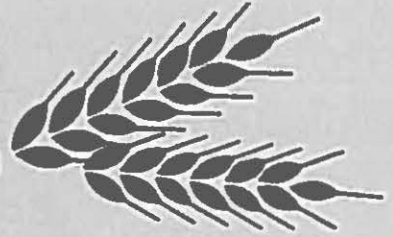


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



[www.stpatsurbana.org](http://www.stpatsurbana.org)

## They Called for Help . . . and Got It

"Hello, this is St. Patrick's answering service. You have a call for help. They are at the Provena Hospital, waiting to hear from you."

The call for help came in at 2 p.m. on a Saturday in August. Was it



for gas? Food? Medication? Transportation? No, it was for none of these. Allie Baczynski, co-leader of a group of 13 youngsters and adults, explained that they needed an overnight stay for the entire group. They weren't asking for motel rooms, just a room somewhere, since they had their own sleeping bags. The hospital staff had said that St. Patrick's could help.

The group had been in Brownville, Tenn., on a service project for their Confirmation, hours spent volunteering for the needy. On their way home one of the boys became ill, so they stopped at the hospital in Urbana. Reluctant to leave the boy here alone, they all agreed to spend the night here and leave for home together in the morning, after early Mass.

Fr. Remm was on retreat, Fr. Kane could not be reached, so Sophia Zeigler had to make a quick decision. They were stranded travelers in an unfamiliar town—yes, St. Patrick's has a finished basement that could be used.

They were happy to have found us, a Catholic group, in a Catholic center. Sophia called Carol Retz to let her know that the group and their leaders were going to be sheltered for the night in the parish center basement.

Carol and her husband, Steve, helped them settle in, and Steve stayed overnight with them in case they needed assistance during the night. In the morning, Coffee Shop provided another warm welcome.

Before Mass Fr. Kane met with them and was impressed by the group of youngsters and their leaders. He called attention to the group at 7:30 Mass, and a parishioner, equally impressed, invited them to breakfast at Urbana Garden. It was with full stomachs and heartfelt gratitude to St. Patrick's faith community that the group from Immaculate Conception Parish in New Richmond, Wisc., started off for home!



*The group from Immaculate Conception Parish, shown here on their overnight stopover at St. Patrick's on their way home to Wisconsin.*



### Altar Servers and Eucharistic Ministers Needed

Many very generous parishioners responded to the recent Time and Talent weekend by renewing previous commitments and volunteering in new ways to serve the parish and the Lord. Almost every parish group or activity will enjoy the active assistance of new participants—new ideas, new enthusiasms, new suggestions, new helping hands mean so very much!

This was equally true in the area of liturgical ministries, where many volunteers are needed to fill the several roles in our community worship at Sunday Mass each and every weekend. Still needed, however, are youngsters to assist the presider at Mass as altar servers, and adults to share Christ's body and blood with the assembly at Mass as eucharistic ministers. Many more are needed: to volunteer as a server, call Janet Althausser (367-5397); to volunteer as a eucharistic minister, call Lyle Fettig (356-8136).

If you have already volunteered, your name has been given to the appropriate person for follow-up and you should receive a phone call shortly!

## Parish Council News

At their September meeting Council members reviewed the status of property acquisition discussed in August. A higher appraisal for one under consideration has made it less affordable, and the owner of two others is not yet ready to sell. Members affirmed Fr. Remm decision to approach owners of other properties adjacent to St. Patrick's instead.

Of the \$102,231 that parishioners pledged in the Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA) in May, approximately \$34,500 remains to be paid.

Fr. Remm reported that at a recent priests' meeting with the bishop on the diocesan \$32 million capital drive, parishes received their campaign targets. The target amount set for St. Patrick's is \$617,774 over a four-year

period, with \$123,555 to be returned to the parish if the target is reached. The ADA will be subsumed into the capital drive for one year, after which the ADA and the capital drive will present separate target amounts to be met by parishes.

In October St. Patrick's will initiate signing for the deaf at noon Mass on the first Sunday of each month. The proposal presented by Minette Sternke was endorsed by the Liturgy Committee and approved in principle by staff, with a few details yet to be resolved.

Committees are encouraged to turn in one or two tentative objectives for 2004 to Tracey Johnson, Council secretary, before the Objectives Workshop. All Council and committee

members are urged to participate in the workshop, to be held on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Other parishioners interested in participating are more than welcome, for it is from the discussion at this workshop that parish objectives for the following year will be formulated—one of special significance for the parish, with Fr. Remm's retirement and the coming of a new pastor in midyear.

The next Council meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Oct. 16 in the multipurpose room. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings. For those desiring more complete information about issues and concerns discussed, minutes of the previous Council meeting are posted in the church vestibule and on the bulletin board in the staff wing of the parish center.



**Q:** Who or what are "guardian angels"?

**A:** The concept of an angel assigned to guide and nurture each human being is a development of Catholic doctrine and piety based on Scripture but not directly drawn from it. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10 best support the belief: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."

Perhaps no aspect of Catholic piety is as comforting to parents as the belief that an angel protects their little ones from dangers real and imagined. Yet guardian angels are not just for children. Their role is to represent individuals before God, to watch over them always, to aid their prayer, and to present their souls to God at death.

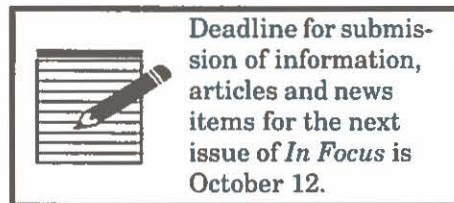
Devotion to the angels began to develop with the monastic tradition. St. Benedict gave it impetus, and Bernard of Clairvaux, the great 12<sup>th</sup>-century reformer, was such an eloquent spokesman for the guardian angels that this devotion assumed its current form in his day. A feast in honor of the guardian angels was first observed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and in

1615 Pope Paul V added it to the Roman calendar to be celebrated on Oct. 2.

Catholic children were taught to pray: "Angel of God, my guardian dear, / to whom God's love commits me here, / ever this day be at my side / to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen." Adults may recognize this beautiful prayer from the Rite for Christian Burial: "May the angels lead you into paradise; / may the martyrs come to welcome you / and take you to the holy city, / the new and eternal Jerusalem."

Devotion to the angels is, at base, an expression of faith in God's enduring love and providential care extended to each person, day in and day out, until life's end.

*Questions about Catholic practice or Catholic teaching may be sent to the Communications Committee in care of the parish office*



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

## Council reflects on call to be and to build Church

The Parish Council's annual August retreat, like that of the staff, focused on the theme of transition, specifically from one pastor to another as St. Patrick's and Fr. Remm prepare for his retirement next June.

Sr. Mary Himens, sscm, facilitated the retreat, which was held at Lake of the Woods, Mahomet.

Friday evening, Council members reflected on their personal transitions and life changes, which became the backdrop for discussion of how the parish will, in an attitude of trust, accept the change in pastor.

Sr. Mary took participants through the stages of transition and adaptive transactions, then encouraged them to give thought to the Council's mission and role, its expectations and responsibilities to the parish, over the coming year. She suggested that they incorporate ideas discussed during the retreat into their regular monthly Council meetings.

As Council members continue to reflect on how all of us are called to be and to build Church here at St. Patrick's, they ask that we too keep this time of transition in prayer, with trust and hope in the guidance of the Spirit.

## Crew gets off to another great year

Still enjoying the “high” of their summer Mission trip to New York State, CREW (Christ Renews Everyone’s World) prepares for this year’s learning, service, and special events.

CREW, the name that parish teens adopted for their youth program, has a core group (named, what else, CORE) whose purpose is to assist Peggy Loftus, Senior High program coordinator, and Carol Retz, Activities

Kick-Off on Oct. 5, 6:30-8:00 p.m., with games (inside and outside), announcements, meeting fall semester teachers, Mission trip testimonials and plans for next summer’s Mission trip—and pizza, pop, and candy. All teens will also receive a t-shirt featuring this year’s theme.



coordinator, in planning for the coming year. Any teen in the youth group may join CORE, which chose as its theme this year “I don’t walk alone,” a concise statement based on the poem “Footprints.”

As teens focus on the help the Lord provides this year, they will be very busy with a great variety of religious education and Mission activities.

The first event will be the annual

On Oct. 12, as teens go to their several classrooms for their first religious education class of the year, Carol Retz and Peggy Loftus will hold a Parents’ Meeting to acquaint parents with the year’s planned activities and learning program and to provide information about next summer’s Mission trip.

Parents will also have an opportunity to ask questions about CREW, the religious education program, and Confirmation classes next spring.

On Oct. 26, the first Teen Liturgy will be celebrated at noon Mass, with their parents and friends and other parishioners.

Nov. 1 is the date set for CREW’s annual Leaf Raking Fundraiser. Tired

of raking leaves year after year? Then invite a group of enthusiastic and hard-working teens to rake and bag those leaves for you! The teens bring their own rakes (some savvy teens now bring lawn blowers) and will provide leaf bags if you haven’t any. Watch for the bulletin insert to come in October, and be one of the first to sign up; only about 12 or so lawns can be handled, so you’ll want to get your bid in early!

Both Carol Retz and Peggy Loftus thank St. Patrick’s faith community for your support of the teens’ efforts to grow closer to the Lord, deepening their faith. Your volunteered assistance and participation in the Mission trip fundraisers are greatly appreciated. Your commitment to Christ and to the teens helps to strengthen their own commitment to Christ and to St. Patrick’s. Thank you!

## Parishioner’s son recalls time in Mideast

*The following was written for the News-Gazette by Tom Kacich and is reprinted here with permission.*

The green, sun-drenched farm fields and the peaceful, shady lane next to his parents’ rural Urbana home make for a startling contrast in the life of Marine Sgt. Michael Sandone, who two months ago was smack in the middle of war.

Sandone, 25, was serving in Iraq as a machine gun squad leader, alternately ducking sniper fire and trying to avoid boredom with the newly invented game of “dust hockey.”

Now back home, he looks forward to spending time with his family, but



Sgt. Michael Sandone

another part of him is back in Iraq, hoping the people there someday get to savor their own taste of peace and liberty.

“I hope,” he said, “that they get their freedom and that they’re glad we were there to help them. I don’t want to see things change back to the way they were.”

Sandone’s Marine Corps unit, among the first into Iraq on March 21, saw the ugliest side of Iraq: the poverty, the despair, the refugees streaming south to Kuwait, the missiles and other artillery hidden in schools, mosques, and hospitals, and the Fedayeen paramilitaries who were terrorizing civilians and threatening American and British forces.

*continued on next page*

*Sgt. Michael Sandone*  
From page 3

His unit, after a 27-hour journey from Kuwait in a cramped armored personnel carrier, met resistance near Nasiriyah, Iraq. Throughout the night, he said, they faced bursts of small-weapons fire and rocket-propelled grenades. The shooting came not from Iraqi soldiers but from men dressed in civilian clothes.

After about 10 hours of urban warfare, Sandone's unit moved on to Baghdad, but the battle in Nasiriyah was not forgotten by his superiors. "During this period, Corporal Sandone distinguished himself as an expert in his field, as an effective combat leader, and an exemplary non-commissioned officer," wrote Lt. Col. Lewis A. Craparotta, in awarding Sandone a Marine Corps Achievement Medal. "His tireless devotion to training and preparing his Marines resulted in their superb performance during combat operations."

He was also cited for his work in Baghdad. "Corporal Sandone continues to rise to the occasion in and out of fight," said another commendation. "He is one of the few that fought the way he trained and trained the way he fought. Corporal Sandone is a proven leader that takes care of his Marines and accomplishes the mission like very few can." Sandone also was awarded promotion to sergeant.

Serving in Iraq was difficult, he said, but the worst wasn't the heat or the sandstorms or the MREs (meals, ready to eat) or the occasional shortages of water or the 100 pounds of gear, weapons, and ammunition he had to lug around for much of the war. "It was not knowing the big picture," Sandone said. "We knew very little about what was going on anywhere else. But we were on the move so often that there was no way anyone could give us much information."

After a month in a changing Iraq, Sandone himself had changed. In an April 18 letter to his parents he wrote: "I have a new respect for the Iraqi people. I used to think I hated them. Now I love them. When we first went into Baghdad we were given a hero's welcome. Everyone was in the streets, cheering and waving. All I could think

of was the liberation of France in WWII."

"The reception we got was the big thing," Sandone said, back at his parents' home. "And it changed the minds of a lot of guys. They're just good people, trying to live out their lives, as simple as they are. It's been hard for them, these last 30 years or so, having to live under Saddam Hussein."

After nearly five years in the Marine Corps, Sandone plans to return to college, where he hopes to earn a degree in business and finance. His parents are relieved. Before Iraq, their son had been among the Marines providing security to the FBI and other Americans in Yemen in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the USS Cole. "If the Marines are ever in the middle of something," joked Mary Sandone, "you can bet that Michael is there."

As for the Americans still in Iraq and Kuwait, Sandone said the best thing their countrymen can do "is to support them. Just let them know that you're with them."

## Kathy Kelly in C-U to speak on Iraq

Nobel Prize nominee and humanitarian Kathy Kelly will make several appearances here Sept. 29-30. The Social Action Committee is one of about 20 church, campus, and community organizations sponsoring her visit. Ms. Kelly is one of the founding members of Voices in the Wilderness, which has led a campaign since the first Gulf War to oppose sanctions against Iraq and deliver medicine and toys to Iraqis. She has visited Iraq 21 times, was in Iraq during the recent war as a witness to the invasion and bombardment, and returned to Iraq to study the aftermath.

On Monday, Sept. 29, she will speak at a noon rally on the university quad, and at 4 p.m. at the University YMCA, where her topic will be "Baghdad under Bombs: A U.S. Peace Team Perspective." On Tuesday, Sept. 30, she will be on a WILL-AM580 talk show at 10 a.m., followed by a brown bag discussion at the Channing-Murray Foundation.

At 7 p.m. Ms. Kelly will be a panelist at a town meeting at the Champaign Public Library, on the topic "Liberation or Occupation?" Other panelists include a U.S. citizen who visited his relatives in Iraq this summer, a representative of a family readiness group for military families, and a UI professor in arms control and security. Jack Brighton of WILL will moderate the discussion, which is intended to bring out a variety of perspectives on the topic.

In addition to her work in Iraq, Ms. Kelly helped to organize non-violent actions at nuclear test sites in the U.S. (1988), in Bosnia (1992-93), and Haiti (1994). In April 2002 she was among the first internationals to visit the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. She has taught in Chicago community colleges and high schools and is active with the Catholic Worker Movement.



*St. Patrick's Parish 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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## Looking back at our parish centennial

The final event in St. Patrick's two-year celebration of our parish centennial will be the replacement of the cornerstone of the church, along with the time capsule, after the 8 o'clock Mass Saturday morning, Oct. 25.

What a vibrant, active celebration it has been! You are invited to savor it by reflecting on some of the major events during the last two years. Can you number them in calendar order? How many did you attend?

- \_\_\_ Ice Cream Social at Parish Picnic
- \_\_\_ Tridentine Mass
- \_\_\_ Dinner at the Laborers Hall
- \_\_\_ Rededication Mass
- \_\_\_ Independence Day Parade Float
- \_\_\_ Procession from St. Mary's Church
- \_\_\_ Opening the Cornerstone/Time Capsule
- \_\_\_ Dinner Dance at Jumer's
- \_\_\_ Opening Liturgy
- \_\_\_ Parish Mission
- \_\_\_ Centennial Lecture
- \_\_\_ Photos for the Parish Pictorial Directory
- \_\_\_ Family History Book Published
- \_\_\_ Refurbishment of the Church

(Answers are on p. 9)



If you are relatively new to the parish, you may want to purchase a copy of the Parish Pictorial Directory and the collection of family histories, written and illustrated by parishioners, called *In Praise of Parish Families*. Both are available at the parish office and are a great way to get to know something of the wonderful history of St. Patrick's parish and its people.

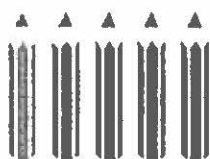
Among them are members of the Archives and Centennial committees. The Archives Committee has been at work for many years to see that the parish records and history are preserved for future generations. Their special projects for the centennial were the book of family histories and the pictorial directory. They also provided exhibits and historical tidbits to help us realize how our faith community has grown over time. The Centennial Committee is wrapping up its work now, having spent many hours over the last three years planning events in celebration of faith, community, and rootedness here at St. Patrick's.

A special thanks to each and every one who has served so generously and selflessly on these committees!

## Holy Cross Newsline

The new school year opened with an all-school Mass on Friday, Sept. 5. Offerings brought forward at the Mass included symbols of learning (e.g., textbook, basketball, jump rope). Students also gathered for Mass on Sept. 11 to commemorate those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks. A Respect Life Mass will be celebrated on Friday, Oct. 3, at the beginning of the school day.

On Sept. 22 "School House Rock," an hour-long program of skits and songs, was presented by students who participated in Jodi Prosser's Musical



Theatre Camp this summer at Holy Cross. Also in September (Sept. 22-26), third- through eighth-graders underwent Terra Nova testing.

The annual PTC (Parent-Teacher Club) Hot Dog Day is slated for Friday, Oct. 10. All families of students are welcome to join their children on the playground for a free lunch of hot dogs. Details will be sent home with the children.

There will be no school on Monday, Oct. 13 (Columbus Day) and Tuesday, Oct. 14 (Diocesan Institute Day).

Saturday, Nov. 1, is the date set for Confirmation of eighth-graders, who have been preparing for this sacrament since last spring. The celebration will begin at 3:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Church.

## You can make a difference!

St. Patrick's parishioners are invited to participate in the national Make-a-Difference Day event by donating personal care items for local shelters for the homeless. Items requested are toothbrushes, disposable razors (for men and women), and small sizes of toothpaste, bar soap, and deodorants.

Please bring donated items to church with you the weekend of Oct. 18-19; baskets for them will be placed in the church vestibule and the parish center lobby. Donated items can also be brought to the parish center during the following week, Oct. 20-24. On Make-a-Difference Day itself, Oct. 25, all donated items will be delivered to the local shelters.

The Social Action Committee and religious education coordinators are facilitating parish participation in this annual event. They remind all of us that we can *make a difference in someone's life!*



*Welcome to new parishioners* Julie Barr, Alejandra and Aquilino Bartolome, Julie Bauer, Frank and Lynda Benso, Myra Cayamanda, Lee and Roxana Cowan, Dustin Lange, David and Sandy Lucas, Mary and Nick Ramey, Joseph Straw.

*Farewell to parishioners* James and Lauretta Taylor, Robin Singer, Janet and Jerald Payonk, Christopher and Yvette Nelson, Bill and Lamar Murphy, Patrick Morgan, Rebecca Lartigue, Joseph and Julia Kelly, Brent and Julie Griffy, Christopher Edmondson, Manda and Shad Crawford, John Connolly, Laura and Roy Castaneda, Mary Clare Brady, Amanda and Thomas Bjorklund.

*Welcome to the following, recently baptized into our faith community:* Giana Elizabeth Benso, Vincent Anthony Benso, Julian Chad Straw, Isabella Loren Getty.

*Congratulations to these couples, married at St. Patrick's:* Kevin Abrams and Jody Hogan, James Styron IV and Andrea Gavurnik.

## An Evangelization Minute

Jim Mayer



When I think about how I have been “evangelized” or touched by God, I think of many small

moments and a few truly big moments in my life. I would like to share with you a story about one of the big moments, when I experienced God’s presence in a way that could not be missed.

My story revolves around my mother’s diagnosis with cancer three years ago, which led to her final six months of life with us here. When I think about that six-month period and its aftermath, I still feel a combination of great pain and great joy. Although I terribly miss having my mother here with us, there isn’t a day

that goes by without my thinking of her, and her great example of faith, in living and in dying.

When the diagnosis of cancer was confirmed, I remember our fear of that moment when the doctor would first tell Mom. We were anticipating that she would take the news as poorly as the rest of the family had. We were wrong—Mom heard the news with calm and dignity, in a way that showed she was sad but not afraid of facing death.

During the next six months, Mom lived life more fully than ever, inspiring all of us with her joy of living. She made the most of every opportunity to visit with family and friends, despite the pain and discomfort she was feeling from the disease. While all of us in the family were hoping for a miraculous cure, Mom seemed content to live life in a miraculous fashion. She spoke often about her faith in God and her trust that God was preparing a place for her. It was a great

comfort for her to listen to recordings of her favorite hymns, including some she had learned as a child.

Knowing that she would not likely live to see her 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, Mom requested that the family gather for a celebration of her and Dad’s 48<sup>th</sup>. We met in Florida, where two of my brothers live. I’ll never forget seeing Mom tooling around Disney World with her beloved grandchildren pushing her in a wheelchair because she had grown too weak for all the walking.

I was with my mom when she died, a few short weeks after that trip to Florida. She died peacefully, in her bed at home. Her final words, just before breathing her final breath, were simply, “Father, I’m ready.” Mom’s courage and grace in facing death had the effect of drawing my entire family closer together, and caused us all to reflect more deeply on our faith and how we live it.



## in our parish library

All Saints Day and All Souls Day remind us to reflect on God’s holy ones and the examples they set for us. The parish library has many good books on the lives of the saints, both those officially canonized by the Church and those whose lives of faith and love continue to inspire although not recognized for canonization. You can find these books shelved by the call numbers 920 and 921. Among them are:

*Lives of the Fathers, Martyrs, and Other Principal Saints*, by Alban Butler (920 BUT). This classic work in four volumes is organized by date, so if you want to know whose feast is celebrated on a given date, you can locate that information easily. Each entry is 1-5 pages long.

*All Saints: Daily Reflection on Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses for Our Time*, by Robert Ellsberg (920 ELL). This book includes the saints officially canonized by the Church as well as men and women who have lived lives of great, even heroic, holiness but may not be considered for

canonization—such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The author includes a “mixed and motley crew” to show that holiness doesn’t belong to just one tradition or religion.

If you’d like to introduce your children to the saints, there are some excellent titles in the children’s library (kindergarten classroom).

Among them are:

*Loyola Kids’ Book of Saints*, by Amy Welborn (920 WEL). This delightful collection of saints’ lives, written in storybook style for children 8 to 12 years of age, explains how saints become saints, why we honor them, and how they help us even today. Divided thematically, the book features more than sixty saints from around the world and across time, including our newest saints, such as Katharine Drexel; popular saints, such as Anthony of Padua; and “blesseds,” such as Kateri Tekakwitha. Each saint’s story encourages readers to consider how they might apply what they learn to their everyday lives.

*Saints and Heroes for Kids*, by Ethel Pochocki (920 POC). The author shows how saints and holy people have overcome obstacles and struggled with service and wise actions. Her stories show that God loves everyone, no matter how eccentric a person may seem.

*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.*

*Have courage for the great sorrows of life, and patience for the small ones. And when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake.*

—Victor Hugo

## Transition and change the focus of staff retreat

St. Patrick's staff recently spent three days on retreat at King's House, exploring together the theme of transition and change. Because Fr. Remm's pending retirement and an incoming new pastor next summer will undoubtedly bring change to our faith community, the staff sought guidance and insight in preparing to say good-bye to Fr. Remm and welcome to the new pastor.

On the first evening, Ted Wolgamot, a friend of Fr. Remm's and a counselor in Peoria, led the staff in a discussion of transitions, highlighting the psychology involved. The evening was also given over to affirming Fr. Remm for the wonderful pastor he has been for St. Patrick's, appreciating the blessings of his leadership, and focusing on hopes for the future.

On the remaining days of the retreat Fr. Dietzen, retired priest from Peoria, led the staff in exploring the various areas of ministry at St. Patrick's, identifying the parish's strongest assets, and considering the kinds of revising and refining that would strengthen these ministries in preparation for a new pastor.

Special prayer services paralleled the presentations, helping participants to focus their hearts and minds

on appreciating their blessings while facing the opportunities ahead. When not engaged in discussions, reflection, and prayer, they enjoyed walking the lovely grounds of King's House and playing board games.

The three days at King's House energized the staff in preparation for their several roles in helping parishio-

ners approach this year of transition as "our best year." We can help them too with our own prayers; as difficult as transition and change can be for all of us, we know it can be especially so for those who work closely with the pastor day by day to carry out his vision of Church as embodied by St. Patrick's.



Staff retreatants included (seated) Lenore Nagele, retreat facilitator Fr. John Dietzen, Chris Angel, Carolyn McElrath, and (standing) Carol Retz, Sr. Charlene Cesario, Mary Tierney VanCleave, Diane Cousert, Fr. George Remm, Mark Cousert, Mary Long, and Peggy Loftus.

## Celebrating the Year of the Rosary

October is the month traditionally associated with the Rosary. Pope John Paul II has dedicated this year, from October 2002 to October 2003, in a special way to the Rosary. In his Apostolic Letter on the Rosary, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, he speaks of Mary's relationship to Jesus and to us: "Mary constantly sets before the faithful the 'mysteries' of her son," he says, "with the desire that the contemplation of those mysteries will release all their saving power."

A gift of the Pope to the faithful in this Year of the Rosary was an outline of five suggested "new mysteries," the Mysteries of Light, which bridge the gap of years

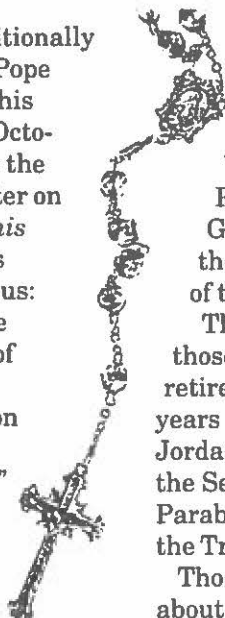
between Jesus in the Temple at the age of twelve and Jesus at the onset of his passion and death at the age of thirty-three. The Mysteries of Light are (1) the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, (2) the Miracle of the Wedding Feast of Cana, (3) the Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, (4) the Transfiguration on the Mount, and (5) the Institution of the Eucharist.

These mysteries are similar to those proposed in our own diocese by retired Bishop O'Rourke several years ago: (1) the Baptism at the Jordan, (2) the Wedding at Cana, (3) the Sermon on the Mount, (4) the Parable of the Prodigal Son, and (5) the Transfiguration.

Those who would like to know more about the Rosary, why it is still very appropriate, or simply want to be inspired, might like to read the Apos-

tolitic Letter itself. In it Pope John Paul II refers to previous documents by Pope Leo XIII and Pope Paul VI that refer to the effectiveness of the Rosary as a spiritual weapon and as a prayer for peace, both of which are great needs for our day. *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* can be found in our parish library.

Bishop Jenky has invited the faithful of the Diocese of Peoria to participate in a Rosary Congress on Oct. 5, marking the end of the Year of the Rosary. An opportunity for private confessions (2:00-2:45 p.m.) will precede the Congress, which begins with a banner procession at 3:00 p.m. The celebration includes exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a keynote address by Bishop Jenky, and praying the Rosary (in English and Spanish), with meditations on the Mysteries of Light. The event concludes with a reception in Spalding Gymnasium.



## These men gain strength in prayer—together

It's 6:45 a.m. on Thursday, and the parish center is already humming—quietly. Sophia Zeigler and her long-time helper Lori McDonough are starting the coffee for morning Mass-goers. Men and women, sometimes happily accompanied by youngsters, exchange greetings on their way to the multipurpose room, where they pray quietly while waiting for Fr. Remm's arrival and the start of Mass. And a few men, some with travel coffee mugs in hand, drift in and head for the lounge, coming together for their weekly Bible study.

Officially known as the Men's Bible Study Group, which had its beginning in fall 1994 with the onset of parish-wide participation in Community Bible Study (CBS), these men are remarkably faithful to their commitment to one another and to their purpose in gathering. It's a rare occasion when the group fails to meet, unless by common consent, as on the death of the father of one of their members, when they gathered instead in prayerful support at morning Mass.

This has always been a men's group, and although age has not been a factor, all are family men. Wanting to avoid yet another evening activity that would take them away from their families, they chose 6:45-7:45 a.m. as their meeting time, which would allow them to get to their workplaces by 8:00 a.m. Although a couple of the original members have moved away or moved on, most are still coming to pray, study, share their faith with the others each and every week. The group currently includes Chris Freidhof, Mark Gerhart, Tom Korder, Jim Mayer, Sam Reese, Tony Schutz, and Gary Wszalek.

In the beginning they followed the CBS format—some elements of it remain—but over time the group moved on to books dealing with parenting, men's spirituality, centering prayer, Promise Keepers, etc., time and again returning to Bible study. They are currently reading and discussing Karen Armstrong's *Islam: A Short History* to gain a clearer perspective on world events and a better understanding of its adherents living in our community.

The group has taken up service projects every few months; one of the more recent projects was keeping up storage facilities for Habitat for Humanity. One member also designed a shed, and a couple of these were built for Habitat. All such projects are done in the name of God and are viewed as a way of reaffirming their faith.

Over time, then, they have moved from a more formal study aspect to one of prayerful support of one another, especially in their concerns as family members—fathers, husbands, sons. Voicing honestly their individual concerns and praying for one another in response to those concerns has resulted in a high level of intimacy and trust in the group and in the process they have followed.

One member remarked that the support of the group helps him to stay rooted, grounded, in God. Another, that his faith is strengthened through

this connection with others in matters of faith, indeed he believes that faith may be weakened without it. Yet another feels it is especially important for men to be part of a group like this one. This was his third attempt to be part of such a group; he joined on invitation from another member. All agree that their reason for coming together, for being together, is a spiritual one; they come to pray together, even to be silent together in prayer, and to pray for one another.

Although this need for faith sharing and shared prayer drew them from the more structured format of the Community Bible Study, it may be fair to say that it was CBS that gathered them, provided a structure within which they grew, and helped them develop the level of intimacy and trust that has led to the freedom and security marking their journey together today.

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

**Cheryl Milewski**

#### Refrigerator Bran Muffins

1½ c sugar  
 ½ c solid shortening  
 2½ c flour  
 2½ t soda  
 ½ t salt  
 2 c all-bran ready-to-eat cereal  
 1 c 100% bran ready-to-eat cereal  
 1 c boiling water  
 2 eggs  
 2 c buttermilk\*



Thoroughly cream together sugar and shortening. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Add flour, soda, salt, and buttermilk, and mix until smooth. Pour boiling water over 100% bran cereal, let stand until water has been absorbed and has cooled slightly, and then blend into batter. Add the all-bran cereal, mixing thoroughly. Batter may be refrigerated for up to five weeks.

When ready to use, dip batter from container, without stirring, into greased muffin tins. Bake in 400-degree oven about 20 minutes, or until done.

*\*You can make your own buttermilk by adding 1 T vinegar per cup of milk, letting it sit for a few minutes. If you wish, you can add raisins to the batter before refrigerating. Recipe may be doubled if desired. These muffins are extremely tasty and high in fiber!*



## October filled with special awareness days

The month of October is one of the months dedicated to Mary in a special way, for it was through her that the Rosary was given to the world through St. Dominic. But the month itself is so packed that it is worth calling out some for special mention:

On Oct. 5, for instance, the Diocese of Peoria is holding a **Rosary Congress** to mark the end of the Year of the Rosary, proclaimed by Pope John Paul II. [See article elsewhere in this issue.]

Oct. 5 is also observed as **Respect Life Sunday**, focusing our attention on all life issues such as fetal tissue research, abortion, mercy killing, assisted suicide, capital punishment, abusive relationships, and the like. As a part of this observance we are invited to participate in one or more of the following:

**Pennies for Life:** The diocesan Family Resource Center provides many materials and assistance related to various life issues. Each person is asked to help support the work of this Center by donating a penny for each year of one's life.

**Life Chain:** This annual prayer vigil demonstrates to the local community support for an end to abortion, with

renewed emphasis on the hurt that abortion inflicts on women. The Life Chain will take place on the south side of Hessel Park from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Signs will be provided and may be picked up at the southwest corner of the park.

**Respect Life Dinner:** Held in Peoria, this year's keynote speaker is Erika Harold, Miss America 2003. For information or to obtain tickets, call 309/637-1713.

**Vocation Awareness Sunday,** Oct. 12, calls us to an awareness of the need for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, but also to an awareness of our own vocation and how well we are living it. Pray for vocations every day!

**World Mission Sunday,** Oct. 19, organized by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, is a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. As described by Pope John Paul II, World Mission Sunday is "an important day in the life of the Church because it teaches how to give: as an offering made to God, in the Eucharistic celebration and for all the missions of the world." This Sunday has also been designated **Laity Sunday**, celebrating the ministry of all lay Christians, inasmuch as their lives are empowered for ministry by the Holy Spirit.



## Health Fair at St. Patrick's Oct. 26

Make the fourth annual Health Fair a family affair this year. The parish nurses are providing activities for parishioners of various ages and interests. Last year's most popular activity was the bone density screening. This year's event will include that as well as demonstrations of the Automatic External Defibrillator, blood pressure and blood



sugar screening, information on cancer prevention and awareness, fire safety and family services information, materials on self-help (First Call for Help), "Ask a Pharmacist" medication questions, and the Vial of Life program.

Regrettably, the increased cost of flu vaccine and the staffing shortage experienced by the C-U Public Health District mean that flu shots will not be offered this year.

The Health Fair, sponsored by St. Patrick's parish nurses, will be located in the main hall of the parish center from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26. You can "have your cake and eat it too," in a manner of speaking—come for coffee and enjoy the Health Fair!

## Parishioners participate in Respect Life workshop

The diocesan Respect Life workshop on Aug. 23 was attended by Lu and Jim Pillar. "It was an inspiring event," Lu said. Representatives from diocesan parishes were invited to be "witnesses of hope" by Fr. Charles Klamut in his homily at Mass in the beautifully restored St. Martin de Porres church.

Patricia Bainbridge, Associate Director of the Rockford Respect Life office, further energized the large group of representatives by citing many examples of the "disconnect" between the clashes and attitudes of moral relativism in today's culture with the reality and truth of Catholic faith in regard to human life. "Tell the truth and know your facts," she challenged.

The coordinator of the St. Francis Fertility Care Center, Paul Kortz, spoke on "reverencing your fertility" by using the Creighton model of spacing and producing children naturally instead of the contraceptive mode. Infertility can be addressed in this model. Introductory sessions are available, followed by individual plans.

Participants also viewed the new video *Magdalen*, which tells the story of an international superstar's conversion following an abortion and her fight for the unborn innocent children of the world.

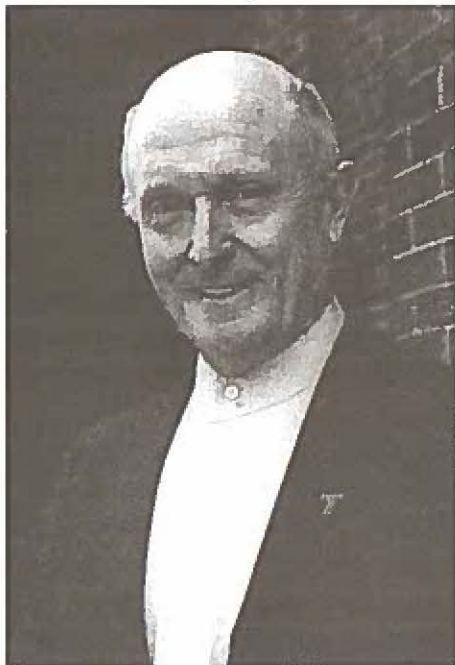
"It was a powerful day," concluded the Pillars.

### Answers to Centennial Quiz, page 5

- 11 Ice Cream Social
- 7 Tridentine Mass
- 4 Dinner at the Laborers Hall
- 14 Rededication Mass
- 5 Independence Day Parade Float
- 2 Procession from St. Mary's
- 13 Opening the Cornerstone
- 8 Dinner Dance at Jumer's
- 3 Opening Liturgy
- 12 Parish Mission
- 9 Centennial Lecture
- 6 Photos for the Parish Directory
- 1 Family History Book Published
- 10 Refurbishment of the Church

## Roncalli Society welcomes Fr. Michael Crosby, OFM Cap.

The Fall Gathering of the Roncalli Society will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Mennonite Church in Normal (Ill.). Featured speaker Fr.



Fr. Michael Crosby

Michael Crosby has entitled his presentation "Reclaiming the Catholic Church for Jesus Christ."

Not many people will argue that something has gone wrong with Catholicism. When the new archbishop of scandal-torn Boston has to appeal to the people to help him "repair my house" (words of Jesus to Francis of Assisi), the task of rebuilding the scarred body of Christ cannot be easy. Fr. Crosby, like the new archbishop a disciple of St. Francis in the Capuchin tradition, suggests that the task of rebuilding begins with removal of stumbling blocks.

Fr. Crosby's ministry is twofold: Three-fourths is spent writing and speaking about biblical spirituality geared for our First World society. The other involves him in the corporate responsibility movement, advising investors concerned about using their funds to promote social change. He has published numerous books and articles on these subjects and has given retreats, workshops, and talks on these themes in the Americas,

Africa, Asia, and Europe.

The Roncalli Society is named for Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, who took the name John XXIII when elected pope in 1958. Pope John XXIII convened the Second Vatican Council, which helped the Church find a new way of identifying itself and a new way of fulfilling its gospel mission in the modern world. Founded in Peoria (Ill.) in September 1987, the Roncalli Society is a group of Catholic lay women and men, religious, and clergy who share the vision of Church of Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council. The Society seeks to make this vision a reality, both within the structure of the Catholic Church and in ministry to the entire world.

The Mennonite Church is located at the corner of Hovey and Cottage in Normal. Registration is from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m., followed by the program, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with a break for lunch. The registration fee (\$15 for members, \$20 for nonmembers, \$10 for students and persons on fixed income) includes a continental breakfast and a box lunch. Registrations may be mailed to: The Roncalli Society, P.O. Box 6606, Peoria, IL 61601-6606. With your reservation please indicate your preference for ham, turkey, or vegetarian sandwich.

## "The ecological crisis is a moral issue"

—Pope John Paul II

Catholic social teaching emphasizes that all of creation is a gift from God and should be respected as such. We show our respect by the way we care for the earth as stewards of all that has been entrusted to us. We need to examine how our excessive consumerism, coupled with poor environmental practices, are exploiting the earth and take measures to correct destructive patterns.



The signs of environmental degradation cannot be ignored: smog in our cities, chemicals in our water and food, topsoil erosion, loss of valuable

wetlands, inadequate disposal systems for radioactive and toxic waste, greenhouse gases and chlorofluorocarbons affecting Earth's atmosphere.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops continues to call on our national leaders to strive for international solidarity in energy conservation, alternative fuels, and sharing emerging technologies with poorer countries. The bishops also address concerns about toxic waste areas, urban sprawl, water pollution, large hog confinement, and other issues.

Most environmental degradation is the result of meeting our consumer appetite for goods and services. Consequently we have a moral obligation to address our own role in this degradation of God's gift, the Earth.

## Prayer to know one's Vocation




*Lord Jesus, up until now you have been quietly preparing me to be your disciple. Now the time of preparation is ending. I seem to hear you say to me, as once to Peter, "Will you also go away?" You were saddened then by friends who failed you, but Peter did not fail. "Lord," he said, "to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."*

*I stand with Peter. Through prayer and counsel show me, Lord, where it is in your vineyard that you want me to serve. Then give me the strength to be faithful.*

*Mary, mother and model, help me to respond in generous love to the call of your son.*

# St. Patrick's Parish      Urbana, IL

## October 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
 <p>Because the In Focus Calendar is prepared in advance of scheduled events and meetings, please check the weekly bulletin to confirm dates and times for specific listings. Deadline for the next issue of In Focus is October 12.</p> <p>RE= Religious Education.            SVDP= St. Vincent De Paul            CCNH- Champaign County Nursing Home</p>			9:30am MomsGrp 11:00am Bible Study 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00 pm RCIA 7:00 pm Choir 7pm Bible study	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Baptism Prep 7:00 pm Building & Grounds 7:00 pm Choir 7 pm Bible Study	10:45am Mass CCNH	Guild Welcome Meeting and Breakfast after 8 am mass	
			1	2	3	4	
9am, 11am Rel Ed 10:15am Children's Lit 7:00 pm Website Com 7:00 pm Leader's Bible Study 6:45-8:00 pm HS Kick Off	1:00pm ,Bible Study 7:00 pm Ed Com 7:00 pm Centering Prayer 7:00 pm WATCH Bd 7:00 pm Pro Life 7:00pm Bible Study	7:00 pm Financial Affairs 7:30pm PC Executive Com	9:30am Schola 9:30am Moms Group 11am Bible Study 5:15 Children's Choir 5:15 SVDP 6:00 pm Rel Ed 7:00 pm RCIA 7:00 pm Choir 6:30pm St. Joseph Rel Ed 7pm Bible Study	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pmChoir Senior cookout 7 pm Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study	10:30am Mass Care Center 10:45am Mass CCNH		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
9am, 11am Rel Ed 10:15am Children's Lit 7:00 pm Leader's Bible Study 6:45-8:00 Parents Mtg 6:30-8:00 High School Rel Ed Newcomer Welcome	1:00pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Social Action 7:00 pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Bible Study		9:30am Moms Group 1am Bible Study 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6pm Rel Ed 7:00 pm RCIA 7:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm St. Joseph Rel Ed 7:00pm Bible Study	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Parish Council 7 pm Bible Study	10:30am Mass Clark Lindsey 10:45am Mass CCNH 7-9pm Sock Hop		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
10:15am K of C 9am, 11amRel Ed 10:15am Children's Lit 7:00 pm Leader's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 High School Rel Ed 1:30 pm Fan The Flames	1:00pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Centering Prayer 7:00 pm Bible Study	9:30 am Canterbury Ridge 6:30 pm Liturgy	9:30am Schola 9:30am Moms Group 11am Bible Study 5:15 Children's Choir 5:15 SVDP 6:00 pm Rel Ed 7:00 pm RCIA 7:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm St Joseph Rel Ed 7:00pm Bible Study	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir 7 pm Bible Study	Time Capsule 8:00am Mass 10:30 Mass Manor Care 10:45am Mass CCNH	Parish Goal Setting Time Capsule after 8am mass	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
8:30am-NOON Health Fair Blood Pressure Screening 7:00 pm Leader's Bible Study 12 noon Teen Liturgy	9:30am Archives 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Centering Prayer 7:00 pm Bible Study	7:00 pm Homily Prep	9:30am Moms Group 11am Bible Study 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir 6pm Rel Ed 7:00pm Bible study	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Communications Com 7 pm Bible Study	10:45am Mass CCNH		
26	27	28	29	30	31		

