

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus

Dialogue into the Millennium

Caring for the Children of the Village



The next speaker in the millennium lecture series is Jerome Stermer, president of Voices for Illinois Children, who will speak on Nov. 2 on "Caring for the Children of the Village." In addressing us, he will review key components of today's child advocacy agenda and dis-

Discuss the kinds of vision and strategies that may be needed to move that agenda to the center stage of our contemporary public life. He will challenge us to think seriously about the role of the "village" in partnering with parents and family members to get our children off to a good start in life.

Mr. Stermer is recognized as one of the country's leading child advocates and has led a number of state-wide policy campaigns that resulted in real progress for children and families. Among these are health insurance for uninsured children, voluntary home visitation for vulnerable families, a state earned income tax credit, and dramatically expanded early care and education programs.

Prior to joining Voices for Illinois Children, Mr. Stermer worked in the executive and legislative branches of state government and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador. He holds a master's degree in political science from the University of Illinois.

Mr. Stermer will be interviewed on Focus 580 (WILL-AM) at 11:00 a.m. on Nov. 1; listeners may call in questions for him.

Judge John DeLaMar will be a respondent, and Professor Morton Weir, a member of St. Patrick's, will serve as facilitator.

The Dialogue into the Millennium lecture series, initially organized and planned by Sr. Marie Golla

(now deceased), is intended to foster community, improve interfaith communication, familiarize local audiences with trends in thinking among recognized contemporaries, and inspire a courageous and thoughtful people.

The lectures are free and are presented in the social hall of St. Patrick's parish center, followed by a reception. Everyone is welcome. ■

Sacrificial Giving for Children?

Shel Silverstein, in his book *The Giving Tree*, tells the wonderful story of the joy and value of sharing.

Borrow this book from the library and read it with your kids!

As we are again reminded of the importance of sacrificial giving, it's fun to realize the generosity of

young children. Here are some suggestions for deepening this kindness and sharing in them:

- Read *The Giving Tree* with them.
- Visit a nursing home and bring them along.
- Volunteer with "Meals on Wheels" and have them help carry the food.
- Let them choose one of their stuffed animals and donate it to Goodwill or another charity.
- Encourage them to put a few pennies in the collection basket on Sunday.
- Suggest that they become an altar server
- Make cookies together and invite them to deliver a plate of the cookies to your shut-in neighbors.
- Pray with them for other children.
- Let them offer to babysit a neighbor's pet.
- Suggest that they write a letter to a distant relative.
- Let them invite a classmate for a visit. ■



Jubilee Day for Lay Ministers

Pope John Paul II has designated a number of Jubilee Days throughout the year 2000 to recognize and celebrate different groups of people within the Church. The U.S. Bishops Subcommittee of the



Millennium has designated Nov. 26 as the Jubilee Day for Lay Ministers. This is a day to celebrate lay ministers and to invite the whole Church to reflect on the gifts offered to bring about the fulfillment of the mission of the Church.

If we think of the purpose of this day, it is in truth a Jubilee Day for the Laity, for all members of the Church bring gifts to be shared in fulfilling the mission of Christ. Charles Morris, in his book *American Catholic*, says, "The greatest strength of the American Church is the 20 million or so active Catholics in parishes ... who are interested in their religion and participants in it.... They, the people in the parishes along with clergy and nuns and bishops and Pope, are the Church."

The laity are the people who serve the poor, engage in social justice projects, visit the sick, plan liturgies and budgets and carry out the works of mercy. The laity are the Church in the marketplace, the workplace, and the home. Their weekly presence at the



Eucharist for nourishment and strength to carry out the mission to transform the world reflects the fact that they do not serve alone.

The theme for the Jubilee Day for the Laity is "Together in Service." Here at St. Patrick's, Nov. 26 is truly a day to celebrate, honor, and pray for the laity. So many, no doubt all, work to bring Christ's message and healing presence to others. There are members of the parish who serve on the Parish Council and its committees, members who serve through their gifts of music in the choir, those who are sacristans, greeters, readers, altar servers, and eucharistic ministers. Others educate the



young, visit weekly the sick and homebound, and serve a meal to bereaved families. There are members who serve the needy who



come for help, while others go out to help the hungry and homeless. Still others, quite outside of the institutional programs, live the Gospel through their kindness and acceptance of others at home, at their work place, and in programs known only to them.

Without the generous and loyal work of the laity the mission of the Church would be diminished. With it, St. Patrick's of Urbana and indeed the whole Church flourish-



es. May we remember one another in prayer on Nov. 26, the Jubilee Day for the Laity, and thank God for our gifts and the use of them, together in service, in our partnership for the Gospel. ■

★★★ Editor Needed! ★★★

In Focus is in need of an editor to coordinate publication of this parish newsletter with the help of the Communications Committee.

Responsibilities include (1) participating in the committee's monthly planning sessions, (2) assembling unsolicited and solicited writings submitted (on paper, on disk, and via e-mail) by parishioners into a single word-processing file for use by the volunteer who pages the issues on computer, and (3) selecting appropriate illustrations from available resources.

If you enjoy reading *In Focus*, appreciate its primary objective (to communicate with parishioners about parishioners and parish events), don't want to see it discontinued, and are willing to carry out the responsibilities described above, leave your name and telephone number at the parish office (367-2665) or call Mary Lou Menches (344-1125), who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mary Lou's resignation as editor is effective at the end of this calendar year, and time is growing short. If you can help, make that telephone call!

Holy Cross School Newsline

Holy Cross began its school year without missing a beat. While local schools were canceling classes due to the heat, Holy Cross students were able to enjoy air-conditioned classrooms. This year the school has 406 students, with 72 from St. Patrick's.

Terra Nova testing was conducted in September for national academic screening. The annual Hot Dog Day was Friday, Oct. 13. Confirmation is scheduled for Jan. 21, 2001, at 2 p.m.

During the month of October two themes were celebrated: "Respect Life" and "Mary, our Lady of the Rosary." Students were reminded that all human life is deserving of respect, and families were encouraged to pray the rosary.

Congratulations to Holy Cross students. They sold \$54,000 worth of magazines and books, with \$21,000

profit going to the school.

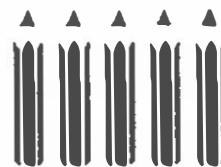
Many other fund-raising opportunities can be used to the advantage of Holy Cross School.

Please save General Mills Box Tops Bonus Certificates and Campbell's Label Bonus

Certificates, and bring them to the school office.

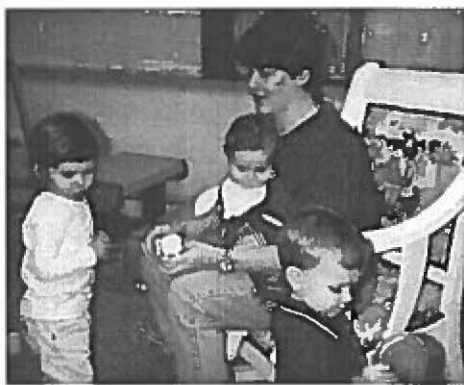
When you use your Max Card at County Market, fill out a Max Dollar Education registration form and a portion will go to the Holy Cross Education Fund.

Pages for All Ages will hold a Fall Bookfair for Holy Cross PTC on Oct. 14-15; mention Holy Cross School when checking out and 20 percent of your purchase will be donated to the school. A fall bake sale is planned for Nov. 5 after all Masses. ■



A Very Important Letter to Kids of Stay-at-Home Moms!

Hello! My name is Bart, age 2-1/2 (name has been changed to protect me). Has your Mom been driving you crazy lately? During the day is she trying to talk to you about pediatric dentists? Does she interrupt your playtime to get your opinion on developmental stages of babies and children? Is she waking you early from your afternoon nap to ask your feedback on a Moms Online article about new children's immunizations?



I was getting a little stressed with all this adult conversation. My Mom needed to talk to someone else other than me, someone her own age. She needed a Play Group.

Guess what! I found a Play Group at our church for my Mom. Well, I don't think the Moms call it a Play Group; they call it "The Moms Group." (Although to be

inclusive, they say Dads are also welcome.)

Now every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. my Mom and I pack up all of our stuff (she always thinks I need to take a lot of stuff with me no matter how short the trip) and we drive to St. Patrick's Nursery, where there are other Moms and other children. There are lots of neat toys in the nursery for us kids to play with. But the best part is that the Moms talk to one another and leave us alone! They don't interrupt us while we are building a Lego car to talk about Mom stuff. Last week I heard my Mom ask another Mom that pediatric dentist question. I was trying not to eavesdrop, but sometimes they



use their outside voices when they talk, and I heard the Moms talk about fun activities to do with us kids around town. (Now that is a

question they should be asking us!)

So, for a little peace and quiet from your Mom and some quality kid time, meet me at St. Patrick's Nursery at 9 a.m. every Wednesday morning. We can play while our Moms talk, the way it should be.



Your friend, Bart (remember, this is not my real name!)

P.S. If you need more information about The Moms Group, you can call a Mom whose name is Suzanne D'Andria, 344-0398. Or you might have your Mom call her. (If she's having one of those days and needing to talk, she may end up asking *her* that pediatric dentist question!) ■



Welcome to new parishioners Gifty Ako-Adounvo, Carrie and Peter Borich, Georgina Cheng, Elizabeth Mazur, Mary and Joseph Hopkins, Katherine and Terrance Jobin, Nghana Lewis, Stephen Parente, Cassiette West-Williams, Jane Ellen Young.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Jeff D'Alessio, Bridget and Matt Garrett, Suzanne and Joseph Hanzl, Tamara and John Hategan, Celeste and Sean Matheson, Julie and Robert McDonald, Jennifer Merry, Annelies Moeser, Sarah Schmid, Angela Waldhoff.

Welcome to the following baptized into our faith community: Cameron Alexander Robinson, Anthony Joseph Cimino, Joseph Paul Rajlich.

Congratulations to Kara Leya Griffin and Greg G. Granadino, married at St. Patrick's.

Please pray for deceased parishioners John R. Hudson, Frances C. Lawrence.

Like children

Like children playing on the beach
we have built houses of sand.
The wave of time has come
and the laughter of the tides has
submerged everything.

But we know, Lord,
that if our earthly home is
destroyed,
you will build us an eternal home
near you in heaven.

Give us strength to leave our earth-
ly dwellings
and our games in the sand.
Direct our boat
toward the shores of eternity.
—Lucien Deiss

Sing for a Season?

"Christmastide." The very word itself conjures up greeting card images of choristers creating oval-shaped tones. Indeed, singing is one of the activities we immediately associate with the season of Our Lord's nativity. If you've thought about joining one of the St. Patrick's choirs but find you can't make a year-long commitment, consider a "seasonal" one. "We've already begun to rehearse anthems for Advent and Christmas,"



comments parish music director J. Mark Baker. He adds, with an inviting smile, "Come join us! If you read music, that's great—but not absolutely necessary."

Call J. Mark at the parish office (367-2665) for rehearsal times and other information. He'll be happy to hear from you.

Sinai Temple Thanks Child Care Volunteers

Again this year St. Patrick's parishioners joined volunteers from several other C-U congregations to mind children for our Jewish neighbors during their fall High Holy Days. The grateful parents were freed to attend Temple services.

Although the two-hour babysitting stints do not require professional child- or health-care experience, this year St. Patrick's volunteers had some: Sandy Anderson, a second-year volunteer, works at Champaign County Nursing Home. Monica Macedo works in child care. Motherhood is the profession of Ginger Shutz, who came with teenage daughter, Caitlin. Charline Waldron, a many-year volunteer and a former child-care worker, was able to calm a boy's unruliness. Special thanks to Charline, who took phone calls from St. Patrick's volunteers and referred them to the Sinai Coordinator.



Sinai Temple, St. Patrick's, and a dozen other churches in town are members of the Council of Congregations. Every year the Council sponsors child care at the Temple, recruiting babysitters from member churches. The purpose is to return the kindness of Sinai and B'nai Brith volunteers who fulfill duties at Provena Covenant Hospital and the Department of Children and Family Services on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday, substituting for Christians who wish to attend religious services.

The caring parishioners who spent two hours that Saturday or Monday this fall found likable children, grouped by age, and plenty of toys, games, and help. Why not make this interfaith gift of love by volunteering next year when you see it announced in our Sunday bulletin?

Remembering Those We Love

A memorial service for deceased members of St. Patrick's Parish who died in the fall and winter, 1999-2000, will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the parish center. Families and friends of the deceased are invited to attend. A social gathering will follow. ■



Good Things Happening... November at St. Patrick's

- 1 All Saints Day
- 2 All Souls Day
- 2 Millennium Dialogue:
Jerome Stermer
- 8 Memorial service for
deceased parishioners
- 23 Thanksgiving Day Mass
and breakfast

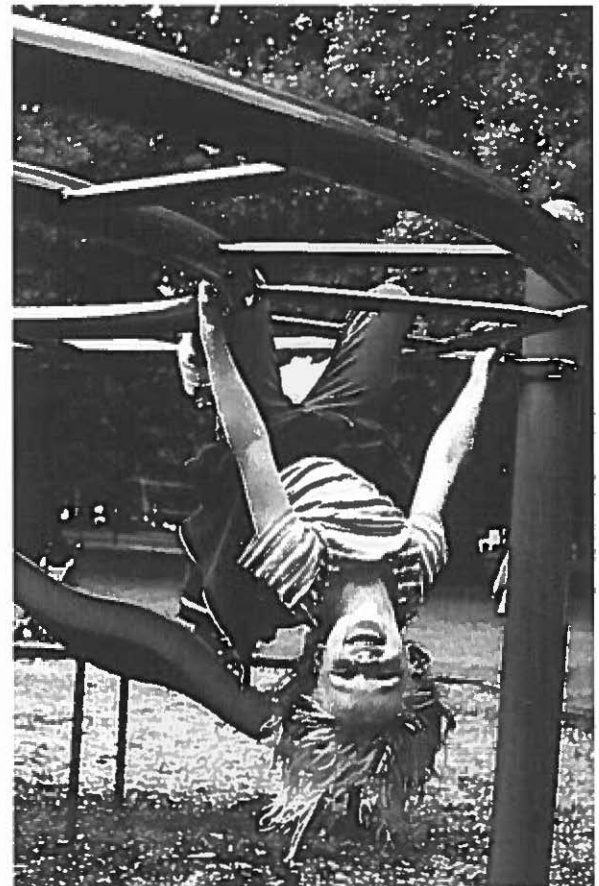
Parish Picnic a Warm Experience on a Chilly Day

The hint of impending fall accented by chilly winds and a rain-threatening sky did not detract from the enjoyment of the large number of participants at St. Patrick's fun-laden parish picnic held in late September at Crystal Lake Park. Old and young alike gathered in the pavilion to celebrate with families and fellow parishioners. The picnic witnessed the start of new friendships and the reinforcement of old friendships.

Food was plentiful, varied, and delicious, and picnickers made numerous trips back and forth to the food-laden tables. After a period of silence and



reflection, the games began. A parish event is incomplete without the universal favorite game of Bingo. Winners of the many Bingo games received wonderful prizes generously donated by individuals and local businesses.



Then it was time for the children and the more competitive and energetic adults to compete in sack races, water balloon throwing, and balloon juggling races. This was the climax of the day and sent us home warmed by the feeling of belonging to a wonderful community. ■



in our parish library

Nov. 26 is the Jubilee Day for Lay Ministers. All laypersons are called to holiness, community, ministry, and Christian maturity. Our ministry may be to family, co-workers, and neighbors, as well as to our parish community. Nurturing our Christian calling can be a challenge with the hectic lives we lead. The following books can provide insight and inspiration for carrying out our work as laity.

Centering Prayer in Daily Life and Ministry, edited by Gustave Reininger (248.3 Rei). Centering prayer helps us to overcome the "noise" of our lives and allow the silence of God to fill us up and heal us. Each chapter in this book can be read alone, and the book includes a description of the method for centering prayer.

How to Keep God Alive from 9 to

5, by John Chervokas (248.4 Che). This brief book reminds us that God is our co-worker. It is focused on the business world, but the attitudes and practices suggested are helpful no matter where you work!

Celebrating the Single Life: A spirituality for single persons in today's world, by Susan Annette Muto (248.8 Mut). Muto tells how to have a spiritually grounded single life. She covers topics such as solitude vs. loneliness, silence, service, workaholicism, singles and the Church.

Prayers, Activities, Celebrations (and more) for Catholic Families, by Bridget Mary Meehan (249 Mee). This book is a fun and uplifting way to foster faith in family life. The practical, easy activities enhance family prayer, clarify val-

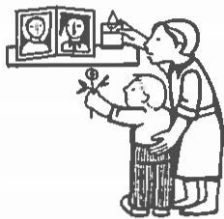
ues, and help families experience God's presence in their daily routines.

The Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World (Christifideles Laici), by Pope John Paul II (250 Joh). Here you can read Pope John Paul II's words on the mission of the laity, from going out into the world, to the variety of vocations, to charity and the constant process of maturation.

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. ■

Praying for the Dead a "Catholic Thing"

November, the month that begins with the celebration of the feast of All Saints, followed immediately by the observance of All Souls Day, is also marked at St. Patrick's by a scroll mounted in the sanctuary displaying the names of parishioners who have died during the past year.



Praying for the dead is a "Catholic thing," according to essayist and poet Kathleen Norris in her book *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography*. Norris, a Presbyterian, is a Benedictine Oblate. She says she found great comfort in the prayers for the dead that she encountered in the Catholic liturgy.

Praying for the dead reminds us that the people we've known and loved are still with us, still a very real part of the Church, praying for us as we pray for them. We are all part of the great Communion of Saints, a great cloud of witnesses in heaven and on earth.

Often prayers for the dead are included in our Sunday intercessions. On All Souls Day the Church reminds us again to pray for those people, especially our own loved ones, who have gone before us in faith.

The scroll hung in our sanctuary is a loving reminder to pray for, and remember, our beloved dead—our saints.

This year we remember especially Bernard Huelsbusch, Sr., Hazel (Burgin) Rodriguez, Ruth E. Shaw, Sr. Marie Golla, Lolly Schaller, Jerome B. McCabe, William E. Thomas, Blair Carlson, Isophenia Gleason, Paul J. Eimer, Marion Gilmore, Marjorie Allain, Edward Broghamer, Rita Kanady,

Judith Marie Wise, Ronald D. Costa, Helen Mischo, Gregory Kruzich, John "Jack" McCabe, Harlan Dickerson, Albert Burgstrom, William L. Whitten, Elizabeth Lewis, Stanley W. Lawrence, Stephen Paul Hackett, James J. Breen, Joan T. Causeman, Robert A. Burgin, James Nicholas Arie, Edward Colbert, Jr., Margaret A. Zoll, Joseph M. Schumacher, John R. Hudson, Frances C. Lawrence, Catherine Carter.

May the angels lead them into paradise. May they have eternal rest. ■

True evangelical faith cannot lie sleeping. It clothes the naked, feeds the hungry, comforts the sorrowful, shelters the homeless, returns good for evil, seeks the lost, heals the sick.

—Menno Simons, 16th-century Anabaptist church leader

Q: What is the teaching of the Church about the afterlife? What will happen to people? Do dogs go to Heaven?

A: This answer could take volumes! Since it is for *In Focus*, let me put it in my own words as briefly as I can.

1. God has revealed to us, through both Sacred Scripture and the Tradition of the Church, that there is a Heaven and Hell to which we might go—the gospel for the 26th Sunday after Pentecost (the fires of Gehenna), for example. And it is reasoned in Tradition that people die who do not deserve either Heaven or Hell, that a time of purgation before entering Heaven may be necessary. We call that place Purgatory, as attested to by every remembrance of the dead in the Mass and every prayer for the dead. We believe that we can help them by our prayers and good works, as they are members of the Communion of Saints. Where or what Purgatory is we do not know.

2. References to Heaven, Hell, Purgatory are found also in the ancient tradition of the Fathers of the Church, e.g., Gregory, Origen, Augustine, and the documents of the Church down the centuries to the recent Vatican II documents (*Constitution on Divine Revelation, the Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity, Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*) as well as the new *Universal Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#954-962 and elsewhere).

3a. That we will, hopefully, go to God is based on the fact that he has revealed that we are created in the image of God and so have an immortal soul and are intended to live with our Creator eternally. We cannot die after our earthly life is completed because our spirit, the human soul, cannot die, be divided, or disintegrate as a purely animal, earthly soul does. God has made us to know him, love him directly, face-to-face, in a full communion with himself; we have the spark of divinity within and it is meant for him.

3b. Furthermore, it will be our joy to praise God in his glory forever; to honor him, the uncreated, eternal being, whose life has no beginning and no end and whose history we cannot begin to imagine but only verbalize in insufficient human terms. He has no terms, like an eternal circle, three persons giving life to one another beyond space, time, measurements. Naturally I fumble even trying to say who and what he is beyond Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

4. All this we know by faith in Him revealing Himself. I have not quoted the Scriptures since they are full of this Godhead revealing. Take them and see!

5. I don't have any valid reason to hope my dogs will be with me, but they sure have been great graces to me, beautiful images of God for me. But then I won't need them. — Fr. Gene Kane

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



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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Associates: Carol Bosley, Morene Christman, Mary Fonner, Lori and Tom McDonough, Marty Perry, Joan Poletti, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika, Tom Schlueter.

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Joyce Baird, Carol Bosley, Betty Christian, Morene Christman, Judy Conover, Frances Drone-Silvers, David and Bonnie Ellis, Pat Fettig, Jack Hipple, Fr. Gene Kane, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Frank Modica, Fr. George Remm, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Carol Schrepfer, Elizabeth Talbot, Peggy Whelan, Sophia Zeigler. This issue was paged by Tom Schlueter.

Help Needed for the Dialogue Lecture Series

There are two remaining lectures in the Dialogue into the Millennium series: Dec. 1 and Feb. 2001. Help is needed for hosting, baking cookies, and cleaning up the refreshment area for each lecture. Please call Pat Fettig (356-8136) to volunteer.



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is November 5.

We are the Church

The third WATCH retreat weekend, Sept. 15-17, was another rewarding time of spiritual enrichment. This was the first WATCH weekend presented by a team made up solely of St. Patrick's parishioners. For both participants and team members, the weekend was an experience of reflection, sharing, meditation, and an opportunity for fellowship.



Following are comments from some of the participants:

♥ I was touched most by the song "Holy Ground," in sign language, and by the church in can-

dleight. "A+!"

♥ Wonderful! Excellent! I was touched most by the meditation at the church Friday and by the small-group faith sharing.

♥ My expectations were more than met. The talks, the affirmations, the small-group sharing touched me the most.

♥ The weekend was another wonderful experience. The talks, meditations, and liturgies were moving.

♥ My expectations coming into the weekend—to enrich my spiri-



tual life, to relax, to make new friends—were more than met!

♥ Thanks for all your efforts. A very special weekend and a very special parish!

The next WATCH weekend will be February 23-25, 2001. Make plans now to attend. All are welcome! ■



From Religious Leaders for Community Care: The C-U Good News

The RLCC Executive Board has decided that its primary focus this year will be to look at issues of employment in the community. They will also continue to focus on education, exploring ways that education and employment are related and are issues of social justice. They are beginning the process by identifying a number of



"stakeholders" in the community.

Rev. Jim McClarey is leading an area-wide Bible study, from a perspective that takes seriously Jesus' vision of the realm of God on earth as it is in Heaven. This is a six-week mini-course on "Keys to Understanding the Bible," held on Sunday evenings; open to all area residents regardless of church affiliation, it began on Oct. 15 and will conclude on Nov. 19. ■

Quick Fixin's from the Kitchen of... Betty Christian

Peanut Clusters

2 lbs almond or chocolate almond bark
12-oz pkg of chocolate chips
1 lb salted Spanish peanuts



Melt bark in a double boiler; add chips, stirring until smooth. Stir in the peanuts, then drop by teaspoonful onto waxed paper. Cool.



Parish Wish List

Over the years generous parishioners have made possible, through their donations, the 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 wish list includes the following:

★ Scanner for use in preparing the parish newsletter, In Focus, \$130
Donations earmarked for a specific item, in whole or in part, will be gratefully acknowledged. If you would like information about this or any other item you have seen on previous parish wish lists, Fr. Remm will be happy to discuss them with you. ■

Parish Council News

Council members accepted the finalized guidelines for committees from the ad hoc Committee on Committees, which was then dissolved, its work finished. The Guidelines, a document written over some time, was recently revised in response to feedback from committees. At a workshop Sept. 30 the Council met with members of the standing committees for discussion of the Guidelines, which are to be implemented by Oct. 2001.

Committees were invited to participate in the Objectives Workshop Oct. 21 to set parish objectives for 2001 to help the parish move toward achievement of goals formulated last year.

The ad hoc Long Range Planning Committee met with April Getchius, Director of Community Development in Urbana, who projects a modest 2 percent growth in Urbana, generally in the southeast and northeast. Members met also with parishioners living in the St. Joseph area. Those who came expressed general satisfaction with their present situation in the parish, feeling very much a part of

St. Patrick's, and appreciating the effort made to provide religious education in St. Joseph for children in pre-school through sixth grade. They would like to have Mass celebrated in St. Joseph, perhaps on the Wednesday evenings when religious education classes do not meet. A developer has offered land for a Catholic church in St. Joseph, and research suggests that a church and family center could be built for about \$4 million. However, there would be only 120 family units to finance it, the Catholic population is not expected to grow significantly in the near future, and providing a priest to serve the small community would be difficult.

The Council has invited the Youth Group to select one of their members to serve a one-year term as Senior-High Representative to the Parish Council. Five students have applied for the position, and the one selected will be present for the November Council meeting.

The New Year's Millennium Service will be held at the Urbana Presbyterian Church, at the invitation of Don Mason. Members agreed to hold a New Year's Eve

Millennium Supper again this year.

The Building and Grounds Committee report that the furnaces, and perhaps the air conditioners for the main hall, will need to be replaced soon. Bids have been received for furnace replacement and are being reviewed; cost is expected to be about \$10-15,000. Members are also preparing emergency escape charts for each room of the parish center, with the help of the Urbana Fire Department.

The Financial Affairs Committee has elected Chad Beckett as president and Tara Beckett as secretary. The group discussed electronic church giving at their last meeting.

The next Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Nov. 16. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings. For those interested in a more complete report of Parish Council deliberations, the minutes of Council meetings are posted in the church vestibule and on the bulletin board in the office wing of the parish center. ■



If You Love Me, Feed My Lambs

November is the month of All Saints and All Souls—and Thanksgiving baskets for the most needy.

Each year at this time parishioners have the opportunity to follow Christ's admonition to "feed my lambs" in a very real way through support of the St.



People Touching People

Vincent de Paul Society's drive to provide Thanksgiving dinners for the needy of the C-U community.

For this project the Society is asking for a donation of \$10 to cover the cost of a Thanksgiving food basket.

This year it will include a canned ham, soup, sweet potatoes, stuffing, eggs, vegetables, fruit, cranberries, Jello, dinner rolls, butter, pumpkin pie, coffee, and sweets.

Their goal this year is to feed 200 families. The names of recipients are provided by North End residents, Mental Health Center, Family Services, and others who know people in special need.

Please put your donation in an envelope clearly marked "Thanksgiving Dinners" and place it in the

Sunday collection or drop it by the parish office during the week.

Members of a parish base community will help prepare 200 food baskets, sorting the food on the tables, ready for the Sunday evening religious education students, who will fill the baskets as one of their service projects for the year.

The Society also needs volunteers to make up teams of two to deliver the food baskets on Nov. 21. (All deliveries will be made during daylight hours.) The Mental Health Center staff will pick up and deliver 100 food baskets to their clients, who will be anxiously awaiting their Thanksgiving meal from St. Patrick's parishioners. Some SVDP members from Holy Cross Parish will also assist with deliveries. If you can help, please leave your name and telephone number with the parish secretary or Society member Sophia Zeigler (328-2671).

Feeding Christ's loved ones is a great responsibility—and a great privilege. What a wonderful way to give thanks for all that we ourselves have received! ■

From Jack Hipple: An Evangelization Minute

I would like to tell you about my experience as a homebound minister, not only here at St. Patrick's (where my wife and I have been parishioners for the past year), but at four other parishes over the past ten years in several states. All parishes recognize the need to provide service to the elderly, infirm, and others who cannot attend Mass. Even though the nature of the service may differ, it always centers on the delivery of the Holy Eucharist in a respectful, sensitive way.

I suppose my original interest in becoming a minister to the homebound was in part driven by being a baby boomer, sandwich generation person with elderly parents as well as children. Though my wife

to share the precious gift of our faith, the Holy Eucharist. You see tears of gratitude for something we can tend to take for granted every week. There is no question that participating in this ministry will increase your appreciation for the most unique and special aspect of our faith.

In closing, I would like to share with you three special occurrences that I have experienced in the course of this ministry. The first was ministering to an elderly gentleman, bedridden, who needed assistance with receiving the Host. His wife appeared to be in perfect health. Several months after beginning this ministry, I received word that he had passed away, that there was no longer a need to

“There is no question that participating in this ministry will increase your appreciation for the most unique and special aspect of our faith.”

and I are now empty-nesters, we both have elderly mothers still alive who have difficulty in getting around in general and occasionally in attending Mass.

When I first volunteered ten years ago, I had no idea what to expect, but found that the people receiving the sacrament were so warm, cordial, and receptive that there was no discomfort at all. Everyone is different and has different reasons for needing homebound ministry. Sometimes it is a physical handicap; other times you are ministering to a homebound person who is very ill or suffering with Alzheimer's disease, who cannot leave the house. Sometimes it is in an individual's house and other times it is in a nursing home situation with a group of people.

In all cases you find people who are warm, friendly, and extremely grateful that you have taken time

bring the Eucharist. Just a week later I heard that his wife had also passed away—and it was then that I discovered she had kept herself alive to minister to her husband and had hidden a serious illness from others.

On another occasion, I was delivering the Eucharist to a lone elderly lady whose son lived nearby in the same town; she wore one of those devices that would alert a service if she fell down. She had strict orders from her son never to take this device off, but apparently did not always follow instructions. On one Sunday morning, I knocked at her door and heard a faint voice from behind the front door saying, “I've fallen and I can't get up.” When she fell down the previous evening without her device around her neck, she crawled to the front door and spent the entire night waiting,



realizing that I was coming the next morning and could rescue her.

Last, but not least, at an elder-care home here in Urbana, one of my favorite recipients grabbed my arm a couple of months ago, after receiving the Eucharist, and said to me: “Jack, tell the people at St. Patrick's what a wonderful gift and privilege they have, and tell them not to take it for granted.”

If you want to take on a ministry that will not only provide a much-needed service to others, but also enrich your own appreciation of the essential elements of your faith, I hope my experiences and testimony will encourage you to volunteer. ■

Finding God in Daily Work

FINDING GOD IN DAILY WORK, previously scheduled for this fall, will be offered next spring.

FINDING GOD IN DAILY WORK is scripture-based and invites interactive participation in a spiritual and friendly atmosphere. The program, offered annually by St. Patrick's Parish, includes weekly meetings, daily scripture readings and reflections, and a one-day retreat at St. Patrick's.

The program will begin Jan. 22 and finish Mar. 26. For further information, please contact Sr. Charlene Cesario at the parish office (367-2665).



November 2000

St. Patrick's Parish



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Because the In Focus calendar is prepared in advance of scheduled events and meetings, please check the weekly bulletin to confirm dates and times for specific listings.

Deadline for the next issue of In Focus is November 5.

			1 All Saints Day 7:00am , 12:10 & 5:15 Mass 9:00am Moms' Group 5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Pat's 6:30pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir	2 All Souls Day 7:00am & 12:10 Mass 7:00pm Over 21 7:30pm Millenium Dialoguc-Jerome Stermer 7:30pm Building & Grounds	3 9:00am-12:00pm Church Women United 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	4
5 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Rel Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 12:00pm Teen Liturgy 6:30pm CREW Rel Ed 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders	6 7:00pm Pro-Life Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Education Com	7 9:30am Bible Study 6:45pm First Reconciliation Class 7:00pm Fumacial Affairs Com 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com	8 9:00am Moms' Group 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Pat's 6:30pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Bereavement Memorial Service	9 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Over 21 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Bible Study	10 10:30am Mass-Care Center 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	11 Veterans Day Stewardship of Treasure Weekend
12 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Rel Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm CREW Rel Ed 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders	13 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Social Action Com	14 9:30am Bible Study 6:45pm First Reconciliation Class 7:00pm CREW Mission Mtg	15 9:00am Moms' Group 5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Pat's 6:30pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir	16 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Over 21 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council	17 10:30am Mass-Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	18
19 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Rel Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 10:15am Knights of Columbus Mig 6:30pm CREW Rel Ed	20 7:00pm Centering Prayer	21 10:30am Mass-Canterbury Ridge 6:45pm First Reconciliation Class 7:00pm Liturgy Com	22 9:00am Moms' Group 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir	23 Thanksgiving Day 8:00am Mass & Breakfast	24 10:30am Mass-Manor Care 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	25
Thanksgiving Baskets						
26	27 9:30am Archives Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer	28 6:45pm First Reconciliation Class 7:00pm Homily Prep	29 9:00am Moms' Group 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir	30 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Over 21 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Communications Com		