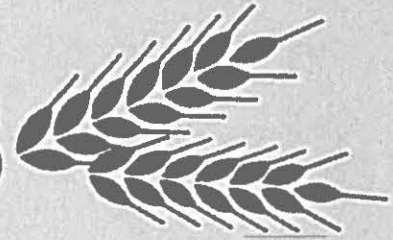


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



## Advent: Naming our heart's desire

The Advent season does something strange to time: It seems to slip altogether out of joint. The season begins with a look ahead to the end of the world and ends with a peek into a stable in Bethlehem where a birth took place two millennia ago.

Our culture throws the calendar even further out of whack. Santa ascends his throne in the mall right after Thanksgiving. By the time Advent has just begun to dawn, children are climbing up on his knee to recite a long list of wants from the enormous assortment of toys and gadgets seen in stores or friends' homes.

A couple of generations ago, children were a lot easier to delight. We eagerly checked our Christmas stockings for the lump in the toe that assured the rare treat of an orange or tangerine.



Instead of bringing lengthy lists of wants to a mall Santa, we wrote (with the help of an understanding mother or father) to the jolly old elf himself, telling him our heart's desires, one or at most two things we wanted—needed—above all else.

If you could receive just one gift this Christmas, what would you ask for? Think about it. Take all the time you need. What is your true heart's

desire? Then, instead of directing your earnest plea to a mall Santa, or even to that jolly old elf so mysteriously elsewhere, tell it to the One who can gift you beyond your wildest dreams. Confide it to the Giver of all good gifts, the Creator of everything desirable, who loves you more than you can begin to understand. You cannot be disappointed.

### *Advent perspectives:*

God has never promised to solve our problems. [God] has not promised to answer our questions. [God] has promised to go with us.

~Elisabeth Elliot

Tell the timid to take heart. The Lord our God will come!

~Monastic liturgy

See Perspectives on page 2

## Tom Moran's legacy helps St. Patrick's plan for the future

When Tom Moran died in January of 2003, he left a legacy to the parish that will be a blessing for many years to come. He left his entire estate of \$436,000 to St. Patrick's Parish to be used for the maintenance and development of parish properties. As Fr. Joe Hogan explained at Mass a few weeks ago, this bequest went a long way toward the purchase of three of the four apartment buildings on the north side of the parish grounds, putting St. Patrick's in a position to expand our facilities in the future without having to leave the present site.

Tom was born on June 24, 1917, and he lived all his life in Champaign-



Urbana. Both of his parents were American-born of Irish descent. His father, also named Thomas, worked as a salesman at the Joseph Kuhn men's store in Champaign. His mother's maiden name was Loretta Mattingly.

Tom married his wife, Lois, on February 28, 1949. They may have met at the local Montgomery Ward store, because they both worked there at one time. Tom went on to work for the University of Illinois as a Building Service Worker for the Housing Division, retiring in 1979.

The couple had no children. Lois died on November 29, 1982, and Tom's three brothers died before he did, so

he had no remaining family toward the end of his life. But he had good, firm friends.

Corky and Bernie Gast used to see Tom at 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Patrick's. They asked him once why he always left a few minutes early, and Tom explained that he had to catch the bus to get home, so Corky and Bernie offered him a ride to church every week. As Tom's health began to fail, he asked Corky to take over his financial and medical affairs and to serve as the executor of his will. We should all be so lucky as to find that kind of generous help when we need it!

How about you? Have you considered including St. Patrick's in your will? Tom has given us a good example, showing us what a wonderful gift this can be for those who come after us.

## Perspectives from page 1 Dates and Times to Remember!

Trust God where you cannot trace him. Do not try to penetrate the cloud he brings over you; rather look to the bow that is on it.  
The mystery is God's;  
the promise is yours.  
~John R. Macduff

The Advent mystery is the beginning of the end of all in us that is not yet Christ.  
~Thomas Merton

O God who comes to us in the thousands of faces we meet this Advent, help us to recognize ourselves in them, to welcome them, and so to welcome you.  
~Caryll Houselander

People look east, the time is near,  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair  
as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People look east,  
Love the guest is on the way  
~Eleanor Farjeon

May Emmanuel find welcome in our hearts, take flesh in our lives, and be for all peoples the welcome advent of redemption and grace  
~The Roman Missal

By virtue of the creation and, still more, of the incarnation, nothing here below is profane for those who know how to see.  
~Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

The beginning shall remind us of the end, and the first coming of the second coming.  
~T. S. Eliot



### Communal Reconciliation

Dec. 13 (Mon.): Holy Cross, 7:00 p.m.  
Dec. 14 (Tues.): St. Patrick's, 7:00 p.m.  
Dec. 15 (Wed.): St. Matthew's, 7:00 p.m.

### Holy Day Masses

#### *Immaculate Conception*

Dec. 7 (Tues.): 7:00 a.m. (Mass of Tuesday), 5:15 p.m. (vigil Mass of the holy day)  
Dec. 8 (Wed.): 7:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:15 p.m.

#### *Christmas*

Dec. 24 (Fri.): 4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m.  
Dec. 25 (Sat.): 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.  
Dec. 26 (Sun.): 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon

#### *Mary, Mother of God*

Dec. 31 (Fri.): 7:00 a.m. (Mass of Friday), 5:15 p.m. (vigil Mass of the holy day)  
Jan. 1 (Sat.): 9:00 a.m. (Mass of the holy day), 5:00 p.m. (vigil Mass for Sunday)  
Jan. 2 (Sun.): 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon



Come and visit us in peace, Lord,  
and we will rejoice with hearts renewed.  
~Monastic liturgy

No one can celebrate a genuine Christmas without being truly poor.... Without poverty of spirit there can be no abundance of God.  
~Oscar Romero

In a flash, at a trumpet crash,  
I am all at once what Christ is,  
since he was what I am.  
~Gerard Manley Hopkins

Since the coming of Christ goes on forever—he is always he who is to come in the world and in the church—there is always an Advent going on.  
~Jean Danielou

Wide awake now!  
The Lord God is so near!  
~Monastic liturgy

A fresh kind of life is starting.  
~Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Our destiny is to live the Christ-life—to bring Christ's life into the world, to increase Christ's love in the world, to give Christ's peace to the world.  
~Caryll Houselander

The Advent we keep is not a poetic make-believe, or a nostalgic historical pageant, or even an exercise in remembering our roots. The coming of God in Christ still continues, and will be consummated in a coming and a gift beyond the stretch of our hope.  
We are an Advent people.  
~Maria Boulding

Today you know that the Lord will come,  
and in the morning you shall see God's glory!  
~Monastic liturgy

## Christmas gifting made easy

Here, courtesy of the Parish Nurses, are some simple ideas for Christmas giving that can mean much more than a present.

**Listening** One of the greatest gifts we can offer is to listen without interrupting, daydreaming, or thinking about what we will say next.

**Compliments** "Help people reach their full potential—catch them doing something right." Compliment others for listening, for their smile, for giving a hug.

**Affection** Demonstrate the love you feel with hugs, kisses, a gentle squeeze of the hand, a pat on the back, a smile.

**Laughter** Give those you love the gift of laughter. Try to see the humor in day-to-day living, develop the ability to laugh at yourself.

**Cheerfulness** Try to be cheerful around others—without complaining, feeling sorry for yourself, nasty comments. This will be a precious gift for everyone, including yourself.

**Favors** Do favors for those special people on your list—help with the dishes, type a letter, run an errand, babysit.

**Games** Offer to play your friend's or your loved one's favorite game. Even if you lose, you'll be a winner because together you will have shared a pleasurable experience.

**Contact** Write notes as simple as "Thinking of you today." Make phone calls. Reach out with your support for someone having an especially trying time.

**Prayer** One of the most valuable gifts we can offer, the hidden gift that requires no answer.

**Acceptance** Accept with fortitude what you cannot change. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of your friends and family.

## Come to a Christmas party!

Christmas get-togethers are part of the St. Patrick's community. The 2004 party being planned by the Social Committee will be held Sunday afternoon, Dec. 12, immediately after the noon Mass. Parishioners of all ages are cordially invited to attend the potluck dinner and afternoon of games and festivities.

Children under the age of 12 will be able to visit with Santa and work on three different holiday crafts. Older children can participate in board games, dominoes, and cards.

Photo opportunities, taken with Santa or Fr. Hogan (your pick), will be available during the afternoon.

To highlight traditions of Christmas, parishioners are asked to consider making favorite Christmas dishes for the potluck. Main dishes, A-H; salads or vegetables, I-R; and desserts, S-Z. Drinks and tableware/plates will be provided.

Mark Dec. 12 on your calendar today, and invite your friends to this holiday get-together at St. Patrick's. Fr. Joe said he looks forward to his first Christmas season at St. Patrick's and hopes to see many of us enjoying ourselves at the parish Christmas party.

## Coming soon: Christmas EXPO!

Remember when your mom or grandma took you Christmas shopping sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve?

When you saw trees decorated higher than high, with trains chugging through tiny snow-covered villages under their lowest branches? When you first saw Colleen Moore's dollhouse at the Museum of Science and Industry?

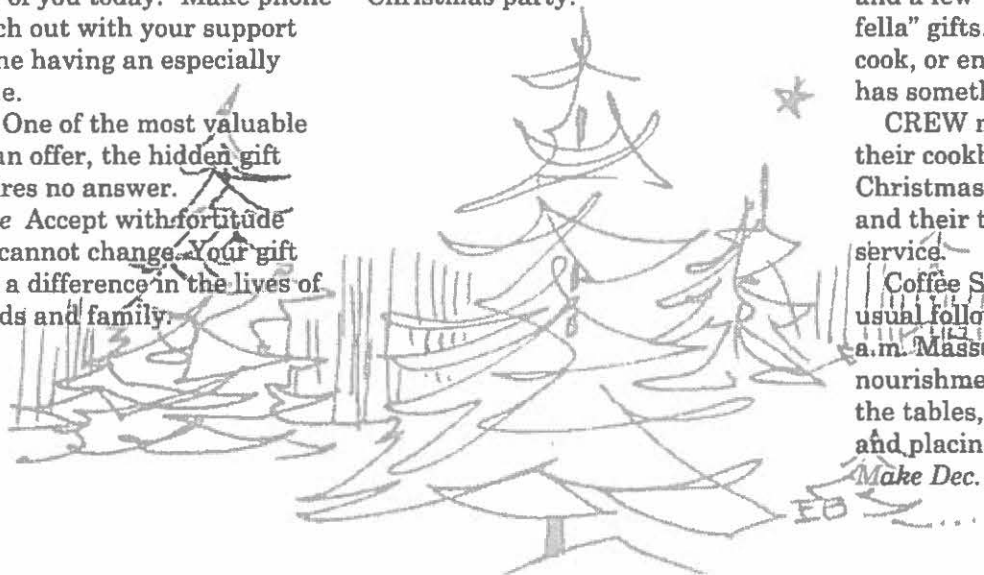
Similar experiences await you on Dec. 5 at the Guild-sponsored Christmas EXPO, open for *you* from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

Guild members are presenting a gift table, priced for children's budgets; a sweets table complete with homemade jams, the famous Conerty rolls, the melt-in-your-mouth Splittstoesser meringue pies, and the fabulous Gremer Kolachi (all of Central Illinois fame); and the back-by-popular-demand Silent Auction.

The auction this year will feature dolls, stuffed animals, stemware, wine baskets, and "teacher" specialties. Look for napkins, aprons, and wine gift bags sewn by Kay, wonderful tea gifts hand-crafted by Chely, "spa" specials for the gals, and a few "just for your favorite fella" gifts. If you play cards, garden, cook, or entertain, Christmas EXPO has something for you.

CREW members will be offering their cookbooks and t-shirts, live Christmas wreaths and garlands, and their traditional gift-wrapping service.

Coffee Shop will be open as usual following the 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. Masses so you can take in the nourishment you'll need for strolling the tables, making your selections, and placing your bids for the auction. *Make Dec. 5 a day to remember!*



## Spreading the message of Christ today

"You shall be my witnesses" was the theme of the Evangelization Congress presented by the Diocese of Peoria on Nov. 4. The Congress, held at the Braden Auditorium at ISU, was administered by the diocesan Office of Evangelization with the intent to augment and energize the efforts of both laity and religious to spread the message of Christ in the secular world.

Two main speakers were Fr. Tom Forrest, Redemptorist, and Dr. Scott Hahn, professor of Theology and Scripture at Franciscan University, Steubenville (Ohio).

Fr. Forrest, a lively 77-year-old, spoke about his worldwide efforts to promote the cause of evangelization, as well as priestly and lay renewal. He reminded his audience of the sufferings of martyrs, observing that timidity about the Faith is a vice, not a virtue.

Dr. Hahn, founder and director of the St. Paul Center

for Biblical Theology, is a convert to Catholicism. He spoke of his faith journey and its impact on his marriage, and urged Catholics to outdo non-Catholics on their knowledge of the Bible. Explaining the nature of the sacraments,

he pointed out that the Eucharist and Reconciliation take the Christian beyond initial conversion. Dr. Hahn has authored many books, among them *Swear to God: The Promise and Power of the Sacraments*, *The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth*, and *Lord,*

*Have Mercy: The Healing Power of Confession.*

Bishop Daniel Jenky, present throughout the Congress, presided at the celebration of Mass at its conclusion.

Next year's conference will be held on Nov. 5 and will feature Fr. Stan Fortuna, musician and composer as well as a speaker at Catholic youth rallies.



### Vocation Prayer

Dear God, help us live out our mission in the Church. Help all your people to know their vocation in life and to prepare for it. Give those whom you call to be priests and religious the grace to respond generously and to persevere faithfully. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## After WATCH, WWSG

The WATCH Women's Study Group, an outgrowth of the WATCH program, is made up of 6-7 women who meet every two weeks to discuss topics that will augment their understanding and enhance their individual and collective relationships to the Lord.

The group has recently talked about topics stemming from their reading of *Coming Down the Mountain*, by Thomas Hart, as well as feminine mystics and saints. For information about joining or starting such a group, call Deacon Cliff Maduzia (367-2819).



At all Masses on Nov. 6-7 parishioners were commissioned—first, all new eucharistic ministers; then all other liturgical ministers and members of parish committees and organizations; and finally, all baptized Christians. At the 9:00 Mass, that involved a lot of parishioners!

## Parish Council News

At their November meeting Council members reviewed and adopted minor revisions of the five-year parish goals set at the October workshop. They read as follows:

1. The divine presence of God is the heart and soul of the St. Patrick's community. Our active and conscious participation in the Eucharist empowers all that we are and all that we do.

2. St. Patrick's Parish is an inclusive, loving family that encourages personal and community growth and spiritual deepening.

3. St. Patrick's is a community of compassion and justice to neighbors near and far, and is being transformed by its Christian outreach.

4. St. Patrick's has adopted a Master Plan for the efficient utilization of space and other resources for supporting and furthering the Kingdom of God.

Council and staff will now collaborate in developing objectives for achieving these goals and share them with parish groups so they can set their own goals consistent with these objectives. A committee will be established in a few weeks to look at issues of space, Mass times, parish growth or non-growth, etc., to develop a master plan as cited in Goal 4. The group, consisting of one Council representative and 7-8 others, will be expected to come up with ideas in the first year, each year becoming more specific, with the goal of having developed a master plan by the end of the five-year period.

Anna Mayer reported that CREW's leaf-raking fundraiser netted just under \$1000, and the Christmas wreaths and garlands are selling well; they are expected to be ready for delivery the week after Thanksgiving. A decision on next summer's mission location will be made soon. Meanwhile, CREW members have been assisting at the Catholic Worker House and with parish grounds cleanup. They will also help with the Guild's Christmas EXPO, where they will offer gift



wrapping and sell CREW cookbooks and t-shirts.

A proposed update for procedures governing the use of parish center space was distributed to Council members for their review in preparation for discussion at a later meeting. Fr. Joe also distributed copies of the parish's long awaited end-of-year report. He expressed his appreciation for the work done on it by Angela Henry and Mary Lee Brady. Angela will now be able to provide monthly reports for committees and the Council.

**Committee news:** The *Archives Committee* has petitioned for better and more accessible space for its voluminous archival records, presently stored in a very small area created for it in the church basement. New parishioner Barbara Pyhel has joined the group.

*Building and Grounds* members held two workdays, one to rake leaves and clean up around the church, the other to clean up around the parish center.

Rosemary Garhart succeeds Cathy Salika as chair of the *Communications Committee*, and new member Judy Fierke will serve as the group's recording secretary.

*Financial Affairs* welcomed Scott McCartney and George Pennacchi to the committee. New bookkeeping software has been acquired, and new procedures have been put in place for making purchases.

Ellen Amberg has completed her term as chair of the *Liturgy Committee*; for the next 4-6 months, or until a new chair can be elected, Mary Lou Menches has agreed to serve as acting chair. The committee is also looking for a Liturgical Arts

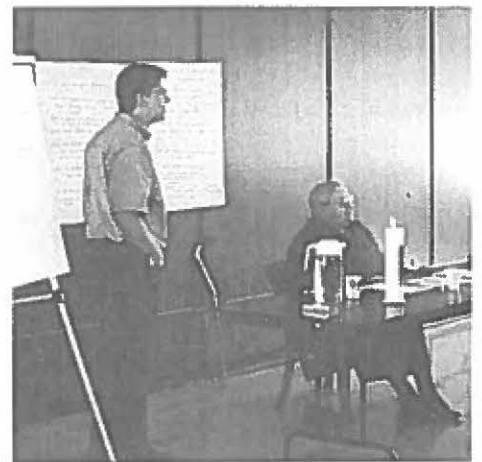
coordinator.

The *Social Committee* is planning a Christmas party for the entire parish on Dec. 12. (A word for parents: Santa has agreed to come.)

The *Social Action Committee* has several projects under discussion: a mental health video series, involving the Parish Nurses and members of GROW, to begin in January; a proposal for increasing AIDS awareness in the parish; ideas for an "International Night," with foods, clothing, singing and/or dancing, etc., that reflect the diversity of cultures in the parish; discussions in support of a living wage.



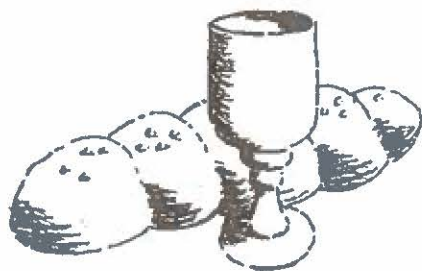
The next Council meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Dec. 16 in the parish center lounge. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings. For those interested in a more complete report, the minutes of the most recent Council meeting are posted in the church vestibule and on the bulletin board in the office wing of the parish center.



Council president Don Keefer assists Sr. Mary Himens by recording suggestions arising from parishioners' reflections on St. Patrick's Parish mission statement during the 5-year goal-setting workshop on Oct. 30.

## Vandalia conference focused on Eucharist

Halloween weekend saw the seventh annual Catholic conference in the old state capitol of Vandalia, Illinois, on The Year of the Eucharist: "Starting afresh from Christ." The conference was hosted by a group of volunteers known as the Sorrowful Mother's Ministry, founded by two women who are members of Mother of Dolors Parish.



Msgr. Swetland, Director of the Religious Institute at the Newman Center, served as Master of Ceremonies and spoke on the pope's plans for the Americas.

Fr. Frank Pavone, of Priests for Life, spoke on the recent national election. Fr. Bill Casey, Director of the Fathers of Mercy, described attacks by Satan on humanity and on the Church in particular. Rosalind Moss, Catholic apologist, spoke on her conversion from Judaism and on the lineage of Jesus, culminating in Mary. Benedictine Abbot John Classen spoken on physical and spiritual hungers in the modern world.

Several breakout sessions, conducted by members of two religious orders, Apostles of the Interior Life, and Family of Jesus, Healer, continued the theme of Eucharist.

The theme of next year's conference and its date are yet to be announced, but it is an easy ride to Vandalia for what may well prove to be another interesting and energizing experience for Catholics in a county that is only 4 percent Catholic.

## Archives Committee still hard at work

What is the Archives Committee doing now? Well, for one thing, the committee continues to receive items from parishioners interested in preserving a record of our faith heritage. Someone recently turned in a very old missal, with the calendar of movable feasts and Sundays dating from 1900 to 1910. Now that's old! The pages, in excellent condition, are bound in a hard, decorative cover with a small catch. The committee is very pleased to have received this missal and would like to be able to thank the donor. Would you come forward, please? Nancy Steerman (328-1217) hopes to hear from you!

With the conclusion of St. Patrick's centennial observances, committee activity

has been tempered a bit, but never stopped. Through the summer Betty Conerty and Barbara Pyhel have been inserting individual pages of parish newsletters in archival sleeves for preservation. Artha Chamberlain has assumed the care of parish bulletins, Connie Knake sorts through innumerable boxes of "stuff" for material of possible interest and updates obituaries, and Grace Bowen updates information about parish families. Nancy Steerman continues to update the histo-

ries of parish groups, and Judy Conover continues to scan the histories. Cataloging the immense stockpile of parish photos is the task of Wilfred Lancaster.

The job of an archivist is never done!



## What do we mean by Eucharist?

What do we mean by Eucharist? *The Eucharist is a meal.* It is nourishment, conviviality, hospitality—the table of abundance. The original altars were dining tables where the household of God, the brothers and sisters of Jesus, came to eat and drink of his sacred banquet.

*The Eucharist is a sacrifice.* It is the sacrifice of Christ, who died that we might have life, a sacrifice of atonement, of repairing the damaged relationship between the human and the divine and between one human being and another. Christ offers himself to the Father, and we offer ourselves with him.

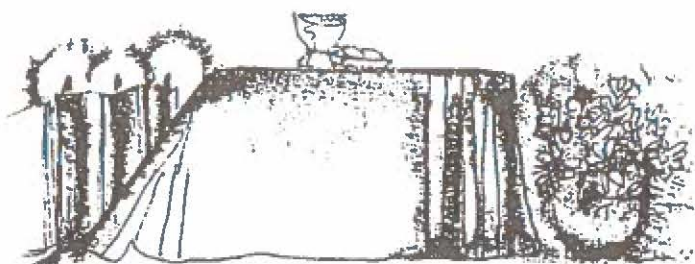
*The Eucharist is a memorial.* It calls to mind the things that our God has done for us. It makes present the events of our salvation. It is a

remembering, re-establishing, re-creating, and re-forming of who we are, God's people. It is a re-presentation of the infinite act of love that is the dying and rising of Christ Jesus.

*The Eucharist is a liturgy* (in Greek, a *liturgeia*), a public act of worship. It is the community, the assembly, giving thanks, praise, adoration to the One and Triune God.

*The Eucharist is communion*, the making of community. It is a gathering and a celebration of the Body of Christ.

*The Eucharist is the Word become Flesh*, God entering Matter, Divine Person becoming flesh and blood to enable this God to dwell within us. We are transformed from the inside into the Christ we receive.



*A new and unpublished poem by parishioner Quentin Kirk*

### **History That Went to Heaven**

**Tractors mowed the roadside yesterday  
turning a weed patch into a golf course.  
Terminated were Wild Geraniums  
(From the Greek word "geranos" or crane,  
because the seed pod resembled a crane's bill  
to ancients who knew birds.)**

**Ended were the wild Ginseng  
(from ancient Chinese Jen-shen or "humanlike"  
referring to the root's resemblance  
to a human body)**

**Among the fallen were aspiring gooseberry bushes  
(from the Old French groseille and lost too was  
the verb "to gooseberry," an expression  
for young couples wandering in a woods  
under the pretext of gathering berries).**

**Fallen were spearmint (spear-like leaves  
to our forbears who knew spears).  
Sheep Sorrel (Old French: a little sour, relished by  
sheep)  
Solomon's seal (This plant's joints  
resemble early seals of office.  
Recommended for broken bones  
By second century philosopher, physician Galen.)**

**Oh the history that went to heaven  
with bees and butterflies and whining motors  
in one afternoon.**



## "St. Barbara" to Catholics, "Shango" to Nigerians

The beautiful daughter of a wealthy grain merchant, Barbara lived during the early fourth century in Asia Minor. Her father, Dioscorus, while away from home on business trips, locked Barbara in a tower for safekeeping, especially from the Christian religion spreading through the region.

Barbara used her time of imprisonment to read works of philosophy and eventually decided there must be

only one true God. In time she was baptized by a Christian who disguised himself as her doctor to gain entrance to the tower. As the story goes, she added a third window to her tower in honor of the Trinity (she is thus acknowledged as a patron saint of architects). When her father learned of her conversion, he turned her over to the Roman prefect, but even horrific torture could not make her renounce her newfound faith. Finally Dioscorus himself grabbed her by her hair and cut off her head. Immediately bright flames flew out of her body, and moments

later lightning struck her father. (Consequently, Barbara is invoked for protection against lightning and is also acknowledged as a patron saint of those who work with explosives.)

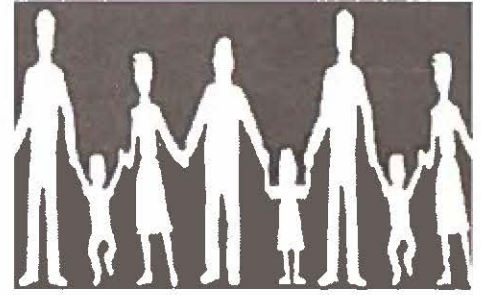
How did Barbara become known as Shango? Well, her connection with lightning is responsible for that! Between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries hundreds of thousands of Yorubas from Nigeria and Benin were

brought as slaves to the Caribbean and the Americas, where they were forced to abandon their traditional religions and adopt Catholicism. They came to see commonalities between Catholic saints and their own African spirits. One of the Yorubas' most important spirits was Shango, god of thunder and lightning, and St. Barbara soon became synonymous with him—enabling them to continue their homage to Shango under the more acceptable guise of St. Barbara.

St. Barbara, whose feast is celebrated on Dec. 4, is one of a group of favored saints called the Fourteen Holy Helpers, among them St. Blase (Feb. 3) and St. George (Apr. 23). Their intercession was considered especially powerful at the hour of death.

In the African Gallery at the Krannert Art Museum on the UI campus you can view displays of candles, posters, and red-and-white beads reflecting this connection of Shango with St. Barbara. You might also enjoy

exploring displays of great Catholic paintings dating from the fifteenth through eighteenth centuries in the Medieval Gallery. Parishioner Judy Fierke, a docent at the museum, has offered to provide a docent-led tour of the museum; just get a group together, call Jennifer Dapper (333-1861) to arrange a time for the tour, and request the services of docent Judy Fierke.



*Welcome to new parishioners*  
Luella Bearman, Brian and Jennifer Brooks, Dawn and Jesus Hernandez, and Jerome Walsh.

*Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U:* Ha Kim Huynh and Robert and Wendy Price.

*Welcome to the following, recently baptized into our faith community:* Ian Matthew Kleffner, Nathaniel Yen-Dahlong Potin, and Theodore Yen-Dahming Potin.

*Please pray for deceased parishioners* Mary Peters, Katharine Schrader, Bertha Claire, Casimir Plewa, and Robert Price.



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is December 5.



## “Good Liturgy”: The Assembly

*This continues the Liturgy Committee's study of the 10-part series that appeared in America magazine earlier this year. While later essays focus on the roles of various liturgical ministers, this first one focuses on the role of the assembly itself.*

Author Fr. Robert D. Duggan (pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Gaithersburg, Maryland) reminds us that our dignity as baptized persons is connected to our responsibility to participate actively in the Eucharist. Each person, and the assembly as a whole, has a role at worship, and as such we must learn a variety of practical skills that enable fuller participation. Our sense of ownership of the liturgical action may be aided in the following ways as we strive to achieve the “full, conscious, and active participation” at the Eucharist enjoined upon us by the Second Vatican Council.

1. We must be helped to find our voice in singing at the Eucharist. The power of prayer in song is enormous.

2. The Scriptures must be proclaimed and preached in a manner that engages us at a deep level, attention, and faith. There is no more profound experience of communal participation in the liturgy than the utter stillness that overtakes a community that has just heard the Word of God proclaimed with a power that takes the breath away.

3. The Eucharistic Prayer must engage us more actively in its proclamation. We need to develop a higher inner awareness of offering ourselves in the great sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise.

4. Larger issues of ecclesiology and Christian identity should be addressed as the backdrop against which full and active participation makes sense. Our belonging to the assembly at large must be defined in terms of a faith that is deliberately chosen and consciously lived.

5. The full range of ritual options that currently invite our active participation should be implemented regularly, with an eye to others that might yet be developed. We need to know in our bones that our full

participation in ritual action is crucial for its success.

6. The context for participation in the Eucharist should be a gathering that is warm and friendly, welcoming of diversity and hospitable to the stranger. An individualistic style of worship must give way to an awareness that the liturgy is public and communal by its very nature.

7. The enormous importance of baptism and its intimate connection with the eucharistic sacrifice must be continually taught, reflected on, and preached. The royal priesthood of baptism consecrates us, the assembly of believers, to a life of worship that finds its source and summit in the eucharistic gathering, and we need to know about the solid theology that supports this perspective.

8. We need to recognize that our full participation in the Eucharist requires, as a normative practice, communion under both kinds from elements consecrated at that liturgy. We may need to be helped to gain that appreciation.

These steps are important and achievable. They challenge us to breathe life into the liturgy, to turn liturgical forms into true celebrations of faith, to actualize the dream of a renewed Church, gathered around the table of the Lord, singing God's praise with all the gusto of true believers—that is the assembly!



## “Share in the Care” for Retired Religious, Dec. 19

Sister Mary Lois, SSND (School Sister of Notre Dame) was my first-grade teacher...and my second-grade teacher... *and* my third-grade teacher. No, she wasn't “promoted” each year; she handled all three grades at St. Mary's in Eldorado (Illinois). There were about 12 children in each grade, so she probably had three dozen children in the room each day!

Our school had a combined fourth- and fifth-grade class, taught by a lay teacher, and Sister Ignatius ruled sixth through eighth grades with an iron hand—or so my brother said. Sr. Lois and Sr. Ignatius lived in a house on parish property; another nun did the cooking and housekeeping.

Because Sr. Lois was my teacher for three years, she had a huge impact on my faith development and early education. She helped prepare me for the sacraments of Penance and First Communion,

oversaw my learning to read, and helped me develop good work habits. Sr. Lois was a firm disciplinarian, but I never experienced the rap of a ruler on knuckles or any of the other physical disciplinary action told about in stories I've heard from some others who've had nuns as teachers.

Our school closed after my third-grade year, and the nuns moved elsewhere to teach. I don't know where Sr. Lois is now, but I know a way I can help her and other Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious-order priests, who are now past age 70.

The Retirement Fund for Religious appeal, on Dec. 18-19 (the third-Sunday second collection at St. Patrick's) is now in its seventeenth year. This appeal has generated a greater response than any other annual appeal, according to the U.S. Bishop's Conference. The Catholic News Service reports that over \$28 million was donated last year, and

over \$440 million has been raised in the past seventeen years. Even with the success of this appeal, Precious Blood Sister Andree Fries, executive director of the National Religious Retirement Office, says there's an “increasing need” faced by religious institutions to care for the elderly religious. Over 98 percent of last year's collection went directly to religious institutes for retirement needs.

Over 12,000 brothers, sisters, and order priests now require skilled care or assistance with the activities of daily living, at a cost of over \$400 million each year. Please “Share in the Care” and give generously to this appeal. Nuns, brothers, and religious-order priests have given their lives to the work of Christ's Church. We who have received education, training, or comfort from them can help to provide care and comfort in our turn.

*Frances Drone-Silvers*



**Q:** What are “catechumens”?

**A:** The word *catechumens* (derived from the Greek *catechoumenoi*,

those being instructed) is used to designate persons who are seeking entrance into the Church community. The way for an adult to move from the outside to the inside of the Catholic Christian community is to become a member of the catechumenate, a period of instruction in the teachings and life values of Roman Catholicism.

In the early Church those preparing for baptism were assigned a place in the Church but were solemnly dismissed before the Eucharistic Rite began. There was a ritual of preparation, with a succession of scrutinies in Lent preceding their admission at the Paschal Mass. In later centuries, through a much simplified process,

an adult might become a member of the Catholic community after a sometimes brief period of private instruction by a priest.

The Church's experience in those later centuries, however, pointed to the need for restoring the catechumenate. The time of preparation was not to be a bare explanation of dogmas and commandments, but a training period and apprenticeship of adequate duration for the whole of the Christian life. With the Second Vatican Council the Church restored the ritual process of its earliest days and returned to the rich tradition that the community accept responsibility for supporting newcomers to the community. The community is to be, in fact, “company on the road,” a company of believers journeying with the company of those who search.

This ritual process has become widely known by its acronym, RCIA; that is, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Not only does this process of supporting and welcoming help the person seeking membership in the community, but it strengthens the corporate identity of the community—in doing something together we become something together, we become Church.



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



## in our parish library

Do you have questions about Catholic teachings? Want to know why certain things are done in the Catholic Church? What about purgatory? If you have questions, the following books have answers. They offer a variety of styles to answer questions of lifelong Catholics, newcomers to the faith, or of those considering becoming Catholic who want to know more about the Church.

*Why Do Catholics Do That? A Guide to the Teachings and Practices of the Catholic Church*, by Kevin Johnson (282 JOH) answers questions about tradition, the Mass, various symbols of the faith, the laity, religious life, and various customs, including chant, nativity sets, and sacramentals.

*A Concise Catechism for Catholics: A Simple Exposition of Catholic Doctrine*, by James Tolhurst (238 TOL). If you find the full Catechism a bit heavy, this 68-page book may be just right for you. It summarizes the Church's teaching on God, Jesus, the Church, sacraments, and law.

*Tell Me Why: Answering Tough Questions about the Faith*, by Ronda De Sola Chervin and Joseph Pollard (282 CHE). This one is good for those really challenging questions that might be posed by people from other faiths. Why be Catholic when the Church is not Bible-based? If there is a God of Love, why is there so much pain in the world? Why be Catholic given the Church's track record?

*While You Were Gone: A Handbook for Returning Catholics (and Those Thinking about It)*, by William Bausch (282 BAU). Maybe you've been away because of some of the Church's changes, or maybe things seem a lot different from the last time you were here. This book explains the changes and encourages the reader to an active participation in his or her faith—keeping up with faith as we do with news, entertainment, etc. It invites and challenges the reader to make (or return to) the journey of a Catholic faith life.

**A note on library hours.** With the help of several new volunteers,

access to the library will be available from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 11:00 a.m. on the first three Sundays of the month (as long as something else isn't scheduled for the room during those hours). The library will also be open 2-3 p.m. Wednesdays. As always, you are welcome to borrow a key from the parish office to get in at another time, or you may contact Frances Drone-Silvers ([francesds@yahoo.com](mailto:francesds@yahoo.com) or 398-1458), library coordinator, for an appointment or for help in finding the information you need.



*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 mailbox 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 provided by Chris Billing, Margaret Bronson, Frances Drone-Silvers, Judy Fierke, Cathy Howey, Quentin Kirk, Peggy Loftus, Mary Lou Menches, Ellen Noonan, Lilia Peters, Dan Richards, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, and Nancy Steerman. It was pagged by Jim Urban.

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

#### Margaret Bronson

##### Curried Pumpkin Soup

1/3 c chopped green onion  
2-1/2 c canned chicken broth  
2 t lemon juice  
3 T margarine or butter  
2 c canned pumpkin  
1 t curry powder  
dash nutmeg  
salt, pepper to taste




Sautee onions in margarine until tender. Add remaining ingredients (except nutmeg), and simmer for 10 minutes. Sprinkle with nutmeg, and serve.



# St. Patrick's Church

Urbana IL

# December 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Because the calendar is prepared in advance, be sure to check the parish bulletin to confirm dates and times of listed events.</p> <p>Deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is Dec. 5.</p>			9:30am Moms Group 12pm Senior's Lunch 5:15pm SVDP 6pm Rel Ed ST. J Urbana 6:30pm Rel Ed Urbana 7pm RCIA 7pm CYA 7pm Choir 5:15pm Children's Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Building & Grounds 7pm Bapt Prep 7pm Choir	10:45am Mass CCNH	
			1	2	3	4
9,11am Rel Ed 9am RCIA 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study 1:30pm Fan The Flames 6:30pm CREW Guest Speaker	7pm Centering Prayer 7pm Pro-Life 7pm Education	9:30am Mass Canterbury Ridge 5:15 Mass, Immac Conception 7pm CYA 7pm Financial Affairs 7pm Parish Council Exec. Com	Immac. Concep. Mass at 7am, 12:10pm, 5:15pm 9:30am Moms Group 9:30am Schola 5:15pm SVDP 5:15 Children's Choir 6pm Rel Ed St. J 6:30pm Social Action 7pm RCIA 6:30pm Rel Ed Urbana	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Choir	10:45am Mass CCNH	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9,11am Rel Ed 9am RCIA 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study 5pm CREW Christmas Party 1:00-4:00pm Parish Christmas Party	7pm Centering Prayer	7pm CYA 7:30pm Social Action	9:30am Moms Group 5:15pm SVDP 5:15 Children's Choir 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Parish Council 7pm Choir	10:30am Mass Care Center 10:45am Mass CCNH	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9am RCIA 10:15am K of C 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study	7pm Centering Prayer	6pm WATCH Woman's Study Group 7pm CYA	9:30am Moms Group 5:15pm SVDP 5:15 Children's Choir 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Choir	Christmas Eve Mass at 4, 6:30, 10:30pm Office Closed	<b>Christmas Mass at 8:00, 10:30am</b> 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	7pm Centering Prayer	7pm CYA	9:30am Moms Group 5:15pm SVDP 7pm RCIA	6:45am Men's Bible Study	Mary, Mother of God Mass at 5:15pm Office Closed	
26	27	28	29	30	31	