www.stpaturbana.org July 2004

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus

CREW SET TO DEPART ON MISSION 2004

CREW's fifth Mission trip, this time to Wilmington, N.C., appropriately begins with Mass at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 24. Afterward the teens and adult chaperones will enjoy a quick meal together before boarding the bus for their 16-hour overnight trip to the East Coast.

In Wilmington, they will work with participants from WARM (Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministries), a coalition of area churches sponsored by United Methodist Disaster Relief, Newman Center at UNC-Wilmington, to help rebuild homes of primarily very low-income residents that have been damaged by hurricanes and other tropical storms that regularly pound this section of the U.S. coastline.

The group this year includes 36 teens (a new record for participation!) and 13 adults. To be eligible to participate, teens were required to complete 20 service hours and 12 fund-raising hours, attend at least 6 religious education classes, and deposit \$100 (scholarships available for those needing assistance).

The Mission theme, "Finding God," is borne out in the daily Bible

study and discussions: finding God through prayer, through their spiritual gifts, through their natural gifts, through their labor, through their Bible studies.

Each year "Secret Servants" are sought to support individual teens through prayer as well as by preparing bags of small items (maybe gummy bears, peanuts, favorite candy bars, notes or cards, etc.) that will be given to the teens at the end of each day. Mary Kay Thompson, who is organizing this aspect of the Mission trip, is still seeking Secret Servants to link up with individual teens. She will provide information to the Secret Servant about the teen to help in selecting appropriate items for these nightly morale boosters. If you'd like to participate in this way, call Mary Kay (328-1937); she will be pleased to hear from you!



CREW member Alec Vitosky put in some service hours refinishing St. Patrick's patio benches.



First on the scene at the recent CREW car wash fundraiser, Neilzen Damaso and Fr. Remm are ready for suds and rinse.



Plenty of suds and willing hands return squeaky clean cars to their owners.

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Nearing the goal



The June 17 report from Capital Campaign consultants, Guidance in Giving, indicates that St. Patrick's Parish is closing in on our goal of \$617,708. As of that date parishioners had pledged \$555,996.60, or about 90 percent of the goal.

In the final phase of the "Rooted in Faith" campaign, a mailing has been sent to parishioners who have not yet been directly approached, in the hope of closing the gap between goal and pledges. Parishioners are being asked to make a four-year pledge, or at least a generous onetime contribution, to support the educational endowments the Diocese of Peoria seeks to establish to maintain Catholic education on all levels for years to come. Contributions will also support St. Patrick's two education endowments, youth ministry program, and religious education program.

In reviewing the contributions made so far, Barbara Wysocki (co-chair, with Diane Ruedi, of the "Rooted in Faith" campaign) said that she was very impressed and moved by the extraordinary willingness of parishioners to share their financial resources in support of Catholic education. She added: "People have concluded that they have been blessed by the sacrificial efforts their parents made to provide them with Catholic education and formation. Many are now in a position to do the same. They value their faith, and they want to pass it on to future generations. This campaign is a historic moment to do just that."

If you haven't yet responded to Bishop Jenky's call for establishing firm financial underpinnings for Catholic education in the Diocese of Peoria, it's not too late!

"Getting to know you..."

Fr. Hogan is settling in quickly as pastor of St. Patrick's. After a warm welcome from staff on move-in day, June 9, and from parishioners after all the Masses June 12-13, Father is set up and ready for business in his office and consults with his parish secretary, Leslie Risatti. Getting to know us will take a little longer, but he's working on it!







Spotlight on St. Patrick's children



Emily Floess, who has just completed her sophomore year at University Laboratory High School, won first prize in the United Nations Association, Champaign County Division, for her essay on the question "How should the U.S. balance its national

interests with its obligations as a U.N. Member State?" Emily is the daughter of Patty and Joachim Floess. Congratulations, Emily!

our children's many talents, activities, and accomplishments as a way of helping our community recognize the wonderfully creative, talented, and generous young people of St. Patrick's Parish. Shine the spotlight on St. Patrick's children by sharing their academic accomplishments, special projects, honors, awards, programs, performances, sports, theater and the arts, music or band or dance, art contests, community projects, and upcoming events. Please submit your information to Cheryl Mitchell (355-4566 or cheryl@egix.net).

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Q: Do I have to go to Mass on Sunday when I'm on vacation?

A: In a word, yes! The obligation to participate at Mass on Sunday pertains to all Sundays, whether we are at home or away. We sometimes forget that participation at Mass is not something we do just when we feel like it or when it's convenient. Of course, sometimes it simply isn't possible for us to get to Mass due to circumstances beyond our control; in this case, the intention is sufficient. But God doesn't forget us when we are on vacation, and we shouldn't forget God.

One of the benefits of attending Mass when away from home is that we get to experience the liturgy with a faith community other than our

own. By the same token, the Mass is universal, and whether we are in Kansas or Cancun, we'll feel right at home with the ritual, prayers, and order of the Mass. Each community lends its own flavor and cultural nuances to the Mass. We may experience the richness of a Latino liturgy, complete with a mariachi band and a Spanish-speaking priest. Perhaps the view from the church window will be one of majestic mountains or tranquil water. And just as we welcome visitors to St. Patrick's, every parish has visitors and many make welcoming a part of the Sunday experience of liturgy.

Rather than approaching Mass attendance while on vacation as a "do I have to" question, try approaching it as something to look forward to. Participation at Mass in a new place can be interesting and refreshing. And isn't that essentially also the reason for a vacation, to be in an interesting place for the purpose of refreshing your spirit? It may even help you to view your home Mass experience from a new perspective.

Finding a church near your vacation site is easy. Log on to www. masstimes.org for a list of parishes, Mass times, directions, maps, and links to parish home pages around the country. You will also find listings for Mass times at state and national parks, campgrounds, airports, train stations, and military installations. If you are not able to access the Internet, call 1/800/Mass Times and be prepared with a ZIP code for the location you are searching. There is also a live operator on most days at 1/305/382-5758 (calls will be returned if the operator is not available when you call).

Sunday is Sunday, wherever you are-don't miss your opportunity to make it the Lord's day!



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

The Cellar-to-Garret Sale is coming!

St. Patrick's annual Cellar-to-Garret Sale, co-chaired this year by Carla Simmering and Susan Hublein, will be held Sept. 16-18. This rummage sale is sponsored, organized, and staffed by the members of St. Patrick's Guild, which relies heavily on volunteer laborers and parishioners' donated items. It is one of the parish's most successful fundraisers, largely due to the participation of a great many parishioners. Because the Guild supports many parish projects from

the proceeds of the sale, we all stand to benefit from its success. Like so many others, you probably have clothing, furniture, housewares, and decorative items that are of no further use to you. Please start setting aside now those that are in good condition for the Cellar-to-Garret Sale this fall, and watch the parish bulletin for an announcement later this summer about when you can start bringing them in.



Prayer for Vocations

Father, we the baptized realize our call to serve. With our hearts you continue to love your people.

Help us to know how.
Call forth from among us priests,
deacons, sisters, brothers,
and lay ministers to heal the
brokenhearted, dry the tears of
those who mourn, give hope to
those who despair, and proclaim
your steadfast love.

We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.



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St. Dominic, an active contemplative

Legend has it that one day Dominic saw the sinful world threatened by God's anger but saved by the intercession of Mary, who pointed out to her son two figures: one was Dominic himself, the other a stranger. In church the next day he saw a ragged beggar enter—the man in his vision. He went up to him, embraced him, and said, "You are my companion and must walk with me. If we hold together, no earthly power can withstand us." The beggar was Francis of Assisi.

Dominic was born in 1170 in old Castille, Spain, probably the third of four or five children of Jane d'Aza and Felix de Guzman. At the age of 14 he began six years of university studies, followed by theological studies, living frugally with few possessions and meager food and drink. He was trained for the priesthood by a priest-uncle, and after his ordination at the age of 25 he became a canon of the cathedral at Osma, where there was an attempt to revive the apostolic common life described in the Acts of the Apostles. During these years Dominic was devoted to contemplative prayer—and would probably have remained within the structure of contemplative life if he hadn't taken a trip with his bishop.

In 1203 Dominic was asked to accompany Bishop Diego on a diplomatic mission to Denmark, thus beginning a series of journeys. They passed through a region in France where the Albigensians, firmly established, taught that matter was in itself evil and that to prolong the existence of matter or to reproduce matter was evil-hence they denied the Incarnation and sacraments and abstained from procreation. The leaders lived a life of asceticism not shared by ordinary followers. On one occasion Dominic debated with an Albigensian innkeeper through the night, finally converting him back to orthodoxy. Thus began his desire to spend his life preaching and challenging others to respond to the Gospel.

On one of their trips to Rome, Bishop Diego was commissioned



by the pope to join the Cistercian monks in preaching against the Albigensian heresy. Seeing that many Christian preachers were unsuccessful because of their luxurious lifestyle, Bishop Diego and Dominic, to the shock and disapproval of some of the Church dignitaries, went about barefoot, living off the food and small coins they begged. In 1207 Bishop Diego died, but Dominic continued in this ministry, being successful with the ordinary people although not with their leaders.

He was given direction of a community of nine women who had separated from the Albigensians and been formed into a faithful Catholic religious community. Dominic directed and nurtured them, and eventually composed a rule for them. This foundation became the cradle of the Dominican Order.

Dominic and his band of preachers gradually formed a community, although without taking vows. In 1216 Pope Honorius III recognized the community as a religious Order, the Order of Preachers, and Dominic adapted the Rule of St. Augustine, adding constitutions for both the friars and nuns. When he died, in 1221, he left approximately 300 friars preaching in eight countries and

four monasteries of contemplative women with their ministry of prayer in three countries.

Dominic's spirituality included a holistic approach to prayer, involving his entire body, his intellect, his emotions, and his spirit. He believed that each person has a unique method of joining body and spirit in praise of God. The Dominican ideal, the effective combining of contemplation and activity, is the calling of every Christian, whether truck driver or theologian. The motto of the Order became "To praise, to bless, to preach." Dominic understood that in order to believe, people must first hear the word of God. Living and preaching the Truth—Jesus Christ was his passion. Like St. Paul, he "put on Jesus Christ."

The Church honors and commemorates St. Dominic on August 8.



Welcome to new parishioners Raymond Hoang and John Nolan.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Tammy Benza, Cheri and David Gorrell, Earlene Barnes, Fred and Roberta Dubson, Jeffrey Howerton, Kathryn Johnston, Christine Majers, and Don and Jenny Willard.

Congratulations to these couples married at St. Patrick's: Laura Lee Herriott and Andrew Allan Baylor, Stephanie Angela Ippolito and Clinton James Finn, and Joanna Kay Maudlin and Percival H. Pangilinan, Jr.

Welcome to the following, recently baptized into our faith community: Matthew Perry Nystrom, Madison Lily Atwood, and Sean Elliot Brooks.

Please pray for deceased parishioner Daniel Joseph Walsh, Sr.

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Parish Council News



At their June meeting Council members welcomed Fr. Joe Hogan to his first meeting as pastor with the Council, and then heard

from two parishioners, Gabriella Roussos and Cathy Howey, who presented ideas for new activities in the parish. These included a Living Rosary, introducing the Luminous Mysteries to parishioners and religious education classes, a May Crowning with rosary, special participation of children in a weekend Mass once a month during the summer when there is no Children's Liturgy, and helping to organize child care during parish events.

The CREW bank account has grown to about \$36,000, so CREW's Mission to Wilmington, expected to cost about \$20,000, is well provided for. In previous years Council members have allocated money from year-end funds in support of the group's Mission, but it was suggested that in the future a line item for this established program be added to the religious education budget to assure necessary funding in evidence of the parish's continuing interest

and support.

Allocation of this year's year-end funds, approximately \$50,000, was made in accord with last month's proposal: 10 percent each to Dr. Susan Nagele's mission and to our Sister Church in Beit-Jala, \$15,451 restored to development funds, and the remainder to the property acquisition fund.

Council members who serve as liaisons to parish groups will each speak briefly at all Masses Aug. 28-29, Time and Talent Weekend, to identify parish groups and their specific activities, with the aim of encouraging 50 percent of our parishioners to participate in these in the coming year.

Planning is already underway for St. Patrick's five-year goal setting workshop Oct. 30. Efforts are being made to encourage widespread participation in the workshop, where discerning parish strengths and weakness and setting goals that address these will help to determine how and where our energies and resources will be directed in the next five years.

Committee news: Building and Grounds' Garden Club members spent over 70 hours planting flowers, trimming trees, laying sod, weeding, etc., drawing pleased comments from many parishioners. A workday at the parish-owned house on Coler, just south of the alley, is planned. Committee members also assessed the amount of work needed to deal with problems in the parish rectory (basement flooding, mold, etc.) and advised that it would be in the best interest of the parish to sell the property and relocate the priest's residence. The Communications Committee has begun its annual update of the booklet "Who and What Is St. Patrick's?" and has sent invitations to a summer barbecue to associate members in appreciation of their assistance through the year. The Liturgy Committee reviewed and discussed the first of ten articles in a series on "Good Liturgy" published in America Magazine, which they plan to share with parishioners through a recap in a future issue of In Focus. Members of the Financial Affairs Committee have assisted Tim Thilmony with the training and orientation of his successor, Angela Henry, as parish bookkeeper. The Education Committee received Carol Retz's comprehensive reports as coordinator of the Children's Program and of Youth Activities. She included information about content, attendance, curriculum, fundraising events, and service and social activities. Tijuana Mendez has joined the committee as the parish's Family Life Coordinator; she succeeds Mary VanCleave in this position. The staff, having bade fond farewell to Fr. Remm and given a warm welcome to Fr. Hogan, will be on retreat at King's House Aug. 17-19.

Council liaisons appointed

The Parish Council starts each year by appointing liaisons with its standing committees. Appointments for the coming year are:

Building and Grounds, Cheryl Mitchell Communications, Frances Drone-Silvers Education, Tara Beckett Financial Affairs, Victoria Pifalo Liturgy, Sam Reese Personnel, Tracey Johnson Social, Randy Pankau Social Action, Joseph Youakim



Liaisons actively participate in the work of the committee to which they are appointed, and keep both the committee and the Council informed of matters of mutual interest. Their responsibility is manifold, since liaisons are expected to attend both Council and committee meetings and perhaps even ad hoc subcommittee meetings on occasion. They well deserve our appreciation and prayerful support.

The next Council meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 19. 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.

A letter from Dr. Susan Nagele

Greetings to all the good people of St. Pat's

Many thanks for your gift of \$5000 last year. The attached report will show how we used it. [Ed. note: An abbreviated version is appended to this letter.]

The environment here in wet and rainy Kitale is surely different from what I have been used to, and to tell you the truth it is very beautiful! The rains started in April, and everyone has been out in the fields planting and weeding. In fact, this month the number of patients in the clinic has dropped because people don't have time to be sick. Food is more important, and so they go to their fields unless they are just too sick and unable to farm. Many people are able to hire tractors, and the fields are quite big compared to what I saw in Sudan and Tanzania. The maize (corn) is more than knee high at the moment-way ahead of central Illinois, I'm sure.

There is a big concrete grain elevator in a nearby town, and that, along with the fields of corn, reminds me of the place where I grew up when I am driving down the road. There are some differences. The land is undulating, not flat as a pancake, there are no soybeans, and the road is usually full of potholes. It's best to keep my eyes on the road so I don't have an accident. But in general, it is a very nice climate, with lots of greenery and flowers. That is very good medicine for the mind and soul.

It was exactly one year ago when I wrote to tell you that I would be leaving Sudan and moving to Kitale. At that time we were fairly hopeful that a peace agreement would be signed to end the war. It hasn't happened yet. It is very sad to hear of the continuing atrocities in that country and to know how much people are suffering because of them. I do hope that we all will continue to work and pray for peace, not only in Sudan but wherever there is violence and war.

I have now been here for five months and am settling in well.



For the first month in December I worked at the Kitale AIDS Program. It is an excellent program that was begun by the Medical Missionary of Mary Sisters. Marj Humphrey, the lav missioner I live with, works there but was on leave in December. I was able to learn a great deal about their protocols for this disease and to help out while she was away. AIDS is very prevalent and will have a tremendous impact on every aspect of society in the coming years. One of the biggest problems is that there is a tremendous stigma and discrimination directed against those who are infected. People are afraid to be diagnosed and "discovered" to have the disease. Consequently, they don't get the treatment they need to keep them healthy and able to live productive lives. A big goal will be to keep parents alive long enough to raise their children. Otherwise, the number of orphans will continue to grow and that will require someone else to provide for them.

In January I began working at Kiminini Cottage Hospital. This is a health unit that was begun by Franciscan Sisters in 1954 and is currently run by the Catholic Diocese of Kitale. Over the past few years the hospital's services went down along with its reputation. I was asked to help the staff try to improve things.

We have been working together making many different improvements, and I think we are gradually succeeding. The government has assigned a very nice young clinical officer (with training similar to a physician assistant or nurse practitioner). She has worked for three years before coming to us and seems very capable, hardworking, and interested in learning.

I am also working as an adviser with the Diocesan Health Coordinator. We have visited all of the diocesan health units to provide supervision, teaching, and consultations. I especially like this part of the work and the opportunity to see the needs for health care in other places. Part of the diocese is very similar to Eastern Toposaland in Sudan. The people are semi-nomadic cattle herders called the Pokot. They still live very traditional lifestyles. They can seem like very stubborn, hard people who resist modern ways, to the exasperation of many. I have learned enough patience to be persistent and smile at much of what they do that seems hard to accept. The important thing is to do our best and to remember this is God's work, not our own.

I thank all of you for your prayers for me during this transition. While it has been difficult at times, I am finding my way. May God bless each and every one of you.

Pence,

Su-

san's letter was dated May 16. Correspondence should be sent to Box 2406, Kitale 30200, Kenya, E. Africa July 2004 7

2003 Annual Report: Mission Account of Dr. Susan Nagele

INCOME: Total donations, \$50,400.32

EXPENSES:

Hyatid Disease Project, \$9,000.77 Good Shepherd Health Centre, \$4865.40 Education, \$488.10 Kakuma Mission Hospital, \$4736.67 Maryknoll Association Expenses, \$24,258.31 Miscellaneous, \$249.83 Photography, \$103.21 Primary Health Care, \$5,045.23 Transfer of donor's funds per request, \$291.89 Total expenditures, \$49,688.76



For a breakdown of these expenses and Dr. Susan Nagele's illuminating explanatory notes, please see the Annual Report, which is posted on the staff's bulletin board.



Crème de Menthe Cake

1 white cake mix 6 T crème de menthe 8 oz Cool Whip 1 can chocolate icing

Gently fold 3 T crème de menthe into Cool Whip, using wooden or plastic spoon; refrigerate. Prepare cake mix as directed on package, add 3 T crème de menthe, and bake as

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Helen Halpin

directed. When cake has cooled, frost it with the chocolate icing, and then spread Cool Whip mixture on top.

Prayer for world peace

Great God, who has told us "vengeance

is mine," save us from ourselves, from the vengeance in our hearts. Save us from our desire to hurt as we have been hurt, to punish as we have



been punished, to terrorize as we have been terrorized.

Give us the strength it takes to listen rather than to judge, to trust rather than to fear, to try again and again to make peace even when peace eludes us

We ask, O God, for the grace to be our best selves, for the vision to be builders of the human community rather than its destroyers. We ask for the humility as a people to understand the fears and hopes of other peoples. We ask for the love it takes to bequeath to the children of the world to become more than the failures of our own making. We ask for the heart it takes to care for all the peoples of Afghanistan and Iraq, of Palestine and Israel, as well as for ourselves.

Give us the depth of soul, O God, to constrain our might, to resist the temptations of power, to refuse to attack the attackable, to understand that vengeance begets violence, and to bring peace-not war-wherever we go.

For you, O God, have been merciful to us. You, O God, have been patient with us. You, O God, have been gracious to us. And so may we be merciful and patient and gracious and trusting with these others, whom you also love.

This we ask through Jesus, the one without vengeance in his heart. This we ask forever and ever. Amen.

~Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB

 $S = \frac{3}{2} July 2004$

Have fun with words

Here's a summertime word search. Look out! Phrases sometimes take a funny turn between words,

LIKET H I S

Assumption (Aug. 15)

Baseball

Birds

Camp

Cookouts

County Fair

Family Time

Farmers Market

Fireworks

Fish

Flag

Fourth of July

Fun

Garden

Golf

Hot

Hot Air (balloons)

R and R

Soy Bean

St. Pat's Founded (May 1901)

Sun Screen

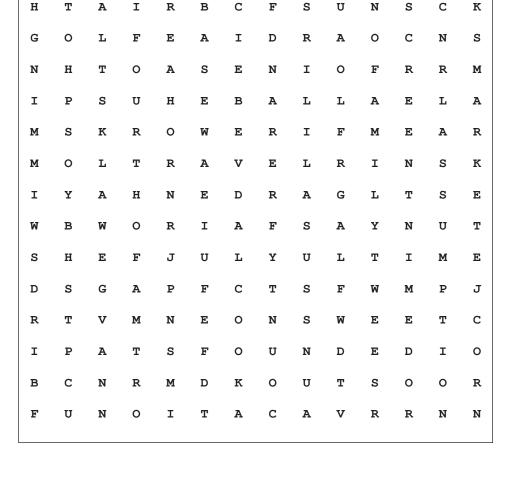
Sweet Corn

Swimming

Travel

Vacation

Walks



Tijuana Mendoza the new Family Life Coordinator

Tijuana Mendoza came into the Roman Catholic Church-and into the life of St. Patrick's Parish-a little over a year ago. Well grounded in sacramental-liturgical signs and symbols and the writings of the early Fathers of the Church, Tijuana

joined her family in their journey to Roman Catholicism. Since then she has remained active in the RCIA program, aiding and assisting others who are seeking and inquiring on their journey of faith.

With the resignation of Mary VanCleave, who served for several years as coordinator of the parish's Family Life program, a new coordinator was sought and Tijuana



applied-and "the rest is history," as the saying goes. As Family Life Coordinator under the direction of Carolyn McElrath, Director of Religious Education, Tijuana will help with the marriage preparation program FOCCUS, teach the monthly pre-Baptism

class for parents and sponsors, and serve as the parish's liaison for the Co-op Nursery and Moms Group. To all of these responsibilities she brings her considerable skills, understanding, and background-a valuable addition to St. Patrick's staff of coordinators. Little did she know, a year ago, what the near



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is August 15.

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You may have signed up your children for a summer reading program through your local libraryhow about giving them a spiritual reading program too? The parish library includes a children's library, located in classroom 4 (next door to the parish library). There are a variety of materials appropriate for different ages that you can read to your children, or that they can read for themselves, about God, Jesus, the saints, and prayer.

Books are shelved in broad categories: Bible stories, Jesus, Prayer, and saints. For the youngest family members, there are board books such as *Come Aboard Noah's Ark*. If you're looking for a good collection with colorful illustrations, try *A First Bible Story Book*.

Our Father: The Prayer That Jesus Taught is a beautiful reflection on the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, using Psalms and Bible verses to explain or expand on phrases in the prayer.

Looking for heroes that aren't sports or pop celebrities? Loyola Kids Book of Saints and Loyola Kids Book of Heroes provide stories of people who put God first in their lives. These brief stories of well-known and not-so-well-known people can inspire your children-and you!

There are also books about individual saints, such as *Saint Vincent de Paul: Servant of Charity* and *Patrick: Saint of Ireland*.

All of the books mentioned here will be set out on the bookshelves so they are easy to find. But do browse to see what else is available!

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 special interest, please call Frances Drone-Silvers (398-1458), parish library coordinator. She will be pleased to



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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Associates: Carol Bosley, Rose Breen, Artha Chamberlain, John Colombo, Judy Conover, Mary Fonner, Dave and Cole Grabow, Cheryl Mitchell, Ellen Noonan, Marty Perry, Nathanial Perry, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika, Jim Urban.

Articles and information for this issue were provided by Judy Conover, Frances Drone-Silvers, Mary Fonner, Helen Halpin, Mary Lou Menches, Cheryl Mitchell, Dr. Susan Nagele, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Carol Retz, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, and Barbara Wysocki. It was paged by Jim Urban.

Neophytes continue to meet

For much of the past year the participants in St. Patrick's RCIA program met to study the teachings of the Church and to break open the Word of God. Eight of the newly initiated Christians, or "neophytes," have elected to gather biweekly as

a base community to support one another, to reflect on the experience of being received into the Church, and to delve more deeply into their faith.

Bob Dodd, one of the parishioners who met with them throughout the RCIA process, brings in resources from our parish community, but the topics are chosen by the group. One recent topic was the dual nature of Jesus, his divinity and humanity. In the next few meetings they will study the Mass.

The journey taken by these men

and women helps to remind "cradle Catholics" that the Faith is a gift, precious to us and worth pursuing. Their witness continues even now, reminding us that the process of learning about our faith never ends.

