

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus

Follow in Footsteps of St. Patrick's Founders

The land for St. Patrick's parish was purchased in May 1901, and a month later Father J.H. Cannon arrived with a startling promise.



Father J.H. Cannon

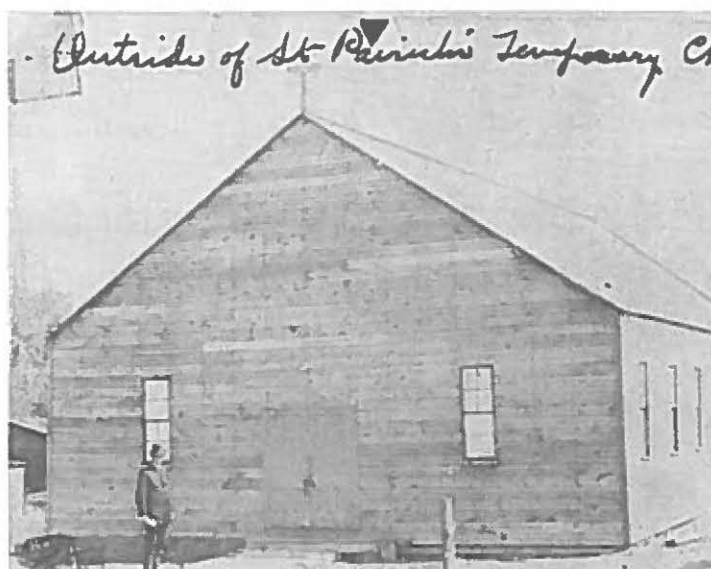
Bishop John L. Spaulding had appointed Father Cannon of Gibson City to lead the new parish in Urbana. At his first Mass on June 30,

1901, at St. Mary's Church, Father Cannon promised to lay the cornerstone for a new church at 7 a.m. the next day and dedicate the new church a week later. He kept his word. After 37 1/2 hours of continuous labor, a temporary but adequate building was completed in time for Mass the following Sunday.

This wooden structure, believed to have been built where the garages now stand, served as a church for the parish until the permanent building at Main and Busey was completed two years later. Father Cannon also is credited with choosing a name for the new parish: St. Patrick's.

Next month, parishioners will have a chance to relive this part of our history. This is an opportunity to "walk the walk" of our predecessors from St. Mary's Church to the site of the original framed church. A procession will begin at 2 p.m. May 20 at St. Mary's Church, 612 E. Park St., Champaign.

A celebration Mass will be held at 3 p.m., followed by a special



dinner at 5 p.m. in the the Laborer's Hall, 108 E. Anthony Drive, Urbana. A short program will highlight the evening, bringing together history, joy and reflection.

The activities that day will mark the beginning of a two-year celebration during which parishioners can acclaim the founding of their church, its mission, its service to the Urbana-Champaign community and the historical dedication of its present site.

Many activities and special events are being planned to make this an exciting time at St. Patrick's. There are few occasions in our lives when we can participate in a centennial celebration that affects us so deeply. Plan to be a part of our living history through prayer and celebration. ●





in our parish library

As our parish begins its centennial celebration, you may want to delve into church history a bit. The parish library has some books on this subject that you might find interesting.

"The Good Work Begun: centennial history of Peoria Diocese," by Alice O'Rourke (282 Oro) takes you from the time of the early missionaries in 1673 to the mid-1970s. Check the index for mentions of St. Patrick's of Urbana.

"Catholics in America: 1776-1976," edited by Robert Trisco, (282 Cat) is an interesting collection of articles about various aspects of the Catholic Church in the United States. It covers missionaries, saints, ethnic groups, lay leaders, politics, social justice and more.

While you're in the library, take a look at our past parish directories. We have copies from 1987 and 1993. You'll recognize many familiar faces as you skim through them. They are on a shelf marked "St. Patrick's" on the right as you walk into the library. Enjoy!

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. •

Give Cheerfully to Annual Diocesan Appeal, May 5-6

Since 1986, St. Patrick's parish has supported the Annual Stewardship Appeal for the Peoria Diocese. In the year 2000, a new name, Annual Diocesan Appeal, was given to the appeal. The parishioners of St. Patrick's have always been generous and faithful in their contributions.

This year it's anticipated that parish support of the many aspects of good works will continue, reflecting the same gifts of compassion and charity as parishioners have shown in past years. The "Stewardship of Treasure" is so necessary because there are many needs in the diocese that require a Christian response, needs that cannot be fulfilled by either the individual Christian or by the local parish. The ADA is the major source of revenue for the centrally funded apostates and agencies that enable the Church to reach across parish boundaries.



The Diocese of Peoria consists of 198 parishes and missions. A diocese is a union of parishes presided over by a bishop and organized to fulfill Christ's mission in a given geographical area. The work of Christ is done, to be sure, chiefly in the parishes, but there are many tasks requiring the administration and efforts of the larger Church, the diocese. In that sense, the diocese consists of 198 parishes working cooperatively and encouraging everyone in every household to work together.

In Focus

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

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

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

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Judy Conover, Jean Daly, Nancy Dietrich-Rybicki, Frances Drone-Silvers, Cindy Shaw, Mary Fonner, Father Kane, Mary Yemma Long, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Deacon Dan Murphy, Karen Paulsen, Carole Rebeiz, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Peggy Whelan. This issue was paged by Tom Schlueter.

Father Remm has asked Jean Daly and Tara Beckett to co-chair the parish drive for the year 2001. They will be supported by Mary

Ann Luedtke, Terry Moreau, and the many volunteers who each year graciously assist in completing the record-keeping tasks for the drive, in addition to sharing a portion of their financial resources. There have been meetings at our parish, and on March 10, the official kickoff Mass and luncheon were held in Peoria. At the Mass, Bishop John Myers expressed his appreciation to all of the parishes. Much organization precedes the actual weekend: planning sessions, volunteer recruitment, gathering and preparation of necessary materials, and training and assignment of workers.

St. Patrick's parish, as well as the diocese, benefits from this drive in two ways. The first is the many programs offered by the diocese that have been and still are attended by many parishioners. The second way is in a refund from the diocese of any money collected beyond the parish's diocesan goal. This year the diocesan goal is \$86,130. The parish goal for St. Patrick's has been set at \$100,000 (\$1,000 per year for 100 years). Father Remm hopes the parish can increase its Centennial Fund again this year as we begin our great celebration of 100 years.

Please mark your calendars and arrive on Saturday, May 5, or on Sunday, May 6, prepared to contribute cheerfully in response to this appeal. •

Parish Council News

At its April meeting, the Council agreed to have Renaissance Architects of Springfield prepare a preliminary proposal for renovating the existing church to meet the needs and goals of the parish.



The agreement came after the Council reviewed the Long Range Planning Committee's report. Several options were presented: (1) Maintain the status quo, making only modest repairs and renovations to the church. (2) Approve a preliminary study and cost analysis by Renaissance Architects regarding the architectural possibilities of expanding the church, including additional parking. (3) Based on the recommendations of Renaissance Architects, make decisions regarding interior renovations of the church and roof replacement.

The agreement with Renaissance does not commit the parish to a building project, but it does give the Council some facts and figures on which to base any decisions regarding expansion and renovation. The study will cost \$7,500, with additional services as requested by the Church, at hourly rates.

If the parish has the report before the end of this year, enough time remains to work on the roof and begin any final inside work before the rededication of the church in 2003.

Pat Dill from the Building and Grounds Committee brought good news and bad news about the church's heating and cooling systems. While the furnaces were being installed in the Parish Center, it was necessary to disconnect the air conditioners. When Nogle & Black started them back up, it discovered that the valves in the compressors were not working as effi-

ciently as before. The air conditioners are about 30 years old.

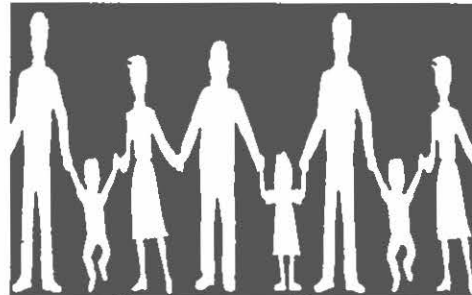
In May, the council will decide whether to replace the units, wait until they break down completely, or repair only the compressors. Building and Grounds recommended replacing the three units with new Trane units for \$9,200. Buildings and Grounds may have between \$5,000 and \$6,000 left in its budget that could be used toward the purchase of the air conditioners.

Rather than have a float in the Fourth of July parade, the parish will invite all organizations to have representatives marching in the parade, with uniform signs to identify the groups as parish organizations. If the signs are completed in time, they also could be used in the church centennial procession from St. Mary's on May 20. The Liturgy Committee is working on a banner for the front of the church for the Centennial Mass, and perhaps a smaller matching banner will be carried in the parade. The committee has contacted Mike Andrejasich about making a replica of the church that could be carried.

The new Guild president, Lauren Bonse, reported that the group is examining the role of the Guild in an effort to expand membership. A survey is planned for the fall. Members feel it is important to offer baby sitting, and CREW may be asked to help with this. Other possible activities: a daughter's dinner; a fashion show; a bus trip to a show in Chicago; a quilt show with a tea; a mother's retreat; in October, the month of the Rosary, a communal Rosary on a Sunday afternoon; perhaps a May Rosary with children.

Twenty-seven students have registered so far for next year's freshman class at St. Thomas More High School. The school is still working on enrollment. The high school operates with funds from its foundation and expects to meet its budget for this year. The school is just beginning to work on its budget for next year.

The council approved a \$ 585,748 budget for 2001-2002. ●



Welcome to new parishioners Mindy and Bart Basi, Lawrence Becker, Donald and Jennifer Beddow, Doug and Jana Boyer, John and Tina Colombo, Katie and Brandon Field, Matthew Kleffner, Jason McArthur, Thomas and Mona Mengler, John and Jean Ann Metz, Diana Mincyte, John and Elizabeth Minda, Bridget Mullin and Ryan Chester, Valerie and Fidele Ndjoumou, Chris Paul, Scott and Rebecca Robinson, Susan Thomas, Joseph Voelkl and Tracy Wilson.

Farewell to these parishioners who have moved from C-U: Mary Carroll, Regina and Joseph Gilmartin, Anna Henry, Jennifer Keefer, Patty Watts and Doug and Angela Wolters.

Welcome to the following, recently baptized into our faith community: Nicole Kay Gremer, Alexander Gregory Jones, Arielle Ndjoumou, Yvan Ndjoumou, Zachary Allan Smith, Molly Kathryn Smith, Ethan James Smith, Nicholas Patrick Twohey and Jessie Ray Wanserski.

Please pray for the following members of our parish who have died: Michael J. Remesch, James McKown Sr. and Louise McArthur.

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

- 5-6 Annual Diocesan Appeal
- 6 Religious education picnic
Junior/Senior High picnic
- 20 Centennial Mass
Centennial dinner
- 27 High school graduation Mass

Welcome Our New Family Members

Most of the men and women who have been dismissed from our parish liturgies over the last few months began their faith journey at inquiry sessions last October. In December, they became Catechumens (ones who are instructed). It took months — for some, years — of thought and prayerful discernment before they signed the Book of the Elect (chosen ones) on the first Sunday of Lent.

For all, the journey to the fullness of faith with the Catholic Church, whether at Easter or somewhat later, has been a time of intellectual, moral, and spiritual growth. Now we welcome these Neophytes (new Christians) into our church family.

Simone Baird's journey of faith began as she watched her mother, Joyce, undergo "wonderful changes



in her interactions with members of her family" and have a "positive outlook on daily living activities" after Joyce

became Catholic at St. Patrick's six years ago. Once Simone started attending St. Pat's, she "enjoyed being a part of a strong faith community and yearned to be part of it."

"I started to feel like I was missing something in my life ... something more that I needed spiritually. ... Catholic traditions and rituals have always held a special feeling in my heart. I feel whole when I am standing in church surrounded by my church family. I have a wonderful 12-year-old niece named Brittany who is an amazing source of joy for me." Simone is an administrative assistant for Provena Behavioral Health and is studying nursing at Parkland.

Sometimes people are introduced to our faith because we take the first step: inviting them to come with us. **Leland Vice** relates, "I came to church as a guest of a St. Patrick's parishioner, and I liked coming to church so much that I wanted to

learn more about the church. ... I liked the way the people treated me, and I also liked the way they presented the Word."

Leland worked for General Motors in Tilton and in Michigan before retirement. He has a son and a daughter. Now he likes to coach baseball, remodel homes, paint and do lawn work.

Stephanie Smith has been attending St. Patrick's with her husband, Adam, a "cradle Catholic," for the last 3 1/2 years. "Since the birth of



our third child, we knew we wanted to raise our children with a strong faith foundation." Stephanie pursued joining the church

because of the warm and friendly atmosphere at St. Pat's. Adam used to be the stay-at-home parent while Stephanie worked in marketing and public relations. Now she stays home to care for their children, Zack, 6; Molly, 3 1/2, and Ethan, 1.

After many years of sporadic attendance at various churches, **Jeff Marshall** was encouraged by a friend and St. Patrick's parishioner to attend Mass here and to look into the RCIA process.



Jeff says, "I knew I needed a closer relationship with God and a warm welcoming faith community. God has led me to St. Patrick's and all the wonderful people I have met. For this I am most grateful."

Jeff, an area resident since 1991, is a single father of Laura, 18, and Jack, 12. He is the director of Carle Medical Supply. His hobbies include trombone playing, walking and a little golf.

"I have never been affiliated with any church, and St. Pat's has been

very welcoming", says **Robert Price**, 29, who first attended St. Patrick's with his Catholic girlfriend. A union carpenter and the oldest of three children, Robert has been to other churches but "felt most comfortable with St. Pat's."



Shannon Clarkson inquired into the Catholic faith because her boyfriend, Tony, and his family are



Catholic. "I also knew that God was supposed to be part of my life and hadn't been for quite a while. ... Tony provided me with the opportunity to

start going to church again" and let God back in. Through the RCIA process Shannon learned more about Catholicism. At 29, "I have found the man of my dreams!" Shannon has been customer service manager at Schnuck's in Champaign for nine years. She has been a Military Policeman in the Illinois Army National Guard since 1988 and plans to retire after 20 years of service. Her hobbies include reading, relaxing and spending time with family.

A small business owner in Champaign, **Jed Bunyan** and his wife, Mary Ann, were married at St. Patrick's 20 years ago. Over the

years, Jed has attended Mass occasionally with Mary Ann and their three sons, Drew, Christian and Thomas. Jed relates, "I felt a calling to be more complete with my wife and family by joining them in their faith." Jed did find that completeness through the RCIA process.



For several of our neophytes, it was the first meeting with our pastor, Father Remm, or with Father Kane, that made them feel welcome at St. Patrick's. **Heather Cain**, a legal secretary at Hinshaw & Culbertson in Champaign,

tells such a story. The daughter of a non-practicing Catholic mother, Heather had little exposure to the Catholic Church while growing up. "I

always felt that something was missing from my life. Later I discovered, with the help of my husband and his family, that it was the Catholic faith that was missing."

After Heather attended Mass at different churches in the area and talked to priests about becoming Catholic, a family member suggested she speak with Father Remm. "Immediately I felt at ease and welcomed by him. It was then I knew I wanted to be a part of St. Patrick's parish." Heather thanks Father Remm and "every single person I have met in the RCIA process, for you have all helped me in my journey." Heather's husband, Roche, has two sons plus they have an 18-month-old son and a baby on the way.

Margaret Clarke, originally from the San Francisco Bay area, had felt drawn to the Catholic faith for



many years. When Margaret came to Champaign to attend medical and law school, "I had the good fortune of meeting Father Remm, who discussed the RCIA process and encouraged me to reflect on this decision. I have enjoyed and benefited from meeting more and more members of this parish while living here, and it was clear that this was where I wished to join the church." Margaret will graduate this May.

When **Elizabeth Lindsey** and her fiancé, Bill Vavrik, a Catholic, started to talk about marriage and children, she decided to explore the Catholic faith as a community in which to raise their children. She and Bill tried St. Patrick's as "a more family-oriented church with a close congregation."



"Immediately I really liked the church and the warm welcome that we received. Father Remm has been wonderful in helping us prepare for our upcoming marriage in September. Carolyn and Lenore have made RCIA a rewarding experience." A part-time emergency medical technician at Pro Ambulance, "Liz" is a full-time student at Parkland College, working on her second associate degree.

A native of Galesburg, **Richard L. Partin** has been attending Mass for more than 20 years because of family relations.



"What attracted me to St. Patrick's parish was its seeming friendliness and informality. The first person to befriend me was Father Kane." Richard is a writer; his father

was a coach at Knox College. Richard and his wife, Paula Geis Partin, have three sons, Christopher, Tate and Trevor.

"I've been riding the religion roller coaster for almost 20 years. I was raised in a very solid, zealous Baptist family but left the faith for a less intense way of life ... in my teen years. Since then I've felt the need for God and would pray, only to feel myself slipping away from Him," confides **Stephanie Crist**. Her fiancé, Craig Schneider, started taking her to



Mass at St. Patrick's. "I felt the presence of God immediately. This was the place that I could 'come home' to. I was made very welcome by Father Remm and everyone in the RCIA class. I'm very serious and also overjoyed about committing to Catholicism. I would like to thank Craig's family for their support of me through this process and also my Aunt Donna for being such a wonderful example."

Stephanie, 33, and Craig, 38, are two "late bloomers" who look forward to their October wedding at St. Patrick's. Although she has been working in child care for 10 years, her real calling is in jewelry design, including glass bead necklaces, bracelets and earrings. Craig makes knives, and the two hope to have a jewelry and knife shop one day.

"My siblings have all been baptized, and I always felt like I was missing something," **Lisa Moy** says. "I felt instantly comforted when I met with Father Remm and discussed the situation. I look forward to continuing my spiritual path." Born and raised in Champaign,



Lisa represents a major manufacturer in Champaign and the surrounding communities. Lisa and her fiancé, Tim Isaacs, will be married at St. Patrick's in September.

Jake McCorkle inquired into our faith because his wife, Meghan, is Catholic. Jake explains, "I thought



maybe it would be worth checking out. I started the RCIA classes, and things just started to click. ... I just felt at home." The McCorkles had a baby girl, Keely Ireland, in

December. "I love people. I love family. I am one of the happiest persons you'll ever meet and the most optimistic. I love St. Patrick's Church. I couldn't have started my journey in any other place."

"I felt an emptiness because I was separated from God so I decided to try church," relates Rachel V. Andrews. "I was attracted to St. Patrick's parish because I was raised Catholic and my mother is Catholic. I had attended other churches, and they didn't feel right ... then I went to St. Patrick's, and my life started to improve. My values matched the church's teachings, and I wanted to learn more about Catholicism."



A writer and lover of books and poetry, who has a master's degree in psychology, Rachel currently works at the Urbana Free Library and hopes to earn a second master's degree in library science in the future. "My real dream is to have success as a poet and to write spiritually uplifting verses that celebrate the beauty of God's creations!"

We can echo Rachel's last statement: "Thanks to God for His many blessings!" And thanks, blessings and welcome to all our neophytes. Welcome our new Christians into our church family when you see them! ●

Q: What is the Angelus? Why is it said at specific times?

A: The Angelus is a prayer that commemorates the Incarnation. We say it by reciting short verses related to the Annunciation, three Hail Marys and a closing prayer, usually while a bell is rung at 6 a.m., noon and 6 p.m.

Of the origin of the Angelus we know only that the morning, noon and evening recitations developed separately.

In the 11th century, Pope Gregory IX rang an evening bell calling to prayer for the Crusades. In 1269, St. Bonaventure and his friars promoted the Franciscan custom of saying three Hail Marys when a bell rang in the evening. Pope John XXII encouraged the practice by attaching indulgences in 1318 and 1327.

The morning Angelus appears to stem from the 14th century monastic custom of reciting three Hail Marys when a bell rang in the morning prayer of Prime.

The noon Angelus was first prayed in a devotion to the Passion of Christ, in which a bell was rung at noon on Friday. Also associated with praying for peace, this prayer was extended to the whole week when Pope Callistus in 1456 urged the world to pray for victory over the Turks.

The three times of morning, noon and evening were unified in the 16th century. Today in Urbana, we hear the hours and hymns at noon, rung by the bell of the First United Methodist Church. Time to pray the Angelus?



The Angelus

V: The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary ...

V: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R: Be it done unto me according to your word. Hail Mary ...

V: And the Word was made flesh.

R: And dwelt among us. Hail Mary ...

V: Pray for us, holy Mother of God.

R: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray,

Pour forth, we beg you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. R: Amen.

Heed God's Call

May 6 is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Below is a simple prayer for vocations. Say it often on May 6 and daily the rest of the year as the church is in urgent need of priests and other religious.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Almighty God, your Son Jesus told us to pray for vocations since the harvest is great and the laborers are few. Help all of us who center our Catholic lives in Word and Sacrament to be active promoters of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The ministry of identifying and nurturing vocations belongs to each member of each family in our parish. May we all accept this mission from Jesus with the determination that comes from faith. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

VOCATIONS ANONYMOUS QUIZ —

Simply check all statements that apply to you.

- † Do you find your weekly ministry more life-giving and energizing than your 40-hour work week?
- † Do you hide vocation literature under your bed or away in your closet?
- † Does the idea of becoming a priest and/or a religious keep coming back to you?
- † Does your relationship with God sustain you, enliven you and invigorate you in such a way that you want to share the Good News?
- † Do you long for something more in your life?
- † Do you feel you are being led to make a major life decision?
- † Are you afraid to tell friends and family that you are thinking about a Church vocation?
- † Do you feel a recurring tug in you heart to love the Lord more deeply and to serve God's people?
- † Do you find that the values of the material world no longer take first place in your life?

If you checked three or more of the statements above, then you may have a vocation to religious life and/or the priesthood.

Why Do They Go, Week After Week?

"It gives me a sense of accomplishment. I feel like I've done something good."

"After you get to know them, you want to go back and see them."

"It makes you feel good when they recognize you and smile."

"Some of them never have any other visitors."

"Some of those people would never get to Mass otherwise."

These are answers given by some of the "regulars" who go to the Champaign County Nursing Home on Friday mornings to help gather the Catholic residents for Mass. This



weekly act of collective love, which makes it possible for residents of the Home to "break bread together," has a long history.

In 1959 the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Patrick's organized a small group of women volunteers who went to the nursing home, gathered Catholic residents together, and prayed the rosary with them. After the rosary, they distributed cookies. Soon they began offering cookies to other residents and aides throughout the Home. The popular cookie routine continued until the 1990s, when concern for dietary needs brought an end to that part of the visiting routine.

In the early Sixties, when rules for place and time of Mass became much more flexible, Fr. Don McGrogan, then assistant pastor of St. Patrick's, began celebrating Mass at the Home on the First Friday of each month.

Make-shift arrangements, first in the basement, then in an office, were used. Neither proved very satisfactory, but in 1971 a new addition to

the Champaign County Nursing Home included an all-purpose room. Florence Chevalier, then Altar and Rosary Society president, with financial help from Catholic societies of Champaign County, obtained liturgical furniture for the room. This room is now used for prayer services of all denominations wishing to use it.

With the completion of this room in 1971, Fr. Frank Wuellner of Tolono offered to celebrate Mass at the Home on the remaining Fridays of the month. When he

became ill, his brother, Fr. George Wuellner, took over for him. Fr. Doug Hennessy, then co-pastor of St. Patrick's in Urbana, wrote to parish priests within the deanery requesting assistance. Parishes now assisting are Holy Cross, Champaign; St. Thomas, Philo; St. Boniface, Bondville; and St. Patrick, Urbana.

But wait, what are those guys doing there? No, not the priests--those other guys. Oh, yes. In 1980 the Altar and Rosary Society got a new name (St. Patrick's Guild)



and a bunch of wonderful men volunteers. So now the regular Friday morning helpers include Joe Sleeter and Bob Leach. On Good Friday, Verne Kroes runs the slide projector for the Stations of the Cross. Among the many women who volunteer for this quiet, not much publicized ministry are Mary Sleeter, Irma Waite, Norma Kroes, and Pat Donze. As a eucharistic minister, Irma helps take Communion to bedridden residents who cannot make it to the chapel room.

Even less heralded is the faithful service of another parishioner, John Sabol, who takes Communion to the Catholic residents of Champaign County Nursing Home every Wednesday. John has been doing this every Wednesday for more than two years. ●

First Communions Made This Weekend

You satisfy the hungry heart
with the gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord,
the Bread of Life to eat."

— Omer Westendorf

Fifty children made their first communion this weekend at St. Patrick's parish. They are: Angela Anderson, Austin Berlocher, Juilan Boswell-Rasmussen, Thomas Brown, Daniel Brown, Joshua Cocagne, Luke Cottingham, Alicia Dook, Claire Drone-Silvers, Joao Engler-Pinto, Katherine Floess, Gabriel Foote, Cora Freidhof, Jessica Glazier, Jacob Hopkins, Heidi Hublein, Thomas Jean, Francesca Johnson, Kelsey Kaiser, Jessica Kerby, Aidan Kerns, Joshua Krueger.

And Christopher Long, Isidra Macias, Sarah Maloney, Grace Mayer, Kori McGraw, Sarah McMahon, Margarita Mouschovias, Kaleigh Niccum, Jackson Nguyen, Desiree Panepinto-Hagler, William Pardick, Jordan Pardick, Dustin Ragle, Jeffrey Roeper,

And Mark Sandwick, Elizabeth Schuele, Caitlin Schutz, Pedro Sardela, Marco Sardela, Sydnie Silbernagel, Shelby Simmering, Shane Towns, Arianna Valocchi, Kurtis Wahl, Jackrin Walsh, Dana Williams, Mathieu Wilson, Eleni Yannelis. ●

CREW Auction

A down-home dinner on the farm with Father Kane brought in top dollar at CREW's service and talent auction this year. Two dinner offers by Father Kane and Father Remm netted a combined total of more than \$1,000. All told, CREW raised more than \$5,000 for its mission trip to Colorado this summer.

Classic favorites included Sophia Ziegler's cream puffs, Betty Conerty's cinnamon rolls and Shirley Splittstoesser's lemon meringue pies. New favorites included black forest cake, raspberry jelly, baklava and homemade German bread. The beauty of St. Patrick's was captured by Jim Long's photographs of the church artwork and by birdhouse replicas of the church from Chuck Shaw and Tom Kacich. Other parishioners generously donated services such as thermostat installation, piano tuning and soup delivery. But best of all were the fantastic services offered by the parish's ambitious teens, such as a day of running errands, dinner for two cooked by teens, computer services, babysitting, window washing, room painting, pick-up truck runs and car detailing, to name just a few.

The real reward will come when these services are fulfilled by the teens, and new friendships are formed across the generation gap.

Special thanks goes to Carol Bosley and Lisa Moorman for organizing the event and Steve Beckett for gently encouraging people to be charitable. ●

Palestinian Parishioner Offers His Perspective on Middle East

The Social Action Committee has chosen the Middle East as an area of focus for study, support and action on the international level. There are many Christian Palestinians living in the area, including members of St. Patrick's sister church in Beit Jala.

Committee member Nancy Dietrich-Rybicki interviewed Joseph Youakim, a St. Patrick's parishioner and a Palestinian, about the Middle East and the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This issue is a very controversial one, especially when talking about U.S. involvement in the Middle East. It also has a long history, which obviously cannot be covered in such a short article. But the knowledge Joseph has about this area is vast and fascinating. If you see him after Mass or at coffee hour, he would be glad to share with you his knowledge about the Middle East.

The following is an excerpt of the interview:

NANCY: Personally, as someone not very familiar with the specifics of what is going on in the Middle East, I'm interested in some basic definitions. When we talk about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, what exactly are we talking about?

JOSEPH: The Palestinians have lived in the area of the conflict for many centuries. The people who now consider themselves Israelis have been there only since the end of World War II. Israel evicted the Palestinians off their land and took all their possessions, including most of Palestine in 1948. This is when my family and I became refugees. The rest of Palestine was taken in the 1967 six days war.

NANCY: Obviously you have a very personal connection to the land. What information do you have about the status of Palestinians in the Middle East now?

Quick Fixin's from the Kitchen of... Mary Yemma Long

QUICK POCKET PITA BREAD

3 T. yeast
2 T. honey
1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour (or
white flour)
Sesame seeds (optional)



In large mixing bowl, dissolve yeast and honey in warm water and let stand until bubbly (about 5 minutes in a warm place will do). With fork, stir in salt and enough flour to make a sticky dough. Knead until smooth. Divide into equal portions to make small round pita pockets. Roll into balls and pat flat between your palms (using a little flour in your hands to prevent sticking). Press each pita top into sesame seeds if you wish. Place circles on greased cookie sheet (or on foil on cookie sheet) and set oven to BROIL. Place sheet in middle of oven under heated broiler. When top side is slightly browned (watch closely, it takes only a minute or two!), flip breads over and brown other side. Serve hot as you would ordinary pita.

These are great served with butter or stuffed with your favorite filling. They are really quick, so can be made while your dinner cooks. Makes about a dozen.

JOSEPH: I still have family who live in the area, and things are not good. Recently, my cousins' home was demolished by Israeli bombings. They have nothing left. The news talks about Palestinian rock throwers provoking Israeli soldiers, but what are rocks compared to bullets and bombs? Israeli soldiers occupy Palestinian land. Palestinians can't move freely, and constantly fear for their lives at the hands of these soldiers.

The state of Israel also has garnered the support of the U.S. government. Since 1967, the United States has given more than \$200 billion in military and financial aid to Israeli. This makes Israel the leading recipient of U.S. foreign aid, a lot of it in the form of weaponry used against the Palestinians.

NANCY: So you feel the Palestinians have a right to protest?

JOSEPH: Israel still controls most of Gaza and the West Bank; many people think the Palestinians do. Even if Palestinians have control of their towns within these areas, no Palestinian can leave their town without Israeli permission. These lands are occupied by the Israeli military, and the military controls the checkpoints between towns.

Israel has complete control over the movement of the Palestinian people as well as the entire water supply. Most of it is reserved for use by the Jewish settlers; the rest must be rationed for the Palestinians. So sometimes you see a swimming pool in one residence, and families with hardly any clean water in another home, all in the same town. One is an Israeli, the other a Palestinian.

The social action committee appreciates Joseph taking the time to discuss this issue. ●

WATCH Weekend Brings Growth, Renewal

"It was a great weekend, a wonderful experience. I feel renewed, made good friends, and I feel a greater sense of connection to the community."

"Thank you for helping me to further develop my relationship with Christ and others. I loved the weekend. Thank you all so much."

"Everyone in the parish could benefit from WATCH. It has something for everyone."

These were a few of the many positive comments made by the 15 attendees at St. Patrick's fourth WATCH weekend, February 23 to 25. Attendees were Linda and Timothy Bowers, Nick Koch, Ronald and Lilia Peters, Nancy Steerman,



Gail Hapke, Michael and Ginny Conron, Michael Ngong, Ellen Roney, Janet Althaus, Jean Ann Metz, Daryon McDaniel and Catherine Watson.

A team of 19 others prepared for the group's arrival through seven

weekly sessions beginning January 7. The WATCH 4 team was led by Tracey Johnson who chose the theme, "We are many parts, we are all one body." She was assisted by Sharyn DuPuy and Peter Tan.

The WATCH team presented eight talks designed to help those in attendance to focus on church, God and the relationship between God and people. The talks were powerful motivators, and by Sunday afternoon many pronounced the weekend a good start to spiritual renewal and an improved relationship with Jesus.

The atmosphere was relaxed throughout the weekend. On Saturday evening, members of St.

Patrick's CREW youth group provided special entertainment, which included a visit by the WATCH Kitchen "Pots and Pans" band. Good food was provided by volunteer parishioners, and warmth and love was shown to all the participants. One participant exclaimed, "I truly saw the 'Jesus with skin on' in the room."

On the final day of the weekend, WATCH participants enjoyed Father Kane's reflection on the Eucharist and then attended 10:30 Mass with the entire St. Patrick's community.



During the consecration, all 34 WATCH participants joined in a circle surrounding Father Kane to emphasize God and all people of his Creation: We Are The Church.

The ensuing weeks since the closing of WATCH 4 has allowed the participants to continue their spiritual renewal and development.

Some have made quiet changes in their daily lives, while others have chosen to volunteer for parish activities or to work to change social conditions around them in their workplace. At the very least, participants are anticipating WATCH 5, which will be held September 28-30. Could a WATCH weekend be in your future? ●



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of **In Focus** is May 13.

Evangelization Minute from Dorothy Maduzia

When I was a child, my brothers and sisters and I were expected to go to confession weekly. If any of us had trouble remembering our sins, a look from Mom usually was enough to refresh our memories.

Then came a time when I stopped going to confession. Quite honestly, the idea of facing a priest and my sins was beyond my courage. I began to wonder why the Vatican II Council had changed the physical setting of this sacrament. Were Catholics being told that, by coming to confession, they already had begun the process of reconciliation -- before even opening the door? And what did that mean for me?

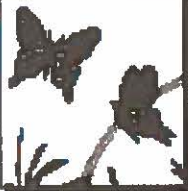
Eventually, I returned to this sacrament. I thought going to reconciliation would get easier. It did, once I realized that telling my sins is not embarrassing, it is humbling. As I take time every evening to reflect on my success and failures that day, I feel myself getting closer to God.

Trust me, most of my sins would not make interesting gossip. But they distance me from God. So before I

go to reconciliation, I take time to do an examination of conscience, using the commandments and beatitudes as my guide. As I do my penance, I begin to realize the repercussions of the sins I've committed.

I have experienced the presence of Christ in this sacrament many times. I have realized that my spiritual journey is not a straight road but rather a winding path. I have known times when I am called not to win but to quietly witness. I've discovered that when my spirit is truly broken through grief or pain, I am open to accepting the gifts of love and support from others.

I have been told there will be two surprises when we go to heaven: the people we see there and the people who see us there. When I leave the confessional for the brief moment from the chair to the door of the room, when my sins have been forgiven and I haven't committed any new ones, I see a glimpse of what heaven must be like and it makes me long to go there someday. God bless you. ●



St. Patrick's Church

May 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> </div> <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 May 6, 2001.</p>						
		7:30pm ADA	9:00am Mom's Group 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir	7:00pm Bldg & Grounds 7:00pm Choir National Day of Prayer 	10:45am Mass CCNH	
		1	2	3	4	5
12:00pm Teen Liturgy 1:00pm Religious Ed Picnic 6:30-8:00pm Jr/Sr High Picnic	7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm ProLife	7:00pm Mission Mtg 7:30pm Ex Council & Dev	9:00am Mom's Group 9:30am Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir	7:00pm Baptism Prep 7:00pm Choir	10:30am Mass Urbana Nursing Home 10:45am Mass CCNH	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>Happy Mother's Day!</i>	7:00pm Centennial 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Social Action	10:30am Mass Canterbury 7:00pm Liturgy	9:00am Mom's Group 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir	7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council	10:30am Mass Clark Lindsay 10:45am Mass CCNH 3:30pm High Level	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:15 Knights of Columbus 3:00pm Centennial Mass Centennial Dinner	9:30am Archives 7:00pm Centering Prayer	7:00pm Homily Prep	9:00am Mom's Group 9:30am Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir	7:00pm Choir	10:30am Mass Manor Care 10:45am Mass CCNH	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00am Mass High School Graduation	7:00pm Centering Prayer Memorial Day Offices Closed 		9:00am Mom's Group 5:00pm SVDP	7:00pm Comm	CCNH- Champaign County Nursing Home SVDP--St. Vincent DePaul Society	
27	28	29	30	31		