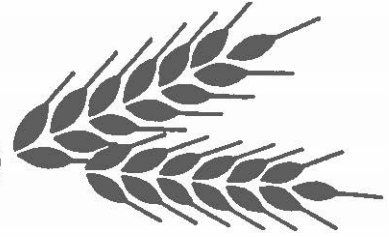


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



## St. Patrick's elects four to the Parish Council

With over 600 ballots cast at six weekend Masses April 8-9, parishioners elected four to three-year terms on the Parish Council: Joyce Baird, Richard Bronson, Dwight Raab, and Chris Stohr. The newly elected members will be seated on the Council at the conclusion of Old Business at the May 18 meeting. Their first task will be to elect officers to serve the Council for 2000-01.

The election slate this year included three high-schoolers, all of whom expressed the desire to bridge a perceived communication gap between youth and adults in the parish. Their strong showing in the election indicates parishioners' support of this goal.

All eight candidates deserve the thanks of parishioners for their willingness to serve. Those elected will be grateful for our prayerful support and cooperation.



Joyce Baird



Richard Bronson



Dwight Raab



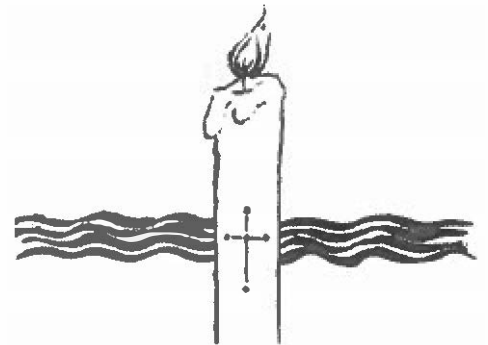
Chris Stohr

### Barbara Wysocki commissioned Notary/Auditor

Sometimes a person needs all the help we can give. And St. Patrick's has just been enabled to help a little more. Parishioner Barbara Wysocki has recently been commissioned as a Notary/Auditor for the Marriage Tribunal of the Diocese of Peoria. Barbara has successfully completed her diocesan training to help persons process marriage annulment cases.

"The processing of marriage annulment cases is the responsibility of every parish as a matter of justice for those who have suffered the breakup of a marriage through divorce," Fr. Remm said. "The Church must be faithful to our belief in the permanence of valid sacramental marriage," he added, "but the Church does recognize that some marriages are not sacramental, and some are not valid from the beginning for a variety of reasons. That is why each case must be thoroughly investigated by qualified persons."

Barbara now joins Sr. Charlene Cesario, pastoral associate at St. Patrick's, who was commissioned to provide this assistance several years ago. Fr. Remm welcomes their help in processing marriage annulment cases. He invites those seeking a Church annulment to call the parish office (367-2665) for appointments with Sr. Charlene and Barbara. He himself will make such referrals to them, he



**Christ is risen today!**

**Alleluia!**

### Journeys and homecomings

"I had been interested in Catholicism since childhood, but I began to want to inquire in a serious way after my mother's death, about 3 years ago. I felt the need for a community and a faith that I could rely on in such a time and I felt that St. Patrick's offered such a community."

This is how Gail Hapke describes her journey from Inquirer last fall to Catechumen (one who is instructed) in December to Elect (chosen one) on Mar. 12 to Neophyte (new Catholic) at Easter. Gail is married to Warren Hapke and is the mother of Aaron, 19, and Laura, 8. She is assistant to the Director of the Rhetoric Program at UI and is completing her Ph.D. in Writing Studies.

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said, adding that "they will respect your confidentiality in the same way as I do."

Barbara Wysocki, right, is congratulated after the commissioning ceremony in St. Mary's Cathedral by former St. Patrick's



parishioner Sr. Marianne Burkhard, OSB, who serves as an associate judge and judge instructor on the diocesan Marriage Tribunal.



Welcome to new parishioners Sharon-Sarah Fitzgerald, Sarah Glenn, Greg Granadino, Jennifer Keefer, Cheryl Mitchell.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Teresa Graney, John Malone, Judy and Lawrence Mingee, Duc V. Pham, Elice and Tommy Setiawan.

Welcome to the following baptized into our faith community: Wyatt Michael Bailey, Emma Clare Bruda, Jacob Patrick Luffman, Claire Ann Penrose, Caleb Matthew Keefer, Cody Michael Keefer, William Michael Pardick, Jordan Erin Pardick.

Congratulations to Mary Kay Farber and Rupert Evans, recently married at St. Patrick's.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Rita Kanady, Judith Marie Wise, Ronald D. Costa, Helen Mischo, Gregory Kruszich, John McCabe, Harlan Dickerson.

## Kids speak out about Church

At St. Patrick's Catholic Church there is probably no time greater than the Lenten season when people of all ages and various stages of their faith journey are contemplating "Why am I a Catholic?" "Or, why become a Catholic now?" And "Why practice my faith here at St. Patrick's Church?" For heartfelt and genuinely sincere answers to those questions, we went to the children of the parish. Their answers are probably quite similar to the answers many St. Patrick's adults would provide!

Why here? Why now?

First-grade students in a Sunday School class at St. Patrick's were asked to complete the sentence "I like coming to St. Patrick's Church because..." Answers included "It is fun." "It is holy." What a great way to describe a church! Our pastor, Fr. Remm, would be pleased with that, as would the Social Committee. One first-grader said he liked coming to church because "Jesus was baptized here." (He may have been really impressed by Nick Britsky's depiction of Jesus's baptism by John that graces our baptistry.) One first-grade girl said she liked coming to St. Patrick's because "We pray to Jesus. We learn about Jesus. And we recycle stuff in class." Hats off to her catechist for working a little environmental teaching into those lesson plans!

Nine second-graders in the 9:00 a.m. Sunday School class were also asked why they liked coming to St. Patrick's church. Of the nine, eight included "because of the donuts!" in their answer. However, one student's response included prayer, food, community, and reflection. She said, "I like coming to church to pray the Our Father. To eat the donuts. To make new friends. To be with Jesus." Doesn't that sound like an answer we might all like to make?

The fourth-graders were asked "What do you like best about being part of the Catholic Church?" One girl's reply was, "It feels like a whole bunch of friends and they treat you right." Another fourth-grader said the best reason to

come to St. Patrick's Catholic Church is "to be able to ask for forgiveness and we can also forgive others." Those fourth-graders are pretty impressive!

A fifth-grade girl appreciates the fact that "there are always other people in the church and none of us are alone." Another fifth-grader said she likes coming to St. Patrick's "knowing that I am dedicating time to God and to Jesus." Very insightful fifth-graders.

When a sixth-grade girl was asked "What do you like best about being part of St. Patrick's?" her answer was "Some of the things we do at Sunday School are sort of fun and Children's Mass is sort of fun, too." This is a very strong endorsement from a middle-school student; "sort of fun" will keep them coming back!

So ... now it's our turn: Why now? Why at St. Patrick's?

## "Do this in memory of me"

If the phrase "Do this in memory of me" turns up on a paper in a good freshman composition class, the *this* is circled and clarification is demanded. What does *this* refer to? Did Jesus mean "Say these words, use these elements and these gestures in memory of me"? By no means.

He had said, "This is my body, which is given up for you. This is the cup of my blood, which is poured out for you." "Do this in memory of me" means "in memory of me you should imitate my self-giving, which is represented in these symbols of bread broken and wine poured out. When you take and eat, you enter into this action and commit yourself to imitate my self-giving in your own life."

The purpose of the Eucharist is to create a community of people who live in the paschal mystery. They strive to imitate Jesus's self-giving by loving God above all and loving all others as Jesus loves them. They strive to show their love by dying to themselves so they may live and by emptying themselves for others so as to be fulfilled.

—From *America* (3/4/00)



## Inviting Inactive Catholics Home

With 45 million members, the Roman Catholic Church is the largest religious group in the U.S. today. The second largest group, with 17 million members, is made up of Catholics who no longer practice their faith. These people are our family members, our neighbors, and our coworkers, people we care about.

In this jubilee year, we have been looking for ways to give witness to our faith, to restore connectedness among people and to set right the wrongs of the past and the present. What better time to be signs of hope and to offer a gentle invitation to our inactive brothers and sisters?

The U.S. Bishops Evangelization Committee recently conducted research to understand better why Catholics become inactive. To read the results is to begin the process of listening. If we listen with openness to these views and also to our experience of faith, perhaps we can begin to find ways to address the situation.

Here, then, are the reasons why some Catholics have become inactive:

*Some did not experience the power or presence of God in Catholicism or in the Catholic community of which they were a part. Some did not experience warm, personal, caring relationships in their encounters with Catholics. To them the people seemed cold, the services boring.*

The predictability of our liturgy gives us room to sink roots deeper and deeper into our faith, but we all find it dull at times. Can we communicate the stories of our journey of faith? Can we encourage those to



## Word from Dr. Susan Nagele...

*The following is excerpted from a letter dated Mar. 3:*

Things have been a bit hectic since Feb. 14. Marty [another lay missionary] and I flew to Loki and picked up polio vaccine—it took us almost all day to finish everything and then we still had a 7-hour drive to Nanyangacor. We arrived at 1:30 a.m.!

The polio campaign started at 7:30 a.m. on Feb. 15, and we finished up and returned to Lotimor on Feb. 22. I have given my room to Sr. Marilyn Norris; Marty and I each have a small room out back, where the cook stays. All my files and desk are still in the other room, so it's a little more difficult to get work done. Tim says that we can move into the house in Nanyangacor, so this is just temporary.

On Feb. 27 I went back to Nanyangacor to pay salaries and do a clinic. On the 29th there was a memorial Mass in Narus for Leo. It was very nice, and the church was packed. It will take a long time to say good-bye to him!

Tim wants to have a workshop on health with the community leaders in the middle of the month. On Mar. 27-31 we have the second round of the polio campaign. It was supposed to be earlier, but the Khartoum government changed it and I didn't find out until late January. They are the ones the World Health Organization has to listen to, but it's not a good time for us. By then, the rains may have started, and we'll find it very difficult to move. We will see.

You may have heard that about 30 nongovernmental organizations left S. Sudan last week. The SPLA demanded they sign a memorandum of understanding. I haven't seen a copy, but from what I've heard, many of the points were unfair and would have compromised their ability to work. It seems that the SPLA is now trying to treat the Diocese like a nongovernmental organization and force the bishop to sign as well. He says he will never sign, and we all support him. However the SPLA has threatened to expel all expatriates working for the diocese if he doesn't sign. Today all the bishops in the



south were called to meet with the SPLA in Nairobi. We hope and pray they will be able to work things out.

I'm not very worried about it. I know I'll be working somewhere!

*Peace + God Bless,  
Susan*

*Susan's mailing address: DOT, Box 52802, Nairobi, Kenya.*



*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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## in our parish library

Have questions about Catholic teachings, beliefs, practices? The following books, available in the parish library, may provide some answers for you.

*Could You Ever Come Back to the Catholic Church?* by Lorene Hanley Duquin (282 Duq) Chapters in the book address such matters as "Why did you leave?" "How much do I have to believe?" "Changes in the Church since Vatican II," "The Human Side of the

Church," and "A Look inside the Marriage Tribunal." It is an excellent, easy-to-read re-introduction to the Catholic Church.

*While You Were Gone: A Handbook for Returning Catholics (and Those Thinking about It)*, by William J. Bausch (282 Bau) This book identifies the key questions and concerns of Catholics returning to the Church after an absence of several years. It addresses history, changes, and culture, and how these affect the Church—and you—today.

*Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons? And 199 Other Questions from Catholic Teenagers*, by Matthew J. Pinto (282 Pin) Yes, the title does say teenagers, but adults can learn a lot from reading this book. There are questions about morality, Catholicism and society, prayer and worship. Answers are straightforward, brief, and to the point. This book is recommended to anyone who wants a basic review of the Catholic faith.

*If you have trouble locating books or other materials in the library, or want to know whether the library has something on a subject of interest to you, please call Frances Drone-Silvers (398-1458), parish library coordinator. She will be pleased to help.*

### From Jim Westervelt *An evangelization minute*

About a year ago I was formally confirmed into the Catholic Church in a simple ceremony during the Children's Liturgy. Shortly thereafter Fr. Remm suggested that I might share with you the path that brought me to this point.

I am part of the 9 o'clock Mass community at St. Patrick's; you will generally find me hiding up in the choir loft most of the year. I am also among the group of parents with grade-school children. St. Patrick's is rich in communities that meet so many of our different needs throughout the stages of our lives!

I want to express three offerings of thanks. But first I want to share a bit of my journey so that those offerings can be put into perspective.

My father was raised by a single mother. Dad's father died when my dad was 9 months old. Dad's mother brought him up culturally Catholic in New York. That is, the Catholic Church was what he knew. I don't think he and his mother were regular at church.

At age 20, while in the Air Force, Dad met and married my mother. Mom had a strong Brethren upbringing in the Denver area. The military moved them both to Tampa, where I was born

11 months later. Not yet having addressed the question of a family religious environment—especially for children, they were in a quandary: Catholic, Brethren, other? But church itself was important. The baby would be baptized, but where? I was baptized Catholic primarily because a Catholic baptism was accepted by the Brethren as well as other potential denominations. At the end of the ceremony I was carried out of the Catholic church, perhaps never to return.

My young parents moved the growing family regularly during those years of Air Force, college, and first jobs. I remember eight different homes, four different cities, four different grade schools. My family did decide what to do about church in each of those moves. They visited a number of churches representing various denominations and went to the one that had a liturgy, congregation, and leadership that felt right. As a result I am part Brethren, part Presbyterian, part Congregational, and part Lutheran—on top of my Catholic baptism. I was ecumenical, all right, all by myself!

During my upbringing I wasn't too sure about Catholics. I thought they were pretty different. On one occasion I visited a Catholic church on a weekday. The church was dark, lined by large statues of saints staring down from the

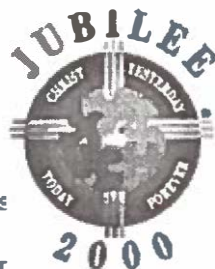
high walls in the dark. Pretty strange, and a bit frightening. I had no idea that Vatican II was reshaping the Church while I was staring up at those stony eyes. As the years passed, the Church waited patiently and mysteriously created a path that led me to her.

I now find myself with you and now offer you my three notes of thanks. First, I thank you for raising wonderful children. I began understanding this in college. I realized that many of the people I was attracted to, often young ladies, were Catholic. There is no better evangelization than to send a child out into the world who embraces and expresses the faith and ethics of the Church.

Second, I thank you for holding the door to the Church open all those years. I thank you for your persistent and loving patience. My wife, one of those wonderful Catholic children, is my best example of this. Anyone who humbly persists in faith is an irresistible evangelizer.

Finally I thank you for your demonstration of one of Fr. Kane's simple recipes for successful faith: love God, love your neighbor, and love yourself.

We must continue to do these three things: raise wonderful children, hold that door open to others, and always love God, each other, and ourselves. Doing so will continue to make St. Pat's and the Catholic Church irresistibly evangelical—even for harder cases like myself.





**Q:** How does a person who is not a theologian or scholar start reading the Bible?

**A:** Unless you intend to read the Bible for devotional purposes, I recommend that you search out a book that will serve as an aid to your understanding what you are reading. There many such books available at Catholic supply stores, such as C & A Inspirations (Champaign) and Lagron-Miller Company (Peoria). Let me suggest a few titles: *Reading the Bible; A Catholic View—Seeker's Guide; A Bible Companion—A Handbook for Beginners*, by Ronald Witherup; *A Catholic Guide to the Bible*.

It is important that you stick with Catholic sources, as Protestant (especially Fundamentalist) understandings and interpretations of the Bible can be quite different. Ecumenical Bible Study groups are sometimes vulnerable to such influences.

For a beginner, it's not a good idea to read the Bible from beginning to end. I did this one time, after I had been ordained a priest for a number of years. It takes a great deal of will power, as some books of the Old Testament are almost unreadable, except for scholars.

The Bible is unique among other books (actually, it is composed of many books) for reasons other than its divine inspiration. It is made up of many so-called literary forms—poetry, parables, allegories, speeches, fables, fictional short stories, letters, among others. You can't begin to put all these elements together in some kind of orderly and comprehensible way without outside resources.

Devotional reading of the Bible is a different matter. It's not at all difficult to find books or pamphlets that are composed of Bible readings for the day. These are particularly worthwhile for Lenten or Advent spiritual reading.

All this being said, simply reading the Bible is a good thing. Reading it with a certain amount of background and understanding is better, much better.

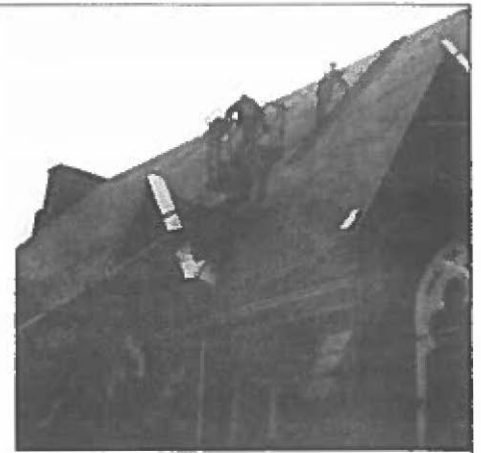
Fr. Richard Mullen

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

## Thanks, Mike!

The Building and Grounds Committee heartily thanks Mike Cain of Advanced Sheet Metal & Roofing for his generous donation of repairs to St. Patrick's church slate roof, gutters, and downspouts. His men worked five days, replacing approximately 150 slate shingles and repairing countless others. His donation adds 5-10 years of serviceability to our church roof and gives an idea of replacement costs when that becomes necessary.

Thanks from all of us too, Mike!



Don't fall! Please don't fall!

## Summertime, and the parish is changing

Spring flowers, First Communion, and graduating seniors are harbingers of the great summer migration from and into Champaign-Urbana and so also from and into St. Patrick's Parish, so closely tied to patterns of change at the University of Illinois.

Parishioners who remain wave fond farewells to those who leave, promising prayers for successful re-rooting in their new homes and in their new ventures. And they look for ways to become acquainted with newcomers to the area who are settling into new jobs, new neighborhoods, new classes, new parish communities.

At St. Patrick's, parish secretary Leslie Risatti is often the first to greet newcomers to the parish, providing a "welcome packet" and a registration form to ease their entry into the parish. To personalize this welcome, members of St. Patrick's Welcome Team contact new families and set up a home visit if they are interested.

The newcomers bring a gift bag of special items from St. Patrick's, visit and answer questions, say a prayer of blessing for the household, and arrange to meet members of the family at Mass and Coffee Shop so they can introduce them to others. Invitations to subsequent parish social events or to parish groups of interest are also intended to help our new parishioners feel welcome and ease the transition to a new

faith community.

Volunteers on the Welcome Team at present are John and Judy Hummel, Terri and Harry Ruedi, Joe and Jeannie Rasmussen, Dick and Pat Justice, Phil and Roxie Robinson, Tom and Nancy Delanty, and Diane and Mark Cousert.

As the summer advances and you become aware of new neighbors trying to acclimate themselves to the parish, extend the friendly welcoming hand that characterizes St. Patrick's and call Mary Long (367-2665), who will arrange for a call from Welcome Team volunteers.

## Prayer for vocations



Heavenly Father, help all our young people to know their vocation in life, and assist them to prepare for it.

For your greater glory, and for the service of the Church and all your people, call many to be priests and religious. Give those whom you call grace to respond generously, and to persevere faithfully.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen

*Mary, Mother of the Church, show your care for the Body of Christ; encourage many vocations to the priesthood and religious life.*

## ADA: New name, purpose the same

Since 1986 St. Patrick's has supported the ASA (Annual Stewardship Appeal) of the Diocese of Peoria. This year the parish is again asked to support the work of the diocese, but under a new name: ADA (Annual Diocesan Appeal).

The purpose is the same, and Fr. Remm anticipates that parishioners' support of the many aspects of good works will also reflect the same compassion and generosity of prior years.

Our "stewardship of treasure" is so necessary because there are so many needs in the diocese that require a Christian response, needs that cannot be fulfilled by either the individual Christian or by the local parish alone. The ADA is the major source of revenue for the centrally funded apostolates and agencies that enable the Church of Peoria to reach across parish boundaries—spreading light where there may be darkness, hope where there is despair, comfort where there is pain—through programs and services in many mission areas.

We are asked to keep in mind the theme of this year's appeal, "Whatever You Do."

This year Fr. Remm has asked Jean Daly and John Duffin to co-chair the parish ADA drive. They will be assisted by parish trustee Mary Ann Luedtke and the volunteers who graciously help to complete the record-keeping tasks in addition to sharing a portion of their financial resources.

There have been meetings at a local level in addition to the official kickoff at a Mass and luncheon in Peoria. Much organization precedes the actual drive—planning sessions, volunteer recruitment, gathering and preparation of necessary materials, training and assignment of workers.

St. Patrick's Parish benefits from

this drive in two ways. The first is through participation in programs offered by the diocese that have been and are attended by many parishioners. The second is in the form of a rebate to the parish of money collected in excess of the goal assigned by the diocese. Fr. Remm has opted to have any rebates received deposited to the parish's Centennial Fund to help with our great celebration of 100 years!

Please mark your calendars and arrive either on Saturday, May 6, or Sunday, May 7, prepared to contribute cheerfully in answer to this appeal.

*Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. (Mt 25:40)*



## Parish Wish List

Over the years generous parishioners have made possible, through their donations, purchase of items or equipment not regularly included in the parish's operating budget but useful to have, or the construction of oases of peace and relaxation on parish grounds for the enjoyment of all.

The current parish wish list includes several such items:

- Five CPUs to upgrade existing office computers for Internet accessibility, approximately \$600 each
- Sound Mixer Unit for Teen Liturgy choir and musicians, \$1000
- Clavinova keyboard for Teen and Children's liturgies, \$1600
- Eight round tables for parish meetings, \$139 each
- Two benches for the new patio, \$700 each

Donations earmarked for a specific item, in whole or in part, will be gratefully acknowledged! If you would like more information about any of these items, Fr. Remm will be happy to discuss them with you.

## After fifteen years, God found me



My two tours in Viet Nam as an infantryman left me with many hidden scars, resulting in a drinking problem, marital problems, all the issues with which many of my compatriots of the time had to deal.

I had difficulty even dealing with my children. I simply couldn't love.

Over the two years in Viet Nam, I had suppressed feelings, perhaps with the intention of dealing with them later—sorrow at losing a valued friend, the horror of violence, mostly the feeling of guilt. If one feels these things and cannot "love thy neighbor," or family, or self, how can one love God?

After fifteen years of self-pity, continued repression, and lying to myself, God found me. Or I found God, still dwelling in my deepest spirit. Over the years, in the dark silence of prayer, God visited me, healed me, welcomed me back to the human race. I was truly born again.

God lifted me, one issue at a time, once more a death, a dying friend, and rid me of guilt. Each time it was a loving experience, not a tragedy. I wept, and God consoled. I revolted, and God healed. I blamed, and God strengthened me so I could not blame anymore. Finally I loved, and God smiled.

I want to thank all of you who have shared your experiences of God here. You've helped me see how God has been working with me, been patient with me, all these years. After all this time, it seems that I have only started. But each of our long miles starts with a small step, sometimes in darkness, sometimes in silence.

Dave

*When we share our faith stories, we are changed, and those we share them with are changed as well. Do you have a story to share? Send it to the Communications Committee, c/o St. Patrick's, or drop it off at the parish office. Be sure to include your name and telephone number, although names will be withheld on request.*



## People who can help

Father George Remm, pastor of St. Patrick's, says "There are many doorways through which a person can come back, not just one" for people seeking reconciliation or renewal with the Church. The parish offers lots of ordinary structures that give access to someone who wants to return. Through the sacrament of Reconciliation the Church offers a personal invitation to people who have been away for a long time. There is daily Mass at St. Patrick's, at 7 a.m. and 12:10 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. on Saturday. These masses provide a very intimate and welcoming environment for people seeking spiritual connection. Fr. Remm is available for personal meetings and individual confessions by appointment. He also makes hospital visitations to Carle Foundation Hospital.



Fr. George Remm, pastor

Standing at the front or side door after Sunday Mass, Father Gene Kane, the "retired, assisting" priest at St. Patrick's, tries to "be there" for people, greeting them and shaking their hands. Fr. Kane attends many parish functions, such as the Lenten Fish Fry on Fridays and the Coffee Shop after Sunday Masses. Through his often deeply individual homilies, Fr. Kane encourages people to a more heartfelt commitment to God through prayer. He also meets with people on an individual basis, often over breakfast or lunch.



Fr. Gene Kane, retired, assisting

Sister Charlene, pastoral associate at St. Patrick's, reaches out to individual parishioners in a variety of ways. As director of the parish's bereavement ministry, she works

with parishioners experiencing loss. She is a Notary/Auditor, helping people seeking assistance with information about annulments. Sr. Charlene also trains Eucharistic ministers who minister to shut-ins at home, in nursing homes, or in the hospital. She seeks to be present and supportive for everyone in the parish.



Sr. Charlene Cesario, CSSM, pastoral associate

Our parish secretary, Leslie Risatti, helps connect newcomers and other interested people seeking a church home at St. Patrick's. Anyone calling or stopping by the office is directed to the various ministries and opportunities for service at our parish by Leslie. She also invites callers or drop-in visitors to Sunday Mass and for donuts in the parish center following the 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. Sunday Masses.



Leslie Risatti, parish secretary

Carolyn McElrath, St. Patrick's Director of Religious Education, and other members of her education staff, welcome people to the parish by "trying to meet them where they are." Because of the diverse situa-

tions of individuals and families seeking reconciliation or membership in the Church, the religious education program at St. Patrick's stresses flexibility in meeting their needs. Newcomers might find answers to their questions through the Rite for the Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program, while returning Catholics may be looking for sacramental preparation for their children. If people can't participate in regular meetings, Carolyn tries to arrange meetings with them individually or to connect them with other groups.



Carolyn McElrath, director of religious education

Barb Wysocki, recently commissioned Notary/Auditor for the Diocese of Peoria, will work with people trying to regularize their marriages with the Catholic Church, primarily dealing with annulments. She has been trained to deal with the many difficult issues facing individuals who have experienced divorce. Barbara plans to continue her work with the Remembering Church team, where marital issues frequently arise.



Barbara Wysocki, Notary/Auditor

### Focus on ministry *Liturgical Arts Assistant*

Liturgical artists help to fashion a place that helps people pray together. They collaborate with the sacristan in creating an environment that is welcoming and hospitable, that of itself points beyond to the awe and wonder that foster our prayer.

To that end, and under the direction of the coordinator, liturgical artists assist in the preparation and

arrangement of materials designed to serve this community's prayer. Assistance in designing, sewing, crafting, arranging is needed most especially in preparing for the liturgical seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter.



Coordinator: Marie Conte, 384-7712, mconte@crhc.uiuc.edu

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Gail's description of her faith journey echoes a common thread in responses to the questionnaire distributed to the catechumens.

Interest, inquiry, and desire for faith are shared motivations; community is a common goal. Despite their similarities, each neophyte came to the Catholic faith and St. Patrick's parish along their own path. A Catholic spouse influenced many of them. Some were born Catholic but did not receive all of the sacraments or complete instruction as children. The RCIA (Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults) is the proper process for them to receive this instruction. Although most of these catechumens will be received into the fullness of the Catholic faith at Easter, some may choose to continue the inquiry process for a longer time.

Art Tyril, Dawn Burnett, and Mick McAvoy are the three singles in the group. Art, raised a Methodist, has always wanted to become Catholic. "I noticed

there was some thing missing in my life, which was my faith and spirituality. I have been away from any type of church for a long time. I needed a faith that I could follow, and also a faith that is well organized and disciplined. On my way home from work one day I took a different route and passed by the church. A couple of days later I passed it again. Finally after several passings I decided to go in and inquire about it."

Originally born and raised in Danville, Art relocated to Urbana from Decatur last September. Work in management has taken Art from Danville to such places as Indianapolis, San Antonio and Beaumont (Tex.), Kansas City, and now back to Central Illinois.

"I decided to inquire into the Catholic faith in order to grow in my relationship with the Lord and also to learn more about my Christian faith," shares Dawn D. Burnett, 20, a student majoring in



Gail Hapke



Art Tyril

History at Parkland College. Dawn was attracted to St. Patrick's parish because the parishioners she has known for a long time have always been friendly and open to her.

"When I was a kid, we stopped going to church before I was confirmed," says Mick McAvoy, who was baptized and received the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion in the Catholic Church. Mick was instructed through the RCIA process and will be confirmed at Easter.

Originally from the Quad cities, Mick came to college at the UI and completed his bachelor's degree and law degree here. A friend of Mick's, co-worker Mike Williams, attends St. Patrick's. That's why Mick, who is a prosecutor in the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office, started coming here.

How can a non-Catholic spouse be drawn to faith by coming to church with a Catholic partner? Norma Kerns puts it this way: "When Mike joined St. Patrick's, I came to Mass with him and found that I enjoyed Mass and felt a sense of peace after I left." Norma was also seeking "more family unity through a common faith in the Lord." Norma and Mike, who have been married for eleven years, have two children, Aidan, 7, and Abegael, 2. A third Kerns child is due in May.

"The Catholic faith has always interested me because of the interesting history and tradition. My wife and I have been attending St. Patrick's for almost two years, and the love and warmth of this faith community have made a big impact in my life," relates Brent Rasmus, who works for a Champaign public accounting firm. He is very excited about becoming a Catholic, which he considers to be the starting point of his spiritual journey.

Brent, his wife, Kathy Martensen, and



Dawn Burnett



Mick McAvoy



Norma Kerns

their three cats live in St. Joseph. She attends graduate school at the UI and they are both avid Illini fans.

St. Patrick's is the home parish of Johnny Ray Palmisano, husband of Linda Palmisano. Linda tells us "after attending Mass for several months, I am attracted to the strength of the faith, or rather to the strength the faith has given me." An Urbana native and one of five siblings, Linda has been married to Johnny Ray for five years. She is a bookkeeper for an automobile dealership and has one son, Bill.

"I have been attending Catholic Mass on and off for 24 years at St. Patrick's and at Holy Cross since my wife and I were married at St. Pat's in 1976" by Fr. George Dorsey, relates Paul Anderson. "I just feel that the time is right. I like St. Pat's because I know so many people. I feel welcome and like part of the community.

Paul's family has resided in Champaign County for 6 generations. Paul, Paul Anderson a clerk in the Urbana Post Office for the past 24 years, met his wife, Wanpen, in Urbana. He and Wanpen, a native of Thailand, have two children, Timothy, 9, and Angela, 7.

Kim Evangelisti decided to inquire into our faith from being around her husband, Chris, and his Catholic family. "I always wanted to belong to a religious community where I felt comfortable. After attending St. Patrick's several times, I realized what a nice religious community it offers." Kim especially appreciates the way everyone welcomed her and Chris "with open arms."



Brent Rasmus



Linda Palmisano



Paul Anderson



Kim Evangelisti



Kim loves her job in sales with the AstraZeneca Pharmaceutical Company; she and Chris have a 5-month-old daughter, Madelyn, "who is such a joy, changing every day!" Kim's spare-time activities include working out, biking, volunteering for the American Lung Association, and serving as a nominated convention delegate for her company.

**Chris Evangelisti** has his own story to tell: "My father is Catholic as well as his side of the family.... I was baptized Catholic but had no further instruction, except attending Mass." Now that he has been instructed through RCIA, Chris will receive his First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation at Easter. Chris and Kim chose our parish "because of the comfortable size and warm, friendly people."



Chris Evangelisti

**Chris**, a security officer at Carle Foundation Hospital, loves spending time with his "beautiful wife and daughter who looks like her mother.... I enjoy watching us grow together as a family." A native of Pennsylvania, Chris is a fishing enthusiast.

"Born Catholic, several moves during childhood prevented me from being confirmed," shares **Sandy Broda**. "The birth of my first child brought me back to the Church. I contacted St. Patrick's about baptism and was drawn into the RCIA process. I was attracted to this parish because all those I spoke with were friendly, caring, and totally committed to their faith."



Sandy Broda

Sandy, who works at the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center, has lived in this community for 16 years. She and her husband, Lawrence Broda, have one child, Emma Clare.

**Jeff Hooser**, 29, relates that his wife, Lisa, who is Catholic, and her family, introduced him to our faith. "I like the traditions handed down from the past. I really look forward in partaking in the sacraments. I really want to thank my father-in-law, Dave Lammers," who is

also Jeff's sponsor. Dave has been very supportive and a big help to Jeff and his family throughout the RCIA process.

Jeff works for Servpro, a water and fire damage restoration company. He and Lisa have three children, Paige, 4, Cody, 6, and Dustin, 10.

"I come from a Catholic background, but due to circumstances in my family and upbringing I did not come into full communion with the Church as a child," says **Laura Fitzgerald**. "I have attended Catholic Church all of my adult life. However, over the past few years I have felt God's prompting to more fully participate in the church I consider my home. I feel welcomed by the St. Patrick's community and look forward to coming into the fullness of the Church."



Jeff Hooser



Laura Fitzgerald

Laura's husband, Mike Fitzgerald, is a member of St. Patrick's parish. They have a son, Michael, 9, and reside in southeast Urbana. Laura is a Special Education teacher at Urbana Middle School.

"I decided to inquire into the Catholic faith when I was married to my wife, Cathy, in 1984" at St. Patrick's Church, **Rich Melander** tells us. "Since then I have followed the Catholic faith. My four boys have been raised Catholic and attend Holy Cross School. Father Remm has also inspired me." Cathy's parents, Gene and Connie Osmond, attend St. Patrick's. Family is very important to Rich.

Rich and Cathy live in Champaign with their sons, Brian, Eric, Kevin, and Matthew. Rich works for Kimberly-Clark Corporation.



According to **Kelly Berns**, her faith journey began when she and Michael Berns were united in marriage in the Catholic Church two years ago. "It has been a priority for us to decide upon a common faith with which to raise our future children. We selected St. Patrick's parish not only because of its environment

of community and acceptance but also as the parish in which my husband grew up."

Michael and Kelly live in southeast Urbana. Kelly is working on the completion of her Ph.D. thesis in Educational Policy and Administration at the UI.

After **Matt Kuenning** married Mary Arends, a Catholic, they attended church together for many years before Matt decided that "we would be able to share our faith life more fully if I became Catholic.



We came to St. Patrick's because one of Mary's colleagues is a parishioner, and she invited us to come when she heard we were looking for a parish." Matt Kuenning, 34, and Mary Arends-Kuenning both teach at the University.

**Renée Scherrer** has been married almost ten years to Mark Scherrer, who is completing a one-year surgery fellowship at Carle Foundation Hospital. The Scherrers will probably return to Travis Air Force Base in the San Francisco Bay Area at the end of July since Mark is in the Air Force Medical Coops. Renée is a major account manager for Hewlett-Packard of California, working from here during their one-year stay.



Renée sums up many of the feelings expressed by this group of neophytes: "My husband is Catholic, and we were married in the Catholic Church—I knew at some point I would join the Church, but I never felt an overwhelming urge until recently. I knew that joining the Church was to be something I really desire and feel deeply about. When we returned to the Midwest this past summer I felt the drawing, calling to explore more fully the Catholic faith—a "homecoming" for me in many ways. When we moved to Urbana we found the wonderful parish of St. Patrick's." The Scherrers will leave Urbana "with many warm memories."

If you have not yet been a personal part of the many warm memories of these new members of our parish, greet them now, welcome them and get to know them. May God bless each of them as they move into new phases of their spiritual journey!

## Nancy's journey home

In this Jubilee Year, we have been encouraged to open wide the doors of the Church for all people. At St. Patrick's, the Re-Membering Church team has been one of the door openers for Nancy Dietrich-Rybicki and her husband, Russ Rybicki.

Nancy and Russ decided to join St. Patrick's about six months ago, after participating in Re-Membering Church group sessions for about 18 months. The people in the group were very helpful, Nancy said. "I was able to talk to people about where I stood." Nancy also appreciated hearing from other people who had their differences with Catholicism but were able to remain in the Church.

The journey back to the Church

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## Heiress who shared wealth to be named "saint"

Katie Drexel possessed all the ingredients for a life of Gilded Age leisure: youth, beauty, a ritzy address, an estate, and an income of \$1000 a day.

The petite Drexel, whose grandfather founded the brokerage house of Drexel & Co., could have snagged a local princeling like her two sisters did and punctuated her privileged life with assorted good works and munificent donations—the Drexels were a philanthropic tribe.

Instead, she took her fortune and spent it on a life of service as a Catholic nun, vowing to be "the mother and servant" to blacks and Native Americans—the nation's most oppressed minorities.

Product of a culture that preached (but notably failed to practice) equality of opportunity, Drexel stepped away and, in 1891, founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to carry out her pioneering mission of social justice.

By the time of her death in 1955 at the age of 96, Mother Katharine had established 145 Catholic missions, 12

was primarily Nancy's journey. Russ wasn't open to joining any church other than a Catholic church. Nancy tried other churches, attending services of different denominations. "But there was something about the ritual of the Catholic Church that brings me back," Nancy said.

Nancy lived in Danville for several years after she graduated from the University of Illinois, where she met Russ. Nancy and Russ were married in Decatur by Fr. Doug Hennessy, former pastor of St. Patrick's and current pastor of St. Paul's Church, Danville. Fr. Hennessy recommended St. Patrick's to them.

They attended St. Patrick's intermittently for about two years. One Sunday they came across an announcement in the bulletin inviting Catholics who felt rejected or hurt by the Church to come to a Re-Membering Church meeting. At that time Nancy had been questioning whether she wanted to go to the Catholic Church. The announce-



ment helped galvanize her into action. "It was there when I needed it," Nancy said. "It was really kind of uncanny."

"I still have issues with the Church," Nancy said, "But I'm trying to deal with them."

Though Russ and Nancy no longer attend Re-Membering Church sessions, they still keep in touch

with members of the group, especially Barb Wysocki and Mary Lou Menches.

"She [Barb] really has been instrumental in our joining the parish," Nancy said. Since joining St. Patrick's they have become involved with the Social Action Committee.

At first Nancy wasn't sure she wanted to share her journey back to the Church, but then decided it would be a good idea. "Maybe someone is out there with the same experiences and this could help," Nancy said. "Maybe this could touch someone."

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schools for Native Americans, 50 schools for blacks, and the nation's first and only Catholic college for blacks (Xavier University in New Orleans). Sisters of her order served throughout the South and the urban North, including Chicago (the St. Anselm and St. Elizabeth schools), Gary (St. Monica), St. Louis, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, New York, and Philadelphia.

Even after the Blessed Sacrament sisters survived the early trials of their far-flung undertaking, Drexel's wealth and her family's philanthropy provided no shield from racism. In 1915, when the sisters opened a school in Athens, Ga., a bill was introduced in the state legislature that would have prohibited white teachers from teaching in schools for black students and black teachers from

teaching in schools for white students.

In 1922 the Ku Klux Klan threatened violence at a Beaumont (Tex.) mission and school built by Drexel unless services ceased. The crisis passed, thanks to a violent storm that destroyed Klan meeting places and lightning that struck a Klan leader.

Today Drexel is on the fast track to declared sainthood. Her case was formally introduced in 1964; in 1987, Pope John Paul II declared her "venerable," the first step in the canonization process, on the basis of her extraordinary life of faith and works. After that, it's a matter of miracles. Only two are needed in the process; in Drexel's case many more miracles have occurred than have been chosen for inclusion in the

*continued on page 17*

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process.

On Oct. 1 the pope will declare Katharine Drexel a saint before throngs of pilgrims in a ceremony at St. Peter's Square in Rome, only the second American native to be so honored. The first, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, widowed founder of the Sisters of Charity, died in 1821 but was not canonized until 1973.

Drexel is buried in a simple, unadorned crypt beneath the convent's oak-beamed St. Elizabeth Chapel. Surrounding the tomb are displays of colorful objects that reflect the diverse peoples served by the sisters' mission, among them a Navajo rug, a Kachina doll, black-on-black Pueblo pottery, a kente cloth wall hanging, carved ivory and ebony objects from Kenya, and a tasseled cloth belt from Sierra Leone.



continued from page 3

persevere who feel that they're just going through the motions? Can we help them find ways to be of service in the Church?

*Others experienced the complex religious system that seemed to lack relatedness to their lives and, for many, a lack of ministers appreciating their language and culture.*

Can we show patience and pleasure in speaking with someone who finds English difficult?

*Some were hurt in some way by Catholics—clergy or laity—and have not been reconciled.*

Can we listen? It may not be possible to apologize for what someone else has done, but can we show that others do not want to repeat their mistakes.

*Some are in conflict with the teachings of the Church on matters of faith and morality. Others never knew their faith well and were ignorant of the basics. They were easily misled.*

You don't have to be a theologian to tell someone why you believe what you believe. Can you show that your beliefs are nourished by the teachings

and traditions of the Church? Can you show that you believe even when you don't have all the answers?

*Some have been kept from full communion with the Church because of a marriage outside the Church.*

The bond of marriage is a sacrament because it is an image of God's faithfulness to his people, but we all know that many marriages fail. Sometimes a failed marriage can be annulled.

Sometimes a failed marriage does not prevent someone from coming to the sacraments. Can we reach out to those who are hurting and isolated by the breakup of a marriage? Can we help them find out how their breakup affects their relationship with the Church? (At St. Patrick's, they might be invited to talk with Sr. Charlene, Barb Wysocki, or Fr. Remm.) Can we encourage someone who cannot receive communion to continue to pray and to come to Mass?

*According to a recent survey of young adult Catholics published in America magazine, 35 percent of the inactive simply got too busy or were lazy and didn't find time to be involved. Others moved to new locations and never got around to finding a church in their new city or neighborhood. The America survey noted that 19 percent of the inactive young adults fell into this latter category.*

Can you ask new neighbors and coworkers if they'd like help in finding a church? Can you say "I miss you" to someone who is becoming less active at church, for whatever reason?

This article was condensed from an article by Wilmington Bishop Michael A. Saltarelli, published in *The Delmar Dialog* on Jan. 13. The U.S. Bishops study is entitled *A Time to Listen ... A Time to Heal: A Resource Directory for Reaching Out to Inactive Catholics*. It can be ordered at <http://www.nccbuscc.org/evangelization/publications.htm>.



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

## Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Mary Sleeter

### Pink Lady Pie



#### Crust

- 1 1/2 c flour
- 1/4 t salt
- 1 1/2 T sugar
- 1/2 c oil
- 2 T milk

*Crust:* Mix flour, salt, sugar, oil, and milk together thoroughly. Press into 9-in. pie pan, making an edge on the rim. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Set aside to cool.

*Filling:* Cook rhubarb and sugar slowly until tender. Add dry Jello

#### Filling

- 2 c diced rhubarb
- 1 c sugar
- 1 3-oz pkg strawberry Jello
- 1 T lemon juice
- 2 c whipped topping

and stir gently until dissolved. Cool. Add lemon juice. Cool to room temperature. Fold in the whipped topping. Pour the mixture into the cooled crust and refrigerate. (This may be frozen.) Top with more whipped topping when serving.



# May 2000

## St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 7:00pm Pro-Life Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer	<b>2</b> 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:30pm ADA Workers Mtg	<b>3</b> 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Children's Rel Ed, Urbana 6:30pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Confirmation	<b>4</b> 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Building & Grounds Com	<b>5</b> 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH 6:30pm Seniors	<b>6</b> Annual Diocesan Appeal at all masses this weekend
<b>7</b>  Education Picnic 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Rel Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Rel Ed	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm Social Action Com	<b>9</b> 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com	<b>10</b> 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir	<b>11</b> 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Baptism Prep	<b>12</b> 10:30am Mass-Urbana NH 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  Mother's Day	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Centering Prayer	<b>16</b> 10:30am Mass-Canterbury Ridge 7:00pm Liturgy Com	<b>17</b> 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir	<b>18</b> 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council	<b>19</b> 10:30am Mass-Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	<b>20</b> 5:00pm Anointing of the Sick
<b>21</b> Anointing of the Sick at all masses 10:15am Knights of Columbus Mtg	<b>22</b> 9:30am Archives Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer	<b>23</b> 7:00pm Homily Prep	<b>24</b> 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir	<b>25</b> 6:45am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm K of C Initiation & Steak Fry 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Communications Com	<b>26</b> 10:30am Mass-Manor Care 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>  High School Graduation Mass	<b>29</b> Memorial Day Parish Office Closed 9:00am Mass at Cemetary & Potluck Breakfast 7:00pm Centering Prayer	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Mass for Ascension Thursday 7:00pm Choir			