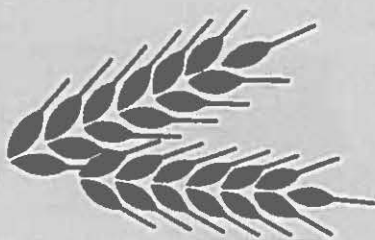


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



## Marching through Holy Week

Perhaps you've participated in the procession with palms at the Passion Sunday Mass. This is the first of several special processions that are part of the Church's liturgies for Holy Week.

On Holy Thursday, Mass ends with a procession in which the Blessed Sacrament is carried to the multipurpose room in the parish center for a period of adoration. On Good Friday, we participate in a procession to venerate the Cross. And the Easter Vigil service on Holy Saturday evening begins with a procession with the Pascal Candle, which was lit from the new fire.

These processions are not a "passion play" or a simple matter of getting from here to there. So why do we have them? Three reasons: First, we remember what Jesus did to give us the gift of salvation. Second, we give witness that we believe what is being

celebrated. And third, we become participants in Jesus' actions.

On Holy Thursday, we remember the gift of Jesus' presence, a gift he gave by becoming flesh, by giving us the Eucharist at the Last Supper, and



by his continued presence in the Blessed Sacrament. The procession also demonstrates that we are part of the Body of Christ, an expression of his presence for one another.

The Good Friday liturgy shows Jesus as consciously and intention-

ally accepting death, both in obedience to his Father and for the salvation of all. When we process in veneration of the Cross, we remember the Cross on which Jesus died to bring about our salvation, we give

witness to our belief in his saving work, and we accept his Cross in our lives.

As the Holy Saturday liturgy begins, we remember that Christ is our light, we give witness that we look to him for light, and we claim our task to share his light with others.

Participating in the liturgies of these days leading up to Easter is somewhat like making a retreat. The liturgies

help us to reconsider the fundamental elements of our faith so that, when we come to celebrate Jesus' resurrection, our joy springs from a renewed understanding of God's action in our lives.

### Go in peace, go make peace!

We should take literally the command at the end of Mass: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!"



Having gathered together as Church, having listened together to God's Word, and having shared in the Eucharist, we are sent out to go and give to others what we have received: fullness of life and love, justice and charity, mercy and peace.

Remember sharing the sign of peace? To introduce this significant ritual gesture, the presider says the first words that the risen Jesus says to his disciples on Easter evening: "I leave you peace, my peace I give you." In the gospel of John, Jesus completes his greeting of peace with these words: "As the Father has sent me, so

I send you" (John 20:21). At the end of Mass, we are sent forth by the presider or the deacon's admonition to "go in peace to love and serve the Lord." "Thanks be to God!" we exclaim, and part of that means "Yes, we will go, I will go, and love and serve the Lord by loving and serving the poor and those at war, the needy and the oppressed."

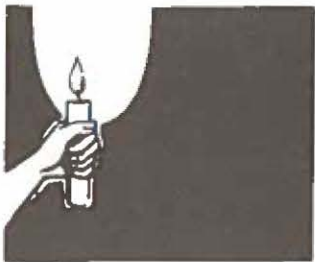
In one sense, this admonition and our promise is general. Having shared in this Eucharist, becoming what we have eaten and drunk, we live our whole lives in loving service

*continued on page 2*



## An evangelization minute

by Amy Jobin



I had the opportunity to spend two years living in a small town in the northwest

section of Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and a one-and-a-half-hour plane ride from Miami. Haiti is a mountainous tropical wonderland full of the most mind-boggling poverty one could imagine. Along with beautiful mountains, beaches, and palm trees, there is garbage in the streets and ravines, animals run everywhere (including the churches), people bathe and wash their laundry in rivers, small shacks are made of mud and leaves, and trees from now-barren mountains have been made into charcoal.

Most striking are the people, children without clothing, men and women walking barefoot for miles carrying huge loads and baskets on their heads. And yet, the most amazing thing is that these people are smiling, singing and thanking God that they are alive. ... I tried to explain to them how rich they are in their spirituality and their faith in God. I said this to them again and again, hoping that eventually they would understand how pleasing to God their faith and actions are. I have no doubt that God smiles on them when they paint psalms and Bible verses on their trucks and when they respond "I am fine by the grace of God," or "I slept well last night by the grace of God."

Fr. ChaCha is an especially outstanding example of a true servant of God. Not only does he serve his parish of several thousand parishioners, but he also serves about 15 smaller villages nearby that have small Catholic chapels or churches. He often walked out to these villages, 3 or 4 hours through the mountains, to visit the people in one of them, and then walked on for a few more hours to visit another. The people would

stop their weekday activities and chores to spend time decorating the church and preparing for weddings, baptisms, and confirmations, for Fr. ChaCha might not be back again for 3 months or more.

I will not forget the day I walked with one of the sisters I lived with to one of these villages and waited with the people for Fr. ChaCha to arrive and celebrate Mass. He had already visited two other villages and would be celebrating his third large Mass in just two days. People from the village were watching the trail he would be taking to get there, and when they saw him coming, two of the young men ran into the village to tell everyone "Father is coming, Father is coming, get ready for the Mass!" The women prepared a snack for him, people put on their "Sunday best," and the babies, brides and grooms, and confirmation candidates readied themselves. I thought, this must have been what it was like in Jesus' time when he traveled on foot to minister to people in different communities. The Mass typically lasted at least two hours. Father preached, celebrated the sacraments, counseled, and even visited the sick in their homes.

One of my favorite spiritual writers is Henri Nouwen, a Catholic priest, whose writings reflect his gift for getting to the heart of spiritual matters. I recently saw a videotape of him made before he died. He was talking about justice and about serving our brothers and sisters. He said that each one of us is bread, chosen by God. After we are chosen, we are blessed. After we are blessed, we are broken, each of us in our own way. And after we are broken, we are given.

Bread. Chosen. Blessed. Broken. Given. It is not by chance that each of you is sitting here in this church today. You are here because you have been chosen, you are the bread of life, the bread God wants to give. It is for you to accept the challenge of being blessed, broken, and given to those around you. There may be no more important challenge for us to embrace during our lifetime than to be given and to serve in the way that God intended for us. Whether it is by

comforting a friend in time of need, playing catch with the little boy next door who is being brought up by a single parent, or by serving those in poverty—whatever your unique and special calling, I urge you to answer it.

As is said in the Bible, "It is in giving that we truly receive." This may be the greatest truth yet that I have experienced in my short lifetime. When people tell me how wonderful it was of me to serve in Haiti, I tell them that really, the gift was mine. Give and the gift will be given to you.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Go in peace  
from page 1*

of God's justice, ready to be broken like bread and poured out like wine so that others may be nourished and live. Having completed our Eucharist (for the time being, until next Sunday), we must not merely think good thoughts, we must do something, we must act. In other words, we must put our bodies on the line, whether it's the soup kitchen serving line or the protest line, whether it's going to the front line or erasing the line in the sand.

In another sense, the admonition to go in peace to love and to serve, and our resulting promise, is specific: We cannot say "Okay, I'll get around to loving and serving in some way sometime this week." We should leave Mass with a certain sense of urgency: "What—exactly what—am I going to do now?" Then go in peace and do it!



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the May issue of *In Focus* is April 14.



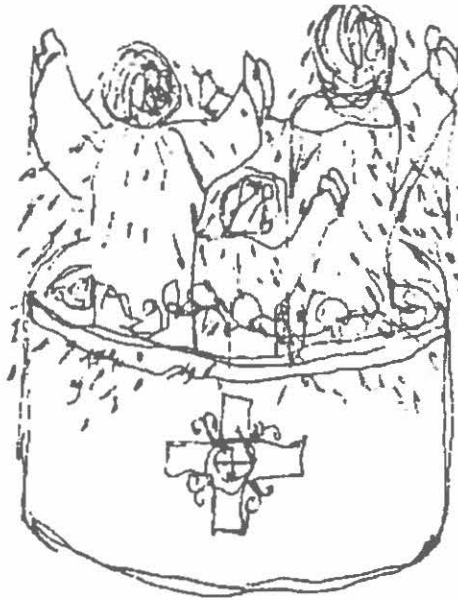
## A thousand welcomes! May you be blessed forever!

Most of the men and women we have called "catechumens" (or more recently "the elect") and have seen dismissed from our parish liturgies for several months began their faith journey at inquiry sessions last fall.

For some, it was the first step after months or even years of thoughtful consideration. For others, the questing, seeking, prayerful discernment continues, perhaps past Easter, for later fulfillment. But for all, the journey of faith to full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, whether at Easter or later, has been a time of intellectual, moral, and spiritual growth.

Welcome to one and all—a thousand welcomes! May God shower each and every one of you, and your families, with many graces and blessings. May you be blessed forever!

*We hope to introduce each of these men and women in the May issue of*



*In Focus to help us get to know these new Catholics ("neophytes," another name to learn!) and to help them feel at home in our faith community.*

## WATCH "Fan the Flames" planned for April 14

Several times a year between WATCH weekend retreats the WATCH community gathers for an event known as "Fan the Flames," designed to foster a stronger community and spiritual growth through prayer, meditation, inspiration, and fellowship. The program seeks to be a follow-up to the "mountaintop" experience that results from the retreat itself, and suggests ideas for ways participants can share in the life of St. Patrick's Parish.

This program is used in many of the WATCH parishes throughout Illinois as a way of uniting participants of all the WATCH retreats. It provides an opportunity for strengthening relationships within the WATCH community and for keeping the fire burning

bright.

Each "Fan the Flames" event features the sharing by participants of faith experiences relating to personal/communal spiritual growth, relationships with the parish community, and global awareness.

"Fan the Flames" events are planned for Sunday, Apr. 14, and Sunday, Jun. 9, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the parish

center. The events are open to all WATCH participants and to those who are interested in finding out more about WATCH.

The fall WATCH retreat weekend will be held Oct. 25-27. Parishioners are invited to come to the "Fan the Flames" events this spring and summer to see what WATCH is like and to make plans to participate in the October retreat.



### Prayer for vocations

Spirit of eternal Love,  
who proceeds from the Father  
and the Son,  
we thank you for all the voca-  
tions  
of apostles and saints who  
have enriched the Church.  
Open the hearts and minds of  
young men and women  
so that a new flowering of holy  
vocations  
may show forth the fidelity of  
your love,  
and all may know Christ,  
the true light come into the  
world  
to offer to every human being  
the sure hope of eternal life.  
Amen.

## Anything could happen at a well

The title of the Lenten retreat that Sr. Eleanor Hoffman was planning to give for the parish on Saturday, Mar. 2, was prophetic in a way . . . anything could happen—and something did. Sr. Eleanor was hit by a bad case of the flu, so she telephoned on Friday, the day before she was expected here, to say that she couldn't come. Members of our parish staff sprang into action to plan the retreat day on the same theme so that all who had planned to come could have an enriching day. Special thanks go to Sr. Charlene, Carolyn McElrath, Lenore Nagele, and Mary Long for providing a day of valuable input and reflection!





## Ask and you shall receive!

The Good Samaritans program at St. Patrick's has heard from 30 parishioners willing to serve fellow parishioners in time of need. Orga-



nizers are pleased with the response—and hope for at least 20 more!

The program is a new care and concern ministry intended to aid parishioners experiencing a crisis who would benefit from some time-limited support. Good Samaritans will attempt to relieve family burdens during difficult and trying times by performing small acts of kindness, the nature of which would be dictated by the nature of the crisis.

Good Samaritans have already responded to the needs of a parishioner who is currently undergoing treatment for cancer, and it is expected that there are many others in St. Patrick's parish who would benefit from being embraced by the love of these volunteers during a time of crisis.

Volunteers are asked to give, periodically, an hour a week for up to three months to the individual or family in crisis. They would be asked to do only what they have volun-



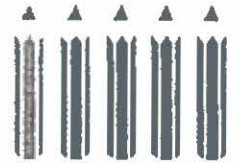
teered to do, such as to provide transportation to a doctor or hospital, to prepare a hot meal, to run errands to the grocery store or library, to babysit, to do simple home maintenance, to rake leaves.... A volunteer would be called upon no more than twice a year.

If you'd like to participate in this greatly needed ministry, please fill out a Volunteer Fact Sheet (in the lobby of the parish center) and leave it in the Social Action mail box. The program organizers would especially like to hear from base communities, Bible study groups, WATCH participants, parishioners who reside in St. Joseph—people who may want to volunteer as a group.

Join this special effort to love and serve one another as we would love and serve the Lord!

## Holy Cross newsline

Jerry Sanders, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Peoria, made his



annual visit to Holy Cross School in March. He was "very impressed" as he visited 12 classrooms in session and toured the entire school. He was also "very positive" about the technology in use for the students.

Individual homeroom Lenten projects have included, among others, donation of milk and fresh fruit to the Catholic Worker House; a used book sale to raise money; and money raised from good deeds to go to the Humane Society. Msgr. Hallin celebrated Mass every Friday morning, and there were many opportunities for the children to participate in the Stations of the Cross. Reconciliation for students in grades 2-8 was offered the week of Mar. 11.

Registration for the school year 2002-2003 is in process (kindergarten classes are filled).

There was no school on Mar. 22, Diocesan Institute Day, and there will be no school on Apr. 10, the day of Bishop Jenky's installation.

Students are sending a spiritual bouquet to Bishop Jenky, and Mrs. Costello is sending him a brief history of Holy Cross School to help him become acquainted with the school.

## ADA 2002: People Helping People

The theme for this year's Annual Diocesan Appeal, "People Helping People," was revealed at opening day ceremonies in Peoria on Mar. 9. People from the entire diocese came to the kickoff event; our parish was represented by Fr. Remm, accompanied by Bob Haessly (Financial Affairs Committee) and Jean Daly (co-chair of St. Patrick's 2002 ADA campaign).

Each year a witness talk is given by someone attesting to the help received through one of the many diocesan programs funded through the Annual Diocesan Appeal, at the dioc-

esan or parish level. The theme for this year, "People Helping People," was depicted in a variety of ways, each sending the message that giving is a clear response to need. Certainly there are many needy among us in the Diocese of Peoria, with many diocesan programs designed specifically to meet those needs—whether in Peoria, here in Urbana, or elsewhere among the 198 parishes and missions that make up the local Church.

Our parish has been asked to contribute \$92,841 in this year's drive to help fund those programs. The Par-

ish Council has set the parish goal somewhat higher, at \$105,000: donations received by the ADA in excess of the requested \$92,841 will be rebated to St. Patrick's and added to the parish's Centennial Fund. This fund will be used to defray expenses for refurbishing the church building this summer and fall, the refurbishing itself a celebration of our parish's Centennial as well as a preparation for the re-dedication Mass that will close our years of celebration on May 24, 2003.

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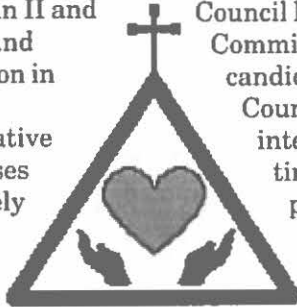


## Parish Council election set for April 13-14

Did you know that St. Patrick's Parish Council was one of the first parish councils in the Diocese of Peoria? It was established in response to the call of Vatican II and Synod VI for more active and responsible lay participation in the Church.

The Council is a consultative body that assists and advises the pastor, who is ultimately responsible for the spiritual and temporal affairs of the parish. It shares with him the responsibility of developing the mission of Christ on earth in our parish community.

Aiding the Council in its work are the Building and Grounds, Communications, Education, Financial Affairs, Liturgy, Personnel, Social, Social Action, and Vocation committees. Each in its own way helps to create an environment in which mutual understanding and love can flourish in our parish.



Members of the Council include the pastor, the two parish trustees, and 10 parishioners elected to staggered 3-year terms. This year Tim Brenner, Alice McLaughlin, and Carol Schrepfer will retire from the Council. To fill the vacated positions the Council has appointed an Election Committee to recruit a slate of candidates for election to the Council, parishioners who are interested in sharing their time and talents with the parish on an extended basis.

All candidates must be willing to serve a 3-year term, a commitment that not only entails attending a monthly meeting but also requires preparation by studying various reports. Each Council member also serves as a liaison to one of the standing committees, and since most of these meet on a monthly basis, Council members regularly attend at least two monthly meetings.

Fr. Remm has frequently expressed his appreciation for the assistance the

Council has provided him through its research and thoughtful discussion of sometimes difficult issues. One need only recall recent discussions and parish meetings held to consider the future of St. Patrick's church—whether to relocate and build a new church, to expand the church building on its present site, or to hold to the status quo for now, making needed repairs and refurbishing in recognition and celebration of the parish's centennial.

An informational brochure about the candidates will be included in the Sunday bulletin Apr. 6-7 to help you in your prayerful consideration of their experience and qualifications. Ballots will be distributed for the election process at all Masses the weekend of Apr. 13-14. Any member of the parish 16 years of age or older may vote.

## Exploring dimensions of the Exodus

Parishioners are invited to attend the oratorio concert of G. F. Handel's "Israel in Egypt" at 7 p.m. Sunday, Mar. 31, at Lincoln Square Mall. Tickets are \$10 (\$9 for seniors, \$5 for students) and can be purchased at the door.

The concert is the culmination of a seven-week festival called the Exodus Project, an interfaith initiative launched by the Baroque Artists of C-U in the wake of the Sept. 11 tragedy. The festival has drawn together members of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds to share perspectives on slavery and freedom through radio programs, musical events, and art exhibitions.

Handel's "Israel in Egypt" tells the story of the slavery imposed by Pharaoh on the Children of Israel, the plagues sent to punish the Egyptians, and the Israelites' deliverance under Moses through the divided waters of the Red Sea.

St. Patrick's is one of many community partners of different faiths participating in the event. For more information or to purchase tickets in advance, contact the Baroque Artists (378-6802).



## in our parish library

Christ is risen! Alleluia! How do we maintain our Easter joy? Fr. Paul Feider recommends we do what the early Christians did, keep alive the presence of Jesus through the sacraments. His book *The Sacraments: Encountering the Risen Lord* (265 FEI) examines Jesus' actions and teachings that lead us to the Father. Feider writes: "I continue to marvel at the power of Christ's sacraments. I hope this journey into scripture and history will help all of us as growing Christians to take future steps toward discovering the true essence of all sacraments—Jesus Christ."

In encountering Christ in the Eucharist, we can always find Easter joy. As Robert Fabing states in *Real Food: A Spirituality of the Eucharist* (265 FAB), "Here is where we can come to be refreshed and filled with the very richness we have always wanted. Here we can come and see the people

of God formed by the love of Christ. ... We can feel Christ's changing action and love. This is where we are fed in a way that gives meaning and fulfillment to our lives." In this book he discusses the meaning of meals and what a meal meant in Jesus' time. He takes us through various meals written about in the New Testament, from the wedding at Cana to the Last Supper. Each brief chapter concludes with discussion questions that can be used for personal reflection. This book will increase appreciation for and understanding of Eucharist.

*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.*



## It happened here!

### Twenty years ago in *In Focus*: January 1982

Fr. Bill Thompson, S.J., of Loyola University (Chicago) brought his scriptural background and experience as an international lecturer to St. Patrick's to illuminate the issue of "Holy Orders in a Time of Transition." His presentation was the first in a series of lectures on the sacraments sponsored by the Area Coordinators of Religious Education. Father defined the issue with the following question: "Will the institutional Church watch the Eucharist in its fullness become less and less available to her faithful throughout the world so as to preserve the ordained priesthood for celibate males?" He noted that only 11 priests were to be ordained in the Archdiocese of Chicago that year, and quoted [then-Diocesan Chancellor] Fr. John Myers, who said that in 1970 there were 372 active priests; in 1982, only 297.

### Twenty years ago in *In Focus*: February 1982

The Parish Council okayed publication of 4 issues of the parish newspaper, which had appeared on a pilot basis the previous fall. The then-unnamed paper was to appear as an 8-page issue in late August and mid-February, followed by two 4-page issues. Parishioners' suggestions for



name and logo were invited, and the first issue bore the winning name, *St. Patrick's Parish in Focus*. Those who had helped with the pilot project were asked to serve as members of the re-constituted group, which was called the Publicity Committee. The committee elected Frank Nasca as its chair; members were Helen Barrymore, Ruth Bowman, Jeff Hately, Carolyn McElrath, Mary Lou Menches, Ellen Paul, Judi Rafaloski, Karen Suever, and Amy Vollmer.

### Fifteen years ago in *In Focus*: March 1987

A false fire alarm set off in the parish center focused attention on the need for emergency preparedness planning at St. Patrick's and led to the formation of a disaster-preparedness program, which included (1) training for ushers and teachers in what to do when an emergency arises; (2) drills; (3) signs posted in classrooms to help parishioners know what to do in an emergency; and (4) recruitment of parishioners in the coffee shop to assist in evacua-

tion of children in the nursery.

### Ten years ago in *In Focus*: April 1992

The revised Parish Mission Statement was adopted by the Parish Council. Its most notable features were the addition of two paragraphs acknowledging that "our mission ultimately takes us beyond ourselves, beyond this time and place" and our reliance "on God's grace for the establishment of the Kingdom."

### Five years ago in *In Focus*: May 1997

The ad hoc Kitchen Renovation Committee presented Council members with a proposal that included a revised floor plan for the kitchen and a cost estimate for equipment and labor totaling about \$80,000. The proposal included redesigning the storage area for tables and chairs for use as a cleanup area, with a dishwasher and garbage disposal; replacing wooden cabinets with stainless steel cabinets; and acquiring a larger refrigerator and freezer.

## Holy Cross Parish celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday

Jesus promised "complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" to those who turn to him in trust and receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter. On this day "an ocean of grace" is poured out upon all, flowing from the Paschal Mystery of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection.

The devotion to Jesus as "The Divine Mercy" is based on the writings of St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who, in the 1930s, received from the Lord a message of mercy that she was to spread throughout the world. She kept a

diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. She was canonized on Divine Mercy Sunday, Apr. 30, 2000.

Holy Cross Parish will celebrate the Feast of The Divine Mercy with a prayer service on Sunday, Apr. 7, at 3 p.m., followed by a reception in the parish center. The preparation for this feast is a novena of the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy, beginning on Good Friday. The novena can be obtained from the pamphlet rack in the back of Holy Cross Church.

### ADA 2000 from page 4

St. Patrick's will participate in the ADA by taking up pledges and donations at all Masses on the last weekend of April, Apr. 24-25. We can be secure in the knowledge that our joyful and generous sharing of God's gifts will be applied to alleviating very real needs both here in C-U and around the diocese.



## From our sister parish

Happy New Year and sincere greetings from Beit-Jala Community. We have gratefully got your last donation (1000 USD), and as soon as we received your letter our pastor phoned your parish office, where a lady assured him that she would communicate our message to Fr. Remm.

Your letter, dated November 2001, arrived at the end of December. The Israeli military forces, for security reasons, prevented the mail from arriving for the Bethlehem area—that was the cause of the delay in the Post Office. Anyhow, thanks be to God that everything arrived, as I phoned to you.

Enclosed is a picture showing a family we have transferred from a house near Gilo, where they were in danger during the shelling. This family is now safely established far from the danger. Your generous donation contributed, thanks to the efforts of the ladies, members of St. Vincent Society, to realize this humble project.



On behalf of all the beneficiaries of our parish in Beit-Jala, and especially from the family in the enclosed picture, as well as all the kids of the parish, be assured that we pray for all our friends and benefactors in St. Patrick's Church.

With our fraternal regards for a happy and peaceful New Year, God bless and protect Urbana, Illinois, as well as all America.

St. Vincent Society, Beit-Jala  
Rev. Jakob Abdel-Nour  
January 6, 2002

## Pray for our Sister Church in Beit-Jala

In a release from ZENIT News Agency dated Mar. 11, Bethlehem is said to be desperately awaiting a return to calm after the most violent week since the intifada began. American Christian Brother Vincent Malham, president of Bethlehem's Christian University, begged the international community to "help pressure Israel to withdraw its soldiers from the Palestinian Territories and to resume peace talks."

According to Brother Vincent, "Bethlehem is a terrifying place. Schools, the university, shops, and institutions are closed. The streets are empty. The people are concerned about medicines, food, access to hospitals and care." He added, "We are trapped behind the checkpoints. Until yesterday, Israeli tanks patrolled the town. I don't know whether they are still there today. I know there are forty tanks around nearby Beit-Jala, which is under curfew."

Pray for the people of Beit-Jala, pray for our Sister Church in Beit-Jala. Pray for peace in the land where Jesus walked and taught and healed.

## Bible study groups celebrate traditional Seder meal

Eating bitter herbs and matzos, over 80 parishioners and their friends and families participated in a traditional Seder meal on Mar. 9. The Seder, the traditional Jewish celebration of the Passover meal, was hosted by the community Bible study leadership and served as the culmination of the fall and spring Bible study of the Book of Exodus.

Mary Long, coordinator of evangelization and part of the team leadership for the community Bible study, said she was very pleased with the turnout for the Seder. "Since [the Bible study groups] were studying the Book of Exodus and learning all about the Passover, we thought this would be a wonderful way to bring it

to life," she said. "It is great to go back to learn the origins of our traditions."

The Seder meal was led by Mary Long as well as by leaders at each table, who carried out many of the ceremonial actions, such as the breaking of the matzos and the washing of the hands. Both adults and children participated, reciting prayers and answering questions about the Passover celebration. In between readings and prayers, Chris Angel, music director at St. Patrick's, led participants in song. "It was a real group effort," Mary Long said.

While a traditional Seder would include eating the Passover supper, the parish celebration concluded with a potluck instead.

Matt Kuenning, a co-leader of one of the adult Bible study groups, said he enjoyed the Seder meal. "I liked the pouring and drinking of the grape juice and all of the readings," he said. "I was also very happy with the potluck, since there were so many deli-

*continued on page 9*



## Only in Catalonia St. George more popular than St. Valentine

Most of the paintings of St. George portray him in armor and seated on a horse, a flag on his shoulder and a slain dragon at his feet. One of the



legends surrounding St. George features a pagan town in Libya being terrorized by a dragon. The locals threw sheep to it to placate it, but when it still remained unsatisfied, they started sacrificing some of the citizenry. At last the local princess was to be sacrificed to the beast—but good St. George came along, slew the dragon, and rescued the fair princess. At this the townsfolk converted to Christianity.

We do know that George was born in Cappadocia of noble Christian parents. He held the post of colonel in the Roman army, during the reign of Emperor Diocletian (245-313), who was a persecutor of the Christians. Because he would not recant his faith, George was beheaded. The emperor's wife, Alexandria, was so impressed at the saint's courage that she became a Christian and was also put to death.

Many countries, cities, and groups claim St. George as their patron saint: Byzantine Christians, the English Crusades, Syria, Venice, Moscow, Lebanon, and, at one time,

Portugal.

According to Lisa Inskipp-Hawkins, "St. George is also the patron saint of Catalonia, and his festivity is much celebrated here. In fact, the Catalonian people add their own tradition to this popular celebration. The legend here is that when St. George killed the dragon, he gave the maiden a red rose. ... As a result, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, especially in Barcelona, it is traditional for a man to give his girlfriend, fiancée, or wife a red rose, and the lady in question corresponds by giving her boyfriend a book. You could say that here St. George is more popular than St. Valentine!"

## Coleen Mast to speak at St. Thomas More

Sponsored by Holy Cross Parish, Coleen Mast will speak on "Raising Your Child for Success in Love and Life" at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Apr. 27, at the High School of St. Thomas More. She will offer a practical guide for parents on how to speak to their children about chastity and how to build healthy relationships with them.

With the realization that today's culture gives the message that chastity, modesty, and purity are outdated modes of thinking for the "uncool," she will address such questions as "What can I do to prepare my young children now for healthy teen chastity later?" "How do I respond to 'everyone is doing it'?" "How do I know when my teen is ready to date?"

Coleen Mast assisted the U.S. Bishops Committee charged with writing sex education guidelines, has appeared on *Oprah* and *Geraldo*, was interviewed by *60 Minutes*, and testified before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Health and Human Services.

If you would like to learn more about a positive approach to chastity education and gain confidence in speaking to your children about these issues, contact Jane Walsh (352-6673; walshm163@aol.com) to reserve your seat for this free event.

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. Bylines are generally omitted.

*Editorial board:* Mary Lee Brady, 344-3752 ([bradymarylbrady@aol.com](mailto:bradymarylbrady@aol.com)); Artha Chamberlain, 344-6645; Rosemary Garhart, 398-6510 ([rgarhart@mac.com](mailto:rgarhart@mac.com)); Norma Kerns 328-6681; Bridget McCauley ([brmccauley@hotmail.com](mailto:brmccauley@hotmail.com)) Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701 ([mmenches@uiuc.edu](mailto:mmenches@uiuc.edu)); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 ([csalika@uiuc.edu](mailto:csalika@uiuc.edu)); Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

*Associates:* Carol Bosley, John Colombo, Mary Rose Cottingham, Mary Fonner, Lori and Tom McDonough, Marty Perry, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika.

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Jan Bellington, Carol Bosley, Mary Lee Brady, Artha Chamberlain, Judy Conover, Mary Rose Cottingham, Jean Daly, Frances Drone-Silvers, Amy Jobin, Connie Knake, Mary Long, Bridget McCauley, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Fr. George Remm, Cathy Salika. This issue was paged by John Colombo.

## Calling all EMs, lectors!

In the summertime many parishioners, especially students and faculty from the U of I, enjoy extended "time off" from the university—and from St. Patrick's. If you have been inactive although commissioned as a eucharistic minister or have served as lector at Sunday Mass and are willing to substitute for a vacationing minister or be assigned to these ministries during the summer months, please call Ellen Amberg (367-0928). It's not too early to let her know!



## Introducing St. Thomas More's Athletic Booster Club

From sports banquets to recruitment/fundraisers, the St. Thomas More Athletic Booster Club has been hard at work, beginning with a barbecue supper for athletes and their parents in the fall. The event included a bonfire, a "car smash," a pie throwing contest, and team recognition. During the basketball season the Booster Club provided a 50/50 raffle and a Hot Shot Contest during halftime—participants have won cash, a television set, and a CD player.

The Booster Club worked countless hours developing the football, baseball, and softball fields, and at the end of each athletic season celebrated the accomplishments of team and

coaches at a dinner or potluck. In February, the Booster Club sponsored a spaghetti dinner for STM parents and others interested in sending their children to St. Thomas More. Chef Ray Timpone and his wife, Ginger, provided and prepared the food for the evening, and student athletes served the meal. A live band provided music for the evening.

Since August 2002 the Booster Club has published *The Saber*, a newsletter to highlight athletes' accomplishments and Booster Club activities. And like any other group enthusiastically pursuing its goals, Booster Club members hope to attract other like-minded folks who share their vision for support of a Catholic education

for teens. If interested in joining the group or simply in search of more information, please contact Kathy May (MamaKHome@aol.com; 355-2386).

### *Bible Study Group* from page 7

cious dishes. My only regret is that I gave up desserts for Lent, so I couldn't have any of the brownies!"

The Seder was a way to expose participants to Jewish traditions, according to Linda Donovan, a participant in an adult Bible study group. "I think a lot of people don't know about the Jewish traditions, and events like this are helpful in educating us about them," she said.

Will there be another one next year? Stay tuned to find out!

## *Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .*

### *Connie Knake*

#### **Easter Story Cookies**

*(to be made the evening before Easter)*

1 c pecan halves	zipper baggie
1 t vinegar	wooden mixing spoon
3 egg whites	Bible
pinch of salt	tape
1 c sugar	

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees.
2. Place pecans in zipper Baggie and let children strike them with the wooden spoon to break them into small pieces. *Explain that after Jesus was arrested, he was beaten by the Roman soldiers.*
3. Put the vinegar into a mixing bowl. *Let each child smell the vinegar, and explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, he was given vinegar to drink.*
4. Add egg whites to the vinegar. *Explain that eggs represent life, and that Jesus gave his life to give us life.*
5. Add a pinch of salt to the bowl. *Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand and invite them to taste it. Explain that salt represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers and the bitterness of our own sins.*
6. Add the cup of sugar. *Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because he loves us. He wants us to know and belong to him.*
7. Beat the mixture with a mixer on high speed for 12-15 minutes, until stiff peaks are formed. *Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been forgiven.*
8. Fold in the broken pecans, and drop the mixture by teaspoons onto a cookie sheet covered with waxed paper. *Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid.*
9. Put the cookie sheet into the oven, close the oven door, and turn off the oven.
10. Give each child a piece of tape to "seal" the oven door. *Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed, that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight, just as Jesus' followers must have been sad to leave Jesus' body in the tomb.*
11. On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie, calling attention to the cracked surface of the cookies. *Children will be surprised to find the cookies hollow, just as Jesus' followers were amazed to find his tomb open and empty.*


Makes approximately 6 dozen cookies





# St. Patrick's Church, Urbana, IL

## April 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Finding God In Daily Work 7:00pm Education 7:00pm Pro-life 7:00pm Renovation Com	7:00pm Financial Affairs 6:45pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Homily Prep	9:00am Moms Grp 11:00am Men's Book Club 5:00 pm SVDP 5:15 Prayer for Peace 6:00pm Religious Ed, Parish Center 6:30pm RE, St Joe 7:00pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bldg & Grds 7:00pm Choir	10:45am Mass Champaign County Nursing Home	JrHi Social 6-7:00pm HS Confirmation Retreat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:00am RCIA 9:00&11:00am Children's RE 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6-8:30 HS Rel Ed 6:30pm JrHi	7:00pm Centennial Comm 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Finding God In Daily Work 7:00pm Social Action	8:00pm Parish Council Exec Com 6:45pm First Communion Class	9:00am Moms Grp 9:30am Schola 5:00 pm SVDP 5:15 Prayer for Peace 6:00pm Religious Ed, Parish Center 6:30pm RE, St Joe 2:00pm Installation of Bishop Jenky, Peoria	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Baptism Prep	10:30am Mass Care Center 10:45am Mass Champaign County Nursing Home	CREW Spaghetti Dinner 6-8 pm  Parish Council Elections
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00&11:00am Children's RE 10:15am Child Lit 6-8:30pm HS Rel Ed 6:30pm JrHi  All Masses- Parish Council Elections WATCH "Fan the Flames" 7:00pm Web Page Com	7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Finding God In Daily Work	10:30am Mass Canterbury Ridge 6:30pm Liturgy 6:45pm First Communion Class	9:00am Moms Grp 5:00pm SVDP 5:15 Prayer for Peace 6:00pm Religious Ed, Parish Center 6:30pm RE, St Joe 7:00pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council	10:30am Mass Clark Lindsey 10:45am Mass Champaign County Nursing Home	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:15 Knights of Columbus 6-8:30pm HS Rel Ed 6:30pm JrHi First Communion Mass 2:00pm	9:00am Archive 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Finding God In Daily Work	7:00pm Homily Prep	9:00am Moms Grp 9:30am Schola 5:00pm SVDP 5:15 Prayer for Peace 7:00pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Communications	10:30am Mass Manor Care 10:45am Mass Champaign County Nursing Home	ADA Weekend
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30-Noon Blood Pressure Screening 12:00pm Teen Liturgy CREW Social Activity ADA Weekend	7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Finding God In Daily Work		 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 14, 2002			
28	29	30	SVDP= St. Vincent De Paul RE= Religious Education			