

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus

Operation Rice Bowl: An Invitation

One Lenten tradition at St. Patrick's Parish is Operation Rice Bowl, a program of Catholic Relief Services that is coordinated by St. Patrick's Social Action Committee.

Operation Rice Bowl encourages all of us, in a very simple and everyday way, to act on Pope John Paul II's call to "Nourish the Spirit of Hope." It offers a daily opportunity to assist and reflect in solidarity with the poor around the world and to strengthen the bond of our human family.



You are invited to take part in Operation Rice Bowl. Your first step in accepting this invitation is to pick up a rice bowl packet in the church vestibule after Mass the weekend of March 3-4.

As a participant in Operation Rice Bowl during Lent, you and your family are invited to do the following:

★ **Learn** about the realities, courage, and strengths of the poor. Catholic Relief Services provides people with the skills they need to improve their lives and the lives of their families.

★ **Pray** that we all may be united with our brothers and sisters in need as members of the one body of Christ.

★ **Fast** as a form of self-discipline and to foster solidarity with those who hunger. Many of the world's poor subsist on less than half a bowl of rice per day. (Can we even imagine the pain we would feel if we could feed our children and their loved ones just a half a bowl of rice per day?)

★ **Give** assistance to the most vulnerable members of our human family throughout the world.

The money you and your family put into your rice bowl this Lent will bring clean water, small-enterprise development, and agricultural enrichment to the poorest of the world. In addition, 25% of funds

collected at St. Patrick's will remain in the Diocese of Peoria to help support local poverty and hunger-alleviation programs right here in our neighborhoods and communities.

This is an invitation the poorest of the poor hope you will accept! ■

Parish Lenten Retreat Focuses on the Sacred Triduum and Beyond

St. Patrick's Parish will host a Lenten retreat on Saturday, Mar. 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Parishioners and friends are welcome to come for 8 a.m. Mass in the church, followed by a continental breakfast and the retreat.

The theme of the retreat is "The Sacred Triduum and Beyond." The retreat master, Fr. Robert Hoffman, will help us to reflect on our individual calling, our relationships with others, and our mission to help bring about the reign of God. He will relate all this to the Sacred Triduum, the "three days" (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday) of Holy Week.

Fr. Hoffman is a retired priest of the Peoria diocese who now lives in Oakwood. He was ordained in 1956 and has served in many parishes throughout the diocese, including St. John's Chapel, Champaign.

Box lunches from Elliot's are available for \$5. Retreatants may order a turkey, roast beef, or honey ham sandwich, which will come with fruit salad and potato salad. Please call the parish office (367-2665) by Friday morning, Mar. 9, to register. Those who register after Mar. 9 should plan to bring their own sack lunch.



Have You Heard of St. Patrick's Seniors Club?

Who says life begins at 30? St. Patrick's seniors say life gets better at 60! If you will admit to being 60 or over, you're eligible to join St. Patrick's Seniors Club. If your spouse tells you to start acting your age, and you're over 60, St. Patrick's Seniors Club is definitely for you!

You're sure to find several other parishioners having a good time at any gathering of the Seniors Club. On Dec. 8, the Seniors attended noon Mass, followed by a potluck lunch, gift/card exchange, and games. In the gift exchange, Fr. Remm received a lottery ticket. We all waited anxiously until the Sunday homily. If he had announced his retirement, we'd have known he'd won! The game we played was called 50/50, introduced to the group by Mary Sleeter. At 4:00 it was beginning to get dark, so we wished one another "Merry Christmas" and left.

A favorite activity this past October was a cook-out on the farm, attended by 46 seniors. Betty Connerty invited St. Patrick's seniors for an evening under the stars. In this case it turned chilly, so Betty invited everyone into the spacious, heated garage, where tables had been set up. After helping ourselves to hot dogs roasted over the outdoor bonfire, chips, beans, etc., and dessert, we filled cups with steaming cider or coffee and sat down to relax, converse,

and eat. A few hardy souls stayed out by the big bonfire to make sure that the hot dog plate stayed heaping full. Betty has already announced that she will be our hostess for another cook-out under the stars in October. Watch for the announcement!

By the time you read this, Valentine's Day will be history. St. Patrick's seniors met on Feb. 9 for Mass, followed by a potluck lunch, an exchange of valentines, and bingo. The Seniors Committee (Pat and Paul Doebel, Norma and John Gremer, and Walter and Shirley Splittstoesser) had just about unanimously decided that the valentines to be exchanged were to be regular ones, that is, no gag valentines. Then John Gremer changed his vote to gag valentines. As Abe Lincoln once said, "One man with conviction makes a majority," so the final decision was that we could bring either gag or regular valentines. Each senior also brought a white elephant gift to be given as prizes for bingo.

Watch the Sunday bulletin for details of upcoming Seniors Club events, including the following:

- Games in the multipurpose room at 6:30 p.m., on Friday, April 6, following the fish fry
- Summer supper-potluck on Thursday, June 7.
- Cook-out on the farm under the stars is scheduled for sometime in October. (Betty Connerty will

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; Carolyn McElrath, 278-2126; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701 (mmenches@uiuc.edu); Frank Modica, 367-4133 (modicafr@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 Carol Bosley, Ann Conlin, Frances Drone-Silvers, Sharyn DuPuy, Tom Kacich, Fr. Gene Kane, Richard Keane, Mary Long, Leon Mayer, Lori McDonough, Carolyn McElrath, Mary Lou Menches, Fr. George Remm, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Cindy Shaw, Shirley Splittstoesser, Peggy Whelan, Sophia Zeigler. This issue was pagged by Tom Schlueter.

check her calendar and get together with the committee.)

For more details, contact Shirley Splittstoesser (367-3330)—or just watch the bulletin and come. Remember, you have to admit to being 60, or have a spouse willing to testify that you are 60 even though you don't act it! ■

Seniors enjoyed their holiday potluck in December!



To the good people of St. Patrick's Church ...

I lived in Lotimor until April 7, when I moved to Nanyangacor with Maryknoll Sisters Joan Sauvigne and Marilyn Norris. Both are nurses, but only one has been able to stay here since then due to commitments to assist with their center house in Nairobi.

We have a very nice house to live in, but the clinic was still being conducted in mud huts and tents. In May we began construction of a ten-room health center, which is now nearing completion. Unfortunately, a truckload of cement was lost in October: the truck was stuck in a riverbed, and then it rained and the river rose before they could get the cement and the truck out. This meant that the building could not be finished in November as planned. However, the workers will finish enough before they leave for their holidays that we can move in and start working in December. It will be the best Christmas gift possible, short of peace in Sudan!

In September I went to Nairobi to spend three wonderful weeks with my mother [parishioner Lenore Nagele] and Sandy Cavendish. We went to the Masai Mara Game Reserve on an "adventure" camping trip. It rained the evening we arrived, and we had to push the van several times when it got stuck in the mud. But the next day we saw so many beautiful wild animals that it was worth it.

The next week we spent in Nairobi visiting the different Maryknoll missionaries who work there. The last week, we went to the beach in Mombassa and relaxed under the palm trees and swam in the ocean. I was grateful for the good company and the chance to rest!

Unfortunately, during this time problems were recurring in Lotimor. At exactly the same time as in 1999, the missionaries were again told to leave the mission. This time it seems there is a dispute with Ethiopia over where the

border is. Ethiopia claims that the mission is on their land. The SPLA claims it is in Sudan.

For a month the school and dispensary were closed, but they were allowed to reopen in October. The four missionaries who lived there have relocated to Nanyangacor, where they live in very cramped, difficult quarters, but we are trying to assist them with what they need. I'm happy they've come here, since this is really the center of the parish, and they can reach so many more places from here than from Lotimor.

We all go to Lotimor regularly to oversee the work there. At the beginning of next year the workers will begin building another house so that they will have a decent place to live.

Thank you very much for your gifts of \$6311.29 and \$500 in August. You are a wonderful support to our ministry. Recently Marty Roers, Fr. Tim, and I went up to a plateau about two hours away. The road there was just opened in the last year, and this was the first time we stayed overnight. We went to visit the catechists Felix and Peter. When we arrived, we found that they had walked to a faraway village where they'd heard a young woman named Regina had started a catechumenate. They wanted to give her their support. So we followed them through the bush (there was no road). When we arrived, Felix (whom I'd not yet met) pulled the Maryknoll magazine out of his bag and showed me my picture!

Everyone was happy and excited. Marty showed a beautiful collection of slides to teach about creation. In the sky we could see about 360 degrees from horizon to



horizon. As the new moon set, the stars became brilliant. It was really a wonderful visit. I hope and pray that you all had a Christmas night as happy and hopeful as this one was for us.

Many blessings in the New Year.

**Peace of Christmas,
Susan Nagele**

The preceding letter from Dr. Susan Nagele is dated Nov. 27. Letters to Susan may be addressed to Box 52802-DOT, Nairobi, Kenya. ■

Lenten Fish Fries Begin March 2

On the Fridays of Lent (Mar. 2-Apr. 6) the public is invited to enjoy fish dinners at St. Patrick's Parish Center. These fish fries are sponsored, prepared, and served by the Urbana Knights of Columbus. They will be assisted this year by St. Patrick's youth group (CREW).

Dinner includes baked or fried Atlantic cod, french fries, cole slaw, and a beverage. Serving is from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Dinners are \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$3 for children 12 and under. Dessert and pop are extra.

Proceeds will benefit the Fr. Charles Martell Scholarship program for high school seniors.

Everyone is welcome.

From Sharyn DuPuy ... An Evangelization Minute

I became a Catholic through the RCIA process, but I have a history with the Church. I married a Catholic. He didn't practice his religion, but he had a religion and that was more than I did, so when I wanted my children to have a faith guide in their lives, I had them baptized Catholic and sent them to parochial school. I took them to Mass every Sunday, even when I had to fight to get them there, and most of what I knew about the Church I learned from my children.

My husband and I were divorced over 20 years ago, and my life became a struggle for survival. The weight of responsibility was all I thought of for many years.

Then, at the baptism of my fourth grandchild, one of my daughters said to me, "When are you going to be baptized?" That made me start to think. The Church had been a part of my life for so long that I felt I was Catholic.

That conversation was right after I had moved to Urbana. I had been to St. Patrick's a few times,

but I didn't know anyone here. I did know the enthusiasm and warmth of this congregation, and I knew that I felt left out when everyone went up for communion and I couldn't go.

So with these messages and other things that were happening in my life at that time, I knew God was asking me for a commitment. I began the RCIA the next fall, and my life began to change—not in any outward way, but I changed, and that changed everything.

I wish I could explain how that happens, but I don't understand it myself. I just know it does. Jesus told us it would when He said, "Your Father knows that you need all these things. Seek first the Kingdom of God, and all these will be added to you."

As soon as I began to seek and trust God and put Him first, everything seemed to get easier. I felt so blessed that I wanted to do something for God. I became active in the parish working with different groups and committees, but the more I tried to work for God, the more I got out of it.

I made the first WATCH retreat

at St. Patrick's and found wonderful fellowship and fun getting to know people in the same parish who have the same needs and concerns. By renewing my commitments to God and to others, I

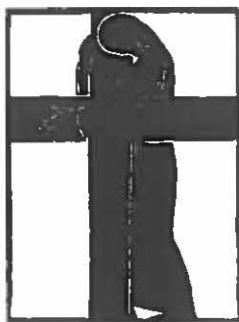


strengthened my relationship with Him through them. It helps to leave the world for a few days to refresh ourselves and prepare for the next onslaught. WATCH did that for me.

Meantime, God just keeps heaping blessings on me so that I have realized that we can never catch up with God, He is always way ahead of us. All we can do is follow behind and enjoy. I pray that each of you will enjoy that PEACE, LOVE, AND SHEER JOY OF LIFE that comes when you put God first in your lives! ■

Scrutinies a Preparation for Easter

On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the Church undergoes the Lenten scrutinies, to purify and enlighten our minds and hearts in preparation for celebrating Easter.



In the early Church, adult catechumens who had enrolled their names at the beginning of Lent in preparation for baptism at Easter were examined (scrutinized) over several Sundays of Lent concerning the moral character of their lives. Their sponsors and teachers were also questioned and gave testimony on their behalf.

The catechumens (now the Elect) were scrutinized for any areas of their lives that still needed to be freed from evil influences, they were read to from the scriptures (focusing on the Samaritan woman who asked Jesus for living water, the blind man healed by Jesus, and the resurrection of Lazarus), and they were instructed on the meaning of the readings and on basic Christian teachings.

By the seventh century, as infant baptism became the norm, these scrutinies were transferred from Sundays of Lent to a few weekdays and were gradually lost sight of until they were restored during the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

In cultures today where converts are often drawn from immer-

sion in worship of other gods and practices of magic and witchcraft, the scrutinies tend to retain their original focus as prayers of exorcism and are exclusive to the unbaptized. But in cultures where even the unbaptized have often been reading the Bible all their lives and attending Mass faithfully with a spouse for years, the scrutinies are often more inclusive, assisting the entire assembly to examine areas of their lives in need of the Lord's healing, freeing power. The scrutinies also assist the assembly to recognize that sin ruptures not only our relationship with God but our relationships with one another in the Body of Christ.

May the Lord deliver us from all evil. *Jesu Christe miserere!* ■

Abolish the Death Penalty (Part Two)

Bud Welch lost a 23-year-old daughter in the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. He was among many surviving family members and others who initially demanded the death penalty for Timothy McVeigh, convicted bomber. However, after about a year he realized that to have McVeigh executed would not bring his daughter back and that revenge was not good for him. Eventually he found it in his heart to forgive McVeigh, and he became a strong advocate for abolishing capital punishment, giving lectures throughout the country. He visited McVeigh's father and sister to tell them he had forgiven the imprisoned man.

Bud Welch is a good role model for anyone convinced that capital punishment is simply wrong.



What can be done?

First, we can consider the experiences of others who, like Bud Welch, have become leaders in the movement to abolish the death penalty.

Second, we can study the issue from several aspects to become knowledgeable before making a personal commitment. Helpful resources are available in the parish library and in local public libraries, and St. Patrick's Social Action Committee can also provide information about this important social justice issue.

Third, we can write to the Governor of Illinois, to local Illinois legislators, and to members of Congress, the Senate, and the President of the United States, to express our opposition to capital punishment.

Fourth, we can pray for prisoners sentenced to death, pray for victims of their crimes, pray for surviving members of the victims' families. We can pray, too, for elected officials and law-enforcement personnel. And we can visit those imprisoned to show our interest and concern for their welfare.

Remember, abolishing capital punishment does not mean that people justly convicted of violent crime should not be punished, that society should not be protected from violent criminals. The chal-

lenge is to find an appropriate and humane punishment for such crimes. Prison without parole is a possible alternative.

The dignity of all prisoners, including their right to life itself, must be respected. Even those justly convicted of violent crime are worthy of efforts to educate and rehabilitate them. All should be helped to find peace with our merciful God, who loves each one more than any of us can possibly understand. ■

Pray for Vocations

Each of us has a vocation by our baptism to serve the Church. We ultimately choose a lifestyle in which to live out that vocation. Pray for yourself and for all who are currently discerning lifestyle choices, like the fifth-grader who wrote this prayer:



Lord, light my heart's fire. Open up my heart to hear your call, the call that could change my life. I will put my heart, mind, and soul into your hands. I will answer your call and be all you want me to be. Amen.

Quick Fixin's from the Kitchen of... Ann Conlin

Hamburger Upside Down Pie

1 clove garlic, minced
1 lb ground beef
2 c green pepper,
chopped
1 6-oz can tomato
paste
1 t salt
1/4 t pepper
chili powder to taste
(optional)
1 16-oz box Jiffy corn
bread mix
6 tomato slices
6 onion rings



Lightly brown garlic, beef, and green pepper in a little shortening in a 10-in. frying pan. Add tomato sauce and seasonings and simmer while preparing corn bread as directed on the box. In the bottom of a glass 8-in. pie pan, arrange the 6 tomato slices inside the onion rings. Cover with the meat mixture, and pour the prepared corn bread mix over all. Bake at 425 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Cool for five minutes; invert onto platter. Serve with a lettuce salad. Makes 6 large servings.

Social Action Committee and Urbana Knights of Columbus Adopt-a-Project

For many years, members of St. Patrick's Parish have assisted Empty Tomb in a wide range of their Christian Outreach programs, such as furniture delivery, the clothing room, food deliveries, and the Home Maintenance Program. This program seeks to rehabilitate and repair homes of needy folk by providing volunteer labor with skilled supervision so that only



material costs need to be provided by the homeowner. However, because some families are not able to provide even the costs of the materials to prepare their homes, Empty Tomb has initiated a new program called the Adopt-a-Project.

In the Adopt-a-Project scheme, Christian church congregations adopt a home maintenance project and pledge to provide the material cost as well as the volunteer labor to complete the project. Adopt-a-Projects can also be shared between different church groups if some have manpower to offer and others have financial assistance. Empty Tomb has, at present, 19 such projects on their books with only three completed so far, so the Urbana Knights of Columbus offered to investigate the possibility that St. Patrick's might adopt a

project.

The most pressing project that confronted Empty Tomb was the re-roofing of Mrs. Kirk's house in Champaign. Mrs. Kirk is an elderly, disabled woman who lives with her blind son in a house that has a severely leaking roof. Because the project had been on their books for over a year, and winter was rapidly approaching, Empty Tomb asked St. Patrick's to provide labor and material for temporary repairs to help the family get through the winter and perhaps adopt the major project of completely replacing the roof in the spring.

The Parish Council accepted the recommendation of the Social Action Committee to adopt this project and assist with the material costs, with the Knights providing the labor. On Friday, Nov. 24, seven workers cleaned and repaired the roof and insulated the windows to keep the house warmer through winter. The roof was fixed on the last relatively warm day in November, and it rained heavily the next day so the work was completed in the nick of time!

Roof workers, led and instructed by the skilled George Amaya, included Joe Costa, Bill Plymire, Chris Stohr, Richard Keane, and Igor Rozhkov.

Mrs. Kirk and her son thank St.



Patrick's Parish community and Empty Tomb for making her house more habitable during winter. Cecil Billingsley, the Empty Tomb Home Maintenance Coordinator, also expressed his gratitude for the generosity of St. Patrick's Social Action Committee.

St. Patrick's Parish may adopt the major task of re-roofing the house (estimated cost: \$1000-\$1500) next spring, with the CREW youth, the Knights of Columbus, and other interested folks providing the labor on Saturday mornings. More information about Empty Tomb and its Adopt-a-Project can be obtained from Richard Keane (351-6461). ■



St. Frances of Rome: Wife, Mother, Religious

Frances was born in Rome in 1384 to a wealthy family. Although she had expressed an interest in becoming a nun, her parents arranged her marriage to a nobleman, Lorenzo, when she was only 13 years old.

Marriage for Frances meant moving into a large household, including her in-laws, her husband, and his older brother and his brother's wife. Her sister-in-law, Vannoza, found Frances crying one day, and as the two talked, they found that they both would have preferred religious life. The faith of each supported the other as they prayed together and sought out the poor and needy.

When Frances was 16 years old, she bore her first child, John Battista, followed in time by another son, Evangelist, and a daughter, Agnes. When her mother-in-law died, her father-in-law ordered her to take over the management of the household, so much of her time was spent in the care of her family.

Rome was in turmoil in those days because there were rival

popes. Frances's family supported Gregory XII, who lived in Rome. In 1408, troops loyal to the rival pope attacked Rome and singled out supporters of Gregory. Her home was ruined, the estates were destroyed, the peasants were killed, her husband was severely injured, and her son John Battista was taken hostage. He was eventually released, and the family lived in a corner of their damaged home.

Pestilence followed, and Evangelist died. Yet Frances and Vannoza did all they could for the poor, turning part of their house into a hospital. A year after Evangelist's death, while Frances was at prayer, he appeared to her accompanied by an angel. He told her that his sister, Agnes, would soon die, but that the angel would remain with Frances and be her guide.

In time the civil strife was settled. Frances's husband was a broken man, but he gave Frances the freedom to continue to serve the poor. She used this opportunity to found a society of women who

lived in the world but offered themselves to God and to the poor. She shared in the work of the society, called the Oblates of Mary, as much as she could while her husband lived; when he died, she gave it all her time.

Frances died in 1440. Her last words were, "The angel has finished his task. He beckons me to follow him."

The Church remembers St. Frances of Rome on Mar. 9, the anniversary of her entrance into the fullness of life in heaven. ■

Urbana KCs Vote to Support a Sister Marie Golla Lecture Fund

The Urbana KCs voted at their November meeting to give \$300 to help establish a Sr. Marie Golla Lecture Fund at St. Patrick's. The money will go toward offering an annual or semi-annual lecture at St. Patrick's, featuring a noted religious or social scholar, in keeping with the millennium lecture series that Sr. Marie established not long before her death in November 1999.



in our parish library

Lent is a great time to do a little extra spiritual reading or to gather as a family for prayer and meditation. The parish library has several resources that can help you do this.

Lent for Children, by Alison Berger (263.2 Ber) is a booklet with stories and suggested activities for each Sunday in Lent, great for young children.

A Time to Grow: Daily Gospel Reflections and Prayers, by Mary Carol Kendzia (263.2 Ken) contains a page for each day in Lent, with a reflection, family prayer, and faith response. Because the reflections are fairly long, this booklet would be more suitable for older children.

The February 2001 issue of

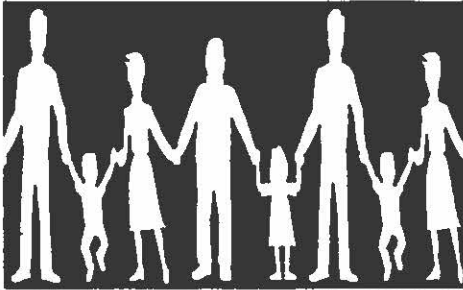
Catholic Update, located in a white binder on the right as you enter the library, has very short meditations for each day of Lent, centered on the theme of doing what God asks. You can also find this on their Web site at <http://www.AmericanCatholic.org>. By the way, this is a great website, with "minute meditations" that change daily, a "saint of the day" section, and a link for teens called "American Catholic Youth."

Another Lenten resource for adults is *That You May Have Life: Let the Mystics Be Your Guide for Lent*, by John Kirvan (263.2 Kir). For each day of Lent this resource offers a morning prayer, a thought to carry with you through the day,

and an evening prayer. The prayers are taken from the works of Hildegard of Bingen, Julian of Norwich, Meister Eckhart, Francis of Assisi, Teresa of Avila, and others.

The Lenten sale of books and other materials from C & A Inspirations this weekend (Feb. 23-24, sponsored by the parish library) may also have some materials that will help make this Lent a time of spiritual growth for you.

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. ■



Welcome to new parishioners Trevor and Sherry Boyd, Kathryn Goolsby, Brent and Julie Gruffy, Alan Mohn, Sharon Nauman, Scott and Rebecca Robinson, Adam and Stephanie Smith, Gary and Beth Warren, and Maureen Wilson.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Georgina Cheng, Ed and Martha Darbonne, Katherine Dombrowski, Sara Klinzine, Robina Martin, Jason O'Connor, Phil and Mary Rinaldi, and Rob and Diane Waller.

Welcome to the following, recently baptized into our faith community: Ekiwa Teniola Omo-Osagie, Cora Ruth Welch, Garrett McIntosh Boyer, Josiah Clement Freedman, Cross Alexander Mendoza, and Keely Ireland McCorkle.

Please pray for the following members of our parish who have died: Jane Swartz and Pat Mayer.

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

- 2 Friday Stations of the Cross begin
- KC Lenten fish fries begin
- 3-4 First Sunday of Lent
- Pick up Operation Rice Bowl packets
- 17 St. Patrick's Day Parish Lenten Retreat
- 20 First Communion classes begin
- 21 Lenten reconciliation service for children
- 25 CREW Service and Talent Auction

Q: I'm past giving up candy for Lent. What are some things I can do instead?

A: The traditional forms of celebrating Lent are meant to renew our baptismal commitment in Christ:

Prayer: private, the Mass, the rosary, scripture (all daily)

Penance: sacramental, self-denial, giving time to good works

Spiritual works: instructing, advising, comforting, forgiving, giving alms to the poor, bearing wrongs patiently

Corporal works: feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned

Spiritual reading (as a form of prayer): scripture, psalms, stations, catechism of the Catholic Church; Mt. 6:2-4; Lk. 3:11; Lk. 11:41; James 2:15-16; 1 John 3:17

That is, anything that develops renewed, healthy relationships with God, our neighbor, our selves.

Some practical suggestions: drive shut-ins, donate food, go next door, call your cousins, meals on wheels, aid a teacher, coach a kid, clean yards, join the seniors, baby sit, sit with elders, volunteer as a mentor, ride a bike, play CDs, stay home, work at the Catholic Worker House, help the St. Vincent de Paul Society, serve needy children (Matthew House), do your exercises, walk daily, be a dog (wag your tail, not your tongue), be still.

The Lord be with you! ■

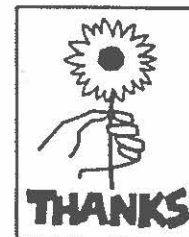
Gratitude Expressed for Thanksgiving Baskets

A letter of appreciation from Kathleen Kessler, Community Support Manager for Provena Behavioral Health, was received by Sophia Zeigler on behalf of St. Patrick's St. Vincent De Paul Society. Ms. Kessler expressed gratitude for the many thanksgiving food baskets donated to clients of Provena:

"We would once again like to thank you [Sophia] personally and the parishioners of St. Patrick's Church and the St. Vincent De Paul Society for the generosity shown to clients of Provena Behavioral Health at the Mental Health Center. Church members of the St. Vincent De Paul Society and Mental Health Center staff delivered 126 Thanksgiving baskets to our clients.

"Our clients look forward yearly to receiving these Thanksgiving baskets. It helps them supplement their food supply and stretch their limited incomes a little further. Two of our clients in particular were tearful and overwhelmed at the sight of the basket. They each would have gone without any food at all at Thanksgiving without your generosity. Clients continue to comment to us regarding the variety, the quantity of the food, in addition to the fact that these are items they can continue to use after Thanksgiving Day.

"Staff as well as our clients are most appreciative of your time, efforts, and the tremendous organization and coordination it takes to put on this yearly tradition. Thanks once again for being so kind to our clients during the holiday season, by providing them with this special gift." ■



CREW News

The Mission Trip: This year's Mission trip will be to Fraser, Colorado, near Winter Park. CREW will be working with the Wapiti Meadows and Sisters of Mercy Housing Projects, which house low-income residents. The work will include painting and fixing up these units, and possibly helping in the children's Day Care Center.

The Mission trip is a great opportunity for our teens. This is a retreat that allows them to put their faith into action. Service, spirituality, and community building are all major components of the week. Since the teens are not distracted by TV, phone calls, or computers and are hundreds of miles away from home, they become very focused on the work, Bible study, and people around them.

July 20-27 is the week of the trip. With successful fund-raising efforts, participants will need to pay only \$100 each, in addition to service and fund-raising hours required for eligibility to go on the Mission trip.



Pictures from last year's trip to Washington, D.C., as well as a link to the 2001 site in Grand County, are on our CREW website at <http://www.prairienet.org/crew2000>.

CREW has planned several fund-raising projects; two coming up in the near future are:

• **Service and Talent Auction:** The CREW teens and adult sponsors will hold a Service and Talent Auction on Sunday, Mar. 25, at 10:30 a.m. (after the 9:00 Mass and Coffee Shop). This event puts a new twist on an old idea. Instead of purchasing items that you don't really need, you will have the opportunity to rent someone's services or talents for a day such as babysitting, computer services, dinners hosted by different parishioners, yardwork, homemade

baked goods, etc. All services and talents will be provided by St. Patrick's parishioners. If you'd like to donate a service/talent or if you have a service you would like to be sure is provided, call Carol Bosley (469-2700) or Lisa Moorman (355-4591).

• **Flock Someone?** Have a special date you want to celebrate? Want to brighten someone's day? Have them "flocked"! CREW will flock your friend's yard in pink flamingos (or your own yard, if you wish). For \$1 a bird (20-bird minimum) CREW members will place dozens of flamingos in a yard for one day—just long enough to get a laugh, not long enough to be a nuisance. The flock is ready; call Dwain Berggren (367-5014) to reserve yours! ■

Be a Volunteer on Call

St. Patrick's is a member of the inter-faith Council of Congregations and supports its services to the community. Volunteers are invited to provide hands-on, person-to-person services occasionally and to be on call for the Hospital Support Program.

Volunteers are asked, usually not more than once per month, to help hospitals with small emergencies, such as giving a patient a ride home.

Other short-term needs include occasional out-of-town transportation, visiting with a patient who needs support, sitting with a child during a parent's medical emergency, and helping with other interesting and challenging situations.

It is understood that volunteers will not always be available when called upon, but when a volunteer can say "yes" that "yes" may make a difference only that volunteer could have made.

For more information please contact the St. Patrick's Council of Congregations delegate, Peggy Whelan (367-3668).



God of the Good News,
in the fullness of my life,
empty me of distractions.

Still my busyness,
quiet my chatter.

Sing your song of grace
to me until the tune rings
in the core of my being
and my life resonates
with your Good News.



March 2001

St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY

MONDAY


TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						<p>1</p> <p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Over 21 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Building & Grounds Com</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:45am Mass-Champign Cty NH 5:30-8:00pm Fish Fry</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>9:00am & 11:00am Children's RE 9:00am RCIA 10:15am Children's Liturgy 12:00pm Teen Liturgy 6:30pm Jr/Sr High RE 6:30pm Leaders' Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Pro-Life Com 7:00pm Education Com</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:30pm WATCH Board 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am Mom's Group 5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Children's RE, St. Pat's 6:30pm Children's RE, St. Joe 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Baptism Prep 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:30am Mass-Care Center 10:45am Mass-Champign Cty NH 5:30-8:00pm Fish Fry 7:00pm Over 21</p>	<p>10</p>		
<p>11</p> <p>9:00am RCIA</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Social Action Com 7:00pm Centennial Com</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11:00am-2:30pm Catholic Daughters Mass & Luncheon</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00am Mom's Group 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:30am Mass-Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass-Champign Cty NH 5:30-8:00pm Fish Fry</p>	<p>17</p> <p> 8:30am-3:00pm Parish Retreat</p>		
<p>18</p> <p>9:00am & 11:00am Children's RE 9:00am RCIA 10:15am Children's Liturgy 10:15am Knights of Columbus Mtg 6:30pm Jr/Sr High RE 6:30pm Leaders' Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work 7:00pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:30am Mass-Canterbury Ridge 6:45pm 1st Communion Prep 7:00pm Liturgy Com</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00am Mom's Group 5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Children's Reconciliation 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Over 21 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:30am Mass-Manor Care 10:45am Mass-Champign Cty NH 5:30-8:00pm Fish Fry</p>	<p>24</p>		
<p>25</p> <p>9:00am RCIA 10:30am-1:00pm CREW Talent Auction 4:30pm Teen Choir 6:30pm Leaders' Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30am Archives Com 6:30pm Long Range Planning Com 7:00pm Finding God in Daily Work 7:00pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:45pm 1st Communion Prep 7:00pm Homily Prep</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00am Mom's Group 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Over 21 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Communications Com</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:45am Mass-Champign Cty NH 5:30-8:00pm Fish Fry</p>	<p>31</p>		

SVDP=St Vincent de Paul NH=Nursing Home