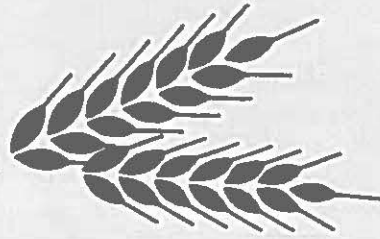


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



## When I was hungry . . .

*My name is Mrs. Ouedraogo, and I am the leader of a women's farming organization in the Gourcy district of Burkina Faso, a country in West Africa. Our fields suffer from both drought and erosion, and the growing number of people in this area places more and more pressure on our limited farmland. Our grain stocks are often depleted four months before the harvest begins, and families have only enough food for one meal a day.*

*In the year 2000, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) introduced the Natural Resource Management and Food Security Project to help increase the crops we produce so we could have food to last all year. It was through this partnership that my organization implemented a gardening project. CRS supplied us with vegetable seeds, watering cans, and other tools. Most importantly, we were trained in the most productive gardening practices.*

*There are 53 women in the farming organization, and with these new techniques in irrigation, organic fertilizer production, and biological pest management we have increased our incomes as well as provided for the family year round.*

To use a rather familiar American phrase, this true story illustrates "your dollars at work for you." Operation Rice Bowl is the Lenten Sacrifi-



cial Project that enables Catholic Relief Services to provide for basic needs of people and to teach self-sufficiency to many around the world who seek to provide for their family needs and the needs of their community.

Catholic social teachings are a call to respect the rights and responsibilities of all people, including the right to life, food, shelter, education, and employment. They are a call to opt for

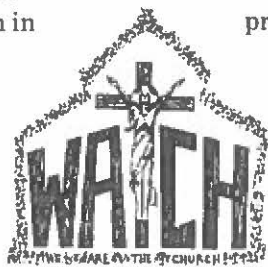
the poor and vulnerable as a community of faith reaching out to those most in need. We are called to recognize our solidarity with all others regardless of race, color, gender, ethnic background, economic circumstances, gender, or ideological boundaries.

At all Masses on Mar. 1-2 the Social Action Committee will once again invite all parishioners to pick up a small cardboard "rice bowl" and to participate in Operation Rice Bowl by fasting and putting into the rice bowl what might have otherwise have been spent on a full meal and by praying for those who lack adequate food. Rice bowls will be available after each Mass.

Through this practice, participants are exercising the threefold injunction of the Church for Lenten prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. When the call goes out for individuals and families to turn in their rice bowls, the contents will be tallied and a check sent to CRS to feed the hungry—or to help the hungry feed themselves, as Catholic Relief Services has helped Mrs. Ouedraogo and her women's farming organization in West Africa.

## WATCH presents film series during Lent

"Faith and Films—Come WATCH with Us" is a series of six films that consider the human struggle for redemption in the world and is offered as an outgrowth of the parish's WATCH program. Building on the Henry Nouwen theme of "taken, blessed, broken, and given," the



series offers an opportunity for adults to consider together the modern world in its own terms in the unfolding presence of God in human life.

The film series will be offered at 2:30 p.m. in St. Patrick's parish center on the Sunday afternoons of Lent. With each film there will be a brief introduction, the viewing, refreshments,

and a short discussion.

The following six films were chosen because each presents, from a unique point of view, how God chooses us, blesses us, and through grace transforms us in our brokenness to gift the community. Each film provides an opportunity for reflecting on our own experience of God's grace:

**March 9:** *The Spitfire Grill* (PG-13). This 1996 Sundance Film Audi-

## Victoria Pifalo fills Council vacancy

Connie Cimino, elected to the Parish Council last spring, recently found it necessary to resign her position for reasons of health. In accordance with the Council's Constitution ("The Council shall give first consideration to the runner-up candidates from the preceding election, in descending order of votes received"), the vacancy has been filled by Victoria Pifalo. She will complete the three-year term begun by Connie in May 2002 and will be eligible to stand for election at the conclusion of that term in 2005, should she wish to do so.

In her statements as a candidate for election last spring, Victoria wrote: "What can I promise to do and what do I expect, if elected? I will devote the necessary time to attend meetings and

prepare for them. I will thoughtfully consider and respectfully work with others on the issues put before us. And I fully expect that the obligations involved in such a three-year commitment will be balanced by benefits in terms of personal growth and new relationships."



Remember Connie and Victoria in your prayers during the coming months and years—Connie, that she may know the appreciation of her faith community for her readiness to serve on the Council and once again enjoy some measure of good health; Victoria, that she may indeed experience the hoped-for benefits of personal growth and new relationships as she takes up her Council responsibilities.



Victoria Pifalo



Connie Cimino



## in our parish library

Would you like to share the Stations of the Cross with your children? The parish library has just purchased a beautiful book, *The Story of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross for Children* (C248JOS). You can find it in the Children's Library, classroom 4 (the kindergarten room).

This lovely picture book tells the story of Jesus from the archangel Gabriel's visit to Mary, eventually turning to the Stations. Each has a brief description of the event marked

by that Station, with a prayer that helps children reflect on Christ's love and forgiveness.

The book will be on display on the top bookshelf during March and April. If you'd like to check it out, please use the checkout card inside the front cover, and return it quickly so others can use it.

The children's library also has some small pamphlets of the Way of the Cross for children; these will be placed near *The Story of the Cross*.

## Watch Movies

From page 1

ence Award winner considers the challenges that a young woman leaving prison faces when she tries to start a new life in a small town.

**March 16:** *Eat, Drink, Man, Woman* (Chinese with English subtitles; not rated). Directed by Ang Lee, a graduate of the University of Illinois, the film explores the struggles of a widowed father and his three very different adult daughters.

**March 23:** *Chocolat* (PG-13). Nominated for five Academy Awards, this film considers the challenges and gifts of freedom and tradition.

**March 30:** *The Mission* (PG). Winner of the 1986 Cannes Film Festival Best Picture Award, 7 Academy Award nominations, and an Oscar for Best Cinematography, the film focuses on the clash between faith and greed, guilt and redemption.

**April 6:** *Babette's Feast* (Danish with English subtitles; G). 1987 Academy Award Winner for Best Foreign Film, this film explores the many aspects of grace in faith community.

**April 13:** *Places in the Heart* (PG). 1984 Academy Award winner for Best Actress, this film recounts the struggles of a young widow during the Depression in a small Texas town.

If you would like to assist with the series (host, table leader, refreshments, publicity, projectionist, etc.), please contact Claude or Susan Cole ([Scole82846@aol.com](mailto:Scole82846@aol.com) or 367-4187).

Over 30 new books have recently been purchased for the Children's Library. These include board books for the youngest members of our faith community and picture books ranging from *The Lord Is My Shepherd: Psalm 23* to *Loyola Kids Book of Saints* and *Sister Wendy's Book of Saints*. You're sure to find something in this colorful collection that you'll want to share with your children!

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.

## Lent: A time to “get back to basics”

Lent calls us to conversion of heart and reminds us that it's time to “get back to basics.” Perhaps we do without some small luxury to which we've grown accustomed. Perhaps we engage in an additional activity that will help us to grow in charity or in faithfulness, to nurture a vital part of ourselves that we sometimes neglect. Our celebration together at Sunday Mass during Lent also helps us get back to basics. There are several differences in the way we celebrate Mass at St. Patrick's as we both “do without” and “do more” to help mark the season.

Keen observers will notice the absence of flowers in the church dur-

ing Lent and that the green of Ordinary Time gives way to the purple of Lent. Also striking is the more solemn beginning of Mass during Lent. There is no opening procession, for instance; the presider, servers, and lectors will quietly assemble in the sanctuary a few moments before Mass begins. There is no introduction of presider, lectors, or servers. There is no opening hymn; instead, the cantor intones words we hear in the Gospel from the First Sunday of Lent: “This is the time of fulfillment! The reign of God is at hand!”

The music at Masses during Lent has a markedly different character as well. Musical instruments are gener-

ally used only to support singing, and as a result there is no instrumental prelude or postlude during Lent. (An exception is made for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, “Laetare Sunday,” which provides a short break during this austere season.)

The Gloria is not sung in Lent, nor is the Alleluia—not before the Gospel or in hymns or responsorials. And on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent we join with the Elect (former Catechumens) in the Scrutinies, examining our conscience and asking for God's mercy.

These differences all help to set Lent apart as a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal.

## Guild and Seniors host potluck for Healing Mass participants

On Dec. 13, the last day of St. Patrick's Parish Mission, members of St. Patrick's Guild and the Seniors Group jointly hosted a potluck lunch. Special guests were those who had come for the Healing Mass celebrated by Fr. Bob Gielow.

The lunch of roast beef, pork, mashed potatoes, and gravy was provided by Norma Gremer and Mary Ann Luedtke of the Guild and by Rose Brown, Rose Breen, Mary Grace Bowen, and Shirley and Walter Splittstoesser of the Seniors Group. Seniors also brought the trimmings to round out the festive meal.

Guild and Seniors members brought Christmas cards for guests and to exchange. Afterward, many lingered over coffee for conversation until darkness fell and all departed for home with calls of “Merry Christmas!”

Other Seniors events:

*Valentine party*, Feb. 5—If you weren't there, you missed a good time, a potluck followed by Bingo

*Spring gathering*—Date to be determined

*Summer supper*, June 12—A potluck followed by slides shown by Paul Luedtke. (Call Jeanne and Paul

Hackett, 367-9781, for more information.)

*Cook-out on the farm*—October date to be set by host Betty Conerty with the Seniors planning committee for this popular cook-out under the stars

For information about St. Patrick's Seniors Group, call Shirley or Walter Splittstoesser (367-3330), or just watch the parish bulletin and come to an event. Membership in the group isn't complicated—you just have to admit to being 60—or have a spouse or friend who will testify that you are 60 even though you may not act it!



Good food in plentiful supply for all who come!



Artha Chamberlain (right) distracts Mary Grace Bowen from setting out dessert helpings.

## Reverencing God's gift of life

"You created my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, Lord, for I am fearfully, wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful. I know that full well."



These words from the responsorial prayer, based on Psalm 139, caught the essence of the Community Ecumenical Memorial Prayer Vigil on Jan. 22, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.

Despite the frigid temperature, more than 100 people assembled at Webber Street Christian Church to reverence God's gift of life and to remember the 42 million lives aborted in the 30 years since the Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion.

Co-sponsored by St. Patrick's Church, Webber Street Christian Church, St. Matthew's Catholic Church, and Right to Life of Champaign County, the service included music, scripture, witness, and prayer. Following the welcome given by Pastor Danny Roberts of Webber Street Church, Meg Grady of St. Patrick's gave an opening statement on the status of the life-death abortion struggle waged for 30 years.

Steve Costantino of Webber Street Church gave living witness to the courage of his mother, who refused her doctor's advice to let him die. Diagnosed in the womb with multiple abnormalities and born amid predictions of a very short lifespan, Steve stood before the congregation 43 years later looking joyfully alive.

Greta Henry of the Crisis Pregnancy Center discussed the work, success, opportunities, and needs of the Center. Its purpose is to be there for

women with unplanned pregnancies, to listen, encourage, and assist with physical and financial help as well as spiritual support. The Center welcomes volunteers, financial assistance, and donations of baby items from diapers to furniture and clothing for pregnant women.

Jan Symonds-Ruffner, of Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy, spoke of her own experience with abortion and the emotional and physical scars that resulted. She said that notwithstanding the abortion counseling she received, she felt that she'd not been given the whole picture and didn't understand what she was doing.

Fr. Dwight Campbell, pastor of St. Thomas Church, Philo, discussed the importance and the how-to of sidewalk counseling, advocating a prayerful, peaceful, but "no apologies" approach. Women headed for the abortion clinic, he said, often do not really want to abort their babies, they just need more information or encouragement to make a decision for life.

A video, compiled by Victoria Bush of Webber Street Church, illustrated the Last Judgment based on Matthew 25: young and old, the hungry, the sick, the imprisoned, the sorrowing, and the newborn were shown tenderly cared for as the Gospel requires.

Music and scripture were interspersed throughout the service. Steve Costantino and the Webber Street Praise Band, Liz Dibber, and Jan Symonds-Ruffner of Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy performed and led devotional music. (Steve and Jan had each written one of the songs performed.)

The service climaxed with a candlelight procession accompanied by intercessory prayers read by visiting clergy. Each participant carried a red rose in the procession, in memory of lives legally aborted during these 30 years. A hymn and final prayer brought the service to a close, and the gathering moved to the church hall for refreshments and to examine information booths with exhibits in an adjacent room.

The Vigil Committee members deserve a great deal of credit for their behind-the-scene hours of labor: Gary Schrock, Debby and Rob Stebel, and Victoria Bush of Webber Street Chris-

tian Church; Meg Grady, Amy Grady, and Mary Lee Brady of St. Patrick's Church; Myrna Buyno, Mary Eppick, and Maryvonne Swift of St. Matthew's Church, and the junior-high students from Webber Street Church for their gracious and enthusiastic touch in welcoming guests and serving refreshments.

# Joseph

*This poem-prayer was written by the New Zealand poet James K. Baxter. His life was an extraordinary amalgam of pain, beauty, and a kind of mystic awareness of God. He loved and supported the Maori people, had a community in the Bay of Islands.*

Dear tolerant saint, I think  
I chose you as my father  
and inward angel because  
I am myself not either  
a smart husband or a wise  
father, but a fat ex-drunk

who'd like best to laze all day  
where the sea lets down her hair  
over the rocks. You remind  
me of what I was born for:  
to accept the daily grind  
as God's will. Anxiety

must have burrowed like a fox  
into your heart. I'm certain  
it was an uphill pull all  
the way (it's our delusion  
to think saints' lives are brimful  
with visions, omens, hard knocks

that don't hurt because God spreads  
ointment on them). No; I see  
you rather in the shape of  
a quiet Maori  
who knows the meaning of love  
as a carrying of loads

without remark—How deep your  
silence must have been! How much  
alive your strong toil-worn  
hands that lifted the Child each  
time he stumbled—and earth's own  
weight, your touch on her shoulder.

## Sale of Butter Braids to benefit CREW Mission

From Sunday, Mar. 1, through Mar. 16, the CREW youth group will take orders for Butter Braid pastries to help finance their summer Mission project.

Butter Braid is a homemade frozen pastry loaf that makes a delicious breakfast or dessert entrée. Each is 22 oz. and available in apple, cherry, cinnamon, maple nut, cream cheese, or raspberry.

Butter Braids are not available in stores. You can order them directly from CREW members or at upcoming parish events, where a table will be set up for taking orders. While it must be admitted that "virtue is its own reward," if you support the CREW Mission in this way your generosity will also procure a fine pastry to add to your enjoyment at Easter celebrations or family gatherings.

## CREW hosts Service and Talent Auction

On Mar. 9, at 10:15 a.m. in the main hall, CREW will host its second annual Service and Talent Auction.

Can you use some help with yardwork? Some muscular lads are ready to help. Would you enjoy a sausage roll once a month (for 6 months!)? A fantastic mother-daughter team will deliver them to your door. Do you have the hottest release from one of our very own parishioners? If not, you can get

one—it's even autographed! And then there are gift baskets; you'll just have



to come and see what goodies the "Gift Basket Ladies" will present for the auction.

This sneak preview is intended to tease and tantalize, to show just a bit of what's in store for those who choose to support CREW's Mission this summer—all proceeds will be used to help underwrite the youth group's summer experience of helping others in need.

## Children helping children

In December the children in St. Patrick's religious education classes were asked to bring a gift for other children from the Christmas list provided by the Crisis Nursery in Urbana.

The list included clothing (jeans, shirts, pajamas, underwear, socks, hats, gloves, boots) for infants and toddlers; baby and child-care supplies (diapers, hair ties, baby bottle nipples, toothbrushes, toothpaste, night-light bulbs); snacks (baby juices, Gerber fruit, soups) for "Gerber Graduates"; art and play supplies (batteries, Play-Doh, Magic Markers, glue sticks, construction paper)—well, you get the idea.

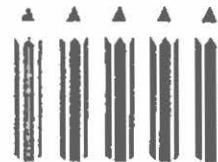
Through the generosity of the children and their parents, boxes and shopping bags of gifts filled the Retz

pickup truck and, a week before Christmas, were delivered to the Crisis Nursery. A "Merry Christmas" indeed!

Ginny Dewar, Executive Director of the Crisis Nursery, wrote to Fr. Remm thanking the children for their donations of diapers, clothing, snacks, art supplies, and more, and included an invitation to visit the Nursery so they can see their contributions at work.

## Holy Cross Newslines

Holy Cross School will present the hit musical "Annie" this year. The show dates are



Mar. 13, 14, and 15 (evenings) and Sunday, Mar. 16 (matinee). Tickets are available at the door before showtimes. You'll find *many* young St. Patrick's parishioners on stage!

Each homeroom will participate in Lenten projects to help the poor, part of the Church's call to engage in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent.

Confirmation for eighth-graders, including some St. Patrick's teens, will be celebrated at Holy Cross on Saturday, Mar. 22.

Confirmation at Holy Cross next year will be earlier than usual, on Nov. 1. Students to be confirmed at Holy Cross next year will begin Confirmation lessons in March during their religion classes.

## At their Christmas Eve liturgy, youngsters bring to life the timeless story of Jesus' birth



## St. Patrick's Day, 1903

A hundred years ago on Mar. 17, the celebration of our patron saint, Patrick, was a community-wide event. The day began with a parade of people from Champaign County. At 9:00 a.m. they gathered at the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Hall, 207 N. Walnut, Champaign. From there they marched to the Wabash Station to greet those who arrived by the Interurban.

At the head of the parade was an AOH member on horseback, carrying a large American flag. James Brown was parade marshal; his aides were William Ward, Thomas Jordan, and Thomas Layman. Three bands kept marchers stepping along in time: the Knights of Pythias, the MWA, and the Tolono-Ivesdale bands. Organizations represented included many chapters of the AOH, the Catholic Order of Foresters, and the Catholic Knights of America.

UI President Draper declared a holiday for students who desired to take part in the celebration. Fifty varsity members from the University marched in the parade, carrying a large green flag and singing "Erin Go Bragh."

Spectators gathered along the parade route, which ran south on Neil St. and east on Main St. into Urbana. At 10:00 a.m. marchers converged on St. Patrick's church in Urbana, even though the building was still unfinished. It was the first time that services were held in the splendid edifice.



Another procession, another century: St. Patrick's parishioners on the march in 2001 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of St. Patrick's Parish

The church was filled to overflowing for the High Mass, celebrated by Fr. Barry of Ivesdale, assisted by visiting priests and St. Patrick's own founding pastor, Fr. Cannon. Battman's "Mass in F" was sung by a small choir directed by Marcella Fleming of Bement, assisted by A. F. Fay.

After Mass, the marchers reassembled and paraded through the business district of Urbana, and then retraced their route, stopping at Miebach Hall (67-71 E. University, C.). Lunch was served by the ladies of St. Patrick's parish.

Between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. a reception was held at the AOH Hall, with music and addresses given by visiting clergy. Fr. Cannon expressed his thanks to those who helped to make the celebration a success. He introduced Fr. Caraher from Chicago, a classmate of his, who spoke of the history of Ireland and the hopes of the immigrants who crossed the Atlantic in search of a better life in America. He also said that, considering the size of the parish (fewer than 100 families), there was not a finer church in Chicago.

That evening a ball was held at Miebach Hall, and at 1:00 a.m. the train returned visitors to their hometowns.

What a day to remember! The information for this article was taken from a report in the *Urbana Daily Courier*. It would be interesting to hear more about the day—have your parents or grandparents shared their memories of it with you?



Welcome to new parishioners Antoinette Burton and Paul Arroyo, Mary Clare Brady, and Carmelita Guymon.

Farewell to parishioners John Berry and Martine Lemieux, Michael Ngong, Jennifer and Scott Twitty, Kathy and Kurt Wahl, and Jacob Walter.

Congratulations to Julie Piatchek and Kris Atwood, recently married.

Welcome to those baptized into our faith community: Celia Irene Schumacher, Alex Ryan Jovanovich, Janet L. Boker, Nicholas Keavin Gorrell, Ella Grace Burrus.

Please pray for deceased parishioner Peter J. Ingrassia.

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

## In Focus

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

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

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Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Chris Angel, Mary Lee Brady, Claude and Susan Cole, Mary Rose Cottingham, Frances Drone-Silvers, Mary Fonner, Amy Kuka, Alice McLaughlin, Mary Lou Menches, Sharon Monday-Dorsey, Ellen Noonan, Carole Rebeiz, Carol Retz, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Shirley Splitstoesser, Peggy Whelan, Stan Yanchus. This issue was paged by John Colombo.

## CWU celebrates 80 years of ecumenism

Did you know that there is an ecumenical women's group in C-U that turned 80 last September?



Did you know that women from 26 Protestant, Orthodox, and Catholic churches participate in this group, Church Women United?

Did you know that St. Patrick's Tracey Johnson

was honored as one of ten "Outstanding Young Church Women" at the May Friendship Day, 2002? Tracey was honored for her quiet volunteerism: clerical assistance to Sr. Charlene, telephoning for the WATCH Committee, and assistance to Birthright.

Each year Church Women United holds three celebrations of our unity in Christ: World Community Day in November, World Day of Prayer in March, and May Friendship Day. Two of those celebrations are written by church women from a single country, and all are celebrated on the same day by Christian women around the world. Recent celebrations have been written by the Christian women of Venezuela, Indonesia, Samoa, and Romania. Women from various communities in the United States also have written prayer services.

Since music is central to these celebrations, a pianist and a song leader are usually provided for the service. The songs, representing the country and faiths of the planners, are printed in the program.

Another central part of the gathering is the "Fellowship of the Least Coin." Just as our prayers offered around the world for peace and reconciliation rise up to God our Father and join us together here on earth, each woman around the world offers the least coin of her land. In this offering no one is wealthy or poor, all are equal.

Church Women United invites the women of St. Patrick's to join in the World Day of Prayer on Friday, Mar. 7, at St. Nicholas Orthodox Mission (312

W. Elm St., Urbana) from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Child care for children under 5 will be provided. Shuttle to St. Nicholas Church from the First Presbyterian lots (Elm at Orchard). This celebration, on the theme "Holy Spirit, Fill Us," was written by the Christian women of Lebanon. [For more about the World Day of Prayer, see the next article.]

## Ecumenical World Day of Prayer: March 7

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions



who observe a common day of prayer each year and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship

in prayer and service throughout the year.

Through preparation and participation in the worship service, Christian women can come to know how their sisters of other countries, languages, and cultures understand the biblical passages in context. In this way it is possible for them to experience the richness of the Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international ecumenical expression.

The origins of the World Day of Prayer date back to the nineteenth century, when Christian women of the United States and Canada initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission at home and in other parts of the world. These activities focus on world peace, Christian unity, interdenominational studies and work, concern for women and children, and the role of prayer in mission work.

The movement was initiated and has been carried out since by women in more than 170 countries and regions, and is traditionally observed on the first Friday in March. The theme for 2003 is "Holy Spirit, Fill Us," and the service has been written by Christian women of Lebanon. "Ahlan wa sahlan" is the greeting coming from

the Land of the Cedars. These words of welcome speak about being part of the family. The World Day of Prayer asks that we reflect on the recent experiences of Lebanese women's continuing search for peace and stability in their own country and in neighboring lands.

More information can be found at [www.worlddayofprayer.net](http://www.worlddayofprayer.net).

## Prayer for Vocations



*I am made in your image and likeness, Lord God. As I continue to grow, please help me to discover the gifts and talents you have given me to share with your people.*

*I want to love you and follow you more closely each day. Show me the way, Lord Jesus, so that I may live a life of service for you and for others. Do you want me to be a priest? A religious sister or brother? My life is in your hands, now and forever. Amen.*

## An amazing presence

I am touched to the core with a presence I cannot explain. A loving plan enfolds me. Someone is always believing in me, calling me forth, calling me on. I am standing in grace, filled with mystery, touched with the eternal. I cannot get away from goodness. I think we name you, God.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the April issue of *In Focus* is March 16.

## Katharine Drexel, an American saint for our times

We don't know what Katharine Drexel would have thought about the dispute over the University of Illinois' mascot, Chief Illiniwek. However, we do know of her personal holiness and her struggle to serve and educate Native Americans and African Americans, 70 years before their civil rights were in dispute. And we know her now as our second American-born saint, canonized in 2000.

Many successful Native Americans and African Americans owed their lives to this millionairess, who exchanged Philadelphia society for work in the missions. In 1884 the Church asked the Drexels to help carry out the decrees of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore for these missions. Kate traveled with her father to the U.S. Northwest Territories, where she witnessed the poverty, squalor, and despair of the Indians. At her father's death in 1885, she and her two sisters each inherited a share of \$15.5 million (about \$250 million in today's dollars), providing about \$1000 a day in interest income. They began to contribute to the Indian missions.

On a trip to Europe, Kate confided to Pope Leo XIII the seeming conflict of her desire for religious life and her sense that the missions needed her. "Why not be a missionary yourself, my child?" he responded, and her decision was made.

Kate entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1889. Two years later she founded, for the missions she loved, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Taking the name Sister Katharine, she professed her vows, including a vow "to be the mother and servant of the Indian and Negro races."

The country was still a long way from recognizing the civil rights we know today. In Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas Mother Katharine struggled to found schools and churches and to train teachers. In 1932 her crown jewel, Xavier University, was dedicated for African Americans, the only Catholic university for that purpose in the western hemisphere.

Until she died at the age of 96 in 1955, Mother Katharine paid the bills

for 65 schools, churches, and centers in 21 states. Yet she took her vow of poverty seriously, even writing on the backs of letters she received. It was difficult to distinguish her as the superior among her sisters; she worked and laughed with them, sweeping and scrubbing the floors where children played.

Katharine Drexel's fortune ceased at her death, for the terms of her father's will were intended to protect her from fortune hunters, but her legacy of giving still inspires the 245 members of her religious community and others who work in the missions she loved.

Saints have always adjured us to pray, to be humble, to accept the cross, to love and forgive. But it is good to hear these things in the American idiom from one who had her ears pierced as a teenager, who resolved to have "no cake, no preserves," who wore a watch, was interviewed by the press, and could concern herself with the proper size of pipe for construction of a new mission. These are obvious reminders that holiness can be lived in today's culture as well as in that of Jerusalem or Rome centuries ago.

The Church commemorates her life of generous and selfless love on Mar. 3.

## It happened here!

### 15 Years Ago: March 1988

Parishioners celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a skating party at the UI Ice Arena. And the Communications Committee recommended that the parish purchase desktop publishing software.

### 10 Years Ago: March 1993

Students at Holy Cross School observed Catholic Schools Week by participating in cross-grade art projects, a pep rally, a dress-as-your-favorite-storybook-character day, and a talent show.

### 5 Years Ago: March 1998

The Pro-Life Committee presented Dr. Darrel Kessler on "The Science and Ethics of Cloning," Deacon Dan and Pris Murphy led a retreat for married couples, the parish librarian reviewed *The Saints of Ireland*, by Margaret Ryan D'Arcy, in honor of St. Patrick's Day. And of course the Knights' savory fish fries were marked by the usual parking-lot congestion and conversational lines in the main hall on the Fridays of Lent.

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

### Mary Rose Cottingham

#### Italian Chicken Bake

- 1/3 c Bisquick
- 1-2 T butter or margarine
- 1/3 c Parmesan cheese
- 1 T Italian seasoning
- 1/2 t garlic powder
- salt and pepper to taste
- paprika
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts



Melt butter or margarine and coat the chicken breasts. Put all other ingredients in a plastic bag, shake well, add butter-coated chicken breasts and shake thoroughly. Place chicken breasts into a baking pan and bake at 425 degrees for 20 minutes. Turn, sprinkle with paprika, and bake 15-20 minutes longer, or until chicken is white in the center. (Do not overbake!)



## Out of the mouths of children...

*The following responses to questions about the Old and New Testaments were offered by children in a Catholic elementary school far, far away. They come to us via the Internet and have not been retouched or corrected. Enjoy.*

In the first book of the bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, which the animals come on to in pears.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.

*Well, at least they got the idea, anyway. More another time!*

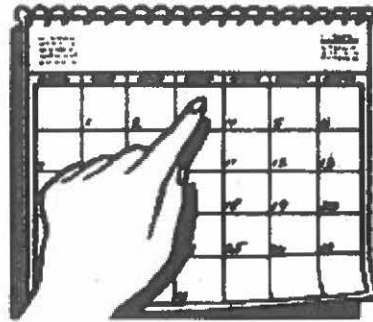
## Helping during difficult times

With economic times becoming more difficult worldwide, the number of homeless people and families is increasing across the country. Daily, people are losing jobs due to corporate downsizing, factories closing, and cutbacks in products and services.

The Church's social teachings implore us to assist those in need, and we can respond by donating time and/or money. Some of the local community programs that assist the homeless are the TIMES Center, the Center for Women in Transition, the Salvation Army, and Restoration Ministries.

Difficult times give all of us an opportunity to help others in our community, to grow as Catholics.

## Make a date



**Mar. 1, Saturday:** 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parish Lenten Retreat, led by Sr. Katleen Mulchay, on "Our Lenten Journey: Path to Resurrection." You can register by calling the parish office (367-2665) and even order a box lunch if you call by Feb. 24.

**Mar. 5, Ash Wednesday:** Ashes will be blessed and distributed during Mass at 7:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., and 5:15 p.m., and at a prayer service at 7:30 p.m.

**Mar. 7, Friday:** Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the church at 5:15 p.m. Afterward you can enjoy the KC's fish fry in the main hall of the parish center.

**Mar. 9, Sunday:** Support CREW's summer Mission trip by participating in the auction of services and talents at 10:15 a.m., in the main hall.

**Mar. 11, Tuesday:** The Catholic Daughters of America will have Mass at noon in the multipurpose room, followed by a brown-bag lunch and meeting in the main hall.

**Mar. 14, 21, 28, Friday:** Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the church



# March 2003

## St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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 March 16.

**1**  
8:30am-3:00pm  
Pre-Lenten  
Retreat

|   |  |   |  |  |  |                                  |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| <p><b>2</b><br/>9:00am &amp; 11:00am<br/>Children's Rel Ed<br/>9:00am RCIA<br/>10:15am Children's<br/>Liturgy<br/>6:30pm Jr/Sr High Rel Ed<br/>6:30pm Leader's Bible<br/>Study</p>  | <p><b>3</b><br/>1:00pm Bible<br/>Study<br/>7:00pm<br/>Centering<br/>Prayer<br/>7:00pm Pro-<br/>Life Com</p>                    | <p><b>4</b><br/>12:30pm Bible Study<br/>6:30-8:00pm Religious Ed<br/>Appreciation Dinner<br/>7:00pm Financial Affairs<br/>Com</p> | <p><b>5</b><br/><u>Ash Wednesday</u><br/>7:00am 12:10pm &amp;<br/>5:15pm Mass<br/>9:00am Mom's Group<br/>5:15pm SVDP<br/>6:00pm Rel Ed, St. Pat's<br/>6:30pm Rel Ed, St. Joe<br/>7:00pm Choir<br/>7:30pm Ashes</p> | <p><b>6</b><br/>6:45am Men's Bible<br/>Study<br/>7:00pm Choir<br/>7:00pm Catholic Young<br/>Adults<br/>7:00pm Building &amp;<br/>Grounds Com<br/>7:00pm Bible Study</p>                    | <p><b>7</b><br/>10:45am Mass-<br/>Champaign Cty<br/>NH<br/>5:15pm Stations<br/>of the Cross<br/>5:30pm Fish Fry</p>                                      | <p><b>8</b></p>                  |
| <p><b>9</b><br/>9:00am &amp; 11:00am<br/>Children's Rel Ed<br/>9:00am RCIA<br/>10:15am CREW Auction<br/>2:30pm WATCH Film<br/>Series<br/>6:30pm Jr High Rel Ed<br/>6:30pm Leader's Bible<br/>Study<br/>7:00pm Website Com</p> | <p><b>10</b><br/>1:00pm Bible Study<br/>7:00pm Centering Prayer<br/>7:00pm Social Action<br/>Com<br/>7:00pm Centennial Com</p> | <p><b>11</b><br/>12:00pm CDA<br/>Lunch &amp; Mtg<br/>12:30pm Bible<br/>Study<br/>7:30pm Parish<br/>Council Exec<br/>Com</p>       | <p><b>12</b><br/>9:00am Mom's Group<br/>9:30am Funeral Schola<br/>5:15pm SVDP<br/>5:15pm Children's Choir<br/>6:00pm Children's<br/>Reconciliation<br/>7:00pm Choir<br/>7:00pm RCIA<br/>8:00pm Personnel Com</p>   | <p><b>13</b><br/>6:45am Men's Bible<br/>Study<br/>7:00pm Choir<br/>7:00pm Catholic Young<br/>Adults<br/>7:00pm Baptism Prep<br/>7:00pm Bible Study</p>                                     | <p><b>14</b><br/>10:30am Mass-<br/>Care Center<br/>10:45am Mass-<br/>Champaign Cty<br/>NH<br/>5:15pm Stations<br/>of the Cross<br/>5:30pm Fish Fry</p>   | <p><b>15</b><br/>5:00pm RCIA</p> |
| <p><b>16</b><br/>9:00am &amp; 11:00am<br/>Children's Rel Ed<br/>10:15am Children's<br/>Liturgy<br/>2:30pm WATCH Film<br/>Series<br/>6:30pm Jr/Sr High Rel Ed<br/>6:30pm Leader's Bible<br/>Study</p>                          | <p><b>17</b><br/><u>St. Patrick's Day</u><br/>1:00pm Bible<br/>Study<br/>7:00pm<br/>Centering<br/>Prayer</p>                   | <p><b>18</b><br/>9:30am Mass-<br/>Canterbury<br/>Ridge<br/>12:30pm Bible<br/>Study<br/>6:30pm<br/>Liturgy Com</p>                 | <p><b>19</b><br/>9:00am Mom's Group<br/>5:15pm SVDP<br/>5:15pm Children's Choir<br/>6:00pm Children's Rel<br/>Ed, St. Pat's<br/>6:30pm Children's Rel<br/>Ed, St. Joe<br/>7:00pm Choir<br/>7:00pm RCIA</p>         | <p><b>20</b><br/>6:45am Men's Bible<br/>Study<br/>7:00pm Choir<br/>7:00pm Catholic Young<br/>Adults<br/>7:00pm Parish Council<br/>7:00pm Communications<br/>Com<br/>7:00pm Bible Study</p> | <p><b>21</b><br/>10:30am Mass-<br/>Clark-Lindsey<br/>10:45am Mass-<br/>Champaign Cty<br/>NH<br/>5:15pm Stations<br/>of the Cross<br/>5:30pm Fish Fry</p> | <p><b>22</b></p>                 |
| <p><b>23</b><br/>7:30am RCIA<br/>10:15am Children's<br/>Liturgy<br/>10:45am Social Com<br/>2:30pm WATCH Film<br/>Series</p>   | <p><b>24</b><br/>9:30am<br/>Archives Com<br/>7:00pm<br/>Centering<br/>Prayer</p>   | <p><b>25</b><br/>7:00pm<br/>Homily Prep<br/>7:00pm 1st<br/>Communion<br/>Prep</p>   | <p><b>26</b><br/>9:00am Mom's Group<br/>9:30am Funeral Schola<br/>5:15pm SVDP<br/>5:15pm Children's Choir<br/>7:00pm Choir<br/>7:00pm RCIA</p>   | <p><b>27</b><br/>6:45am Men's<br/>Bible Study<br/>7:00pm Choir<br/>7:00pm<br/>Catholic<br/>Young Adults</p>  | <p><b>28</b><br/>10:30am Mass-<br/>Manor Care<br/>10:45am Mass-<br/>Champaign Cty<br/>NH<br/>5:15pm Stations<br/>of the Cross<br/>5:30pm Fish Fry</p>    | <p><b>29</b></p>                 |
| <p><b>30</b><br/>9:00am RCIA<br/>2:30pm<br/>WATCH Film<br/>Series</p>   | <p><b>31</b><br/>7:00pm<br/>Centering<br/>Prayer</p>   |   |  |  |  |                                  |