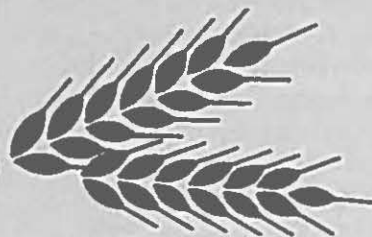


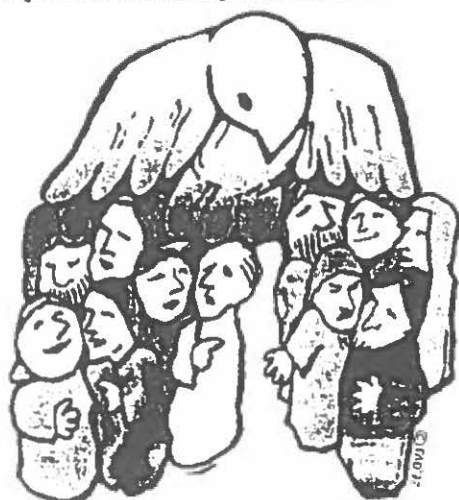
ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Free gifts for joining

We are the Church, but we were not always so well organized. There were probably some nail-biters among the Apostles that early Pentecost morn-



ing. "They were all in one place together," the Gospel says. Easter was seven weeks past, and Jesus was not with them. They had been jailed, persecuted. Mary was their only

comfort, but also their responsibility.

God sent what the Apostles needed that Sunday. The Holy Spirit came to them "in a noise like a strong driving wind." Their fears must have seemed blown away. Tongues of fire appeared, giving them the miracle of many languages to teach the world about Jesus.

We disciples, too, have each been invigorated by the Holy Spirit in the seven gifts we received at Baptism and Confirmation.

The gifts are actions of the Holy Spirit. They become habits, to perfect our practice of goodness. The seven gifts are:

Wisdom, which coordinates all the others.

Understanding, which helps us to choose values.

Knowledge of our faith.

Piety, which is likened to the instinctive turning of a child to its parent.

Fortitude, which strengthens the virtues of fortitude and courage.

Counsel, which helps us listen to the voice of God when we pray, and aids in seeking advice in life.

Fear of the Lord, which is not fearful, but respectful of the One who made us and loves us.

These are the same gifts promised in the Old Testament (Isaiah, 11, 1-3), manifest at the baptism of Jesus, given to the Apostles at Pentecost and now to us. It may seem like the seven gifts are just like virtues. But because the Holy Spirit is the cause of action in the seven gifts, they are not the same as the virtues we try to practice. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, the gifts make the virtuous person more at home with the things of God.

So we pray: *Veni Sancte Spiritus, Come Holy Spirit.*

Centennial lecture looks at Catholics in America

What does it mean to be both Catholic and American? Since colonial days, Catholics were forced to confront the perceived tension between Catholicism and American democracy.

Dr. Kathleen Sprows Cummings, associate director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame, will examine the Church's unique history in this country at St. Patrick's Centennial celebration lecture on Wednesday,

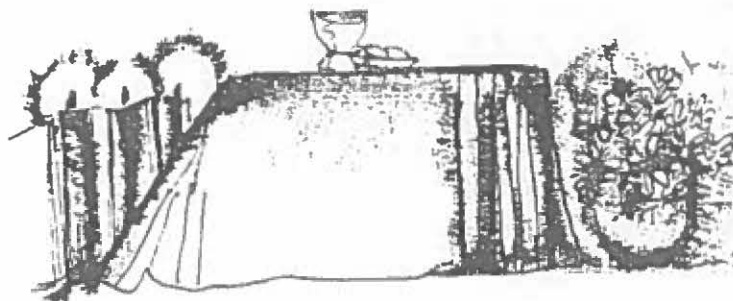
May 1, at 7:30 p.m.

When St. Patrick's was founded in 1901, Catholicism remained on the margins of a society that continued to equate "American" with "Protestant." One hundred years later, however, few question the compatibility

of Catholic faith and American citizenship. Beginning with the calls to unite "Church and age" in the early 1900s, Dr. Cummings will examine how Catholics sought to become more integrated into American life throughout the twentieth century. By

highlighting important changes both within and outside the Church during the last century, she will not only explore how the American experience shaped Catholic culture, but also question the impact Catholicism has had on U.S. society.

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Parishioners elect three to Parish Council

Coming down to the wire on finalizing a list of six candidates for election to fill three positions on the council, the ad hoc election committee breathed a sigh of relief when that sixth candidate was identified. Having done their job, it was up to the rest of the parish to vote for those they thought best qualified to serve on the Council. Approximately 450

ballots were cast on Sunday, April 14. Parishioners elected Connie Cimino, Don Keefer, and Wendy Wagner.

After the votes were tallied, the candidates were notified of the results, and all were thanked for their generous response to the invitation to consider this form of service. Those elected will be officially seated on the council at its May 16 meeting.

All expressed a strong desire to be of service to St. Patrick's parish family, with appreciation for the welcoming spirit of the parish, the mutual respect and encouragement of its members, and opportunities for spiritual growth. They deserve our prayerful support as they take up their new responsibilities.



Connie Cimino



Don Keefer



Wendy Wagner

Parish council news

The council approved a balanced budget of \$792,535 at its April meeting. It enables the parish to meet the requests of committees. The council will consider use of end-of-the-year funds at its May meeting.

The parish exceeded last year's diocesan goal for the Annual Diocesan Appeal by about \$12,000; that money has been deposited in the Centennial Fund. This year's appeal will be made April 27-28.

The Vincentian Parish Mission in Independence, MO, will conduct a mission for the parish from December 7 to 12. The mission will be a key event in the centennial celebration. Planning will begin next month.

The council agreed to spend up to \$9,500 to re-roof the Yauk house, as well as the parish's current rental property. Half of the roof on the rental property has been replaced. The buildings and grounds committee recommended re-roofing the other

half if the property is going to be used for staff offices.

Council will take a look at the parish's total space needs this year. One of the parish council goals is to assess the parish space and use of space and offer recommendations. A committee will be appointed to study this issue and make recommendations by September.

The council learned that the High School of St. Thomas More has filled the freshman class for next fall and thinks it will have a full 400 student population in the years ahead. Much credit can be given to the attitudes of the students themselves, a good selling point for prospective students.



Centennial Lecture from page 1

Dr. Cummings is also assistant professor in Notre Dame's department of history, where she teaches courses in American Catholic history, U.S. women's history and the American ethnic experience. She is the author of several articles on American Catholic women and is working on a book manuscript about gender, Catholicism and American life in the early 20th century.

The lecture will be held in the parish center.

New Catholics in our midst

Each October women and men come to St. Patrick's to inquire into our faith for various reasons. Four of our inquirers felt drawn to the Church by the faith and example of their Catholic friends.

Tanya Wahl relates, "I feel blessed to have many wonderful people in my life, many who are Catholic. I love the spirituality of the Church. The Catholic traditions, sacraments and Mass are very meaningful. I was



Tanya Wahl

also attracted by Mother Teresa's 'The Simple Path'; its message inspired me to take action for the ones I love! Throughout my life, I have been fortunate to have been strengthened and sustained by my faith, family and friends. I have lived in Indiana, Florida and Illinois but have found my church home in the Catholic faith." Tanya has been a teacher for 17 years and feels "lucky to do something I love to do!" She quotes Mother Teresa, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love."

Manda and Shad Crawford made a joint decision to become



Manda & Shad Crawford

Catholic. Shad says, "I joined the Church because I wanted to get involved. I also want to give a foundation for my family." Shad is eager to grow in the Church and to meet people at St. Patrick's. Manda inquired into St. Patrick's because of the faith the parish shows forth in the people who are involved in the church. "I really like Father Remm, and I feel comfortable here." Manda finds it very exciting to learn about the Church and about the Catholic faith. Manda is a pre-school director and owner while Shad owns and operates a Scott's lawn service company. Married for five years, they have two daughters, Madison, 3, and Mallory, 1, who "are the world" to them.

"Coming into the Catholic Church is for me an expression of my need for community, an affirmation of my



Trina Summers

faith and a growing relationship with God," shares **Trina Summers**, who moved to Champaign to live and work at St. Jude Catholic Worker House. Originally from Leavenworth, Kansas, Trina was raised in the Mormon Church. "My journey has led me to a Catholic community and community with the poor."

Two inquirers into our faith were baptized Catholics who felt the need for further instruction in their faith, and were confirmed at Easter. **Robin Singer** was baptized Catholic as a child. She and her husband Michael, completing his residency in veterinary medicine at the UI, moved here two years ago. Their daughter, Zoe, almost 2, was born here. "I



Robin Singer

came to Mass one day and it felt very friendly — I felt welcomed and decided to keep coming back." Robin is the associate director of the Executive MBA Program at the UI. Both Michael's and Robin's parents live in Connecticut.

"I was raised Catholic but have been away from the Church for a bit," says **Lee Nickoson-Massey**. "A



Lee Nickoson-Massey

friend told me about St. Patrick's — how much she enjoyed the parish — and I began attending Mass. I've found the sense of community and support at St. Patrick's — especially through the RCIA program — to be wonderful." Lee, married to Lance Massey, has been living in Savoy for four years and teaches English at the UI. She "feels fortunate to be participating in St. Patrick's RCIA program."

This year, three of our inquirers were spouses wishing to learn more about their partner's faith. "My first

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real exposure to the Catholic faith was when I began dating the man who is now my husband," shares **Nancy Roth**, who married Carl Roth



Nancy Roth

in 2000. They are expecting their first child this fall. Nancy was born, raised and attended college in Bloomington. She moved to Champaign in 1984 and has worked as a registered nurse for the last 18 years. Nancy saw how the strong Catholic faith of Carl's family "enriched their lives and gave them strength through difficult times. Carl and I did our marriage preparation through the Catholic Church, and this was a wonderful experience. I knew I wanted to learn more and grow closer to God, and this led me to the RCIA program. I am grateful to the RCIA program and its important role in my journey of faith."

"My husband (Ryan) has been a great inspiration for me with my faith. He introduced me to the Catholic faith," **Mandy Bednar** says. "I have been on a long journey, and I am looking forward to continuing that journey as a Catholic." Mandy, from south Georgia, married Ryan four years ago; they moved to Kentucky and then to Illinois. After Ryan finishes his MBA at the UI this summer, the Bednars hope to make their last move, to Michigan. Besides teaching kindergarten at Edison Elementary in Danville, Mandy enjoys reading, traveling and visiting



Mandy Bednar

with friends. "We have truly enjoyed our time at St. Patrick's."

"I grew up in a Baptist church and my husband (Doug) was raised Catholic," says **Maureen Elsbernd**. "We were married in the Catholic Church (St. John's, on campus). I attended Mass in various Catholic churches over the years with my husband and his parents. When I



Maureen Elsbernd

felt in recent years that God was calling me to find a church home, it seemed natural to inquire and learn more about the Catholic faith." Maureen, who grew up in Rock Island, came to Champaign to attend the UI and met Doug here. They have been married 17 years and have lived in Champaign, Danville and now in Ogden. They have a son, Nathan, 2 1/2.

Our inquirers followed a process of discernment to decide to become catechumens on the First Sunday of Advent. Catechists teach catechism, the doctrine of the Church, to catechumens, the learners. The process is guided by St. Patrick's RCIA coordinator, Lenore Nagele.

By the time Lent began, the catechumens had spent many months of Wednesday evening sessions learning about the history and teaching of the Catholic Church from the director of religious education, Carolyn McElrath. On the first Sunday of Lent, those learners who decided to join our faith at the Easter Vigil signed the Book of the Elect. They elected to become Catholic and our Church, through the bishop, elected them. Any baptized Catholics in the group became candidates for Confirmation.

Robin Singer summarized the group's feelings about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process: "I thought the RCIA program and people were very well organized and helpful. It made it a very pleasant experience." Maureen Elsbernd spoke for many others when she said, "I chose St. Patrick's because the atmosphere here is very sincere; real people worshipping God and striving to understand His word and His Will. I want to be a part of that."

This year's Easter Vigil was a truly joyous celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection. From the enthusiasm of the choir, its director and cantors, joined by the congregation, to Father Remm's inspiring service and homily, to the generous reception afterward, St. Patrick's offered a whole-hearted welcome to our neophytes. or new Catholics. You have seen their pictures and read their stories, now greet them and welcome them into our parish family!



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the June issue of *In Focus* is May 12.

Good Samaritans ready to serve you

St. Patrick's now has a new care and concern ministry to aid members of our parish in times of crisis. The Good Samaritans program has nearly 50 volunteers who are ready to serve their fellow parishioners. The program is designed to benefit those in our church community who are experiencing extraordinary hardship and loss. The Good Samaritans hope to alleviate the stress of practical day-to-day demands during the crisis.

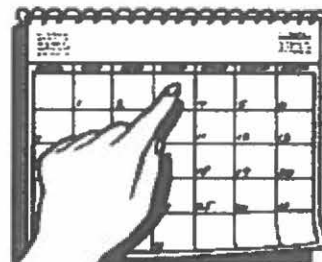
To someone in crisis, seemingly small things can make the worst situations bearable. The hardships we hope to ameliorate will vary, but may include car accidents, chemotherapy, broken limbs, house fires or floods, prescribed bed rest for pregnant mothers, sudden hospitalization of a family member,



violent trauma and the like. The care provided may include meals, child care, shopping or running errands, transportation, minor home maintenance and repair, friendly visits, respite care, prayer and more.

In stressful times, it is often hard to ask for help. Still, the Good Samaritans hope parishioners won't hesitate to call for assistance knowing that there are many who are lovingly waiting to do what they can. You need only complete a service request form, available in the parish office. Depending on need, the Good Samaritans can be ready to help in a matter of days. So please let the Good Samaritans love you as Christ loves each of us.

Make a date!



May 1, Wednesday Centennial lecture on the history of the Catholic Church in America by Dr. Kathleen S. Cummings, associate director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, 7:30 p.m., main hall of parish center.

Deadline for applications for Fr. Martell Scholarships; applications in parish office.

May 2, Thursday National Day of Prayer. Pick up a 15-minute time slot in the parish lobby the week before.

May 5, Sunday Conferral of honorary life status for seven members of the Urbana Knights of Columbus at the 9 a.m. Mass.

May 15, Wednesday A prayer service in memory of those who died during Summer and Fall 2001, 7 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Sr. Charlene Cesario, pastoral associate, will facilitate.



in our parish library

Mary. That simple name can conjure up many images – Mary at Bethlehem, at the Wedding at Cana, at the Cross. There is very little in the Gospels about Mary, but she is a model of Christian life. These books may help you to get to know her better. They have been pulled from their regular shelf location and are on top of the bookshelves, to your left as you walk into the library.

Jesus & Mary: Finding our Sacred Center, by Henri Nouwen (232.93 NOU). This brief book has two parts: a homily on Mary and Nouwen's journal of his pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1990. He calls Mary a "gentle guide" who leads him to an ever deeper union with Jesus.

Mary Today: Challenging Woman, Model for Maturing Christians, by M. Basil Pennington (232.93 PEN). Father Pennington uses Scripture, Vatican II documents, information from recent apparitions and "private"

revelations, and the works of theologians to help us see Mary's role in our lives today. This would be an excellent read if you are just beginning to discover a devotion to Mary.

Mary in the New Testament, edited by Raymond E. Brown, et al. 232.93 BRO This book was prepared by a team of Anglican, Protestant and Roman Catholic scholars who have researched how Mary was viewed by early Christians. It takes a little more effort to read than the two books previously listed (lots of footnotes!), but gives a more in-depth understanding of Mary and the early Church.

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.

K of C bestows honorary memberships

Members of Urbana Knights of Columbus Council 05752 will receive honorary life memberships at a brief ceremony, Sunday, May 5. In addition, various members will be recognized for honorary membership and length of service. Honorary life membership indicates a member who is 70 or older and who has been a member of the Order for 25 consecutive years. An honorary membership is bestowed on those who are 65 and have been a member of the Order for 25 consecutive years.

Those to be recognized with honorary life membership are Ellery Knake, 36 years of membership, Wallace La Berge, 44 years, Raymond Alane, 25 years, Tom McDonough, 44 years, Alois Zwettler, 36 years, Leonard Doyle, 60 years, and Albert

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It happened here!

15 Years Ago, May 1987

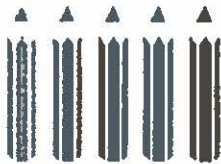
Another project undertaken by the Building and Grounds Committee was erection of a brick sign, to be placed between the church and the parish center. The cost of materials was estimated at \$3,000 which the Knights of Columbus donated.

10 Years Ago, May 1992

The results of the Parish Needs Assessment Survey were reported in "In Focus." The survey was sent to 1/5 of parishioners. Most people said they attended St. Patrick's because of where they live, although many also attributed their attendance to parish clergy and staff, the warmth of the parish community, the involvement of lay people, and the parish's religious education program. The results of many more specific questions guided the Parish Council for months afterward.

Holy Cross newslines

Confirmation at Holy Cross School was held Saturday, April 13.



A musical variety show, "The Nifty Fifties," was held the April 20 weekend and featured sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders. Several parishioners of St. Patrick's performed, including Mica Cottingham, Rachel Faught, Rosemary Keane, Christian Kurtz and Anna Mayer.

The eighth-grade field trip to Washington, D.C., took place during the week of April 22.

The annual Mass and banquet for athletes will be held at Holy Cross on Sunday, April 28. Mass will be at 2 p.m. followed by the banquet.

Teacher Appreciation Week will be held during the week of April 29. There will be a luncheon for the teachers and individual tokens of appreciation in the homerooms. Parents will assume some of the teachers' responsibilities, like playground duty

and lounge cleanup, during this special week.

Registration for kindergarten through eighth grade will be firmed up by the end of April for next year's classes.

Activists urge closure of school

Franciscan Srs. Gwen and Dorothy Hennessey recently shared their prison experiences at a gathering at St. Mary's Church. The nuns, who are also sisters by birth, were jailed for participating in a protest at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. This school was renamed the U.S. Army School of Americas in January 2001 after a proposal to close it was defeated by 10 votes in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The school continues to engage in its original purpose of training Latin American soldiers in combat, counterinsurgency and counternarcotics, according to the Hennessey sisters. Although this sounds like a noble effort, the sisters said that those trained are often the leaders of the violence, assassinations and terrorism in Latin American countries — today, Colombia and Venezuela; previously, El Salvador and Guatemala. The training continues and the bloodshed continues.

The Hennessey sisters urged as many as possible to let our legislators know that we do not support the existence of the school; it is contrary to the words of our national leaders who are trying to counteract terrorism. On the one hand, the sisters said, the United States is spending billions to fight terrorism in the Middle East, on the other, it supports training terrorists for South America.

A bill that would close the school may once again be brought before Congress. Sen. Dick Durbin supports it. If you, too, support the bill, write your legislators now. For more information, see <http://www.soaw.org>.

*K of C
from page 5*

Lamprecht, 29 years. Mr. Doyle will also receive the Order's 50-year recognition pin.

Council members who will attain honorary membership include former deacon for St. Patrick's, Rodger Adams, 45 years, John Smith, 28 years, Anthony Sheehan, 45 years, and Charles Gatsche, 35 years. Other members recognized for length of service will be Dennis Miller, 35 years; the Rev. George Remm, John C. Palmisano and Christopher Stohr for 25 years, and Richard Ahlstedt, Terry Bosley, Thomas Delanty, Eugene Osmond Jr. and David Palmisano for 20 years of consecutive service.

The Urbana Knights previously awarded honorary life membership to James Bradbury, 36 years, Edward Broghamer, 36 years, Ernest Burgstrom, 36 years, Laverne Kroes, 43 years, Frederick Mueller, 54 years, and Joseph Tobias, 46 years. Fr. Remm was designated honorary life member upon entering the Order. The late Robert Theobald also was an honorary life member with 63 years of consecutive membership.

Council 05752 was chartered in 1965 and has a roster of 100 members, including 20 new members recruited during the last three years. The council's activities include the Lenten Fish Fry, the proceeds of which support the Fr. Martell Scholarship program, participation in the Habitat for Humanity program, support for Little League baseball and for the CREW teen group, and participation in the fall Tootsie Roll drive, which provides support for the Very Special Arts Festival of Urbana. In addition the council puts on Ladies Knight Out, Knights Out at the Virginia Theatre and golf and baseball outings.

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to Catholic men 18 and older. Any St. Patrick's men interested in joining should contact Grand Knight Joseph Youakim, Arden Howey, or Andrew Howey for further information. Members meet the third Sunday of each month at 10:15 a.m. in the parish center.

Teens in service to St. Patrick's

On the Saturday before Passion (Palm) Sunday, when many of us were planning what we needed to pick up at the supermarket for Easter dinner or getting spring finery out of storage to freshen up for Easter Sunday or cleaning the house for expected company, more than 24 teens from the St. Patrick's youth group answered the call to spruce up the parish grounds and clean the church in readiness for the great feast of Easter. Many were accompanied by teachers or parents, all pitching in to wash windows and doors, dust and polish, vacuum and rake and sweep. The action started at 9 a.m. and all was done (and the doers done in?) by noon. The rest of us thrilled to Holy Week services in a setting prepared with great generosity by our teens. Hats off to you all!



Donations sought for our sister church

It seems that every time we read the newspaper or turn on the television these days there is a report of a new act of violence in the Middle East. No town appears safe, not even Bethlehem, the place of Jesus' birth. Recently we have read and heard of the fighting at the Church of the Nativity, where tradition holds that Jesus was born. Our sister church in Beit-Jala borders Bethlehem and is near the epicenter of these events. In fact, a reporter for *The Guardian* recently stated that because of its proximity to Bethlehem, Beit-Jala was the "favored route when Israeli forces invaded Bethlehem last month." Last month's *In Focus* carried a special story on our sister church in Beit-Jala and the tragedies they have recently experienced. In these most difficult days in the Middle East, we are reminded of the biblical passage "If one part of the body suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part

rejoices with it" (1 Corinthians 12:26). If you would like to help our brothers and sisters who are suffering so terribly these days, you can make a donation to our sister church at the parish office any time during regular office hours. If you cannot make a donation at this time, prayers would also be greatly appreciated. May God bless and protect those suffering through these most difficult of times.

Letter from our sister church

Despite the pitiful situation of our region, we dare wish and convey our deep feelings of solidarity and friendship, as well as of gratitude for all the sacrifices you have showed toward our community. May the Risen Lord reward each benefactress and benefactor as well as all your dear ones, and protect your dear country. Happy Easter.

Fr. Yacoub Abdel-Nour,
Pastor of Annunciation Church

Your maintenance help requested

You can help the Building and Grounds Committee and Bill VanCleave, charged with maintenance of our parish facilities, by keeping your eyes open for maintenance needed and calling attention to it by filling out a Maintenance Request Form.

When filling out the form, please be as specific as possible about what is needed and the location — for example, "Kneeler broken, 6 pews from the altar on the tabernacle [or west] side of the church."

Forms for requesting repairs are posted on the bulletin board in the church vestibule (to the right as you leave the church) and in the parish center lobby near the wall telephone. The forms can be taken to the parish office or placed in Bill VanCleave's mailbox for prompt attention.

Refurbishing St. Patrick's Church — this summer

At an open parish meeting on March 5, Larry Quenette of Renaissance Architects reviewed plans for refurbishing the church this summer.



These include work on the outside structure as well as inside, and a general cleanup and refreshment of plantings around the church. In an attempt to keep the changes modest and affordable, some of the work will be done by parishioner volunteers.

Work is scheduled to begin on Monday, Aug. 12, with completion by Friday, Sept. 27 — a six-week period carefully kept clear on the calendar for use of the church and the parish center main hall. All parish liturgies and prayer services will be held in the parish center main hall while the church is given its “new look.”

Following are plans for the outside of the church building:

- Tuckpoint the brickwork.
- Paint or replace gutters, downspouts, coping.
- Vent stained glass windows.
- Provide a dirt/snow grid outside the main entrance.
- Paint conduits, clean up paint spills, etc., and make minor landscaping improvements (to be done by parishioners).

Plans for the inside of the church building:

- Scrape scale where needed.
- Paint all ceilings, walls, and trim.
- Remove wood paneling in the sanctuary (save for possible reuse).
- Remove and replace all carpeting.
- Install four ceiling fans.
- Air-condition the choir loft.
- Clean and re-lamp all light fixtures.

— Soundproof the Reconciliation Room.

— Reinstall the pews when other work is complete.

Parishioners will assist with the interior refurbishment by removing pews and giving them a thorough cleaning, refreshing the finish on the crucifix, the tabernacle, and so forth, and repairing and tightening joints on chairs in the sanctuary and replacing cushions.

In response to questions about choice of colors for paint and carpeting, Mr. Quenette showed several illustrations to give an idea of detailing and contrast being considered and said the intention is to make the interior of the church lighter, brighter, perhaps picking up on colors in the stained glass windows, and highlighting some of the structural elements.

Fr. Remm pointed out the desire to keep changes modest for now. A recent examination of the church roof revealed that with proper upkeep it may last for another five years or so, and he hoped it would not have to be replaced before expansion of the building becomes necessary due to a reduction in the number of priests available to serve the needs of a larger parish.



Q. Why is May Mary's month?

A. Throughout the liturgical year, which begins with the First Sunday of Advent, the

Church honors Mary in differently ranked liturgical celebrations comprised of four solemnities, three feasts and a number of memorials. There are 11 on the liturgical calendar, and only three months, April, June and July, are without at least a memorial. The feast of the Visitation occurs May 31.

From April 28 to May 3, the ancient Romans held a festival in honor of Flora, the goddess of spring. The spread of the Roman Empire throughout Europe carried with it this springtime celebration. In the

Middle Ages in England it was the custom of people to begin this first day of May by getting up early to “bring in the May.” Homes were decorated with flowers and green tree branches, while in the village square people erected a maypole, which



sometimes was more than 100 feet tall. A woman chosen as the May queen ruled over the festival, which featured dancers who held streamers tied to the maypole and circled it in dance.

It appears obvious that what is being celebrated by the ancient feast is the fruitfulness of the earth. Maia is the ancient goddess of increase. The second Sunday of May has been established as Mother's Day in the United States and has been observed as such since 1914. When we add all these things together it seems quite natural that the people of God find it appropriate to honor Mary, the Mother of Jesus, at this time of year by crowning her as queen, by surrounding her with fresh flowers and by parading around her image. It is through her cooperation in God's plan of the Kingdom that we enjoy the fruitfulness of the Spirit, the promise of eternal living and the awareness of the sacredness of our own being. We have stolen and taken over another of what some folks would say is a “pagan feast.”

Where our priests serve

Grateful as we are for the ministry of the retired priests who help at St. Patrick's, people sometimes ask why we don't have a second full-time priest. Here are some statistics on how priests are distributed throughout the diocese, taken from the 2002 diocesan directory.

There are 198 parishes and missions in the diocese of Peoria. A "mission" differs from a parish in that it doesn't have its own financial and sacramental records, and it is usually administered by a priest who lives elsewhere. Twenty parishes are served by priests who are members of religious orders.

Nineteen parishes have more than one priest. Most of these are large parishes with a school or a mission parish, which add to a priest's workload, though sometimes a newly ordained priest or a priest who is near retirement may serve in a smaller place with another priest.

Of the priests who serve alone, 63 serve one parish, 33 serve two parishes, 5 serve three parishes, and one hardy soul serves four. Some of the priests from religious orders also serve more than one parish. There are no parishes in the diocese that are administered by a deacon, religious, or a lay person.

Of course, there are priests who serve in hospital, prison, and campus ministry, private counseling, and administrative work. Many of these men also serve in a parish.

Considering just the diocesan priests who are not retired or on leave, here's how they sort out by age:

25-34: 20
 35-44: 52
 45-54: 26
 55-64: 29
 65-74: 32
 75+: 4

The diocese has 17 seminarians in four-year post-graduate theological studies and 17 seminarians studying at the undergraduate level. But even if all of these offer themselves and are accepted for ordination, the number of priests in the diocese will

continue to decrease gradually for the next decade.

The ministry of lay people, religious, and deacons is clearly very important in keeping the parishes of the diocese functioning. But since the Eucharist is at the heart of our life as Church, we need to be concerned about the shortage of priests. Please continue to pray for vocations.

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, help all our young people to know their vocation in life, and assist them to prepare for it.

For your greater glory, and for the service of the Church and all your people, call many to be priests and religious. Give those whom you call grace to respond generously and to persevere faithfully.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, show your care for the Body of Christ; encourage many vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Bernardine of Siena, peacemaker

St. Bernardine, whose feast is celebrated May 20, was a missionary, reformer and a dynamic speaker. He is often called the "Apostle of Italy."

He was born in 1380 to a noble family in the Sienese town of Massa, where his father was then governor. Left an orphan at six, Bernardine was brought up by a pious aunt.

He studied law, but during a period of pestilence became involved tending the sick, taking charge of a hospital for more than four months. He joined the Friars Minor, later withdrew to the Observatine convent of Columbaio, and was ordained in 1404. In 1406 he met the evangelist St. Vincent Ferrer, who told him that he was returning to France and that Bernardine's mission should be to evangelize Italy. (Note: If you go to Venice, visit the SS Giovanni and



Welcome to new parishioners Kyle and Noreen Acton, Deborah Burgin, Shawna Crain, Beth Anna Fegeley, S. Charles and June Giuffre, Angelita and Jimenez Hanson, Robert Doyle Newcomb, Todd and Maria Peters, Brandy Reynolds, Michele Roth, Joseph Spencer, Renee Thomas, Tanya Wahl, Alvin and Kathleen Witte and Lee Zahnle.

Farewell to parishioners who have recently moved from C-U: Richard Bernardini, Kevin Engel, Adam Gynac, and Guisela Latorre.

Welcome to the following, recently baptized into our faith community: Mandy Bednar, Alexis Michelle Burgin, Manda and Shad Crawford, Maureen Elsbernd, Natalie Rose Minda, Nancy Roth, Morgan Charleen Saunders, Logan Christopher Saunders, Tanya Wahl, Joseph Dean Wanninger and Richard Maxwell Wyninger.

Congratulations to those recently married: Randy Douglas Pankau and Molly Christine Healey.

Please pray for the following members of our parish who have died: David Lohr, brother of Tracey Johnson, Charles E. Traeger, Robert Theobald, John W. Yauk, Elaine Marikos, Cornelia Perrone, Margaret Stancook and Robert Horney.

Paolo Church to see Bellini's magnificent tryptic altarpiece painting depicting Ferrer's five miracles.)

Bernardine's preaching skills were so great and his conversions so numerous that he has become associated with all areas of speaking, advertising and public relations. He drew audiences of 30,000 and filled the piazzas of Italian cities. Thousands participated in dramatic rituals, which included collective weeping, bonfires of vanities and exorcism. He was a renowned peacemaker, who tried to calm feuding clans and factions in the

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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.

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Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Jan Bellington, Artha Chamberlain, Mary Rose Cottingham, David Darmofal, Frances Drone-Silvers, Fr. Bob Hoffman, Arden Howey, Lori McDonough, Alice McLaughlin, Mary Lou Menches, Carole Rebeiz, Fr. George Remm, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Elizabeth Talbot, Bill VanCleave, Peggy Whelan. This issue was pagged by John Colombo.

Lectio, from the Book of Genesis

Beloved, I am creator, always creating, bringing to life, forming and nourishing. So at your beginning I created you in the darkness of your mother's womb and brought you to birth in the light called life. And I saw that it was good.

Then I provided you with the dome of my presence, planning to be with you even in times of storms and floods. And I saw that my plan was good.

I placed you, planted you in fertile soil that you might grow strong and beautiful in my sight. I saw your growth and it was good.

Then I filled you with the light of the Spirit. Wisdom took up her abode in you. And as you learned to surrender to her presence and her promptings, I saw that it was very good, this plan I had for you.

Because of your willingness to listen to my Spirit, you became more and more aware of and open to my

deepest desires for you. And I rejoiced that it was good!

I created the beauty and rhythm of nature that you might have a glimpse of me in the wind, in water, in the trees and flowers, in birds and animals. I created and gave to you all that you needed to nourish your body, your mind, and your soul.

And having created you in my image, I invited you to be generative through your ministry and your life. And I saw that it was good!

Then, although I nestle in your heart, I have not yet rested. Nor will I until you are "finished" and rest in my eternal embrace. Then indeed IT WILL BE GOOD!

Lectio is the traditional monastic practice of savoring the Word of God in a contemplative manner, seeking ever deeper meaning.

* * * * *

*St. Bernardine
from page 9*

turbulent political worlds of the Renaissance. His surprising allies in his peacekeeping mission were the women who comprised the majority of his audiences.

Pius II, as youth in the audience, was held spellbound and recorded that Bernardine was listened to as another Paul. Bisticci, a well-known Florentine biographer, says that by his sermons Bernardine "cleansed all Italy from sins of every kind." Penitents flocked to confession "like ants."

Bernardine's promotion of morality and attempt to regenerate society even included rebuking evil in high places. He openly censured Visconti, Duke of Milan. He attacked usury and prepared the way for the establishment of beneficial loan societies. But Bernardine's key emphasis, like that of St. Francis, was "peace."

Bernardine died in 1444 and was canonized by Nicholas V on May 24, 1450.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Franne Davis

Fruited Chicken En Creme

- 2 T butter or margarine
- 2 T salad oil
- 6 large chicken breast halves (2 1/2 to 3 lbs.)
- 1 10 1/2 oz can cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 c light cream
- 1/2 c dry sherry (optional)
- 1 13 1/2 oz can pineapple tidbits, drained
- 1/2 c sliced seedless green grapes
- 1 6 oz can sliced mushrooms, drained

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Heat butter and oil in a 13 X 9 X 2 inch baking dish. Place chicken, skin side up, in baking dish, bake one hour. Heat soup, cream and sherry in sauce pan, stirring occasionally. Stir the pineapple, grapes and mushrooms into the soup mixture. Remove the baking dish from the oven; drain any fat. Pour soup and fruit mixture over chicken. Cover with foil and bake 15 to 20 minutes longer. Garnish with green grapes.

Makes 6 servings.



Oh, how the pictures do talk

It may not have been "Your Uncle Mike or your sister Kate or the girl you used to swing down by the garden gate, the Flannigans, Hanegans, Milligans, Gilligans, McGuinness or McGinn" but it was the Weirs, the Risattis, the Hacketts and Haesslys; the Gremers, Becketts, Kacichs and Browns; Justices, Cesario and Remm. Oh, yes, the Fitzgeralds, Maguires, Peckhams, Daly, Scott and Corcoran too, were among the hundred or so who claimed a wee bit of Irish on March 16 at Jumers.

Former and current parishioners celebrated another St. Patrick's centennial event with dining, drink, dance and song. Diane Ducey provided music covering the decades. This gave rise to an active dance floor of waltz, polka, jitterbug, fox trot, and even some line dancing.

Sure and begorrah, 'twas a fine evening for all!





May 2002

St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:00am Mom's Group 11:00am Men's Book Club 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Centennial Lecture	2 National Day of Prayer 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Building & Grounds Com 7:00pm Choir	3 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	4
5 1:00pm Religious Ed Picnic 6:30pm CREW Year End Party 7:00pm Web Site Com	6 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm FGDW 7:00pm Pro-Life Com 7:00pm Education Com	7 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com	8 9:00am Mom's Group 9:30am Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Confirmation	9 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Bapism Prep	10 10:30am Mass-Care Center 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	11
12 Mother's Day Ascension	13 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm FGDW 7:00pm Centennial Com 7:00pm Social Action Com	14	15 9:00am Mom's Group 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Memorial Prayer Service	16 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council	17 10:30am Mass-Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	18 Diaconate Ordination of Cliff Maduzia in Peoria
19 Pentecost 10:15am Knights of Columbus 1:00pm Guild Brunch	20 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm FGDW	21 9:30am Mass-Canterbury Ridge 6:30pm Liturgy Com	22 9:00am Mom's Group 9:30am Schola 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Graduation Mass at Holy Cross	23 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	24 10:30am Mass-Manor Care 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	25
26 Trinity Sunday 9:00am High School Graduation Mass	27 Memorial Day - Parish Office Closed 9:00am Mass at the Cemetery & Potluck Breakfast 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm FGDW	28 7:00pm Homily Prep	29 9:00am Mom's Group 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir	30 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Communications Com	31 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	

SVDP=St Vincent de Paul NH=Nursing Home