development of health care in the area.

In December 1997 a first aid worker of Sudan Medical Care was found in Lotimor providing simple curative services under a tree. Diocesan staff attempted to support and teach him in his work. By March we were able to obtain permission to use two grass and stick *tukuls* (huts) near his house as a

small dispensary. A proposal for funding four dispensaries and a Health Center has been written but is still awaiting approval.

The parish organized two community awareness workshops during the year. Each was an opportunity to introduce the parish to the local communities. They also served to listen to the people's understanding and expectations of the Church, to explain the role of the Church, to explain the concept of community development, and to establish a process of dialog that we hope will be continued.

Besides providing curative services in Lotimor, the health care team began an extensive program of safaris to visit and learn about different parts of the parish. By April the team was able to begin providing clinical services to outlying areas. These safaris were difficult due to poor roads, which became impassable when it rained. There were no shelters to work in, and all services were provided with equipment set up under the trees. The staff slept in tents and cooked in the open.

The core health team of a nurse-



midwife and a physician was assisted by two or three workers to provide translation, dispensing, and other necessary work. It is very difficult to find qualified staff or to attract them to work in such a remote area.

A mobile laboratory was set up by the end of the year. It can be carried in a

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suitcase on safari. ... The greatest needs in health care lie in the provision of clean water sources, health education, and immunizations. ... The parish has a development education team that is being trained to assist the health care team.

We've just finished two rounds of a polio vaccination campaign. UNICEF has a program to eradicate polio in Sudan. We vaccinated 3500 children in February and almost 6000 in March. Two photo-journalists from ABC Nightline News came to cover the campaign. Our area was one of three they filmed. Maybe you'll see the program in a couple of months.

The Maryknoll Association is now completely separate from the Society. Donations to support Susan's work should be sent to MMAF (Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful), attn Promotions, P.O. Box 307, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0307. Be sure to write "Susan Nagele's Mission Account" on the memo line.

Stewardship planning a "must"

On Apr. 28 Fr. Remm, Joe Tobias, Jean Daly, and Judy Conover traveled to Bloomington for the annual diocesan Stewardship Conference. The day (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) was filled with presentations on stewardship viewed from many different angles.

The keynote address, "Your People Can and Will Respond," was given by Fr. James Sobus, pastor of St. Michael's in Wheeling (W. Va.), where weekly collections have increased from \$4500 to \$23,000. He attributed the increase to stewardship, encouraging activities that involve parishioners of different age groups and interests.

The day was filled with other presentations on these and other topics: "Stewardship as a Means to a Better Parish," "Teaching Our Children about Stewardship," "Talking to People about Giving and Sharing," "Stewardship All Year Long," "Using the Computer Effectively."

You can bet that good notes were taken and will be consulted for planning our parish's fall stewardship drive!

Their gift is service

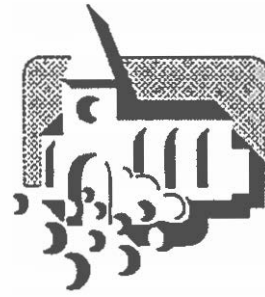
Throughout the year St. Patrick's altar servers help to make our parish liturgies beautiful and to go smoothly. Thanks to all of you for your gift of service! Thanks, too, to your parents, who help make it possible for you to serve, and to Gabe and Patricia Mathy, who have been training boys and girls for this server ministry.

In recognition and appreciation, we honor you!



Jaclyn Althaus
Melissa Althaus
Elizabeth Amberg
Michael Amberg
Ben Birmingham
Christina Bonse
Georgina Bonse
Daniel Burke
Johanna Burke
Anthony DeCerro
Andrew Duncanson
Mary Erlandson
Laura Fahey
Elizabeth Keane
Rosemary Keane
Bridget Kimmey
Mike Larsen

Alex Long
Anthony Maduzia
Joseph Maduzia
Matthew Maduzia
Gabriel Mathy
Patricia Mathy
Greg McDonald
Felicia Milewski
Nicole Parker
Jason Retz
Katie Schrepfer
Rebecca Schrepfer
Ellen Stohr
Nick Trotter
Kristina Vasnaik
Jonathan Vimr
Ross Vimr



First Communion at St. Patrick's, 1999

The sun broke through just in time for First Communicants on Sunday, Apr. 25, when 32 youngsters lined up outside St. Patrick's church for the entrance procession of a Mass that will remain a significant memory for the rest of their lives—the day they first received the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion. The church was crowded with family members and friends who gathered to share this special celebration with them and to congratulate them.

The names of the First Communicants are presented in the May issue of *In Focus*. Their group photograph is reproduced here for your pleasure—and as a reminder for your prayers. The snapshots will give you an idea of the level of excitement, expectation, and preparation that marked the occasion, from the greeting of families and friends to the setting up for singing in the front of the church and the warm-up of choirs in the loft.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Mary Sleeter

Pizza Tot Casserole

1 lb ground beef
1 medium green pepper, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
1 can (11 1/8 oz) condensed Italian tomato soup, undiluted

In a skillet cook beef, green pepper, and onion until meat is no longer pink; drain. Add soup and mushrooms. Transfer to a greased 13 x 9 x 1 inch baking dish. Top with cheese

1 jar (4 1/2 oz) sliced mushrooms, drained
2 c (8 oz) shredded mozzarella cheese
1 pkg (32 oz) frozen Tater Tots

and potatoes. Bake, uncovered, at 400 degrees for 30-35 minutes, or until golden brown. Yield: 6-8 servings.



*First Communion
at St. Patrick's,
1999!*



June 1999

St. Patrick's Parish, Urbana, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Memorial Prayer Service	7:30pm Bldg & Grounds	10:45am Mass CCNH	
		1	2	3	4	5
	7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm ProLife	7:30pm Executive Council	5:00pm SVDP 7:30pm Personnel	7:00pm Baptism Prep 7:00pm Knights of Columbus	10:30am Mass Care Center 10:45am Mass CCNH	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	7:00pm Centering Prayer	7:00pm Liturgy	5:00pm SVDP	6:00pm Orientation of New Council Members 7:00pm Beginning Experiences 7:00pm Parish Council	10:30am Mass Clark Lindsey 10:45am Mass CCNH	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Father's Day	7:00pm Centering Prayer	7:00pm Homily Prep	5:00pm SVDP	7:00pm Communications	10:30am Mass ManorCare 10:45am Mass CCNH	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	9:30 Archives 7:00pm Centering Prayer		5:00pm SVDP	<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. The deadline for the next issue of In Focus is June 13, 1999.</p>		
27	28	29	30	<p>CCNH-Champaign County Nursing Home SVDP- St. Vincent DePaul</p>		