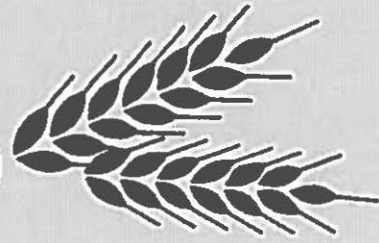


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



## The Dignity of Work

As Labor Day approaches, the Social Action Committee invites you to reflect on one of the seven key themes of Catholic social teaching as noted in the reflections of the U.S. Catholic Bishops in "Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions":

### The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

*In a marketplace where too often the quarterly bottom line takes precedence over the rights of workers, we believe that the economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected, the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative. Respecting these rights promotes an economy that protects human life, defends human rights, and advances the well-being of all.*

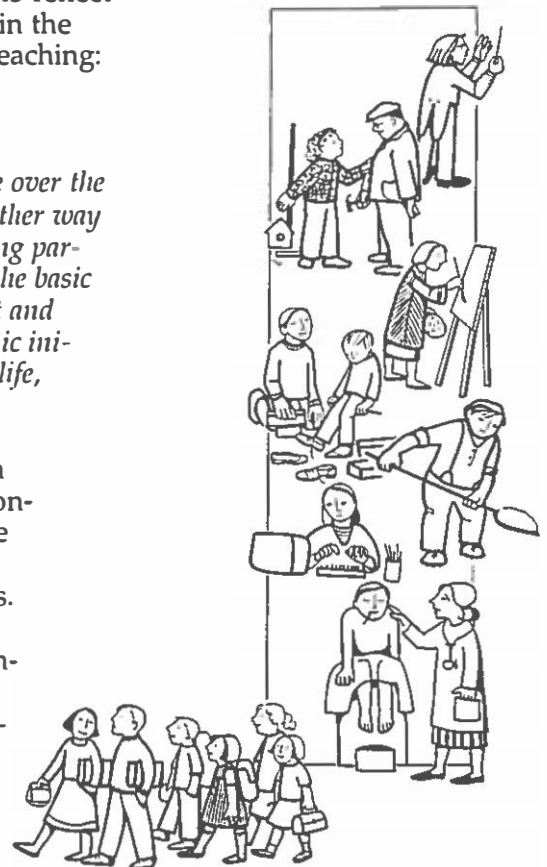
While daily work is first of all a way to make a living, it is also an expression of our human dignity. In the work each of us does, we contribute to the common good. Catholic social teaching says that while workers must perform their jobs conscientiously and justly, they in turn have the right to decent and productive work and to fair wages.

Catholic social teaching challenges Catholics in the United States, as both followers of Jesus Christ and participants in a powerful economy, to work for greater economic justice in the face of overwhelming poverty, growing income gaps, and increasing discussion of economic issues in the United States.

There are ways to support the dignity of all work and the rights of all workers.

- Show respect to all workers with whom you come in contact during your day. Our Catholic social teaching teaches us that work is a form of ongoing participation in God's creation, and we are called to treat all participation with great respect and not condescension.
- Talk with your children about how each worker, regardless of the stature of their work, contributes to the good of our community. Take the time to tell your children about the connection of all workers to the desired product of a company.
- Support those service agencies that support the working poor, i.e., federally funded day care centers, used clothing stores for re-entry workers.
- Take time to learn more about the Living Wage issues and concerns (<http://www.prairienet.org/living-wage/>). Regardless of your thinking, you will become a better-informed citizen about an important social justice issue.

The Social Action Committee invites you to take the time this Labor Day to reflect on how you are contributing to the dignity of work for all workers. ■



## Jerome, Bible Study — and Librarians?

Jerome's journey of faith took some odd turns. He was born about 342 in northeastern Italy, in a Christian family. A bright and pious child, he studied with the best grammarian of his day and mastered Greek and Latin. But the influence of his teacher pulled him away from the Faith. He went to Rome to continue his studies, and from there to Antioch, where he became ill with a fever and had a vision. He saw himself coming before the judgment seat and, when asked who he was, replied, "A Christian." Christ responded, "You lie. You are a Ciceronian, for where your treasure is, there your heart is also." This experience led Jerome to take his faith more seriously.

These were not peaceful days in the Church. There were disputes about theology, the choice of bishops, the role of the Bishop of Rome, and the role of civil authorities. And Jerome was a fiery, passionate person, often harsh and sarcastic in argument. He was invited to Rome to become the secretary of Pope Damasus, but when the pope died just three years later, Jerome had already made so many

enemies that he returned to the eastern Mediterranean and settled in the city of Bethlehem, where he resumed his study of the scriptures.

In Rome, Jerome had begun a scripture study group for women of the upper classes, the first group of its kind. He knew that contact with scripture would transform people's lives. One woman of the group, Paula, became a brilliant scholar in her own right. Like Jerome, she studied Greek and Hebrew so that she could better understand the Bible.

In Bethlehem, assisted by Paula and others, Jerome translated most of the Bible into Latin, the language spoken by the "vulgus," or common people of western Europe at that time. His careful Latin translation, called the Vulgate, was the first to open up scripture for the "common people" and survived to modern times.

When your Bible study group starts up this fall, give thanks for Jerome's study and scholarship that made scripture so available to us. And wish a librarian a happy day on the feast of their patron, St. Jerome, on Sept. 30. ■



## in our parish library

CREW's Mission reminds us of our own call to serve. In the book *Love in Action: Reflections on Christian Service*, Bernard Hayes examines the spiritual base from which ministry comes. He differentiates between "doing" and "ministering." Hayes says motive is the difference—one can minister only out of love. Using John's Gospel, Hayes leads us to understand how Jesus sees ministry (service) in terms of love in action. It is shelved in the parish library under the call number 253 Hay.

Would you like to know more about Jesus as a person? These two books can help. (They are located

on the New Books Shelf, to the right as you enter the library.)

*The Historical Jesus: The Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant*, by John Dominic Crossan (232.9 Cro) Crossan is a professor of Biblical Studies at DePaul University. He writes of Jesus as a "savvy and courageous Jewish Mediterranean peasant, a radical social revolutionary, with a rhapsodic vision of economic, political, and religious egalitarianism and a social program for creating it." He combines peasant anthropology, history, and biblical texts to paint an image of Jesus, the man.

*The Hidden Jesus: A New Life*, by Donald Spoto (232.9 Spo) Spoto's

## ST PATRICK'S PARISH In Focus

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

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

**Editorial board:** Joyce Baird, Mary Lee Brady, 344-3752 (bradymarylbrady@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 Rebez, Lucille Safka, Tom Schlueter.

**Articles and information** for this issue were contributed by Dwain Berggren, Rose Breen, Carol Bosley, Sr. Charlene Cesario, SSCM, Judy Conover, Frances Drone-Silvers, Diane Essex-Sorlie, Richard Keane, Mary Long, Kilian M., Lori McDonough, Carolyn McElrath, Mary Lou Menches, Frank Modica, Lenore Nagele, Fr. George Remm, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Peggy Shannon, Cindy Shaw, Nancy Steerman, Rose Vabic, Peggy Whelan. This issue was paged by Tom Schlueter.

book challenges many of our traditional images of Jesus's life. He uses Jesus's words to present his teachings on faith, morality, and heaven. (This book is the easier read of the two, but is less scholarly.) Spoto has also written a number of biographies of other famous people.

*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. ■*

# “Shine” the Theme, and Shine They Did



By now, unless you were out of town last weekend, you've heard from teens and chaperones who participated in CREW's Mission to Washington, D.C., where the

group helped in renovating homes. As they described ever so briefly their experiences and their reactions at Masses last weekend, people hung on every word, warmed by the genuine enthusiasm of the participants and their sharing of feelings engendered by the experience of Mission.

If you haven't done so yet, you might explore the CREW Web site (<http://www.prairienet.org/crew2000/>), which was updated daily by Mike Andrejasich to record the day's events and the teens' spirit.

A special *In Focus Supplement* devoted to the CREW Mission will be distributed in the parish bulletin in a couple of weeks. Watch for it! ■

## A Prayer for Vocations

*O loving and gracious God, Father of all, you bless your people in every time and season, and provide for our needs through your providential care. Your Church is continually in need of priests, sisters, and brothers to offer themselves in the service of the Gospel by lives of dedicated love.*

*Open the hearts of your sons and daughters to listen to your call in their lives. Give them the gift of understanding to discern your invitation to serve you and your Church. Give them the gift of courage to follow your call. May they have the spirit of young Samuel, who found fulfillment in his life when he said to you, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. ■*



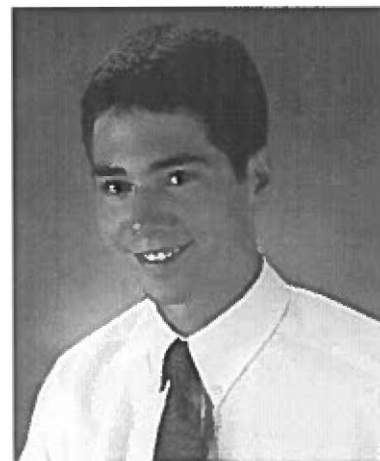
## Parish Teen Awarded UI Scholarship

Brian Weber, son of Tom and Aretta Weber and a June graduate of Urbana High School, this year adds his name to the list of St. Patrick's parishioners who have merited University of Illinois Civil Service Employee Dependent Scholarships.

His answers to questions on the application for the award made him a winner. His top ACT (American College Testing) score qualified him as a National Merit Scholar and an Illinois State Scholar.

Honor student Brian also ran in track and cross country for four years in high school. He and his dad like to bicycle together around town and on mountain bikes at Kickapoo State Park.

During his senior high school year Brian spent four half-days a week as an intern at Busey First Securities in Urbana, where he stayed as a paid employee this summer. He plans to major in business at the University of Illinois. ■



Brian Weber

### Good Things Happening...September at St. Patrick's

4	Labor Day	17	Catechetical Sunday
9	Overview of the Bible, Intro to Nehemiah	18	Finding God in Daily Work begins
10	Blood pressure screening	24	Parish picnic
15	St. Thomas More High School dedication	30	Orientation for committees
15	WATCH retreat begins		

## “What Did YOU Do This Summer?”

Dan Smith, son of parishioner Nancy Smith Steerman, lived for a month on glaciers in Alaska.

Dan frequently climbs and hikes in the Rocky Mountains. This summer he chose to attend a National Outdoor Leadership School that taught Alaskan mountaineering, glacial travel, crevasse rescue, ice climbing, low impact camping, and much more.

The group of seventeen (four were instructors) started out from a town called Paxson. Fairbanks, far away, was the nearest city. They climbed up into the Delta (far Eastern) Range, traveling in teams of three or four. There was sunlight 24 hours a day. During the day the temperature was higher—warm enough to hike in a t-shirt—and the snow mushier, so they began at 2:30 a.m. and were ready to call it a day at 6:00 p.m.

Sometimes crevasses were visible along a snow line, and they traversed in an echelon position. When not so visible, they traversed in a line. Danger of falling into a crevasse was always present. Ask Dan! At one point he felt

the team rope, and he felt the ropes going taut on both sides—his team was doing their job! After climbing out, he looked down into the crevasse, and it was very dark and very deep. He'd not have wanted to experience feeling the bottom!

Halfway through the trip they came over a pass and saw a huge mountain, called Mt. Gakona. Instead of looking up, Dan was looking down the glacier and saw a ridge that went up to a peak. While everyone else was saying “Let’s climb the big one,” Dan was thinking “That ridge looks like a really nice climb to me.”

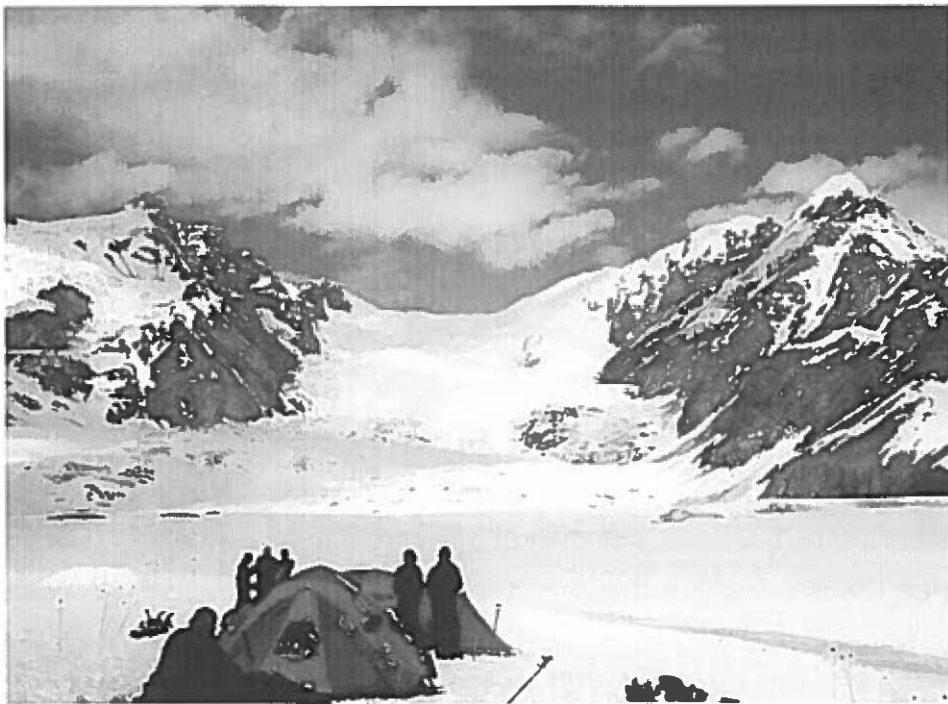
The group checked out the



ing glaciers, many crevasses, and super-dangerous terrain. In the meantime, Dan had time to play around with a plan for an expedition of the smaller peak. According to the map, it was unnamed; he estimated it would take two days to climb it.

When the group realized they'd be unable to tackle Mt. Gakona, Dan presented his plan. Half the group remained at the camp and the other half went with Dan. When they reached the summit, they named it for Dan: from now on it will be known as Dano. Of the four summits they'd reached on their trip, this one was cause for celebration!

Dan's mother, Nancy, says none of this surprises her. As soon as he could creep and climb, Dan tried to scale the refrigerator. He did succeed in climbing up into the fork of a tree. Before trying anything else, he decided to learn how to walk! ■



himself slipping down to his armpits and still couldn't feel bottom. He was the middle man on

mountain and could see the hanging ice that made it beyond their abilities to climb; there were hang-

## Greetings and a report from Dr. Susan Nagele

*Dr. Susan Nagele, daughter of parishioners Tom and Lenore Nagele, serves as a lay volunteer in the Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful. She reports from the Diocese of Torit, in Africa, where she tends to the medical and spiritual needs of inhabitants of the area as a member of a team based in Lotimor. Excerpts from the report follow her greeting.*

Dear Fr. Remm and all the parishioners of St. Pat's,

Greetings to you all. Thank you for our "connectedness" over the years in mission. Thank you especially for your gifts to us in 1999, which totalled \$7909.95. Enclosed are our 1999 reports.

I chose to send this card [African Virgin] because this jubilee year is dedicated to Mary. I truly do hope that she will help to guide us all in this new millennium.

— God bless you all, Dr. Susan Nagele

### Annual Report 1999

The primary health care program for eastern Toposa began in 1998 and has now completed two years. The health team is based in Lotimor, an area inhabited by a small group of agropastoralists. The center of the parish is about 60 miles northwest of Lotimor. About three-fourths of the area is inhabited by the Toposa, a larger semi-nomadic group of cattle herders who live peacefully with the agropastoralists and have had more contact with traders and other cultures.

The parish has a Development Education Team, three Toposa men who work to educate and mobilize the communities. In the past two years a primary school and dispensary have been established in each of two centers; approximately 15 bore holes have been drilled by the diocesan water project; roads have been opened and improved. Yet there are still no shops or markets, and no local currency for trading.

The core health team included a nurse/midwife, physician, and driver. They lived in Lotimor and travelled to other areas of the parish for training, supervision, and mobile clinics. The two Primary Health Care Units were staffed by 7 additional workers.

The year began with two health teams, each operating from a mud hut; in July the new health care units were completed. The teams saw 8953 patients during the year, an increase of 74% over 1998. The most common illnesses were malaria, respiratory tract infections, gastroenteritis, worms, eye disease, guinea worm, and skin disease.

During the year 52 patients were referred to other facilities for treatment of hydatid disease, cataracts, hernias, and prostatic hypertrophy with urinary obstruction.

There was no referral hospital in Sudan after the fighting in April. The Red Cross hospital in Kenya would accept referrals for war wounded and acute surgical emergencies, with prior approval over the radio. The nearest center for TB treatment is in Kenya, a 3-hour drive away. The closest X-ray services are in a government hospital, 5 hours away.

Pre-natal clinics saw 620 women, an increase of 97% over 1998. A local Toposa woman is being trained to assist with deliveries. Mobile clinics were performed in two villages. The team slept in tents and conducted the clinics under the trees.

The guinea worm eradication program continued with 8 volunteers and 4 workers from Ethiopia. They reported 874 cases. A total of 67 procedures were performed, most of which were to treat burns and wounds.

The health team conducted the second year of national immunization days against polio. Two rounds of vaccine were given to all children under approximately 3 feet tall; 3478 during the first round, 4790 during the second.

The greatest needs in health care include the provision of clean water, health education, and treatment of common illnesses, pre-natal care, and immunizations. Recommendations include moving the health team to a more central location, building a new health care unit in the area, and working with the communities to form health committees to oversee health care and to choose people for further training.

*Susan provides much greater detail in this report, as well as a financial report for the year, that may be of interest. These have been posted on the staff bulletin board in the parish center for those who wish to read more. ■*





**Welcome to new parishioners** Vicki Brown-Hodges, Linda and Richard Busey, Jack and Sue Hardy, Tracy Harper, Pam and Theodore Jeurissen, Terry L. Lafenhagen, Rebecca McNulty, Karen and Rafael Murillo, Cheryl and Garry Pope, Kathleen and Todd Prine, Daniella Rasmussen, Teresa Spence, Allen and Marjorie Toreja, Art Tyrl, Michael Womer.

**Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U:** David and Judy Barker, Elizabeth and Todd Celie, Anthony Joseph and Maryann David, Jean Day, Matt Garcia, Anne Hoeksema, Doris Klapperich, Carol Rapp, Deb and Jeff Riley, Brian and Holly Schreiber, Antonia Staedele, Rene Stofflett, Angie and Mark Theisen.

**Welcome to the following baptized into our faith community:** Madeline Julia Celie, Sydney Alena Koziarz, Kelly Michelle McGill, Paige Marie Armbruster, Payton Rose Armbruster, Lauren Rae George, Elijah Jay Bushue, Madeline Stella Prine, Thomas Parker Clevenger, Andrew William Fierke, Arielle Danielle Summitt, Julia Rose Maloney, Maris Lea Wszalek.

**Congratulations to these couples, married at St. Patrick's:** Angela Sue Waldhoff and Douglas James Wolters, John Wadsworth Koenitzer and Patricia Anne Moffitt, Lyndsay Beth Cousert and Donald Lee Shymkewich, Peggy Folks and Shawn M. DeHaven, Lisa Ann Rix and Rick Joe Vincent.

**Please pray for deceased parishioners** James J. Breen, Joan T. Causeman, Robert A. Burgin, James Nicholas Arie, Edward Colbert, Jr., Margaret A. Zoll, Joseph M. Schumacher.

## Finding God in Daily Work

St. Patrick's will offer the spiritual program Finding God in Daily Work this fall. Participants meet once a week for nine weeks and attend a one-day retreat.

Goals of the program:

- To learn how to see and hear God in the workplace
  - To discover ways of responding to God in work and in prayer
  - To find peace and fulfillment in work and in prayer
- Finding God in Daily Work gives you the opportunity to see God more fully in your daily work, to experience a sense of wholeness, peace, and well-being.

The workplace is not confined to the traditional office setting. We all work, whether we are taking care of our children or parents at home, volunteering our time to help others in the community, studying for our future careers at college, working on a farm or in a school or hospital, in an office or store.

More information on this program will be available at the end of August. Watch for details in the weekly bulletin.

Sr. Charlene Cesario, SSCM, and Joyce Baird will facilitate the program. ■

## Fall Bible Study Focuses on Nehemiah

A new semester of small-group Bible study begins the week of Sept. 10: "Nehemiah—Man of Prayer, Man of Action." The book of Nehemiah offers a wonderful model for putting knowledge and faith into action and participating in God's work. You may make a timely application to your own life as you see how God worked with Nehemiah in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, how he can work with you and the Church in areas needing building up, strengthening, or repair. You may discover the joy and hope that comes from knowing that he is with you and goes before you in that work.

A well-rounded approach is used in the small-group Bible study, one that involves fellowship, prayer, and mission. Small groups meeting on many different days and times make it possible for you to choose a day and time that meets your needs. Whether a newcomer to Bible study or an old hand at it, you will enjoy the comfortable atmosphere, faith sharing, and fun of the small-group format. Please call Frank and Elenor Rentschler (359-8873) for placement in a group of your choice or leave your name and telephone number with Mary Long at the parish center (367-2665).

Mark your calendars for a spe-

cial opportunity, an overview of the Bible and an introduction to the book of Nehemiah, on Saturday, Sept. 9, 9-11 a.m. in the parish hall. (Coffee, donuts, and fellowship begin at 8:30 a.m.) The overview of the Bible will help you understand the significance of all of Scripture—how God works out his plan of salvation for his people throughout all of history. Even if you will not be joining a small group for Bible study this fall, you are welcome to come for the overview, to get the "big picture" of the Bible. ■

"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

## Parish Council News

At their August meeting, as part of their ongoing "Getting to Know Our Parish Community" series, Council members heard from parish Music Director Dr. J. Mark Baker, who summarized his typical week: In planning music for liturgies, he studies the readings for the coming Sunday, along with several commentaries, to select appropriate hymns. During the academic year he meets with the two adult choirs, the children's choir, and the funeral schola. He plans the cantor schedule, trying to accommodate cantors' individual needs. He serves as staff liaison for the Liturgy Committee, facilitator for Homily Prep, and staff liaison for the teen liturgy. In addition, J. Mark plans music, with cantor and schola, for parish funerals and is available for parish weddings.

Sundays typically start at 7 a.m., when he meets with the cantor for the 7:30 Mass. After each Mass he meets with the cantor for the following one, and is usually finished at the church by 1:15 p.m. He has two weekends off each year, although he added that it's difficult to find substitutes because of the number of Masses.

A review of parish income and expense indicates that the parish is on a very sound financial footing. Although the parish's report to the Diocese of Peoria is not yet complete, Fr. Remm observed that parish assets total \$428,639; collections last year were \$533,141; about \$19,000 was given to help feed the hungry through the special Third Sunday collections; and the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Fund has a current balance of \$357,163.

Parishioners have pledged over \$91,000 for the Annual Diocesan Appeal, exceeding the goal set for the year. All funds given in excess of the goal will be rebated to St. Patrick's and deposited to the parish's Centennial Fund.

Bishop Myers approved the resolution to establish the St. Patrick's Tuition Endowment Fund. The

fund so far has a balance of about \$15,000. It is hoped that people who have a special interest in secondary Catholic education will contribute to this fund.

The ad hoc Long Range Planning Committee met in June with Al Marx, from St. Joseph, to discuss the outlook for population growth there. Although there are major housing developments under construction, Marx felt that St. Joseph will remain a bedroom community to other nearby cities. It is not expected that the percentage of Catholics in St. Joseph will exceed the county average of 11-12%, and so it is not expected that a parish would be established there. The committee will meet next on Aug. 28, when they expect to hear from April Getchius, Director of Community Development in Urbana. Fr. Hallin has been invited to the group's October meeting to discuss the status of parishes and missions in this vicariate.

Renovation of the lounge is nearing completion. Cabinets have been installed, carpeting is in place, furniture is in temporary storage, and the new window coverings are to go up by the end of August.

Fr. Remm praised Mike and Beth Brunk for their work on the patio and grounds. They have provided a lovely setting for parishioners to relax in the outdoors and enhanced the appearance of the parish facilities.

Year-end funds from FY 1999-2000 have been allocated to Dr. Susan Nagele, \$6311; our Sister Parish in Beit Jala, \$2000; Mexican orphanage request, \$1000; landscaping and bench, \$3800; music projects from the parish wish list, \$2400; lounge renovation, \$22,563; St. Patrick's Tuition Endowment Fund, \$5000; Centennial Fund, \$20,037.

Council members, seeing a need for connectedness between youth and the rest of the parish, discussed the possibilities for a senior high representative as a nonvoting



member on the Council, with a one-year term. Such representation would not be in conflict with existing Council by-laws. Steve Beckett will draft a resolution to this effect for consideration at the next meeting.

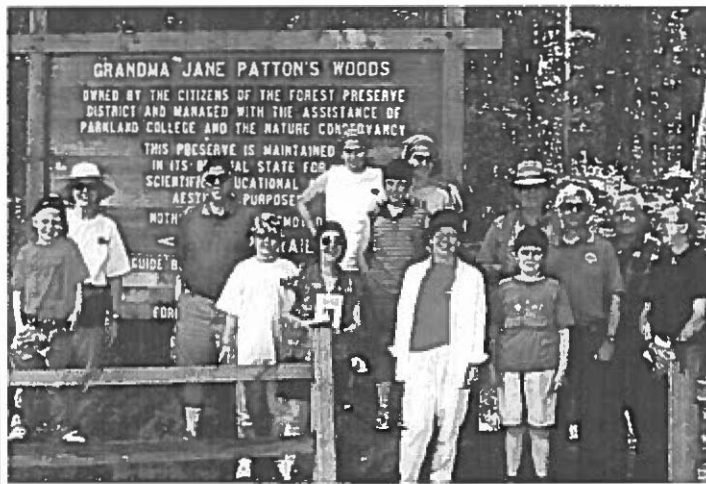
There being many areas of Council activity in the parish through the work of its standing committees, it was also suggested that committees be encouraged to invite participation of teens as members or as representatives.

Fr. Remm reported that Mary Lou Menches has asked that someone be found to succeed her as editor of the parish newsletter, *In Focus*. Because of increased demands on her time at the office, she finds it difficult to give the time needed for coordination of production for the newsletter: calling writers for late articles, writing last-minute pieces requested, finding and working with page-layout volunteers, etc. Mary Lou also feels that it's time for a new look to the newsletter—a fresh new design, shorter and more "newsy" material—and that someone else might be better able to effect this change. The Communications Committee remains committed to developing, planning, working on the newsletter, and involving other parishioners in its formation; what is needed is someone to coordinate the final stages.

The next Council meeting will  
(Continued on next page...)



## Rendezvous on the Prairie



St. Patrick's Prairie Rendezvous, sponsored by the Urbana Knights of Columbus on Saturday, June 24, drew parishioners to explore prairie life and to share their knowledge and appreciation of nature. They were botanists and entomologists and folks who enjoy the outdoors, parents and children, young and not-quite-so-young-anymore.

The group gathered at St. Patrick's parking lot and caravanned by car to Loda Cemetery Prairie, Prospect Cemetery Prairie, and Grandma Jane Patton's Woods, and they lunched at the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve. To all appearances, they had a wonderful time! Wish you'd been there? Maybe next year.... (Thanks to Richard Keane for the photo.) ■

## Church is People, Not Places

A recent conversation about church buildings (I prefer churches that look like churches and are reserved for that use) brought back a wonderful memory that I want to share.

Back in 1973 I was a seminarian doing field work in an all-deaf congregation. My supervisor and his wife were deaf, but their almost two-year-old daughter was hearing. Before each service we generally signed to Jenny, "Church now, Jenny. Quiet."

The four of us joined a large group to go to a convention, I representing the seminary, and services were held in a huge gymnasium-type space that accommodated hundreds, maybe thousands, of people. As the opening music began, I signed, "Church now, Jenny. Quiet." She looked around and signed "Church has basketball hoops?" "Yes, Jenny, Church has basketball hoops. Now, quiet."

The following day the deaf delegation worshipped at the campgrounds where many of them were staying. The usual caution brought Jenny's response, "Church has trees?" Jenny's father signed, "Yes, Jenny, Church has trees."

The third day we had received word of the death of our bishop, so all of us from the Diocese of New York gathered in the largest hotel room assigned to any of us to offer our own Mass of the Resurrection. This time "Church now, Jenny, quiet" brought a look of total wonderment and the little hands flashed "Now Church has beds?"

I often think of that when I need to remember that Church is people, not places! —Kilian M.

*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. ■*



## TEC at St. Patrick's — Were You There?

Nancy Steerman, one of our parish historians, asks for your help in completing her research on TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) when this program was offered at St. Patrick's. She is looking for the names of parishioners who worked with the program in some capacity other than as a participant.

Here are the names already known: Anne Auten, Jim Auten, Rose Breen, Barb Adams, Rodger Adams, Jane Buck Lawrence, Claudette Clevenger Basham, Margie Craig, John Dorsey, Marilyn Engle, Doris Green, Helen Halpin, Karen Suever Kimmey, Dave Lawrence, Pat Fonner Mayer, Jim Moffit, Lenore Nagele, Bill Plymire, Ruth Plymire, Bob Theobald, Elaine Theobald, Julie Theobald.

Has Nancy missed anyone? Please call (328-1217); she'll be happy to hear from you! ■



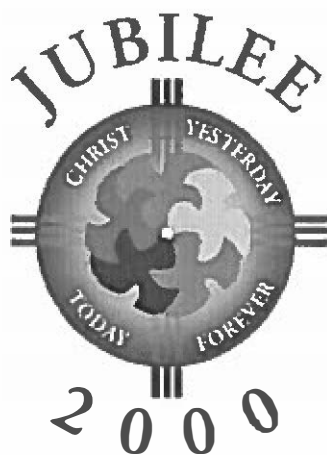
*(Continued from last page)* begin at 7 p.m. on Sept. 21. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings. For those interested in a more complete report of Parish Council deliberations, the minutes of Council meetings are posted in the church vestibule and on the bulletin board in the office wing of the parish center. ■



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of **In Focus** is September 10.



## From Diane Essex-Sorlie: An Evangelization Minute



Have you ever been mad at God? I was—in fact, I was so mad that I did not talk to him or attend Mass for over 25 years.

To find the answer, let us time travel backward to my youth. The refrains of my childhood played loudly in my life. In my mind, repeatedly, I heard my parents: "You're stupid, ugly, clumsy. We never wanted you. We hate you." I endured years of verbal and physical abuse.

Because God did not answer my childhood prayers to take me away from these horrors, I thought the abuse must be warranted. After all, how could my parents be wrong? They gave me life; they were supposed to protect me; they were supposed to nurture me. How could a loving God allow these things to happen to me? I prayed even harder, but God still did not stop the abuse. As my

childhood passed, the abuse worsened. I tried to run away but was found. I tried to be perfect, but nothing changed. I tried to be invisible, but still was beaten.

My 20s, 30s, and early 40s passed and, increasingly, I became angrier with God. I had believed in him when I was very young, and he failed me. I thought, "Never will I talk to him or enter his earthly house." Yet, little did I know that *my* plans were not consistent with *his* plans.

In my mid-40s, I began reading the Bible. I rationalized engaging in this activity by telling myself: "You are not talking to him, and you have not entered his earthly abode." Subsequently, the husband of a dear friend died. Out of love and respect for her I attended the funeral Mass here at St. Patrick's. Sister Charlene greeted me on the steps of the church with a smile that penetrated my heart. After the service, Father Remm welcomed me with a firm handshake and a kindness that warmed me. Two days later neighbors asked if I would like to attend Mass with them at St. Patrick's. A day later I sat in a back pew during a 9 a.m. Mass. I tiptoed through the church door and was as quiet as possible, thinking that if God saw me he would strike me down. After all, I was unwanted, stupid, ugly. After going to Mass a few more times with my neighbors, I went to a ser-

vice on my own—sneaking into the back of the church after Mass had begun, waiting for the heavens to open and for God to shout "You are rotten. Get out of my House!"

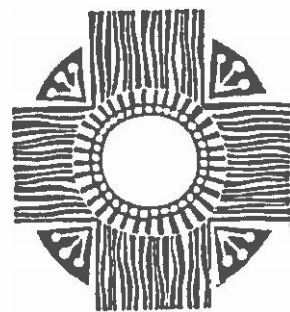
Now I realize that God gave me incredible gifts when I was a child—courage, resolve, strength, and intellect. He protected and nurtured me through my education, through my anger, and through my absence of faith. Now I am blessed to be a member of St. Patrick's and its family. I am blessed to participate in the lay ministries of lecturing, serving the Eucharist, and participating in pastoral care. After a year of formation, I recently became an affiliate of The Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, the order to which Sister Charlene belongs. Indeed, God gently guided me back to him and showered me with his abundant love. Truly, I am rich!

When you are in crisis and your faith is tested, know that God is with you; his love is everlasting; he is prepared to take on your burdens. Jesus tells us this: "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls" (Mt 12:28-29). ■

## In Appreciation

*I wish to express my gratitude for the prayers, kindnesses, and thoughtful compassion expressed to me, and to Jim's and my families, at the time of Jim's death. Thank you to Father Remm and Father Kane for their assistance, praying with us and for us, conducting the wake service and the funeral. Thank you to Sister Charlene and Sister Karen for their visits, prayers, and kindness to Jim and me. Thanks to the Eucharistic Ministers who brought Holy Communion to Jim while he was at home. Thanks to everyone who visited our home, and to those who provided food after Jim's death. Thanks for the Masses and contributions to St. Patrick's Tuition Endowment Fund, to the St. Patrick's Education Fund, and to Provena Covenant Medical Center Hospice. Thank you to everyone who worked with the funeral dinner, prepared food, and helped in any way with the arrangements.*

*I wish all of you God's blessings, always. — Rose Breen*



## Quick Fixin's from the Kitchen of...

### Rose Vabic

#### RICE BROCCOLI CASSEROLE

1 1/3 c boiling water  
1 1/3 c instant rice  
1-lb pkg chopped broccoli  
8-oz jar Cheez Whiz  
1 can mushroom soup  
1/2 c chopped onion  
1 can cream of chicken soup  
1 stick melted margarine (optional)



Pour boiling water over broccoli, add rice. Mix Cheez Whiz, soups, and onion together, stir into rice mixture. Pour melted margarine over all, and mix. Bake in 350-degree oven for 40 minutes.

### St. Thomas More High Opens with Five from St. Patrick's

On Aug. 24 classes began at the new Catholic high school in Champaign, St. Thomas More.

Located on Mattis Ave. north of the I-74 and I-57 interchange, the school opened with freshman and sophomore classes and will add junior and senior classes over the next two years. The first senior class is scheduled to graduate in 2003.

School facilities include 14 classrooms, a chapel, a chemistry/physics lab, a biology/life sciences lab, music room, art studio, gym, weight and exercise room, a cafeteria with a stage for musical rehearsals and performances, a bookstore, faculty workrooms, and a library/media center.

About 70 students are enrolled, including 5 from St. Patrick's Parish: Christian Bunyan, Joseph Maduzia, Eric Randolph, Christopher Ruedi, and Nicholas Timpone.

Every student is required to complete 150 hours of Christian service prior to graduation as a way of encouraging students to develop a pattern of service through which they can share the love of God with others in their community.

The school already has an ambitious program of extracurricular activities that include sports, a year-book, band, and chorus—and perhaps a school play by the end of the academic year.

The new high school will be dedicated on Friday, Sept. 15, during Mass at 11:00 a.m., at which Cardinal Francis George, archbishop of Chicago, will preside. Bishop Myers, Bishop Cupich (Rapid City, S. Dak.), and priests from the vicariate will concelebrate. A public reception and blessing of the school will follow the Mass. ■

## Do, Re, Mi, .... La-La-La-La

You know you sound terrific when you sing in the shower. Why not share your gift with our parish community?

Rehearsals for the two adult choirs begin the first week of September. The 9:00 choir meets on Thursdays, the 10:30 choir on Wednesdays.

Rehearsals begin at 7:00 p.m. in the church choir loft. The ability to read music is an asset, but is not required.

Funeral schola rehearsals resume the following week, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 13. The schola rehearses on alternate Wednesdays in the choir loft.

The children's choir begins rehearsal on Sept. 6. They meet at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesdays. The musicians for Children's Liturgies and for Teen Liturgies also welcome new members.

Questions? Call the parish music director, Dr. J. Mark Baker, at the parish office (367-2665).



### Annual parish picnic Sept. 24

St. Patrick's wastes no time getting together in the fall for a good time. We begin the year with the annual parish picnic: the date is Sept. 24, the place is Crystal Lake's Large Pavilion, the time is 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Feasting begins at one o'clock, with chicken and drinks provided—but you are asked to bring your own table service and a dish to share. What to bring? Here are some suggestions: A-H: pasta, rice; I-O: salad, fresh fruit; P-R: dessert; S-Z: vegetable. Does that help?

Fun and games follow, at two o'clock. But you're sure to find more than one or two groups of folks sitting around talking, catching up on what happened over the summer, finding out who went where on vacation, getting reacquainted with youngsters who seem to have grown up in the last two or three months, hearing more about CREW's August adventure in Washington, D.C., making new acquaintances, starting new friendships.

Don't miss the fun and fellowship at St. Patrick's annual fall festival, the parish picnic!

### The Bridge

There are times in life when we are called to be bridges, not a great monument spanning a distance and carrying loads of heavy traffic, but a simple bridge to help one person from here to there over some difficulty such as pain, grief, fear, loneliness, a bridge which opens the way for ongoing journey.

When I become a bridge for another, I bring upon myself a blessing, for I escape from the small prison of self and exist for a wider world, breaking out to be a larger being who can enter another's pain and rejoice in another's triumph. I know of only one greater blessing in this life, and that is to allow someone else to be a bridge for me.



# September 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 September 10.

<p><b>1</b> 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>
<p><b>8</b> 10:30am Mass-Care Center 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH 6:30pm Seniors Group</p>	<p><b>9</b> 9:00-11:00am Overview of the Bible &amp; Intro to Nehemiah</p>
<p><b>15</b> 11:00am Dedication of St. Thomas More HS</p>	<p><b>16</b> WATCH Retreat</p>
<p><b>22</b> 10:30am Mass-Manor Care 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>
<p><b>29</b> 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH</p>	<p><b>30</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Committee on Committees Mtg</p>

<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> Labor Day Parish Office Closed 9:00am Mass &amp; Potluck Breakfast 7:00pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p><b>5</b> 9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p><b>6</b> 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p><b>7</b> 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Building &amp; Grounds Com</p>
<p><b>10</b> 8:30am-12:00pm Blood Pressure Screening 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders</p>	<p><b>11</b> 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm Social Action Com 7:00pm WATCH</p>	<p><b>12</b> 9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com</p>	<p><b>13</b> 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Personnel Com</p>	<p><b>14</b> 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Baptism Prep</p>
<p><b>17</b> Catechetical Sunday 10:15am Knights of Columbus Mtg 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders</p> <p>WATCH Ret...</p>	<p><b>18</b> 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work</p>	<p><b>19</b> 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am Mass-Canterbury Ridge 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm WATCH 7:00pm Liturgy Com</p>	<p><b>20</b> 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p><b>21</b> 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Parish Council</p>
<p><b>24</b>  1:00-4:00pm Parish Picnic 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders</p>	<p><b>25</b> 9:30am Archives Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work</p>	<p><b>26</b> 9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Homily Prep</p>	<p><b>27</b> 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p><b>28</b> ??? Knights of Columbus Installation &amp; Steak Fry 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Communications Com</p>