

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus

Dialogue into the Millennium

Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson Featured Speaker

The first speaker in the "Dialogue into the Millennium" lecture series in the new millennium is Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson, the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He will speak on "New Directions in Scripture Studies" at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9.

Respondents are Professor Richard Leighton from the Program for the Study of Religion at the University of Illinois and Rev. Ronald Simkins from New Covenant Fellowship. Professor Diane Musumeci, parishioner, will facilitate.

For a considerable time a Benedictine monk and priest, Dr. Johnson remains a lay person in the Roman Catholic community. After completing his Master of Divinity degree at St. Meinrad School of Theology and an M.A. in Religious Studies at Indiana University in 1970, he began work on a Ph.D. in New Testament Studies at Yale University. He completed his Ph.D. in 1976, and his dissertation, *The Literary Function of Possessions in Luke-Acts*, was published by Scholars Press in 1977.

Dr. Johnson has written a large introduction to the New Testament writings, called *The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation*, now in its second edition and widely used in colleges and seminaries.

Most recently Dr. Johnson has written on the person of Jesus in two widely discussed books, *The Real Jesus: The Misguided Quest for the Historical Jesus and the Truth of the Traditional Gospels* (1996) and *Living Jesus: Learning the Heart of the Gospel* (1998).

The editor of U.S. CATHOLIC in June of this year wrote that with his book *The Real Jesus* Johnson "established himself as one of the most forceful critics of the Jesus Seminar's promise to deliver a strictly historical reconstruction of Jesus." He describes *Living Jesus* as "an effort to think through the implications that the real Jesus is the living, resurrected Jesus and that being a Christian means learning this Jesus and modeling one's life on him."

The Dialogue into the Millennium lecture series began in Feb. 1999 with a presentation on "Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?" by William Sutton, Ph.D., followed by such notable speakers as M. Christine Athans, BVM ("The Jewishness of Jesus"), Gerard V. Bradley ("Is there a Christian response to crime?"), Rabbi Lawrence Kushner ("Is our God too small?"), Lambert Reilly, OSB ("Can we live simply?"), Robert McKim, Ph.D. ("The future of the planet and of religion"), and Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS ("The beginning of the Gospel: The Gospel of Mark for the new millennium"). Three lectures remain, with the final presentation in Feb. 2001.

The 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. ■



Help Needed for the Dialogue Lecture Series

There are three remaining lectures this fall and one this winter for the Dialogue into the Millennium series: Oct. 9, Nov. 2, 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.



Q: How did you decide that you had a vocation to the priesthood, and who could young people today talk to about the possibility?

A: My vocation came as a result of a convergence of circumstances, of which I will mention a number:

- Have a mother and father who are solidly rooted in the Catholic faith.
 - Manage to live near Catholic churches (within a block or two) all of the years you're growing up.
 - Have a priest who is your football and basketball coach as a friend and mentor. It also helps to have two beloved priests who are your relatives and to live less than a block from the convent where the nuns were your teachers and almost like family.
 - Throw in 30 months of service in the Navy in World War II, the many nighttime hours of quiet contemplation that the ocean inspires while the ship you're on is moving through the water. (The only place in nature where you might get closer to God is the desert, which is outside my experience.)
 - Weigh in the contact—and subsequent rejection—of a world so alien to the world you knew coming of age that the seminary was heavenly by comparison.
- So you see, it wasn't one thing only that influenced my vocation. It was all of the above taken together. The absence of one or two of them might have made a difference.

What made it all crystallize into a decision was the inner conviction that God was inviting me to priesthood, along with the sense that there was nothing else that attracted me that much—nothing that came even close. A vocation to me is a process facilitated throughout by God's grace.

The second part of your question is as easy to answer as it is obvious: talk to a priest or religious you know and trust, and keep up that contact if it can be arranged. — Fr. Richard Mullen

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



St. Patrick's In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Written materials must include the name and telephone number of the writer.

Please leave news items in the Communications Committee mail bin in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

Editorial board: Joyce Baird, Mary Lee Brady, 344-3752 (bradymarybrady@aol.com); Artha Chamberlain, 344-6645; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701 (mmenches@uiuc.edu); Frank Modica, 367-4133 (modicaf@knight.cmi.k12.il.us); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@uiuc.edu); Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

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 Mary Lee Brady, Judy Conover, Nancy Dietrich-Rybicki, Frances Drone-Silvers, Pat Fettig, Mary Fonner, Joe Maduzia, Rosemary Mathy, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Frank Modica, Fr. Richard Mullen, Fr. George Remm, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Elizabeth Talbot, Peggy Whe'lan. This issue was paged by Tom Schlueter.



in our parish library

"Are you called? Yes. Emphatically! Whether you are a priest or a minister, a religious or a married person, a single or someone in partnership, you are called. And this is true even if you were not a Christian. Your very being is a call. And infinite love calls you forth from nothingness into actuality, into being, into life, into love."

So begins M. Basil Pennington's book *Called: New thinking on Christian Vocation* (248.4 Pen). Fr. Pennington offers thoughts on hearing, discerning, and nurturing Christian vocations to the religious life, married life, and singlehood.

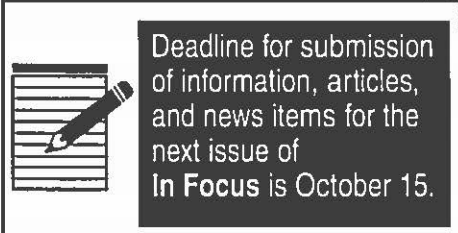
The Vocations Committee of St.

Patrick's has put materials on vocations into the parish library (on top of the bookshelves to the left as you walk into the library). These include brochures on retreats, religious communities, and such books as *The Meaning of Vocation in the words of John Paul II* and *A guide to Religious Ministries for Catholic men and women*.

You might also be interested in reading a book by Luke Timothy Johnson, next speaker in the "Dialogue into the Millennium" lecture series. In *Some Hard Blessings: Meditations on the Beatitudes in Matthew* (226 Joh), Dr. Johnson takes a look at the coun-

tercultural message of the Beatitudes, viewing them as the essence of the Gospel, the new kingdom Jesus promises. He encourages us to transform ourselves to allow the Beatitudes, rather than worldly blessings, to be the measure of our lives.

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. ■



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is October 15.

Second Annual Health Fair Oct. 22

Displays and activities for all ages will be presented by St. Patrick's Parish Nurses on Oct. 22, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., in the parish center main hall.

- Have your blood pressure checked by parish nurses.
- Pick up Vial of Life program materials.
- Get your flu shot (nominal fee).
- Be fitted for a bike helmet. (Helmets offered for purchase at special Health Fair prices!)

Parish nurses are "ministers of health." Their ministry focuses on empowering individuals to make sound choices and decisions, to promote health and well being of body, mind, and spirit. More information can be obtained about the Parish Nurse Program by calling their office (278-2118) at St. Patrick's.

Quick Fixin's from the Kitchen of... Lori McDonough

Chicken-Rice Casserole

- 1/3 c chopped celery
- 3/4 c rice
- 1 c chopped cooked chicken
- 1/4 c toasted slivered almonds (optional)
- 4-oz can mushrooms, chopped
- 2-oz jar diced pimentos
- 10-oz can cream of chicken soup
- 1 soup can water
- 1/2 t lemon-pepper
- 1 t lemon juice
- 1 t parsley flakes
- salt
- 1/2 c shredded cheddar cheese



Mix together all ingredients except cheese and pour into 1 1/2 qt casserole. Cover and bake 55 minutes in 425-degree oven. Uncover, put cheese on top; bake another 5 minutes, or until cheese melts. Serves 4.

Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 1

Pennies for Life. Donate one penny for each year of your life to support the diocesan Family Resource Center in Peoria. Materials on all "life" issues available on request.

Life Chain. Join others standing for "life" issues in the Life Chain at Hessel Park, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Hold a sign and pray for God's help for all victims of abortion—babies, mothers, fathers, grandparents, other family members, and friends.

Social Action Committee Sponsors Talk on the Middle East

Sue Morris, of Living Stones Pilgrimages to the Holy Land, will give a presentation on the Middle East entitled "Jubilee Pilgrimage in the Holy Land: A Peace and Justice Perspective" at 7:00 p.m. on Oct. 19 in St. Patrick's parish center main hall.

The presentation is co-sponsored by St. Patrick's Social Action Committee, the Peace and Justice Committee of Holy Cross Parish, the Champaign County chapter of Pax Christi, and the St. Jude Catholic Worker House.

Morris, group leader of four pilgrimages to the Holy Land sponsored by Koinonia International, will provide an overview of the Holy Land and its inhabitants and explain why pilgrimage to the Holy Land is especially relevant for Christian renewal and carrying out the Church's Jubilee mission of solidarity and reconciliation.

She will share stories from her visits with the people of the Holy Land, the Palestinian Christians, Palestinian Muslims, and Jews, and address the issues at the heart of efforts for peace in Israel and Palestine. Her experience combines 15 years of social ministry and 20 years of giving retreats and spiritual direction.

Morris also served on the Board of Directors for Roundtable, the National Association of Social Action Directors, and is a member of the preaching team for retreats at Kings House in Belleville (Illinois) and a member of the Public Discipleship Retreat Team, while serving as ethics consultant for the Ethical Leadership Group in Wilmette (Illinois).

Sue Morris's presentation promises to be very informative. Try to make room on your calendar for meeting her and hearing about her experiences. ■

Editor sought

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) participation 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 format for use by another volunteer who pages the issues on computer, and (3) researching appropriate illustrations from available resources.

If you enjoy reading *In Focus*, appreciate its primary objective (to communicate with parishioners about parishioners and parish events), have ideas on how to make it more attractive, fresher, more interesting, just don't want to see it discontinued, and can volunteer to serve as its editor, 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.

People You Should Know

St. Patrick's religious education coordinator staff is joined this fall by three parishioners new to their positions but not new to the parish: Peggy Loftus, coordinator of the senior-high religious education program; Carol Retz, coordinator of the children's religious education program; and Cindy Shaw, coordinator of senior-high social and service activities. They will carry out their responsibilities under the guidance and supervision of Carolyn McElrath, Director of Religious Education at St. Patrick's.

Peggy Loftus is the new senior-high coordinator. As a teacher for the youth group last year, she was really impressed by the CREW group that had its beginning under former coordinator Deborah Riley. When the position of coordinator came open, she saw an opportunity, as she states it, "to help our youth understand and celebrate their faith." She hopes to help teens "feel comfortable enough with their faith to be able to ask questions and to get their questions answered by their adult leaders."



Peggy Loftus

Peggy is also interested in the JAM (Jesus and Me) Teen Renewal Weekend at St. Patrick's.

Meanwhile, Peggy is completing work on a masters degree in Human Development and Family Studies and a masters degree in Social Work. When she finishes her

current internship at Catholic Social Services in December, she hopes to find employment in this area. All these interests and activities are balanced with her role as wife of Andy Loftus, who is working on his masters degree in Computer Science while working full-time at the Motorola site here.

Carol Retz is another religious education teacher impressed with CREW. She was pleased to help raise funds for the CREW Mission because she remembers involvement in a Mission in her own teen years as a "priceless" experience.



Carol Retz

After having served in St. Patrick's religious education program for seven years, mainly in St. Joseph, Carol will now coordinate the parish's children's program. The eldest of 11 children growing up on a farm in Iowa, Carol should know a good bit about children!

Carol, husband Steve, and son Jason have been members of St. Patrick's since 1989. They reside in St. Joseph, where Jason is a senior at St. Joe-Ogden High School. (Jason is an enthusiastic member of CREW and Core.)

Cindy Shaw, St. Patrick's senior-high social and service activities coordinator, has had a busy summer. On vacation from teaching children with severe behavioral and emotional disorders at Cunningham Children's Home, she agreed to assist with the

CREW Mission trip. In the midst of preparations, she learned that Deborah Riley, who had spearheaded planning for the Mission, was moving. It fell to Cindy pick up where Deb left off. With a lot of good help from interested adults and eager, cooperative teens, she guided the group through a very successful Mission experience. After that, Cindy was ready to take on the position of social and service activities coordinator.

Cindy says, "I am looking forward to this new year of classes, teen Masses, and social and service activities, as well as another Mission trip. I have been a member of this parish my entire life. My family has been a part of the St. Patrick's community for five generations, and I hope that by working with the teens we will be able to keep the parish community strong for many generations to come. I believe that through personal relationships with adults in the parish, the youth will gain a sense of belonging and will see modeled how to live their faith as Christian adults."



Cindy Shaw

Cindy also is active in the parish's Over-21 Bible Study group and plays her flute in the teen choir. In her free time she enjoys movies, waterskiing, and Illini basketball. ■

Fr. Jakob Abdennour Celebrates Golden Jubilee as Priest

In a recent letter to Fr. George Remm, Fr. Abdennour expressed his deep gratitude for St. Patrick's gift of \$2000 from year-end funds. He wrote: "Please do convey my gratitude to the dear members of your Parish Council as well as to all the people of St. Patrick's Parish in the Diocese of Peoria. Be sure that I will celebrate Mass periodically in the Holy Grotto of Bethlehem for your dear intentions."

The Parish Council of Beit-Jala has been working to provide adequate housing for the numerous poor families in the area now living in unhygienic and



dilapidated rental units. He mentioned in particular one such family, a 45-year-old woman with a husband who is very ill and 4 young children. The \$2000, he wrote, has been put toward this project.

Fr. Abdennour this year is celebrating his golden jubilee of priesthood. He sent the accompanying photos of his people at Mass and of the housing under construction that his Parish Council is supporting—this year with our help.

Fr. Jakob Abdennour is pastor of our "sister church" in Beit-Jala, outside Bethlehem, in the Holy Land. His address is P.O. Box 188, Beit-Jala, Israel. ■

Mechtild a Mystic for Our Times

Eastern mysticism, inspired by Buddhist and Hindu teachers, has gained attention in the West during recent years. Celebrities such as Richard Gere have fervently and publicly espoused mysticism.

Yet Roman Catholicism has a deep and fertile history of mysticism, with many women and men over the centuries who have written about their spiritual experiences. Mechtild of Magdeburg, who is commemorated by the Church on Nov. 19, is a shining example of that tradition.

Mechtild was born in Saxony early in the 13th century and died in the convent of Hefta, a famous center for spirituality, around the year 1285. She is known primarily for *The Flowering of Divinity*, in which she recorded her visions in a very poetic and imaginative style. One of her poems compares loving God to a sacred dance:

I cannot dance, O Lord,
Unless you lead me.



If you wish me to leap joyfully,
Let me see you dance and sing.

Then I will leap into Love
And from Love into Knowledge,
And from Knowledge into the Harvest,
That sweetest Fruit beyond human sense.

There I will stay with you whirling.
the witness.org/archive/may.poetry.html

Although Mechtild has not been canonized by the Church, she was a close associate and highly respected by St. Gertrude the Great and St. Mechthilde of Hackeborn.

She was a harsh critic of clerical corruption. As a woman writing about spiritual matters, Mechtild was criticized by many of the clergy of her day. Yet it was her Dominican confessor, Henry of Halle, who encouraged her to write down her visions, and similarities between the poetry of Dante and her visions of Heaven and Hell have led some to see her influence in his poetry.

More information about Mechtild can be found on the Internet:

www.umilta.net/godfrien.html#MechtildMagdebourg
home.infi.net/~ddisse/methil.html
www.creighton.edu/~funchion/mechbio.htm ■



Celebrate Life!

It has been brought to my attention that many people think that we who take an active part in the pro-life movement are negative, dwelling always on the brutality of the world and failing to give attention to the good and joyful aspects of life.

I concede that we tend to get emotional about life issues, particularly about abortion and all its ugly consequences. That we often sound like we're standing on soapboxes and moralizing and preaching. That we get downright angry. That we thrust our values at others.

I admit all of this—and then tell you that we won't change. This ugliness exists in the world, and we strongly believe that unless the world is made aware of it, it will not be changed. And it does need changing! The culture of death needs to be turned into the culture of life. We need to respect all life. It is a gift from God and cannot be thrown away—as we are throwing it away. Abortion is just one issue that has led to many others, such as doctor-assisted suicide, the destruction of embryos, and research using aborted babies.

We concentrate on these horrors in order to make others more aware, to bring others knowledge so that they can become supporters of life. But this concentration does not mean that we don't appreciate the joy, the goodness, and the love we see all around us. We do. Maybe we appreciate it more than many others, since we want everyone else to share it. We aren't just trying to save the babies, although this is of primary importance. We are also trying to share our love of life, our gift from God, with everyone who is confused or misguided by today's mixed messages.

So forgive us our stridency. Forgive us our preaching. We do it out of love. We want only to celebrate life with everyone! We ask that you pray for God's continued help to resolve these life issues, not only on Respect Life Sunday (Oct. 1) or during Respect Life Month (October), but all year long.

Seek out information that can help you understand the issues.

There are many resources available from the Diocese of Peoria's Family Life Office and in our own parish library. The Pro-Life Committee has started a file on life issues in the parish library. This file has many different categories and could be a good resource for someone who wants to learn more about any one of them. Some of the major ones are partial-birth abortion, legal cases, parental notification, child abuse, post-abortion traumatic syndrome, voting and legislative issues. The committee will be updating this file regularly; we hope that you will refer to it often.

— Mary Lee Brady
Chair, Pro-Life Committee

"Fear not..."

Thus says the Lord,
He who created you, O Jacob,
He who formed you, O Israel:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name,
and you are mine.
When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you,
and through the rivers,
they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire,
you shall not be burned, and
the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
And you are precious in my eyes,
and cherished,
and I love you."

Isalah 43:1-4

Welcome to new parishioners Amy Balijs, Martha and Paul Diehl, Rachel Landry, Kathy and Tim Izard, Diane Haag, Diana and Jimmy Gonzalez, Justin and Meghan McCorkle, Brooke and Manuel Mislán, Carl Roth, Jeanne and Michael Snyder, Chris and Katrina Tapia, Elizabeth and William Vavrik.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Elizabeth and Joseph Bauer, Elizabeth Crane, Joey Guerra, Karen and Frank Athy-Penrose, Mark and Renee Scherrer, Rosemary Tabbert.

Welcome to the following baptized into our faith community: Alexandria Daniella Gonzalez, Shelby Mislán, Ryan Joseph Pope, Joseph Matthew Howerton, Michael Jefforey Hasenstab, Gage Douglas Timpone, Christopher George Cowder, Kailey Ann McQueen, Trystan Nathangal Tapia, Hayden Francis Hosler.

Congratulations to these couples, married at St. Patrick's: Matthew Aaron Vaughan and Renee Rae Rock, John Alan Davis and Amy Michelle Haessly.

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

- 1 Children's Liturgy Resumes
- 6 Seniors Group Wiener Roast
- 9 Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson on "New Directions in Scripture Studies"
- 19 Sue Morris on "Jubilee Pilgrimage in the Holy Land"
- 22 Parish Nurses Health Fair
- 29 Back to Standard Time
- 29 Blood Drive, 8:15am - 1:15pm

"I Knew I Had a Vocation"

When I was a little girl, I knew I had a vocation to religious life. When I was 18 months old, I nearly died from pneumonia and was given "the last rites" (Extreme Unction) by our parish priest. My grandmother, who helped raise me, told me that God brought me back to life for a reason—to serve God. But how I was to serve was always a looming question.

My parents were very active in our parish church, and my grandfather was a trustee of the parish. When I was really little, I wanted to be a priest. I used to play at being a priest, "ministering" to my dolls and to any young friends who accepted me in that role, but of course my parents explained that this option was not open to me in real life. I remember wondering, as a little girl, why I couldn't be an acolyte. I wondered why God wanted only boys to be acolytes and men to be priests.

Yet my yearning for religious life of some kind was very strong. It never went away; it nagged at me like a deep ache. Down the street from where I grew up was Mount Carmel Hospital, and the Sisters from the hospital used to walk up and down the street in their long white

habits, looking to me for all the world like angels. Oh how I longed to be one of them!

Now so many years later I have become a Sister myself, and I thank God

for the vocation God has given me. Truly it is the answer to prayer, and the answer to my search that began so very long ago. I wonder what would have happened had someone encouraged me to become a Sister when I was younger. I thank God for the religious in my life whom God sent to guide me when I was ready!

I hope and pray I have not offended any of you by this summary of my vocational life. A friend sends me copies of your *IN FOCUS* and I wanted to share a little because I feel I have gained so much from what some of you have shared. — *Sr. Mary Clare*

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. ■

The Rosary: A Centuries-Old Modern Meditation Tool

The rosary is a meditation tool that can be traced in the Roman Catholic tradition to about the 12th or 13th century. Legend has it that the Blessed

Virgin Mary appeared to St. Dominic and gave him a rosary of 15 decades (a decade is a group of ten beads), stating that whoever prayed the rosary would receive special blessings from her and would be assured of salvation.

Truth be told, it is more than likely that the rosary developed from the "paternoster" beads used by the later Desert Fathers. These were 150 pebbles carried in a bag and used to count the recitation of the Psalter, with each "bead" accompanied by an "Our Father." In time, these were strung together and were made of wood or wool, hence the modern Orthodox prayer rope for praying the Jesus Prayer.

In the West, the Dominican rosary and the Franciscan Crown (a rosary of 7 decades used to meditate on the seven joys of Our Lady) were the earliest modifications. Since then over 100 different "chaplets" (small rosaries) have been developed, often as the specific meditation tool of a religious order or community. The most popular form of the rosary today is the "chaplet" of the Dominican rosary, with 5 sets of 10 beads.

Every major religion in the world has some sort of rosary. In the Hindu and Buddhist traditions there are 108 beads and a connecting bead symbolizing the deity, often called JAPA or MALA beads. A mantra is chanted on each bead. In the Muslim tradition, a simple set of "worry beads" is used when reciting the 99 Aspects of Allah. There is also a Jewish prayer called the "Shema, Yisrael," which is repeated using the worry beads.

Pre-Christian traditions are thought to have influenced the development of the rosary. Today it is particularly effective in teaching the mysteries of the Faith to non-literate people and to children. In meditative practices, by involving the body as well as the mind the rosary helps the person praying to focus and to avoid distraction.

A very good book on the rosary is *Praying by Hand*, by Fr. M. Basil Pennington, OCSO (Harper San Francisco, 1991), in which the author emphasizes the rosary's real potential as a meditative prayer. ■



My First Day at School

My first day at school was like the beginning of a new life.

Everything around me was new: the desks, the computers, the science lab, the gymnasium, the teachers, *everything*, even the school building.

It wasn't the least bit frightening. It felt weird being in a school where everyone dressed alike and no one wore tennis shoes.

We all had to lower our expectations; nothing was really finished. They had to buy Domino's pizza for lunch because the Department of Public Health hadn't yet approved the cafeteria.

Before school had started, they gave us a choice of electives, but when the first day of school began, everyone took Spanish, Latin, Hebrew, Greek, and Theology in addition to the already set curriculum.

It was a great beginning to a great school year! ■

— Joe Maduzia



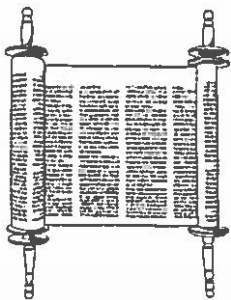
Dressed alike—and no tennis shoes!—are (from the left) Eric Randolph, Chris Ruedi, Chris Bunyan, Nick Timpone, and Joe Maduzia, St. Patrick's young scholars enrolled at St. Thomas More Catholic High School.

What Is My Vocation?

The questions below, developed by the National Coalition for Catholic Vocations, may be helpful to anyone thinking about their vocation, whether as priest, religious, married, or single person.

- What do I want most in life?
- What are my greatest fears and deepest hopes?
- When I imagine myself married or single, what feelings arise in my heart?
- When I imagine myself as a sister, brother, or priest, what feelings arise in my heart?
- What gifts would I bring to religious life, married life, single life?
- Can I name my feelings about God, myself, the world?

Sinai Temple Needs Child Care for High Holy Days



Each Christmas and Easter, volunteers from B'nai B'rith and Sinai Temple serve patients' trays at Provena Covenant Medical Center so that Christian aides can have the day off. Sinai people also staff the office of the Department of Children and Family Services so that children in foster care can have supervised visits with their families.

Once a year Christians have the opportunity to return this kindness. St. Patrick's Parish shares membership with Sinai Temple in the Council of Congregations. Parishioners can join those of 15

other churches in town to volunteer for child care (baby-sitting) at the Temple during services on the High Holy Days, Rosh Hashana (Sept. 30) and Yom Kippur (Oct. 2).

Rosh Hashana is a joyful day, the beginning of the new year in the Jewish calendar, but it is also a day when Jews spend time in profound reflection and prayer. It begins a period called the "Days of Awe," which end with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. During this time, Jews all over the world congregate in the synagogue. They examine their lives and the actions of the community; as a community, they confess their sins and ask for forgiveness. According to tradition, on Yom Kippur God's judgment will be sealed in the book of life for another year.

On Saturday, Sept. 30, volunteers will serve a two-hour "shift" in the morning or early afternoon. On Monday, Oct. 2, there is an added shift, 4:00-6:00 p.m. The children are grouped by age, and toys and games are provided.

If you want to live out your inter-faith ideals in this way, call Charline Waldron (367-1480), evenings, to volunteer. ■



A Prayer for Vocations

Lord Jesus, your Mother Mary continues to shine as one who fully responded to God's call. May young people today be graced to follow her example of doing God's will in their lives. Help them to understand the joy that comes from serving God and others.

Enable parents to transmit their faith to their children through word and example. May they encourage their sons and daughters to seek and follow God's call, especially to the priesthood and consecrated life.



St. Patrick's Parish

October 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00&11:00am Childrens RE 10:15am Children's Liturgy 12:00pm Crew Kick-off Pennies or Life Collection 1:30pm Life Chain Hessel Park 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study 1	7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work 7:00pm Education 7:00pm Pro-life 2	9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Financial Affairs 7:00pm WATCH Board Mtg 3	5:00 SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Religious Ed, Parish Center 6:30pm RE, St Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 4	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Building & Grounds 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Over 21 Club 5	10:45am Mass Champaign County Nursing Home 5:30pm Seniors Octoberfest at Conerty Farm 6	7
9:00&11:00am Children's RE 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Crew RE 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study 8	7:30pm Lecture Series; Luke Timothy Johnson 9	9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com &Development 10	9:30am Schola 5:00 SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Religious Ed, Parish Center 6:30pm RE, St Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 11	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Baptism Prep 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Over 21 Club 12	10:30am Urbana Nursing Home 10:45am Mass Champaign County Nursing Home 13	14
9:00&11:00am Children's RE 10:15am Children's Liturgy 10:15am K of C 6:30pm CREW RE 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study 7:00pm St Joe Focus Group 15	7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work 16	6:45am Bible Study 10:30am Mass @ Canterbury House 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Liturgy 17	5:00 SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Religious Ed, Parish Center 6:30pm RE, St Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 18	6:45am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Social Action 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Over 21 Club 7:00pm Parish Council 19	10:30am Mass Clark Lindsey 10:45am Mass Champaign County Nursing Home 20	9:00am-12:00pm Objectives Workshop 21
1:00-4:00pm Health Fair 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study 22	9:30am Archives 6:30pm Long Range Planning 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work 23	6:45am Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Homily Prep 24	9:30am Schola 5:00 SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 25	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Communications 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Over 21 26	10:30am Mass Manor Care 10:45am Mass Champaign County Nursing Home 27	Retreat for Finding God in Daily Work 28
10:30 am Holy Cross Parents 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study Set Clocks Back to Standard Time 29	7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work 30	9:30am Bible Study 5:15 7:00pm Bible Study 31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">  <p>Because the In Focus Calendar is prepared in advance of scheduled events and meetings, please check the weekly bulletin to confirm dates and times for specific listings. Deadline for the next issue of In Focus is October 15.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>SVDP= St. Vincent De Paul RE= Religious Education</p> </div>			