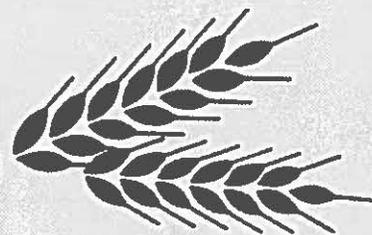


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Come to the Waters of Baptism at Easter!

On Good Friday our fingers touch dryness as we enter the church and reach for holy water. The fonts are empty, signifying the absence of Christ in death.

At the Vigil of Easter, on Holy Saturday night, the Church blesses and uses water to express victory over death in the sacrament of Baptism for those becoming Catholic.

Of these men and women one writer says, "A convert, baptized in adult life, goes through a tremendous experience." The convert realizes what is involved, turns from former life, tears

loose from many ties, embraces new ideals and new obligations in a new environment. This baptism is a prize finally achieved as the result of strivings and hardships. Breaking with the past and embracing the future is an experience that shakes the new Catholic to the core, the writer remarks.

"But most of us lack any such profound experience, for we were baptized as infants.... we became accustomed to the fact that we were baptized Catholics without adverting to all that this means." We "cradle Catholics" can recover some of the meaning of our baptism at the Easter Vigil.

The rite begins with the blessing of the water. We hear of God's uses of water in our salvation history: at the world's creation, at the Flood, which brought destruction and yet a new beginning, at the parting of the Red Sea whereby the Egyptians were drowned and the Israelites saved—God's use of water's powers of both death and life. From the New Testament we hear of Jesus's baptism in the Jordan and of the water that flowed from his side on the cross, and we are reminded of water's powers

of death and life.

The Paschal candle, sometimes called the Christ candle, is lowered into the water and raised again, signifying that the water's power to sanctify comes from the death and resurrection of Christ: "May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with him to newness of life."

Whereupon those to be baptized are washed clean in the waters just blessed, washed clean of sin and raised to new life in Christ.

We too respond to the same questions asked of those just baptized, proclaiming together "This is

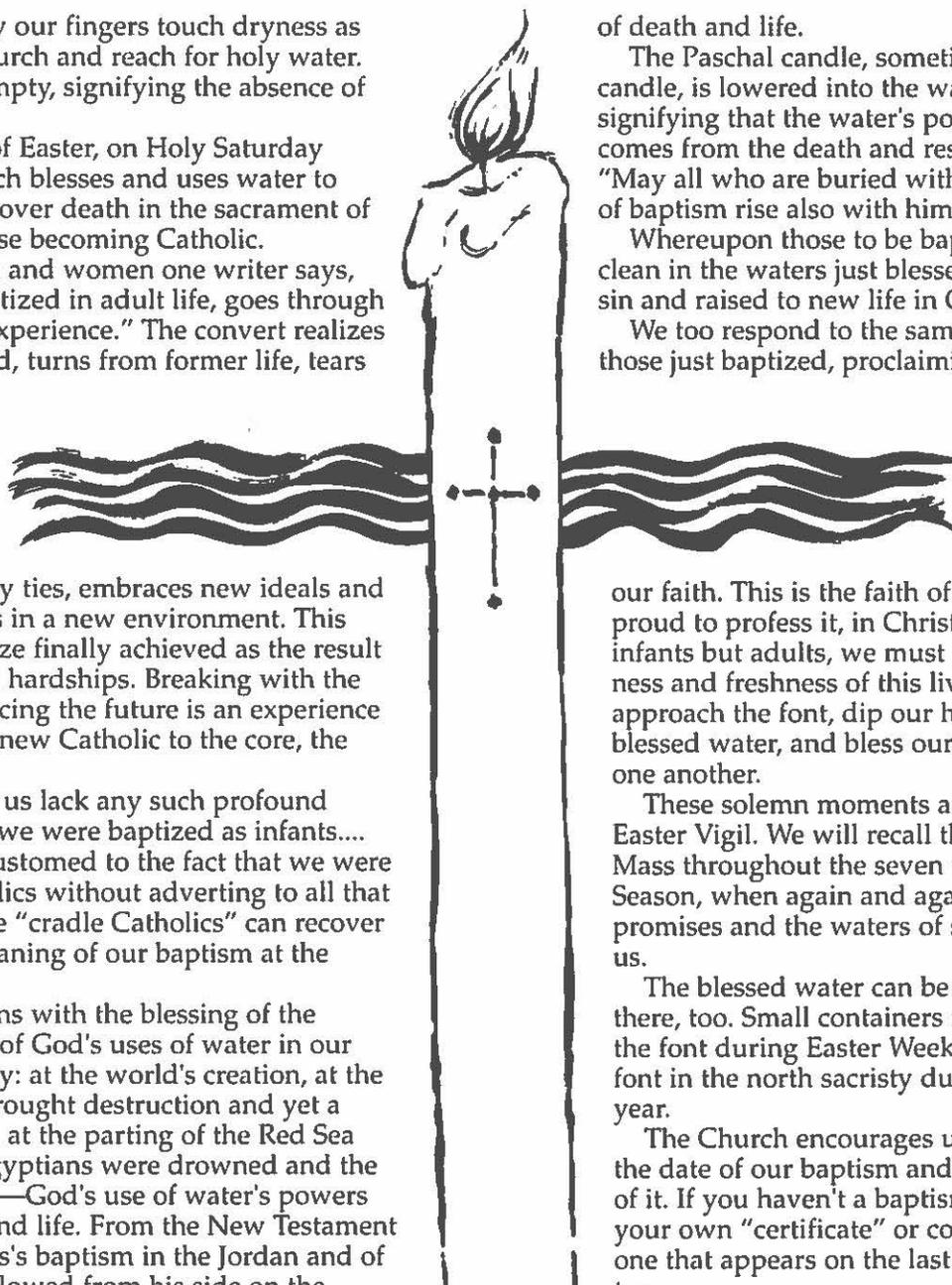
our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus." No longer infants but adults, we must again feel the newness and freshness of this living water, and so we approach the font, dip our hand into the newly blessed water, and bless ourselves and perhaps one another.

These solemn moments are a highlight of the Easter Vigil. We will recall them at each Sunday Mass throughout the seven weeks of the Easter Season, when again and again we proclaim our promises and the waters of salvation wash over us.

The blessed water can be carried home for use there, too. Small containers may be filled from the font during Easter Week, from the holy water font in the north sacristy during the rest of the year.

The Church encourages us to commemorate the date of our baptism and to display a record of it. If you haven't a baptismal certificate, create your own "certificate" or complete and clip the one that appears on the last page of this newsletter.

Happy baptism! Happy Easter! ●





in our parish library

I am always impressed by the RCIA process and the stories of adults who choose to become Catholic or to come back to the Church. Others must find these stories fascinating as well, because the book I hear many people talking about lately is *Surprised by Truth: 11 Converts Give the Biblical and Historical Reasons for Becoming Catholic*, edited by Patrick Madrid.

This book and its sequel, *Surprised by Truth 2*, are on the New Books shelf in the parish library, under the call number 248.2 Mad.

The books offer over 25 stories of conversion, from former ministers, fall-away Catholics, and non-Christians. They offer "cradle Catholics" a look at the joy people can find in our faith. We can learn more about why we believe what we believe, as the converts write about their questions and reservations about the Church, and how learning more answered those questions.

Some of the stories are very dramatic; all are thought-provoking, as writers tell of ordinary people (like us!) who had a part in moving them to consider the Catholic Church.

As we welcome our new members through the RCIA, we can also strengthen our own faith by being "surprised by truth."

— FRANCES DRONE-SILVERS

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. ●

Seminarian grateful for greetings

The following letter was addressed to youngsters in St. Patrick's religious education program, who had sent birthday greetings to seminarian Ryan Bredemeyer.

Dear Ian, Karolina, Annie, Claire, Betsy, Hannah, Angela, Zita, Ashley, Pat, Joao, Shelby, Ana, Sophie, Caroline, Tate, Matthew, Anna, and everybody,

Thank you so much for remembering me on my birthday! It made me so happy to know that I have your support and love as a seminarian — even though I haven't gotten to meet you yet. I studied at U of Washington, D.C., it would be great to meet you.

I ask that you guys say a prayer for me and all the seminarians from the Peoria Diocese, and I will surely pray for you too. Learn and pray the rosary and keep on loving Jesus!

God bless you all.

*Your seminarian friend,
Ryan Bredemeyer*

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus

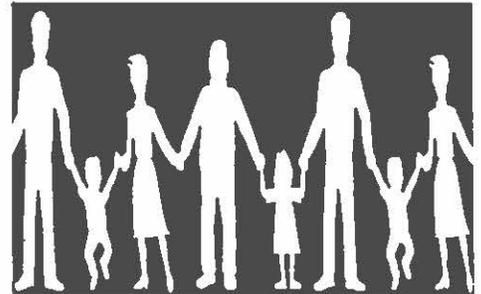
St. Patrick's In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Written materials must include the name and telephone number of the writer.

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, Morena 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, Judy Conover, Frances Drone-Silvers, Mary Fonner, Meg Grady, Lori McDonough, Carolyn McElrath, Mary Lou Menches, Fr. George Remm, Carol Retz, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Shirley Splittstoesser, Elizabeth Talbot, Joe Tobias, Peggy Whelan. This issue was paged by Tom Schlueter.



All the special people usually listed here will be included in the next issue of *In Focus*. Meanwhile, welcome to new parishioners and congratulations to those wedded or baptized in recent weeks. And please pray for those who have died, and for the comfort of their families and friends.

Big Plans in the Making for Two-Year Parish Centennial Celebration

How would you go about planning a two-year celebration? Well, a group of parishioners is planning just that—a celebration of the beginnings of St. Patrick's Parish from its founding in 1901 to the dedication of its church in 1903.

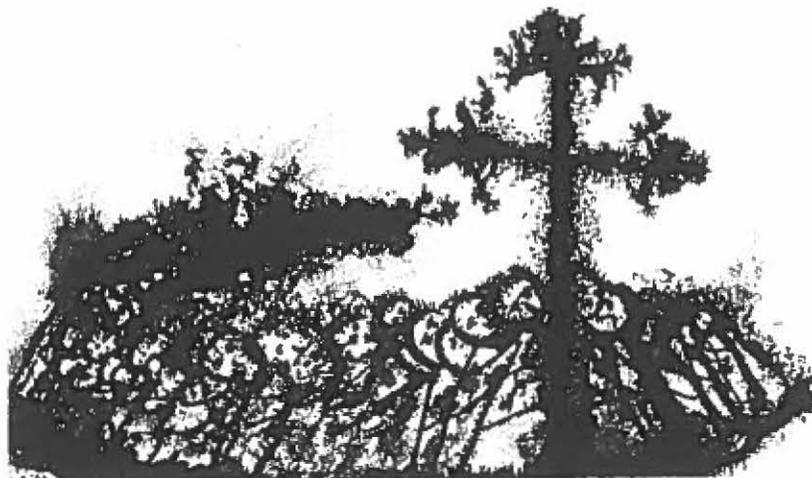
For such a major observance, several people were asked to serve on the planning committee; those accepting were Jean Daly, Norma Gremer, Pat Justice, Tom Kacich, Mary Ann Luedtke, Diane Musumeci, Karen Paulsen, Barb Peckham, Dwight Raab, and Chuck Shaw. They were to be joined by a Youth Group representative, still to be determined at the time of their first meeting, at the end of January.

Taking off from the brainstorming done at a parish-wide meeting in 1998, the group addressed themselves to liturgical events that might mark the two-year celebration: an opening Mass, a parish mission, a Forty Hours devotion....

Immediate attention was given to the opening celebration, to take place on May 20, then just a few months off. Father asked the Liturgy Committee to plan the Mass (Diane); the Guild to plan the pot luck dinner (Mary Ann, Norma); the Knights to plan the program (Chuck, Tom, Dwight); others to plan the procession and grounds setup (Barb, Jean, Karen, Pat). All were encouraged to seek volunteers for assistance.

Invitations would be sent to all parishioners, and to former pastors, assistants, and deacons to join in the opening celebration. Parishioners would gather at St. Mary's for a procession (with banners, maybe a band) to St. Patrick's, even as the first parishioners walked from St. Mary's to view the site of the church to be built that was to be their new parish church.

First plans included setting up tents on the grounds for the pot luck dinner and program, but later thinking moved in the direction of renting a hall large enough to accommodate 400 or more for the dinner and program (our own parish hall has a capacity of only about half that



number).

A centennial photo directory, the Family History, and a new Parish History—a three-book publishing program would give lasting substance to the event.

Other suggestions at that first meeting included a Fourth of July float for the parade, an "ethnic" day, and "ecumenical" event, a display of artifacts in the Historical Museum at Cattle Bank, skits and programs, an ice cream social (maybe a softball game?), a "return" to the community in the form of a gift to one of the organizations helping the needy.... Ideas seemed to come thick and fast. Enthusiasm mounted. It seemed best to hold events on a quarterly basis over the two years to sustain interest and to provide the variety the group had been considering.

Father asked Barb Peckham and Mary Ann Luedtke to serve as co-chairs and Jean Daly to serve as secretary for the committee. And so the first meeting ended. Subsequent meetings were held, first ideas were modified on further thought or as follow-up research suggested. From all those ideas and suggestions have evolved the following events, now on the calendar:

☛ **May 20, 2001:** Opening celebration; 2 p.m. procession from St. Mary's to St. Patrick's for 3 p.m. Mass, followed by pot luck dinner and program (at Laborers Hall, Urbana)

☛ **July 4, 2001:** Parish float in the annual Freedom Parade

☛ **Nov. 11, 2001:** Tridentine Mass at noon, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and adoration until 5 p.m., Vespers and Benediction

☛ **Mar. 16, 2002:** St. Patrick's Day Dance (formal; at Jumer's)

☛ **May 1, 2002:** Centennial lecture by a church historian on the history of the Catholic Church in America, 1901-2001

☛ **Aug. 25, 2002:** Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social (Costumes...)

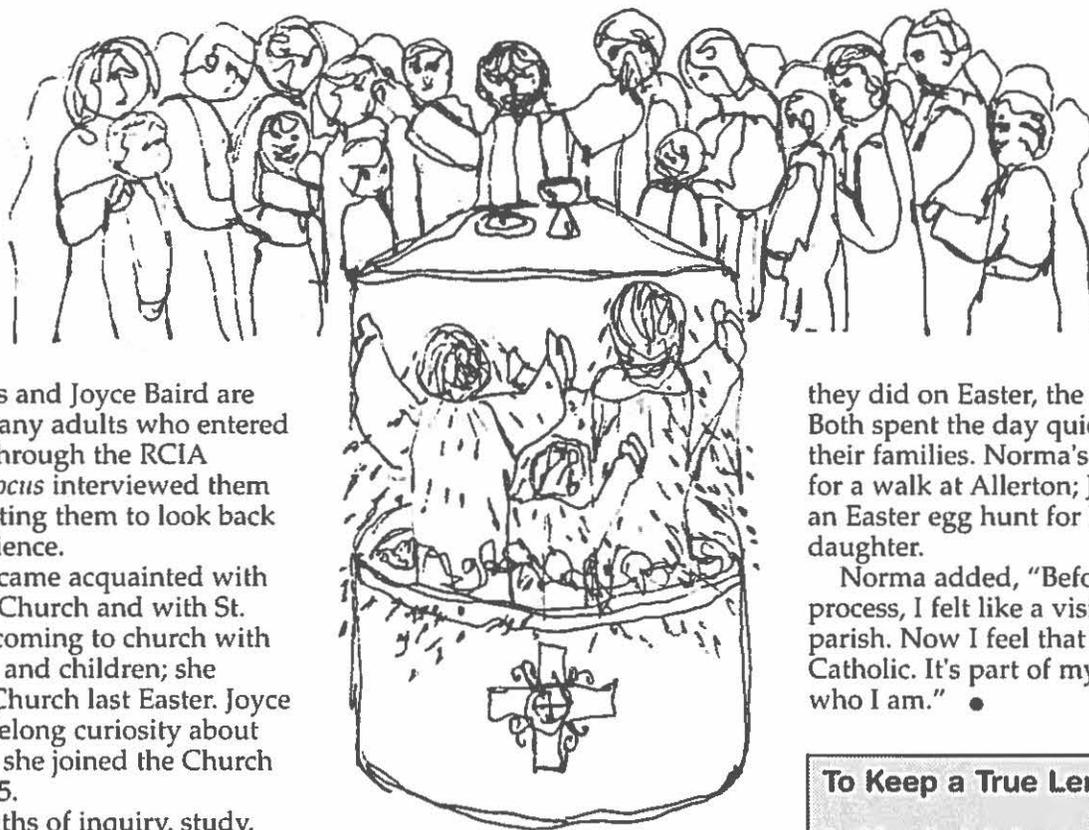
☛ **Nov. 3-7, 2002:** Parish Mission

☛ **Mar. 15, 2003:** St. Patrick's Day Pageant (skits reflecting periods from 1901 through 2003)

☛ **May 24, 2003:** Mass and rededication of St. Patrick's church (closing the centennial celebration)

You won't want to miss any of these events, so mark your calendars as far ahead as you can, and post a list—as if we'd let you forget! And just as our Centennial celebration begins and ends with thanks to the Lord who made and makes all things possible through the men and women and children placed here as instruments of divine providence, remember in prayer all the men and women and children who first worshiped here, who worked and worshiped in community before us, without whom St. Patrick's would be just a smile in the mind of God. ●

What Was It Like, Becoming a Catholic as an Adult?



Norma Kerns and Joyce Baird are two of the many adults who entered the Church through the RCIA process. *In Focus* interviewed them recently, inviting them to look back on the experience.

Norma became acquainted with the Catholic Church and with St. Patrick's by coming to church with her husband and children; she entered the Church last Easter. Joyce had had a lifelong curiosity about Catholicism; she joined the Church at Easter 1995.

After months of inquiry, study, discussion, reflection on Sunday Scripture readings, and their relationships with God and others in their lives, they came to Holy Saturday and their final moments of preparation for the events of the Easter Vigil.

Holy Saturday is a busy day for the catechumens and candidates. After Morning Prayer with other parishioners and a light breakfast in the parish center, they come together again in the church for a walk-through of the Easter Vigil service. Both Norma and Joyce remarked that this helped them feel more comfortable with what was to take place that evening.

After the walk-through of the service, all are led to an experience of the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time. Norma said this was one of the best parts of the morning; it gave her a sense of being reconciled with God and of making a fresh start in life.

On Saturday evening, accompanied by their sponsors, family, and friends, they return to the church for the Easter Vigil service. The real thing, this time, not just a walk-

through! Joyce and Norma both described the Vigil service as an emotion-filled, awe-inspiring experience.

The service begins with the lighting of a new fire and carrying that light into the church. Norma said it made her think about her role now in bringing the light of faith and hope to others.

After the extended Liturgy of the Word, a forceful reminder of our salvation history, the rites of initiation are celebrated: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist. Joyce was baptized at the Vigil service. She considers it a blessing to be able to remember her baptism when most other people, those baptized as infants, are unable to remember theirs.

And, of course, after the Vigil service there was a PARTY! Joyce and Norma said that this made a lot of sense. They had felt supported by the parish community all through the RCIA process, so it was very good to celebrate afterward with members of the parish community.

We asked Norma and Joyce what

they did on Easter, the next day. Both spent the day quietly with their families. Norma's family went for a walk at Allerton; Joyce put on an Easter egg hunt for her granddaughter.

Norma added, "Before the RCIA process, I felt like a visitor in the parish. Now I feel that I am a Catholic. It's part of my identity, it's who I am." ●

To Keep a True Lent

*Is this a fast, to keep
The larder lean?
And clean
From fat of veals and sheep?*

*Is it to quit the dish
Of flesh, yet still
To fill
The platter high with fish?*

*Is it a fast an hour,
Or ragg'd to go,
Or show
A downcast look and sour?*

*No: 'Tis a fast to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat
And meat
Unto the hungry soul.*

*It is to fast from strife
And old debate,
And hate;
To circumcise thy life.*

*To show a heart grief-rent;
To starve thy sin,
Not bin;
And that's to keep thy Lent.*

—ROBERT HERRICK

Who Were the Big Winners at CREW Bingo?

Well, CREW of course! And everyone who came for a good time and a good cause!



Quick Fixin's from the Kitchen of... Shirley Splittstoesser

DESIGNER TATER TOT CASSEROLE



- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
- 1 can Cream of Chicken soup
- 1 lb 12 oz package of Tater Tots

Fry and drain the ground beef. Mix the two cans of soup into the drained ground beef and spread into a 10-inch low casserole. No water is added.

Use the Tater Tots to make a design on the top. Tater Tots can be spread to cover the top of the casserole, arranged in rows, or pressed gently into the ground beef to form designs. Easy designs include a large valentine heart, shamrock, bunny, pinwheel. If the beef is cooled, the kids can have fun making the design.

Extra Tater Tots can be baked in a separate pan along with the casserole for a larger family. This casserole can be covered and frozen unbaked, and later thawed and baked. Or it can be baked right away, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Dialogue into the Millennium: A Look into the Past and a Glimpse of the Future

The Committee for the Dialogue into the Millennium thanks St. Patrick's parish community for your support of the lecture series, conceived and initiated under the leadership of Sr. Marie Golla, now deceased. It was Sister Marie's proposal to the Illinois Humanities Council that resulted in a generous grant from the agency to cover a large share of the expenses.

The lecture series was an ecumenical endeavor. Special help was received from the Community United Church of Christ, First Presbyterian of Urbana, and Sinai Temple. St. Mary's Church also provided important support. However, as the host for the series, St. Patrick's Parish bore much of the responsibility for the series, and much of the credit for its success is due to parishioners who gave generously of their time in planning and carrying out specific duties.

Parishioners Nicholas Britsky and Morton Weir assisted Sister Marie at the early planning stages. Parishioner members of the committee who worked diligently on the project for three years were Dwain Berggren, Anne and Nicholas Britsky, Pat Fettig, Tom Kacich, Alice McLaughlin, Shirley and Walter Splittstoesser, Elizabeth Talbot, and Barbara Wysocki. Many others contributed to the success of the receptions following each lecture by providing cookies and helping with setup and cleanup. Still others hosted dinners for the speakers.

Throughout the series Father George Remm was steadfast in supporting the committee and in creating a

spirit-filled evening with his welcoming remarks and opening prayers at the lectures.

Most important, however, was your loyalty to the series. The goal had been to attract an audience of 100 to each event; they averaged more than 200. The success of the series, however, is best reflected in the numerous requests for more lectures. The Urbana Knights of Columbus plans to respond to this demand by sponsoring one or two lectures a year, which will be dedicated to the memory of Sr. Marie Golla, whose vision and tenacity assured the series the intellectual and spiritual sustenance to carry it into the new millennium. ●



Responsibilities Great for Parish Council Members

The parish council serves as an advisory body for the pastor, acting on behalf of parish members. Parish council membership is made up of the pastor, 10 elected members, and the two parish trustees, appointed by the pastor. The parish council speaks with one voice in assisting with fulfillment of the parish mission and is accountable for parish operations.



The council meets monthly. In addition to the council meeting, each member is assigned as liaison to one of its standing committees and is expected to attend that committee's monthly meeting and to participate actively in its work.

Council members also attend an annual spiritual retreat.

Terms for parish council members are three years and begin in May. Members must be at least 16 years of age.

Elizabeth Ministry Forming

The Elizabeth Ministry calls for an active commitment to celebrate new life, support families with young children, encourage those trying to become parents, and comfort those in crisis and loss.



St. Patrick's Parish and other churches in the Champaign-Urbana area are forming an Elizabeth Ministry. If you have a desire to help others, this could be a profound and fulfilling ministry. If you have experienced the loss of a child, you could help others going through the same crisis or share the joy with parents celebrating the birth of a child.

At 7 p.m. Monday, Apr. 2, Jeanne Whalen of the Office of Pastoral Care will give a presentation on this important ministry. If you are interested in learning more about the Elizabeth Ministry, please attend the meeting in St. Patrick's Parish Center multipurpose room.

Pray for those to be baptized and confirmed

Holy God,
with arms stretched wide on the cross
Jesus embraces in boundless love all who seek you.
Guide and protect those now called to prepare for the Easter sacraments.

When these days of Lent are finished,
bring them through death in the waters of baptism
and so to life in Christ
and communion with us
at your welcome table.
Make all of us together
fruitful branches of that cross,
the victory of your servant Jesus
who is Lord for ever and ever.
Amen.



Appreciation Dinner Honors Teachers

More than 70 teachers and their families were honored at the annual religious education appreciation dinner held on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The group represented about a third of the teachers who help out in all areas of religious education and family life ministry.

Because of the date of the dinner, just before Lent began, a Mardi Gras theme decorated the main hall. Tables were filled with beads, baubles and plenty of kazooos for the traditional kazoo contest. Fr. Remm started it off by "kazooing" the Notre Dame Fight Song.



Teachers especially enjoy this kind of appreciation because dinner is served to their whole family, and fun activities are provided for the kids.

In recognition of their service, teachers were called forward by their coordinators to receive certificates of appreciation from Michael Krassa, chair of the Education

Committee, with "God Bless Teachers" magnets and "Praying Hands" sun catchers. Young and old were represented, as were intergenerational teaching families.

Janet Althaus has taught in the children's program for many years. Her daughter, Melissa, who assisted Janet in the classroom while still in high school and is now attending the UI, helps out in the junior high program on Sunday evenings. Meanwhile, Janet's younger daughter, Jacelyn, has helped by babysitting for parents attending the sacramental preparation classes.

Lauren Bonse and her daughters, Georgina and Christina, also have taught for a number of years. Cathy Jarrett is assisted by her daughter, Allison, in the sixth-grade classroom. Two sisters, Katie Graham and Jenny Smith, also were recognized for having taught for several years in the program.

Many high school students assist with the children's religious education. Among these are Jason Retz, who plans on going into teaching when he graduates from college, as well as Patrick Hatch, Teresa Davito, Mija Hubler, Nicole Parker, Emily Millsap and Annie Brown.

Many of the teachers have followed their children through the program. For example, Eileen Westervelt began teaching religious



education when her children were still in preschool. She has moved up through the grades with them and now teaches sixth grade. John and Mary Rose Cottingham have similarly taught successive classes with their children, as has Theresa Krassa.

Also honored were the many high school students who help with teen liturgies and put in a lot of time planning the CREW mission and other youth activities.

Family Life recognized the married couples who help others planning for marriage at St. Patrick's.

The evening, as always, was great fun, with good food, fellowship, and lots of appreciation. ●

Dr. Richard Liesen a Speaker at the ADA Kickoff

Four St. Patrick's parishioners accompanied Fr. Remm to the Annual Diocesan Appeal Kickoff in March, where prize drawings went to St. Patrick's in Arlington, St. Patrick's in LaSalle, St. Patrick's in Ransom, Holy Family in Oglesby, and St. Joseph's in Pekin.

Bishop Myers addressed the gathering of more than 500 representatives of parishes throughout the Diocese of Peoria, pointing out that income from the annual appeal provides 80 percent of the diocese's operating budget, including support for Catholic education, parish religious education programs, vocations, social concerns, renewal pro-

grams, and many others. "No family can live without adequate resources," he said. "Our diocesan family can't, either."

Dr. Richard Liesen, one of our own parishioners, also spoke, offering a personal testimony to the benefits of diocesan-wide events made possible through the ADA. He mentioned in particular the impressions made on him and his wife, Tricia, during the 1998 Evangelization Congress on the Holy Spirit and the "Faith and Family" Jubilee convocation. "Events and programs of that nature cannot be provided by individual parishes; they are possible only through application of dioce-

san resources and the ADA."

St. Patrick's drive for the ADA will take place on May 5-6; the parish goal this year has been set at \$90,000. ●



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of **In Focus** is April 8.

Parish Council News



At their March meeting Council members heard about a plan to declare Main Street, from Springfield to Lincoln Avenue, the "West Main Street Historic District" in a proposal to be submitted to the Urbana City Council. Because such a declaration would require a city permit for changes to parish buildings and property, Fr. Remm will send in written objections on behalf of the parish's 5 lots: 702, 704, 706, 708, and 710 W. Main St.

The ad hoc Long-Range Planning Committee is drafting a report for review at its Mar. 26 meeting. Modifications may be made after the group hears from Kevin Duff (UI/Project Planning and Facilities Management) and from Wickersheimer Engineers on the structural integrity of the church and bell tower.

St. Patrick's goal for the Annual Diocesan Appeal this year has been set at \$86,130, substantially higher than last year's \$72,000. Members approved a goal of \$90,000, hoping for a modest surplus to be put toward the parish's Centennial observances. Fr. Remm and 4 others from St. Patrick's attended the ADA kickoff in Peoria, where Richard Liesen gave a witness presentation on how the family benefits from the diocesan Family Life programs.

The ad hoc Centennial Committee continues to meet, making plans for parish celebrations of our first hundred years. The opening event on May 20 is shaping up: The celebration will begin with a procession at 2 p.m. from St. Mary's Church to St. Patrick's for Mass at 3 p.m., even as the first parishioners walked from St. Mary's to view the site of their new church. After the

Mass, parishioners and special guests will retire to the Laborers Hall (Urbana) for a social hour, dinner, and program. All parishioners will receive an invitation, but reservations will have to be limited to 400. (For more information about plans for the parish's two-year celebration of its origins, from its founding in 1901 to its dedication in 1903, see related article elsewhere in this issue.)

The Family History book is almost ready to go to the printer, and orders are coming in from parishioners eager to have their own copies.

A report on the Dialogue into the Millennium lecture series was presented in draft form. When finalized, any excess funds from the series will be turned over to the Urbana Knights of Columbus, which plans to follow the lecture series with 1 or 2 lectures annually in memory of Sr. Marie Golla.

The ad hoc Parish Council Election Committee has met and contacted parishioners whose names were put forward for consideration. The group is working on developing a slate of six candidates for the Council election to fill three vacancies from terms that expire this spring. The parish election will take place Apr. 21-22.

Council members accepted the Social Action Committee's proposal for parish participation in the Habitat for Humanity Partnership with Area Catholic Parishes, which calls for commitment of individuals to help with building and up to \$12,000 in financial support. (The more individuals involved, the less

money required.) Among other local churches that plan to take part are St. Matthew's and Holy Cross. Details were to be worked out as it became known how many churches and individuals commit to the Partnership.

The Financial Affairs Committee submitted a projected income of \$585,748 for FY 2001-2002, an estimate because not all standing committees had been heard from. To be able to move ahead on the budget, members accepted the projected income as estimated.

The Building and Grounds Committee has received Fr. Remm's approval to install automatic doors at the north entrance to the parish center and inside to the lobby, using funds already on hand.

The next Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Apr. 19. 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. ●

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

- 7 Spring Cleaning of the church
- 12 Holy Thursday
- 13 Good Friday
- 14 Easter Vigil
- 15 Easter
- 19 Seniors Club Event
- 29 First Communion

Pray for Vocations

Do you know someone who would make a good priest or religious? Have you ever asked that person to consider a vocation of service to God and the Church? God often calls through our words to one another.

Gracious God, your Son, Jesus, was raised in the home of Joseph and Mary. Bless all families and make them holy. Enable parents to transmit their faith to their children through word and example, to encourage their sons and daughters to seek and follow your call.



Fr. Pat Collins Featured Speaker



The Roncalli Society welcomes Fr. Pat Collins, who will speak on "The Spirituality of Thomas Merton" at the Society's Spring Gathering on Saturday, Apr. 28.

Fr. Collins was born in Peoria and served in several different capacities in the diocese of Peoria: campus minister at Bradley University, associate pastor and music director at St. Mary's Cathedral and pastor of St. Peter's, Director of The Office of Christian Worship and Music, and Assistant Chancellor for the Diocese of Peoria. Since 1993 he has served with the Archdiocese of Chicago.

With extensive education in music and theology, Fr. Collins has taught at Catholic University of America, Notre Dame University, the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley, and the Maryknoll Seminary in New York. He has served in the Canon Law Society of America, the Bishops Committee on the Liturgy, and the International Committee on English in the Liturgy.

In recent years Fr. Collins has focused on teaching, writing, performing, recording videos, and conducting retreats. (Many at St. Patrick's will remember the Lenten retreat he preached here a few years ago.)

For the Roncalli Spring Gathering, his subject will be the spirituality of Thomas Merton with lecture, small-group discussions, and, of course, music. Fr. Collins has given other "spiritual concerts" on this topic but will include new material for this gathering:

Saturday, Apr. 28
 Westminster Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, 1508 W. Moss Ave., Peoria (near Bradley University)
 Registration: 9:00-9:30
 Program: 9:30-3:00 (lunch provided)
 Fee: \$15 (members)
 \$20 (non-members)
 \$10 (students, fixed-income)
 Questions? Call Diane Nowlan (309/682-1603)

The Roncalli Society, founded in Peoria, Illinois, in 1987, is a group of Catholic lay women and men, religious, and clergy who share the vision of Church of Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council. They seek to make this vision a reality, both within the structure of the Catholic Church and in their ministry to the entire world. ●

Isidore of Seville: Patron of Computer Arts

The 76 years of Isidore's life were a time of conflict and growth for the Church in Spain. The Visigoths had invaded the land 150 years earlier, and shortly before Isidore's birth (ca. 560) they set up their own capital. They were Arians, Christians who said that Christ was not God. Thus Spain was split in two: one people (Catholic Romans) struggled with another (Arian Goths).

Isidore reunited Spain, making it a center of culture and learning, a teacher and guide for other European countries who culture was also threatened by barbarian invaders.

Born in Carthage of a family that included three other saints, he was educated (severely) by his elder brother, whom he succeeded as bishop of Seville.

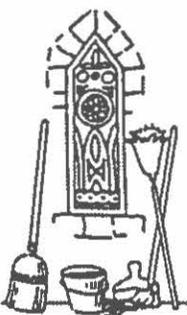
An amazingly learned man, he was sometimes called "The Schoolmaster of the Middle Ages" because the encyclopedia he wrote was used as a textbook for nine

centuries. He required seminaries to be built in every diocese, wrote a rule for religious orders, and founded schools that taught every branch of learning. Isidore wrote numerous books, including a dictionary, the already-mentioned encyclopedia, a history of Goths, and a history of the world beginning with creation! He completed the Mozarabic liturgy, which is still in use in Toledo, Spain.

During the last six months of his life he increased his charities so much that his house was crowded from morning till night with the poor of the countryside.

A country with a growing divide between rich and poor, overwhelmed by scientific and technological advances, we can well use Isidore's spirit of combining learning and holiness. Loving, understanding knowledge can heal divisiveness and bring a broken people back together.

We honor St. Isidore on April 4. *Pray for us!* ●



Come Clean!

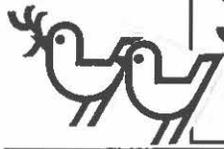
Everyone is invited to join in cleaning St. Patrick's church on Saturday, Apr. 7, from 9 a.m. to noon.

If you can dust, vacuum, brush, polish, or shine, come to help prepare our church for the weeks of Easter.

✂

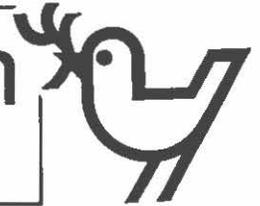
In baptism I began a new life of divine grace as a member of the Catholic Church on _____.

Family members received the sacrament of baptism on:



St. Patrick's Church

April 2001



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Daylight Savings Time 7:30am RCIA 9:00am 11:00am Rel Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 12:00pm Teen Mass 6:30pm HS Rel Ed 1:00pm Crew Mission Informational Mtg 1	7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pmFGDW 7:00pm Pro-Life 7:00pm Ed 7:00pm Communal Penance @ Holy Cross 2	7:00pm Financial Affairs 7:00pm Communal Penance @ St. Patrick's 3	9:00am Moms' Group 5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Rel Ed, Parish Center, Urb 6:30pm RelEdS tJoe 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Communal Penance @ St. Matthews 4	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bldg & Grounds 7:00pm Choir 5	10:45am Mass Champaign County N.H. 5:15 Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry 6:30pm Seniors Group 6	Clean Church 8-12 Guild Breakfast 7
Palm Sunday Noon RCIA 10:15am Children's Liturgy 4:30pm Teen Choir 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study 6:30pm HS Rel Ed 8	7:00pm Centennial Comm 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Social Action 9	St Mary Seder 7:30pm Executive Council amd Dev 7:00-8:00pm Individual Confessions 10	9:00am Moms' Group 9:30am Schola 5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Rel Ed, Parish Center, Urb 6:30pm Rel Ed St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA 4:00-5:00pm Individual Confessions 11	Holy Thursday 7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00am Morning Prayer 5:45pm First Communion Seder 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 12	Good Friday 7:00am Morning Prayer 3:00pm Stations of the Cross 7:30pm Liturgy 13	Holy Saturday 8:00am Morning Prayer 7:30pm Easter Vigil Service 14
Easter  15	Offices Closed 7:00pm Centering Prayer 16	10:30am Mass Canterbury 6:45pm First Communion 7:00pm Liturgy 17	9:00am Moms' Group 5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Rel Ed, Parish Center, Urb 6:30pm RelEd St.Joe 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir 18	6:45am Men's Bible Study 12:30-3:30pm St. Patrick's Seniors 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pmParish Council 19	10:30am Mass Clark-Lindsay 10:45am Mass Champaign County NH 20	Parish Council Election 5:00pm Mass 21
Parish Council Election 9:00am 11:00am Rel Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 4:30pm Teen Choir 6:30pm HS Large Grp 22	9:30am Archives 7:00pm Centering Prayer 23	6:45pm First Communion 7:00pm Homily Prep 24	9:00am Moms' Group 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir 25	6:45am Men's Bible Study 4:30-6:00pm Ed Staff 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Comm 26	10:30am Mass Manor Care 10:45am Mass Champaign County NH 27	 28
First Communion Celebration 12:00 noon& 2:00pm 8:30- Noon Blood Pressure Screening 29	7:00pm Centering Prayer 30	 <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 April 8, 2001.</p>				