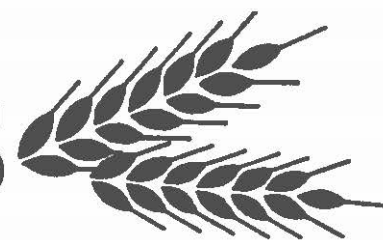


In Focus



"Giving up" and "sharing" are key concepts for Lent

Responding to the love of God the Father and his abundant gifts, Christians should make Lent a time of sharing those gifts with others, Pope John Paul II says. "If we live Lent with our eyes fixed on the Father, it becomes a unique time of charity manifested in our works of spiritual and corporal mercy" (annual message for Lent).

In the Feb. 14 issue of *The Catholic Post*, framed with Bishop Myers' Lenten message on page one is a picture of a student placing money in a "rice bowl" provided by Catholic Relief Services for the annual "Operation Rice Bowl." Participants take the small cardboard boxes home and are encouraged to have simple meals, contributing to the rice bowl the money they would have spent on more expensive meals. Last year, we learn, more than \$6.4 million was contributed to assist the needy worldwide.

In another *Post* article (p. 7), "Living through Lent," we are encouraged give of ourselves more deliberately and consciously during Lent. Some suggestions:



- Visiting shut-ins, elderly or lonely neighbors, or people in local nursing homes
- Participating in Mass or spending some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
- Helping in or giving to a food pantry or soup kitchen
- Volunteering to read to students

- Inviting a college student to a home-cooked meal
- Fixing a meal for the parish priest

Youngsters seem to take Lent pretty seriously. Here are some ways mentioned by second-graders in St. Patrick's religious education program:

- Helping around the house
- Being kinder to brothers and sisters
- Cleaning my room
- Being kind to my parents

Moms and dads will certainly be delighted to see these! Fourth-graders combine giving up with sharing:

- Reading instead of watching TV
- Not playing computer games for Lent
- Visiting nursing homes

- Doing extra chores at home

These boys and girls certainly have the right idea, don't they? So what about us—what are *we* giving up for Lent? How are we sharing God's gifts? What are we doing to live through these days?

Jesus gave us something to think about in this regard: "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Truly, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matt. 25:34-46).

Two tell of seeing the Pope

Two parishioners share with us their very different experiences in seeing Pope John Paul II during his recent visit to St. Louis. Our thanks to both for helping us to see him through their eyes! —Ed.

My visit to see the Pope

By Micah Cottingham

I am Micah Cottingham, a third-grader at Holy Cross School. My mom and I went to see the Pope's Mass in St. Louis on Jan. 27. I would like to tell you about it.

First, I got up at 12:30 in the morning! Then I got on the bus and we took off. It was a long bus trip, and I got only two hours of sleep. We got there at 5:30. There were a lot of long lines to get in. We got into the America's Center at 6:00.

We had to wait three hours for the Mass to start. While we were waiting,

we bought some souvenirs. Right before the Mass, the Pope came in his popemobile into our hall. We were chanting "We love you! John Paul Two!" I got within 10 feet of him.

We saw the Mass on big-screen TVs. There was lots of beautiful singing. When the Pope said his homily, it was a good homily. He talked about going against the death penalty. I liked it when he talked about peace.

After the homily, some families brought up the gifts. A little boy was scared to be blessed by the Pope. He hid behind his father! The children knelt, and he put his hands on their heads and blessed them. Pope John Paul sounds real old and sick, but he is strong with love.



Welcome to new parishioners:
Matthew Kuenning and Mary Arends-Kuenning, Anthony and Maryann Davit, Joey Guerra, Joseph and Suzanne Hanzl, Janet and D. Mark Wilson.

Farewell to parishioners who have left C-U:

Pedro and Gretchen Colon Alvarez, Stephanie French, John and Robin Maier.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community:
Spencer James Cadman, Justin Russ Perez, Roderick Steven Warfield, Patrick Nicholas Warfield, Justin David Wilson, Jacob Tyler Wilson, Johan Ludwig Adam, Jacob Kalipeni, Nathan Richard Liesen, Nicholas D. Navarre.

Congratulations to Katherine Victoria Holler and Bryan Earle St. Pere, recently married at St. Patrick's.

Please pray for deceased parishioners:
Robert E. Sullivan and Frances Lehmann Walton.

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.

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Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Joanne Arie, Mary Lee Brady, Artha Chamberlain, Morene Christman, Micah Cottingham, Frances Drone-Silvers, Sr. Marie Golla, Meg Grady, Gary Laumann, Mary Long, Lori McDonough, Alice McLaughlin, Mary Lou Menches, Lenore Nagele, Lu Pillar, Lin R., Fr. Remm, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Peggy Whelan. This issue was pagged by Linda Jackson.

Everybody received communion from the 2000 priests assisting. People held up yellow and white umbrellas by each priest so we could see where to go. It took only half an hour to give out communion to about 110,000 people.

When the Mass was over, it took an hour to walk back to the bus. When we finally got on the bus, we started going. We went by the Arch, and then after that I fell asleep. I woke up when we got to the restaurant, where we had a buffet lunch. We got home at 6 p.m.

I'll always remember seeing the Pope. It was a great experience!

I was filled with joy!

By Mary Lee Brady

The descriptions I heard of the papal Mass in St. Louis were "Awesome!" "Amazing!" "Wonderful and unique!" And this was on the way to the Mass; the experience itself was both more and less than anticipation had led me to expect, but mostly more.

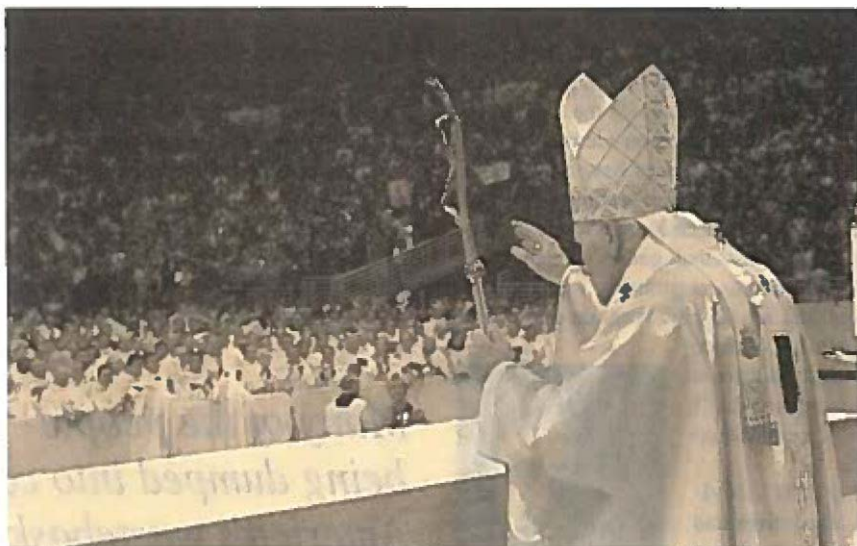
Getting up at 4:00 a.m. was somewhat difficult, and being herded into an adjoining building in the small hours of the morning was disappointing because, with each step I took, it became clearer to me that I was not going to get a good look at the Pope, which was the main reason why I had wanted to come.

The disappointment was pushed to the back of my mind, though, as the total experience began to seep in. I was under the same roof with over one hundred thousand people who were just as eager as I to see or even just be near the Pope. The realization that soon I would be under the same roof with him was truly awesome—the Church's spiritual leader and a man so obviously holy.

Then the Mass began, and the beauty of the liturgy, experienced so many times before yet never before shared with so many people. All around me people sharing the same sense of wonder and amazement at the beauty of the processions, the music, the various choirs, and the *truly* amazing thing—that Pope John Paul II was leading this liturgy! The great message of love and hope and challenge he passes to all of us.

It was an experience that I am still absorbing. I was filled with that message, and joy that I had been given the chance to have this experience. In moments of stress or impatience I find myself recalling that experience and benefiting from its calming effect. It seems to help me put things into perspective and straighten out my priorities.

I think that this experience will stay with me for a very long time. If I'm lucky enough, or perhaps prayerful enough, it may just last forever.



Pope John Paul II looks out at the crowd gathered for Mass at the Trans World Dome in St. Louis Jan. 27. (CNS photo)

Dialogue for the Millennium—Where are we going?

Dr. Bill Sutton's presentation on "Where Have We Been . . . Where Are We Going" not only informed the audience of the roots of and the link between spirituality and social justice, but also offered a challenge for the future. The issue of social justice he addressed was that of "economic righteousness."

In 1986 the U.S. bishops issued "Economic Justice for All," a pastoral letter on Catholic social teaching and the U.S. economy that attempts to raise our awareness and expand our vision and action on this very topic:

"Strengthening common moral vision is essential if the economy is to serve all people more fairly. . . . Decisions must be judged in light of what they do for the poor, what they

do to the poor, and what they enable the poor to do for themselves. The fundamental moral criterion for all economic decisions, policies, and institutions is this: They must be at the service of all people, especially the poor." (#23-24)

"Christian communities that commit themselves to solidarity with those suffering and to confrontation with those attitudes and ways of acting which institutionalize injustice will themselves experience the power and presence of Christ. They will embody in their lives the values of new creation while they labor under the old. The quest for economic and social justice will always combine hope and realism and must be renewed by every generation." (#55)

Dr. Mary Christine Athans, BVM, continues our "Dialogue into the Millennium"



"The Jewishness of Jesus" is the subject of the second presentation in St. Patrick's continuing Dialogue, on Mar. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Patrick's social hall.

The presenter, Sr. Mary Christine Athans, BVM, is well qualified to explore the human dimension of Jesus's life, including his spirituality as a devout Jew. She has served as instructor in the Center for Judaic Studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and as editor of several volumes of the Proceedings of the Center for Jewish-Christian Learning at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

Research by both Jewish and Christian scholars allows us to reassess the historical Jesus, particularly in his relationship to the Pharisees, and to grow in an appreciation of the Jewish Covenant with God as together we approach the beginning of a new millennium.

Over 300 gather to begin the "Dialogue into the Millennium"



Dr. William Sutton (right) listens to a point made by Fr. John Dietzen as Gary Porton (left) looks on.

Prayer against famine

maker of the wheel
that turns the stars
place the shadow of your shadow
between us and everything evil

have mercy on the dead
and on the living
and on those who will be born
in your good time

protect us when we are tempted
when we want to make ourselves
the center of your world
when we would deny others
a place in the circle of your love

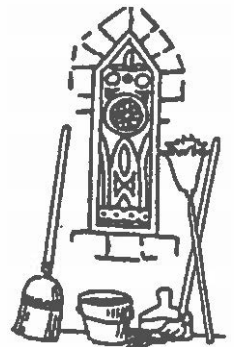
cleanse our eyes oh God
and pour your light into them
so that we may see your creation
in everyone on this earth

—John Knoepfle
Used with permission

St. Patrick's church ready for spring cleaning

A rag, a broom,
and a pail of suds
(with apologies
to Shakespeare,
Keats, and Shelley)

'Tis Springtime
and church cleaning
looms
at St. Pat's.
Get out thy long
ladders; put on
those hard hats.



No formal attire, reservations not taken,
Wear Nikes or Reeboks to keep feet from achin'.

No loaves, no fishes, no miracles here;
Just donuts and juices (so sorry, no beer).

So be ye a teenager, knight, or a dame,
Thy help we do need for this sprucing-up game.

The date is March 27; the time, 8:30 to twelf.
We count on thy presence—be a church-cleaning elf!



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is March 14.



in our parish library

Lent is a time of transformation. The following books provide a variety of perspectives and reflections on this important season. Feeling like you don't have much time to devote to reading? These books are all short—the daily meditations take a page or less—but they provide powerful food for thought.

What Color Is Your Lent? by Theresa Cotter (263.92 Cot). Cotter contends that Lent does not need to be just a traditional purple. She suggests eight colors, each symbolizing a virtue that we would wish to include in our lives: green for hope; blue for stewardship, justice, peace; rose for joy; red for charity and fervor; etc. Each section offers practical ways to carry out the virtues we wish to work on.

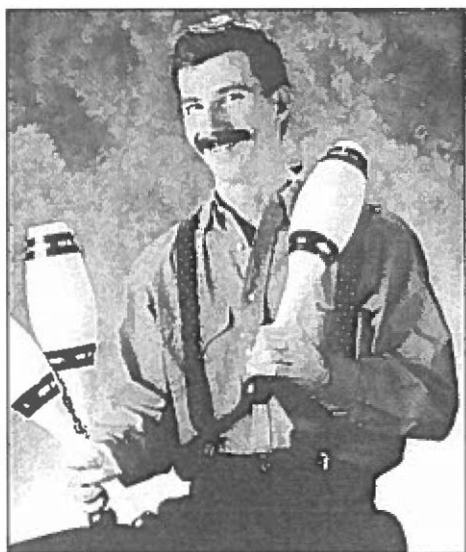
A Feast for Lent, by Delia Smith (263.92 Smi). Provides daily excerpts from Scripture, meditation, and prayer based on the Divine Office. This book invites us to change our hearts and minds while praying with the Church through Lent.

A Lenten Journey with Jesus: Prayerful Steps for Each Day, by Joan Cole (264 Col). Brief meditations on the daily Gospel and "steps to consider"—concrete things to do or think about to offer you a new way to reflect or think about the Word of God.

All the Days of Lent: Scripture, Thoughts and Things to Do, by Colane Recker (263 Rec). A very practical (and brief) "everyone can do it" guide to a rewarding Lent. For each day of the season the author expresses a thought taken from the Liturgy of that day, makes a suggestion for a deed to be done or a promise to be made that requires a degree of sacrifice, and offers a passage from Scripture for meditation.

These and other books on Lent have been put on top of the bookshelf on the left as you walk into the library so that you don't have to spend time looking for them on the shelf. If you have trouble locating books you're interested in, call Frances Drone-Silvers (398-1458), parish library coordinator. She will be pleased to help.

Don't miss "The Space Painter" April 17!



Tom Sparough, space painter, doesn't just stand and talk. He fills space with color and movement. He paints analogies with balls and torches, eggs and bowling balls, accentuated with humor but focused on spiritual and Scriptural themes.

Celebrate springtime by enjoying dinner and entertainment with family and friends at the Pasta & Parables Dinner Theater, with exciting guest performer Tom Sparough, "The Space Painter," from Cincinnati. Tom is a juggler, storyteller, and comedian who involves the audience as he tells stories from Scripture illustrated through juggling and plenty of action.

Doors open at 6:15 p.m., with hors d'oeuvres served. A family-style dinner follows at 6:30 p.m., with parishioners performing lively skits and songs between courses. "The Space Painter" will perform following dinner and dessert. For families with young children, the evening will end around 8:30 p.m., but parishioners who wish to stay and visit with one another can enjoy dessert and fellowship after the performance.

'Twas the night before the night before Christmas

I was serving leftovers for dinner, trying to clear out the refrigerator in anticipation of the Christmas feast.



My eleven-year-old son was not pleased, and he let me know it.

During Advent I had been trying to foster a spirit of gratitude in my children and myself, so I asked him what he thought Jesus would have done when Mary served leftovers. He replied, "Jesus would have waved his hand and turned them into something better."

This was not the response I was hoping for. I chuckled at his immaturity, but then I realized that this is just what I do so often. Instead of accepting what is, I keep hoping for God to turn it into "something better."

This is my truth in many areas of my life, even in prayer—I keep hoping that prayer will turn me into "something better." I am confident that sitting in joyful anticipation, quietly attendant on God and rejoicing in God's presence here and now, will transform me. But now I realize that transformation into "something better" will occur only when I abandon the expectation and desire for change and let God work in me as he wills, and in his own time.

—Lin R.

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.

Come to enjoy the evening with friends of all ages. Tom's performance will enchant children, engage teens, and enthrall adults. You may even win a door prize! Tickets (\$3 for adults, \$2 for children, \$10 for families) can be purchased in advance at Coffee Shop on Sundays or at the parish office. Seating is limited, so get your tickets early!

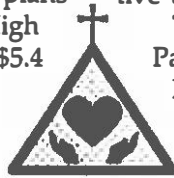
Parish Council News

At the February Council meeting Fr. Remm updated the status of plans for St. Thomas More Catholic High School. Funding now stands at \$5.4 million, and parishes are now being asked to begin a general appeal to invite pledges. (The three informational meetings at St. Patrick's were attended by only 10 parishioners in all.)

At St. Patrick's the appeal will be handled in the same way as the diocesan Annual Stewardship Appeal: showing a video, followed by brief remarks, giving pledge cards to those assembled for Mass to be completed and handed in on leaving the church, and contacting those who do not fill out the cards. The Appeal will be the weekend of Mar. 20-21 because of its proximity to the Mar. 24 ground-breaking for the new school.

Fr. Remm also pointed out the need to plan how our parish is to provide funds needed (perhaps as much as \$100,000 a year) to supplement tuition for students enrolled in the high school. Our operating budget for the coming fiscal year would not be affected, but planning will have to take this into account for the following year.

A search has begun for a principal for the new school. And there is to be a High School Interim Education Commission, in addition to the Pastors



Board, for which a parish representative will be appointed by Fr. Remm.

The sixth annual report on St. Patrick's Religious Education Foundation reveals a relatively small increase for the past year because the five-year pledge period is over. A next step might be to educate people to consider wills and bequests as a way of increasing funds for this purpose.

The Parish Council election will take place the weekend of Apr. 17-18. Members from the parish at large are still being sought to fill vacancies on the committee, whose primary function is to contact parishioners viewed as potential candidates for election.

After listening to Mary Long and Dan Murphy's presentation on WATCH, a parish renewal program, Council members voted approval of its implementation in the parish. The program includes an intensive weekend retreat (participants return to their homes each evening) that calls participants to a deeper relationship with God and a richer relationship with one another in the Body of Christ. The plan calls for two weekend retreats a year, beginning with Fall 1999. The first weekend retreat would be led by a team from outside the parish, the rest by St. Patrick's parishioners who participate in the first one. Funding (about \$2000 for materials, etc.) is already available through various allocations for evangelization and spiritual development.

The Financial Affairs Committee projected \$501,300 income for next fiscal year's operating budget. This represents a 5 percent increase over the projected income for this fiscal year.

The next Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Mar. 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.

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).

From our sister parish

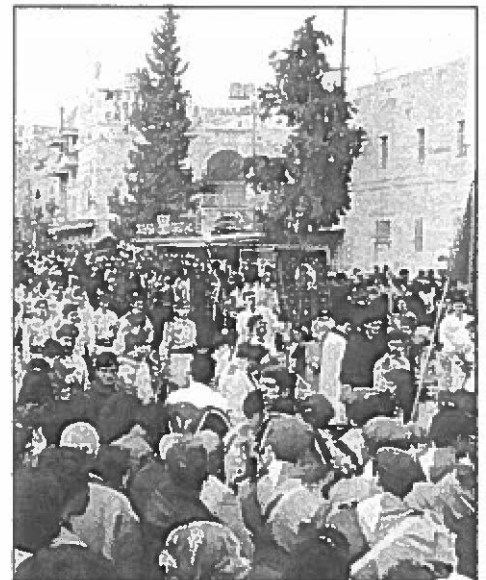
Dear Father George Remm,

We are most grateful to you for your "little remembrance," which we have appreciated. We will effectively "remember" and pray for you personally, your parish, and all your dear ones.

May God bless and protect you forever and ever.

Fr. Abden-Nour

Parishioners may write to Fr. Abden-Nour at the following address: P.O. Box 188, Beit-Jala, Israel.



A procession welcomed President Clinton and his family to Bethlehem last December, where in a special ceremony they lit a beautifully decorated tree. Photos provided by Fr. Abden-Nour

Project Rachel: Healing the Wounds

The first six flyers of "Healing the Wounds" revealed the harm abortion inflicts upon women, men, and society. The seventh and final flyer focuses on healing the wounds created by abortion. This healing comes from the infinite mercy and love of God and is facilitated through the post-abortion ministry of Project Rachel. Please share this last flyer with others and continue to pray daily for the spiritual and psychological healing of women and men wounded by abortion.

She helped match words to tunes in the red hymnal

When Cathy Salika leads us in song as a cantor at Sunday Mass, she knows that parishioners at St. Patrick's and at parishes all over the country are singing the most authentic, most appropriate, and most singable words to the hymn tunes.

Before the 1986 publication of the first edition of *Worship* (the "red hymnal," we often call it), Cathy was asked to search out the original English-language version of each hymn, in libraries here and abroad. This enabled the editors to take a fresh look at the original texts and at later versions of available hymns and to choose the best. Cathy's work is acknowledged in the introduction to the third edition we now use.

How did Cathy Salika get involved in such a project? Robert Batastini, music director in her home parish, encouraged her interest in music and liturgy. He later became one of the editors of the hymnal. It was when Cathy was studying here at the University that he asked her to undertake the needed research. She turned her computer and library skills to the task. She kept statistics on when and where



texts and tunes were written so the editors could choose hymns in a variety of styles and periods.

Another need was for footnotes, which we see following each hymn. They identify the composers (of tunes) and the authors (of texts, or words). Cathy set up the footnotes,

responsible for the accuracy of names as well as of birth and death dates.

Research continued into her full-time employment at the University. In the summer of 1984 the four male editors invited Cathy (soprano) and another woman (alto) to "sit down with them for a week and sing through 440 hymns. It was fun," Cathy said. "We stayed at the summer home of one of the editors, in Michigan. Every morning we got up, ate breakfast, and sang all day. I know the neighbors noticed!"

Today we enjoy the results of so much care in our use of the third edition of the *Worship* hymnal. Our parish and parishes all over the country are using it, as Cathy puts it, "to learn the hymns and come back to them year after year," singing God's praise.

We shall reap what we sow

In January our nation was graced by a visit from Pope John Paul II, the Vicar of Christ. While he was here he spoke of issues of life and mercy toward all humankind. In response, Governor Mel Carnahan of Missouri commuted the death sentence of convicted triple murderer Darrell Mease. His was an act of courage and grace. He later stated that despite Darrell Mease's "heinous" crime and the expected political fallout, his decision to grant the pope's appeal for clemency came from his heart.

The governor's action must be seen not as letting the bad guys get away with criminal activity, but rather, showing them mercy despite what they have done. The questions of cruel punishment or monetary costs are less important than other effects on our society.

Pope John Paul II has stated on numerous occasions that we Americans are living in a "culture of death." When we look closely at how

we handle difficult or frightening situations, we can see how accurate his observation is. We live in a "disposable" society. We have the ability to eliminate our "problems" quickly, whether the problem is an unwanted child, an elderly person, or a criminal. The solution has become one of taking life, of killing, regardless of the name we give it—"choice," "mercy," "justice."

The pope, by asking for clemency for Darrell Mease, was not excusing Mease's crime or suggesting that it did not merit severe punishment. Rather, he was showing us what Christ expects of us as his brothers and sisters, as children of our Father.

Prison ministry is an active, vital, necessary part of living out our Christian faith. Those in prison are our brothers and sisters in Christ, as much



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."

Two items have recently been placed on the wish list:

- 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.
- Clip art (electronic and/or printed) for illustrating *In Focus*. Two or three software packages or books could be purchased for about \$100, eliminating the need for scanning printed pieces or manual pasteup.

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

Continued on page 7



RCIA

Lent: A time to take a searching look

On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent the rite known as the Scrutinies invites us to undertake a searching study, inquiry, or examination of our lives.

Since St. Patrick's implementation of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults 12 years ago, these three Sundays of Lent have been marked by the Scrutinies, read out at all Masses.

The Scrutinies are meant to help uncover and heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the Elect (those men and women who have undertaken active preparation for being received into the Church) and in our own hearts, and to bring out and strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. This rite is intended to complete the conversion of the Elect and to deepen their resolve (and ours) to follow Christ in communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

How lucky we are to have a time in the Church calendar set aside for us to call specifically to mind those things that keep us from drawing closer to our God! The Scrutinies call us to a conversion of heart. Conversion allows us to respond to God's call in our lives and asks us to let go of those things that keep us from responding and entering into a deeper relationship and commitment with Jesus Christ.

Continued from page 6

a part of the Body of Christ as any saint. In Matthew's Gospel Christ tells us that when we visit those in prison we visit Christ himself. In showing mercy to prisoners, who have as much a chance at redemption as anyone else, we plant a seed of hope.

We know that we shall reap what we sow; the Bible tells us as much. When we face our final judgment, it will be too late for a change of heart—we must strive now to show mercy, even where it seems undeserved. God has done as much for us.

Conversion is the *ongoing* response of our whole person turning in faith and love to the God who loves us. In order to respond, we have to be continually on guard against the defenses that keep us from being fully committed to our loving God. It is a mark of Americans that we want to "do it ourselves"—we must continually tell ourselves that we can really do nothing by ourselves, but that with the grace of God all things are possible.

- The Scrutinies invite us to pray
- that we may sincerely reject everything in our lives that is displeasing and contrary to Christ;
 - that families and nations prevented from embracing the faith may be granted freedom to believe the Gospel;
 - that our Elect may open their hearts to God and acknowledge him as the source of all light and truth.

Take special notice of the Scrutinies this Lent and make them your own. Join with the Elect to deepen your resolve to follow Christ in communion with the Roman Catholic Church. Observe this Lent as if it were your very last—the rewards will surprise you!

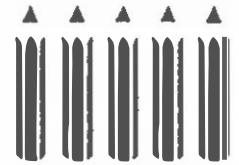
Prayer for vocations



I am made in your image and likeness, Lord God. As I continue to grow, please help me to discover the

gifts and talents you have given me to share with your people. I want to love you and follow you more closely each day. Show me the way, Lord Jesus, so that I may live a life of service for you and for others. Do you want me to be a priest? a religious sister or brother? My life is in your hands, now and forever.

*Holy Cross
newsline*



In her "State of the School" letter to parents, Sr. Kathleen wrote that Holy Cross School is 412 students strong. This number includes 72 students from St. Patrick's, 7 from other parishes, and 31 non-Catholic students. The staff of 30 are degreed and certified. She described the program as both educational and virtue-based.

Observance of Catholic Schools Week, Feb. 1-5, included a prayer service, an open house for viewing added and renovated projects, community speakers acknowledging contributions of Holy Cross students, a student talent show, and the Medieval Fair. Each student hung a personalized star in the gym, and a fine arts presentation of Middle Eastern music capped the week.

Students celebrated the 100th day of the school year on Feb. 10!

Congratulations! Parents and students lent muscle to Pages for All Ages to help move books to the book store's new location in Savoy. Wages as well as profits from a book fair went to Holy Cross students.

Although the three-year Hershey-Hefty UPC program has been terminated, money earned from it purchased a new VCR for the school. Kodak also donated a National Geographic CD-ROM for use in the computer/library lab.

Holy Cross Boy Scouts observed Scout Sunday by recognizing recipients of Catholic Scouting awards.

Needed: Please save General Mills box tops and Campbell Soup labels for Holy Cross students.

The C-U Good News

From RLCC

In the last several years, Religious Leaders for Community Care (RLCC) has worked locally on such projects as Make-a-Difference Day, ecumenical and interracial Unity Services, annual February Reconciliation Retreats, Fall Reconciliation Conferences, and interaction between churches and the C-U school administrators—among other things.

This year RLCC's four top priorities will be

- Employment concerns (job training, hiring policies)
- Justice/Injustice concerns (media, police, courts)
- Improving interracial relationships (unity services, study circles, sister churches)
- Equality and enhanced sensitivity in our educational system

Study circles will begin in March. Several facilitator training events and a pilot session have been completed. Champaign's Human Relations Commission is organizing this effort in cooperation with several organizations. The format is intended to build



understanding through dialog; it has been widely received and used nationally. RLCC hopes to have 20 groups with co-facilitators meeting 2 hours weekly (at various times) for 6 weeks, Mar. 8-Apr. 30.

An Action Forum follows (May 1-15) to move the process from "talk" to "action."

On Friday, Mar. 5, 9:30-11:00 a.m., the World Day of Prayer will be observed by Church Women United at New Covenant (124 W. White, C.). The worship service, "God's Tender Touch," was written by women in Venezuela reflecting on God's blessing of love to all creation. Assisting churches are Salem Baptist, St. Patrick's Catholic, and McKinley Presbyterian. Child care provided for children under 5.

An Evangelization Minute

From Gary Laumann

My most continuous experience of meeting God in prayer is here, with many of you, every week, at Mass. You may have heard about the little boy who thought that God loved him, but he wished God had skin on so he could feel God's hug. I'm kind of like that boy. I often need my God "with skin on." Participating in the weekly Mass at St. Patrick's gets me close to God's "skin." Being with you all together, here, together you are God's "skin" to me.

When I was a kid-Catholic preparing to make my First Communion, I was told to receive the host, keep my eyes to the floor on my way back to my seat, and cover my face to pray when I got back to the pew. As my fifty-some years went by, I began to sit in my seat after Communion and look intently at each person returning from Communion. Sometimes I even got to be a eucharistic minister and look directly at each person receiving God's body and blood. Our diversity is a delight and a challenge to me. I am continually learning that God's "skin" comes in all colors, genders, sizes, and personalities.

We have just completed the season that specifically celebrated "Emmanuel," meaning "God is with us." I believe that. God IS with US, God IS in US, particularly when we gather HERE. I experience God in the prayer that we make by just coming together as God's people. It is only with you that I find God "with skin on," and I thank you all for your presence here. The faith you show in God and God's Kingdom by "just showing up" and participating often brings me what I look for in order to continue on.



Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Joanne Arie

Peanut Brittle

3/4 c white Karo syrup	1/4 t salt
1 c white sugar	1 T butter
1 1/2 - 2 c raw peanuts	1 t soda

Put syrup and sugar in a heavy saucepan over high heat and stir until sugar is dissolved. Add peanuts and salt. Continue to stir over high heat until syrup begins to take on a caramel color. (Watch the color carefully; you can easily overcook the syrup!)

Remove from heat and stir in the butter and soda. Stir well until the butter is melted. Pour immediately onto a buttered cookie sheet. Cool; break into pieces. Keep in tightly covered container. (It also freezes well.) Makes about one pound.

I have also made this using pecans or cashews instead of peanuts.

Why a new Lectionary?

The Lectionary is the book carried high in the procession at the beginning of Mass. It contains the Scripture readings proclaimed during the Mass.

There are many editions of the Lectionary around the world because of the many languages used in worship. The American bishops recently prepared a new edition of the Lectionary for use in American churches beginning with the first Sunday of Advent last December. At St. Patrick's, we waited a few weeks to introduce the new Lectionary after we had received the new *Worship* hymnals, revised to include the same wording as that used in the new Lectionary. We wanted people at Mass to be able to see the same wording they heard proclaimed, thus avoiding confusion.

The changes to the Lectionary were made for several reasons. The New American Bible's translation of Scripture, used for the readings in the Mass, has itself been revised over the years as Scripture scholars and wordsmiths have continued to improve on the faithfulness of the translation. Some awkward phrases have been made clearer as well as easier to proclaim aloud at Mass. And the use of the word *man* as a term meant to stand for all people, both men and women, has been reduced.

The new Lectionary also contains more readings than the one it replaced. With Vatican II a three-year cycle of readings was introduced, along with the use of three Scripture readings at each Mass. As a result, we've heard far more of the Bible at Mass than in pre-Vatican II days. A few feasts, however, had just one set of readings for use during all three cycles. The new Lectionary now provides a different set of readings for these feasts, one for each year in the three-year cycle: Holy Family, Baptism of the Lord, Ascension, and Pentecost. We can look forward to a richer understanding of these feasts as we hear more Scripture passages that shed light on them.



Q: We don't hear much about fasting these days. Is it one of those pre-Vatican II Lenten practices no longer observed in the Church?

A: Fasting can be traced to Old Testament times. Christian fasting has always been associated with prayer and the sharing of goods.

The connection between fasting and prayer is made over and over again in both Old and New Testaments: Jesus went into the desert to pray and fast in preparation for his "public life"; Paul and Barnabas prayed and fasted with the disciples before installing presbyters in the churches at Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch; the prophetess Anna worshiped in the temple day and night "with fasting and prayer."

While fasting is closely linked with prayer, from earliest times it was also associated with almsgiving. Today "almsgiving" can seem like condescension to the poor. So we speak instead of "sharing," which is precisely the meaning of almsgiving as it was once understood: one fasts to be able to share.

The discipline of fasting has evolved to the point where it is obligatory today only on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On the other hand, Lent is the occasion for extensive sharing programs in the form of collections for the poorest of the poor, particularly those in the Third World.

The generosity with which these appeals are met bears witness to our growing consciousness of the duty of rich countries to share with poor countries. Still, the link between

sharing and fasting is in danger of disappearing. We give, but our generous donations are not—at least not directly—the fruit of fasting.

As meritorious and meaningful as it is to give or to reserve for Lenten sharing the money we might otherwise have spent for food, the money thus saved for sharing would not enable us to give as generously as we might do otherwise in a Lenten campaign or drive. Yet Lent remains a call to us, an occasion for us to ask ourselves what part we can have in bringing about justice, a beginning of sharing at least with the poor among us, and a greater solidarity with the marginalized among us, children of the same Father.

Fasting and almsgiving (or sharing) are "the two wings of prayer," St. Augustine says in his treatise on Psalm 42. Fasting-to-be-able-to-share is as essential for Christians today as yesterday, perhaps even more so.

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

Just a second!

A young man once asked God how long a million years was to him. God replied, "A million years to me is just like a single second in your time."



Then the young man asked God what a million dollars was to him. God replied, "A million dollars to me is just like a single penny."

The young man got up his courage then and asked: "God, could I have one of your pennies?"

God smiled and replied, "Certainly. Just a second."

March 1999

St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Pro- Life Com	2 8:30-10:00am Parish Nurse 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Moms Group 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com	3 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Childrens Choir 6:00pm Childrens Reconciliation Service 7:00pm Over 21 Bible Study 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir	4 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Building & Grounds Com	5 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry	6 8:00am Pro- Life Mass
7 9:00am & 11:00 am Childrens Rel Ed 9:00am RCIA 10:15am Childrens Liturgy 6:30pm Teen Reconciliation Service 6:30pm Bible Study Lenders	8 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Social Action Com	9 8:30-10:00am Parish Nurse 9:00am Bible Study 6:45pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Homily Prep & Liturgy Com 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com	10 9:30am Funeral Schools 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Childrens Choir 6:00pm Childrens Rel Ed- Urbana 6:30pm Childrens Rel Ed- St. Joe 7:00pm Over 21 Bible Study 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Personnel Com	11 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Knights of Columbus 7:30pm Lecture Series-Sr. M. Christine Athens	12 10:30am Mass- Urbana NH 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry	13  The dead- line for In Focus articles is tomorrow!
14	15 7:00pm Centering Prayer	16 8:30-10:00am Parish Nurse 9:30am Moms Group 7:00pm Homily Prep	17  St. Patrick's Day 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Childrens Choir 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir	18 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council	19 10:30am Mass- Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry	20
21 9:00am & 11:00 am Childrens Rel Ed 9:00am RCIA 10:15am Childrens Liturgy 10:15am Knights of Columbus 6:30pm Bible Study Lenders 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Rel Ed 7:00pm Solemn Vespers	22 9:30am Archives Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Communal Reconciliation at Holy Cross	23 9:00am Bible Study 7:30pm Communal Reconciliation at St. Pat's	24 9:30am Funeral Schools 1:00pm Ground Breaking- St. Thomas More HS 5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Childrens Rel Ed- Urbana 6:30pm Childrens Rel Ed- St. Joe 7:00pm Over 21 Bible Study 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Communal Reconciliation at St. Matthew's	25 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Com- munications Com	26 10:00am Mass- Manor Care NH 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry	27 8:00am Evan- gelization Team 8:30am - noon Spring Cleaning of the Church
28 Passion Sunday 9:00am & 11:00 am Childrens Rel Ed 10:15am Childrens Liturgy 12:00pm RCIA	29 7:00pm Centering Prayer	30 7:00pm - 8:00pm Individual Confessions	31 4:00pm - 5:00pm Individual Confessions 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir			