

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

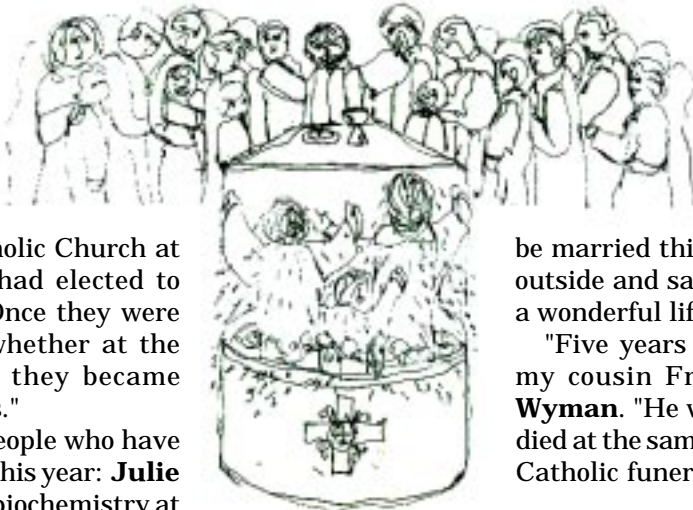
In Focus



JOINING OUR "PLEASANTLY JOYFUL" COMMUNITY

Since the First Sunday of Advent, when they became "catechumens," or "learners," you have seen these brave souls come forward after the homily to be blessed and dismissed to "break open the Word" of the scripture readings with Lenore Nagele and her volunteers in the RCIA program. On Wednesday evenings they have been receiving instruction from Carolyn McElrath, Director of Religious Education. On the First Sunday of Lent our 13 catechumens signed the "Book of the Elect," signifying that they had elected to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church at Easter and that our bishop had elected to receive them into our faith. Once they were baptized and/or confirmed, whether at the Easter Vigil Mass or later, they became "neophytes," or "new Catholics."

We have a group of single people who have experienced the RCIA process this year: **Julie Bauer**, a graduate student in biochemistry at



the UI, is the fourteenth member of this year's group. Julie was neither catechumen nor elect because she is already a baptized and practicing Catholic. She will be confirmed by Bishop Jenky at our parish confirmation, May 8. Julie tells us, "I attended St. Patrick's Mass once and so enjoyed the atmosphere of the parish and Fr. Remm's homily that I

continued to attend for the three years I've lived here. Six months ago I decided that I need to be confirmed in the Church, and I really wanted that to happen at St. Patrick's since I've rediscovered my faith here." Julie, engaged to

be married this summer, enjoys being active outside and salsa dancing. "I look forward to a wonderful life in the service of Christ."

"Five years ago I attended the funeral of my cousin Fred in Texas," relates **John Wyman**. "He was my favorite cousin, and he died at the same age I am now. It was a Roman Catholic funeral Mass, and I was very much

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"Rooted in Faith": The Capital Campaign gets underway

Do you remember learning your catechism ("Who made you?" "God made me." "Why did God make you?" "God made me to know him, to love him, and to serve him in this world and to be happy with him forever in the next.") at your parent's knee so you'd have the answers ready when Sister called on you in class? Do you remember learning a special hymn (maybe "O Lord, I am not worthy / that you should come to me") for your First Communion? Did you learn to recite from memory the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit ("Wisdom, Understanding...") and the Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit

("Charity, Joy, Peace...") in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Oh, long, long ago, when we were just little ones learning about our faith and the faith of our ancestors, we really did memorize lots of facts and lists of things that may not have had much meaning when we were truly young but that grew in significance as we grew older and more mature in our faith. But the foundation was laid, strong and firm, for us to build on as our capacity for understanding increased. Today, with the closing of many Catholic

Your date to remember: May 23

Don't forget to return your reservation card for the big celebration in honor of Fr. George Remm on his pending retirement. The celebration will begin with Vespers at 4:00 p.m. in the church, followed by fun and surprises in the parish center. Mark your calendar today!

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Rooted in Faith from page 1

grade and high schools, the laying of that firm foundation depends, for many, on the availability of religious education programs and lay teachers, or catechists, and participation in those programs may be adversely affected by other activities vying for young people's time and attention. As youngsters grow older, they become more involved in after-school activities and sports and part-time employment—sometimes to the detriment of education in their faith, even when interest in aspects of their faith is high.

In a significant attempt to provide monetary support for Catholic schools and Catholic education at all levels, Bishop Jenky has declared the initiation of the Diocese of Peoria Capital Campaign, which he has dubbed "Rooted in Faith"—for our children, for our faith, for our future.

On March 30 Fr. Remm and several parishioners, together with the pastors and accompanying representatives of about 60 other parishes in "Block 2," met with Bishop Jenky and the diocesan campaign staff to learn more about the Capital Campaign and details of its implementation in the 192 parishes in the Diocese of Peoria.

Matt Dwyer, from Guidance in Giving, Inc., gave a brief introduction of the Campaign, its goals, its structure, and a short video presentation outlining the uses to which the \$32 million will be put. Endowment funds to be established are:

1. The Spalding Scholarship Fund, providing needs-based financial aid to families wishing to send their children to Catholic schools throughout our diocese.

2. The College Campus Ministry Fund, assisting operations and ministries at seven diocesan Newman Centers and upgrading other Newman Center facilities.

3. The Fulton Sheen Endowment, providing support for parishes' religious education and adult faith formation.

4. Support of local parishes



(through rebates from contributions), bolstering the financial stability of each parish through use of funds as needed for building restoration, debt reduction, church renovation and repairs, construction of new facilities, and endowments to generate income for parish and school ministries and services.

5. The Diocesan Annual Appeal (in 2004 only), supporting the ministries of the diocese.

Bishop Jenky addressed the group of pastors and parishioners on the need for the Church to stand up to today's society by teaching our young people today as Christ taught his followers so that in future generations the faith that nurtures us may nurture those who follow us. He observed that a large percentage of Catholic leaders in the United States today are a product of Catholic schools or have been active in Newman Centers. If these resources are lacking or reduced in the future, the faith of subsequent generations will be correspondingly endangered. "We need Catholic education more today than at any other time in our history," he declared. "I need your prayers, every day, for the success of this campaign!"

In the question-and-answer period that followed, Bishop Jenky and Matt Dwyer responded to questions put to them as follows:

The target set for each parish is not an assessment; it is 93 percent of the parish's ordinary income in 2002. If the parish falls short of the target, the shortfall need not be made up from the parish's ordinary income, although the parish is asked to try to contribute at least the amount that would have been asked for the ADA.

The parish will receive a rebate

amounting to 20 percent of all contributions made up to the target amount for that parish; 80 percent of contributions over the target amount will be returned to the parish.

Spending levels from endowment funds will have to be worked out; much depends on prevailing interest rates. In January 2006 the uses to which endowments have been put will be examined.

The endowment funds are restricted absolutely, as carefully as legal advisors and lawyers can determine, and are not considered vulnerable to being tapped into to pay off lawsuits that may be brought against the diocese. Here Bishop Jenky affirmed once again that to his knowledge no lawsuits are pending and none are threatened at this time.

All families in the diocese are eligible to apply to the diocese for tuition support. An agency will screen all applications and make determinations based on documentation of need.

Contributors may designate specific endowment funds they wish their contributions to support. Such restrictions should be noted on their checks.

Parishes will not have to track pledges; the diocese will do this and provide an annual income-and-expense report. During the Campaign itself reports will be sent weekly to pastors so they can inform their parishioners on progress made.

As the evening's presentations concluded, Fr. Remm met briefly with those present from St. Patrick's and outlined the parish's implementation of the Campaign. He announced that Leslie Risatti will serve as Campaign Secretary, assisted by Mary Lou Menches, and Rose Breen volunteered to serve as Reception Coordinator. In a follow-up meeting he announced that Barbara Wysocki and Diane Ruedi will share the responsibilities of General Chair and Jean Daly will serve as Special Gifts Chair.

By the time you read this, you will have learned a great deal more

Spotlight on St. Patrick's children

about the Capital Campaign and your chance to participate in providing a solid footing for the future of Catholic education in the Diocese of Peoria. Give careful, prayerful thought in making your financial commitment, your sacrificial gift, to the Campaign over the next four years, and pray daily—as Bishop Jenky urged—for its success.

Campaign Prayer



Blessed are you, loving and merciful God. You gave us Jesus as Lord and Savior, Brother and Friend. Jesus sends us as members of his body, the Church, to be his presence in service to all our brothers and sisters.

Everything we are, and everything we have, are gifts from you and meant to be shared. May all members of our diocese respond with enthusiasm to the Rooted in Faith Campaign by making a sacrificial gift to support the Catholic education of our children, our young people, and our adults.

May good St. Joseph, the heavenly patron of our campaign, pray with us and for us that all our work for your Kingdom may be blessed according to your will.

We make this prayer, guided by your Spirit and confident in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.



Angela Bronson (*fourth-grader, Dr. Howard, Champaign*) has a collection of wishbones on display at the Early American Museum at Lake of the Woods, Mahomet. Angela's wishbones are part of a children's collection featuring items that children

collect today. It will be on display at the museum for a year.

Congratulations, Angela!

Bart Anthony Basi (*second-grader, Wiley Elementary, Urbana*) achieved the rank of a Ninth-Grade Green Belt in Songahm Tae Kwondo. He is the son of Bart and Mindy Basi. Way to go, Bart!

Katherine Floess (*fifth-grader, Wiley Elementary, Urbana*) was a Young Author Winner for District 116. Her story was entitled "A Day That Changed My Life." Katherine is the daughter of Patty and Joachim Floess. Congratulations, Katherine!

Jessica Elliott (*third-grader, Wiley Elementary, Urbana*) is a Young Author too; she wrote a narrative piece entitled "The Rain Forest." Jessica, daughter of Vanessa Faurie and Ray Elliott, will play the role of Nancy in the upcoming production of "Oliver" for her school on May 12. Break a leg, Jessica!

Keith Lee (*first-grader, Wiley Elementary, Urbana*) wrote a story for Young Author's entitled "Going to My Friend's House." Keith, son of Christina and Shawn Lee, is in Mrs. Fehr's first-grade classroom. Keep on writing, Keith!

Courtney Osmond (*sixth-grader, Urbana Middle School*) won a Gold Medal for Basketball Skills at the State Special Olympics meet, which took place at Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Ill., on Mar. 13. Courtney is the daughter of Eugene and Constance Osmond. Keep on dribbling, Courtney!

Megan and Mandy Kirby (*eighth-graders, Urbana Middle School*) have been members of the school's basketball team for three

years, and this year the team made it into the Sweet 16. Team members have played together through sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, and have gone to the state finals each of the last three years. Megan and Mandy, daughters of Tammie and Martin Kirby, are also members of the school's volleyball team, which had a great season as well. You can be proud of your teams' accomplishments, ladies—keep up the hard work!



St. Patrick's *In Focus* would like to showcase 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, theatre 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).



Welcome to new parishioners Melissa Bennett, John Connolly, Erin Dunn and Henry Emerle, Jennifer Lynn Hogan, Mary L. Karten, Janice McAteer, Randy and Molly Pankau, Renee and Powel Potera.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Kim and Ray Schnizlein, Heather and Robert Kenny, and Ed Barstow.



~ Nancy Olson

I am fairly new to St. Patrick's Parish, having joined you about 18 months ago. I want to thank you all for making me feel at home here.

I officially joined the Catholic Church on Sept. 14, 1952, at St. Francis de Sales church in Detroit when I was 18 days old. The next 18 years of my life were pretty well entwined with the life of that parish, which was two blocks from our home. I followed five of my siblings through 12 years of Catholic school at St. Francis de Sales, where we learned about God's kingdom by the words and example of the Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters, who taught us. Their congregation has always championed peace and justice and equal treatment for all God's family, as well as ecological stewardship. I am deeply grateful to those wonderful women for this education in faith.

We were also taught the messages of faith by word and action at home, where our parents showed us the way by their selfless sacrifices to help members of our extended family and 30 foster children have better lives. The Letter of James says that faith without works is dead. That is the principle that I have tried to use as a guide for my faith journey since childhood.

In my adult life I have struggled with the balance between prayer and action. I've always viewed myself from the perspective of the gospel story of Martha, the sister of Lazarus, and her sister Mary. You will recall that when Jesus visited their home, Martha was in the kitchen preparing to feed her guests

while Mary sat at Jesus' feet, feeding on every word he spoke. I grew up identifying myself with Martha—the one in the kitchen—and praying to be more like Mary. Last year, while on the parish Lenten retreat, I had a pretty startling revelation. I was sitting quietly in the church focusing on the crucifix. I was strongly drawn to the hands on the figure of Christ. And I realized with particular clarity during that meditation that it was perfectly okay to be more Martha than Mary. That is my gift. If all of us were Mary, no one would eat! Jesus chastised Martha for being "busy doing many things," but I know that if I begin my day with prayer, the things I have to do will be done with love and will be pleasing to God. The motto of Dorothy Day, one of the founders of the Catholic Worker movement, was *Ora et labora—pray and work*. Each day I strive to make that my motto.

In 1996 I met my wonderful husband, Dean, while volunteering at St. Jude Catholic Worker House. It is probably no accident that we met while I was cleaning bathrooms and he was raiding the pantry for the fixings for the Sunday soup kitchen, which he ran for two years. We both find putting our faith into action to be an essential component of our spiritual lives along with prayer, participating in the sacraments, spiritual reading, tithing, and observing Sabbath rest. It is a blessing to spend my life with a man who shares my spiritual vision and my values, and who supports me in my daily struggle to be a woman of faith. Together we are seeking to know God's will in our lives and how we may be instruments in making God's kingdom come.

I am presently participating in Sr. Charlene's program "Finding God in Daily Work." It has deepened my awareness of God's presence in every aspect of my life. I have been inspired and encouraged by the other women in the program who have shared their spiritual journeys and search for God in their daily lives and work. The program has re-

minded me that finding God is daily work and that we must continuously attend to our spiritual lives, which I hope I am able to do a bit better each day.

Thank you for letting me share some of my faith journey and some intimate parts of my spiritual life with you. May we all be a blessing for one another and the world.

There is no Plan B



When Jesus arrived back in heaven on Ascension Day, his Father asked him whom he'd left to carry on his mission on

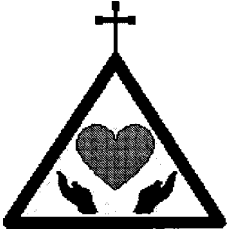
earth. Jesus replied that his friends would do it. And God replied, "You mean Peter, who betrayed you, and all the rest who ran away when you were crucified? You mean that you left them to carry on your work?"

Jesus answered, "Yes, Father, those are the very ones. Our Spirit will be with them, will give them wisdom and courage and understanding, but the work is theirs to do." And God said, "What is your backup plan?" Jesus said, "There is none. Either they do it, or it doesn't get done."

We may rightly wait for others to discover a vaccine or to colonize the moon or to compose masterpieces in music and art. But there is no point in our looking around for others to carry on the Kingdom. That is the special job our Friend gave to us personally.

Teresa of Avila underscored this privilege of doing the work of the ascended Christ: "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes from which the compassion of Christ will look out upon the world; yours are the feet with which Christ is to go about doing good, and yours are the hands with which Christ is to bless us now." There is no Plan B.

Parish Council News



At their April meeting Council members approved the operating budget for fiscal year 2004-5, with a projected income of \$844,375, with \$618,400 of this amount from projected weekly collections, the Christmas collection, and interest income, and \$225,975 from extraordinary income, which includes tuition payments. Projected expenses are budgeted as follows: personnel, \$324,029; administration and operations, \$47,848; buildings and grounds, \$103,973; committees and programs, \$52,190; other (religious education, liturgy, Holy Cross tuition, and St. Thomas More tuition and assessment), \$297,150 plus \$19,185 (returned extraordinary interest).

Several applicants for the position of parish business operations have been interviewed and screened. Tim

Thilmony has been coming in in the evenings to help keep the operation going smoothly and will help to train the new employee.

Carol Retz reported that 33 teens have submitted their payments for the summer Mission trip, with a few more expected. This year the group will assist a family by tearing down their home and rebuilding it, under the auspices of the University of North Carolina Newman Center.

Parish plans for the diocesan Capital Campaign are well underway. Barbara Wysocki and Diane Ruedi will share the responsibilities of General Chair; Leslie Risatti, Campaign Secretary; Rose Breen, Campaign Receptions Chair; Jean Daly, assisted by Cheryl Mitchell, Special Gifts Chair. [See related feature, this issue.] Fr. Remm has submitted his Case Statement to the diocese, indicating the funds returned to the parish from the Campaign will be used for religious education and youth

ministry, enhancing the two foundations already established at St. Patrick's.

With the Council election on Apr. 24-25 to fill vacancies created as three Council members complete their terms this spring, an ad hoc nominating committee was established to develop a slate for election of Council officers at the Council's regular May meeting. The nominating committee is made up of Fr. Remm, Ellen Amberg and Pat Dill (parish trustees), and Janice Parker and Joe Rasmussen (outgoing Council members).



The next Council meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on May 20. 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.

Memorial Day: The blood of heroes never dies



St. Patrick's will mark Memorial Day with its annual Mass at 9:00 a.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery on Monday, May 31. In case of inclement weather, the Mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick's church. Afterward all are invited to breakfast in the parish center; parishioners are asked to bring a breakfast item to share, and coffee will be provided.

Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868, and is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday of May. In 1915 Moina Michael conceived of wearing a red poppy on Memorial Day in

honor of those who died serving the nation during war. Inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Michael wrote the following:

*We cherish too the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led.
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.*

In 1948 the U.S. Postal Service honored Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy Movement by issuing a red three-cent postage stamp bearing her likeness.

With the country embattled abroad and with many losing their lives in Iraq, there is no better time to honor and pray for our brave men and women in service today even as we remember those who gave their lives in former wars.

Prayer for Vocations

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.



Holy Cross Happenings

Several students and classes continued the school's Lenten project by continuing to find ways to raise money in support of Dr. Susan Nagele's work in Africa. As well, they maintained their dedication to prayer and almsgiving by attending the 8:15 Mass as their schedules allowed. Msgr. Hallin and Fr. Henderson provided the opportunity for all to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and they prayed the Stations of the Cross as a school community as well as individual classes.

Safety. In April, Holy Cross School had a crisis drill in addition to the tornado drill. The main purpose for the drills is to help students



Q: Why does our diocese observe the Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord on Sunday instead of Thursday?

A: This feast has traditionally been observed on the Thursday after the Sixth Sunday of Easter. Like ours, many other dioceses in the United States (particularly in the west) and abroad have recently moved this feast to the following Sunday. Rome granted permission for this transfer in the United States on July 5, 1999.

This change was motivated by a desire to help the faithful more easily observe the Ascension as a holy day of obligation, particularly with regard to the celebration of Mass. A precedent in this country for such a transfer is the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, which was transferred from the Thursday after the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity to the following Sunday. Others, such as that of Sts. Peter and Paul (Jun. 29), St. Joseph (Mar. 19), and

learn how to respond calmly and safely in any potentially harmful situation.

Can collection. Why does Holy Cross collect aluminum cans? The school is charged a fee for the collection of recyclable paper and cardboard materials, an expense at least partially offset by income from recycling the aluminum cans. Many thanks to John Cottingham for coordinating this program and for standing out in his truck every Thursday, rain or shine, to collect the cans!

Sixth-graders have been busy finishing up their work on the Medieval Fair, which all students were able to visit and participate in. As a culminating activity to their Medi-

eval Unit, sixth-graders traveled to Medieval Times in Schaumburg, where they witnessed a traditional tournament and jousting match and enjoyed traditional foods.

Spring musical, "Oliver." What a production it was! The sets, the lights, the costumes, the authentic accents, and (most importantly) the cast were absolutely outstanding! Many, many students participated in the musical, and it took the help of numerous parent volunteers to build the sets and play the music and corral the children during rehearsals. But all that hard work paid off, for it was a wonderful production. Everyone who took part in any way should be very pleased and proud of a job well done!



Mark your calendars:

Apr. 25: Athletic Mass and Banquet

Apr. 26-30: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 1: First Communion at Holy Cross

May 5: Spring Music Concert, Choral/Band

May 7: Mass and May Crowning

May 13: Summer packet sent home

May 14: Eighth-grade retreat

May 18: Eighth-grade honors assembly

May 19: Eighth-grade graduation in the evening at Holy Cross church

May 26: Field Day

May 28: Last day of school

the Annunciation (Mar. 25), no longer have the obligation attached.

In the United States the number of holy days of obligation has been reduced over time from eleven in 1777 to eight in 1839 and to six in 1884. With the transfer of the Solemnity of the Ascension from Thursday to Sunday in 1999, only five holy days that may fall on weekdays are now observed in this country.

Sunday, of course, is the primary "holy day of obligation." Holy days in the United States that are not observed on a Sunday include the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Jan. 1), the Assumption of the Blessed Mother (Aug. 15), All Saints Day (Nov. 1), the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mother (Dec. 8), and the Nativity of Our Lord (Dec. 25).

In most countries, bishops have transferred the observance of many holy days to the nearest Sunday. The Vatican may now be the only place where all are celebrated on their actual calendar day!



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

Catholic Daughters plan May Crowning

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet at noon on Tuesday, May 11, for Mass and May Crowning in St. Patrick's multipurpose room. The service will be followed by a potluck luncheon in the main hall of the parish center.

April 3 was Spring Cleanup Day at St. Patrick's!

Inside and out, the parish church and grounds got the full treatment on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. Teens concentrated on cleaning the church, dusting, mopping, vacuuming, polishing pews and other furniture, and washing windows and doors in the church, while others assisted adults who were gathering up leaves and twigs and branches brought down by storms and windy days. They worked hard and went home with aching muscles, but with the knowledge of a job well done!

The teens and adults who lent their time and efforts to the task were Matt Cech, Nick Navarre, Megan and Lucas Raab, Randi Brown, Brittany Collenberger, Jackie Johnston, Ashley Graham, Darrin McCartney, Steven Kimball, Alex Long, Fernanda and Luiz Mendes, Ryan McCusker, Andy Wszalek, Mike Fitzgerald, Todd McTaggart, Lisa Portis, Merla Hubler, Sarah Roberts, Maciek Swiech, Ian Millsap, Jessica Andrejasich, Chris Langendorf, Sandy Pijanowski, Kathy McKenzie, Sharon and Mark Fitzgerald, Carm Guymon, Ed Walsh, Tony Sheehan, Pat Dill, Jeffrey Sage, Caitlin Vitosky, and Todd McTaggart.

Mary Ann Luedtke made a list and checked it twice to be sure the essential tasks in the church's spring cleaning were done, while Bill VanCleave responded to needs voiced by individuals and Mary VanCleave set up the "desert" in front of the altar for the Holy Week liturgies.

The accompanying photos picture some, but by no means all, of those who came to help. Thanks to each and every one of you! If we missed you, please accept our apology and consider yourself thanked and blessed for your labors in Jesus' name on behalf of your parish!



Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Jeannie Rasmussen

Quick Turtles

Mini pretzels
Rollo candies
Pecan halves

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with foil. Place mini pretzels on cookie sheet. Put one Rollo candy on each pretzel. Bake for 4 minutes. When you take the pretzels out of the oven, press a pecan half on the top of each Rollo. Cool completely. Now that's quick!



First Communion a holy and exciting time for children

Remember as a child getting dressed up and having family come to celebrate with you on your First Communion? Our children today experience that same excitement, and because of the parish's religious education program, they have a deeper understanding of the significance of their First Communion.

During the weeks of preparation for both the children and their parents, as Fr. Remm spoke about the awesomeness of the Eucharist and what it really means, his eyes shown with genuine excitement too. First Communion, after all, is one of the few sacraments that our children will receive many, many times throughout their lives. It is the sacrament of coming to know and receive Jesus (imagine!) in a new and deeper way. We pray for all our children as they begin this new stage of their sacramental Catholic life:

Agustina Colonna
 Jessica Elliott
 Emma C. Fortney
 Conner Matthew Gremer
 Seth Michael Griswell
 Kelsey Marie Gump
 Cameron Stephen Harpst
 Brooks Hauser
 Devante Tremaine Hodges
 Amrei Hubler
 Connor Steven McAteer Jacobs

Taylor Nicole Jacobs
 Joshua Michael Kalipeni
 Alyssa Renee Jones
 Ryan William Keefer
 Tam Thanh Le
 Jo Ellen Machesky
 Matthew Leo Gajda Meyer
 Douglas Mitchell
 Victor A. Mouschovias
 Ian Alexander Niccum
 Maeva Margaret O'Brien
 Colton Anthony Parisi

Michael Henry Plunk
 Annie Rasmussen
 Elias Isaiah Roussos
 Stephanie Sass
 Jamie Lynn Simmering
 Christopher Ryan Sligar
 Austin Michael Paul Stephen
 Pawel Strzebonski
 Mariya Rea Sturdyvin
 Ty Dillon Waller
 Gabrielle Day Wszalek



May 2 is Vocations Sunday

Concerned Catholic men and women, both here and abroad, have joined the lay vocations arm of the Church, Serra International. The mission of this organization is to foster and affirm vocations to the ministerial priesthood and vowed religious life. Along with other vocations-related activities, members pray for vocations and perseverance of vocations and invite all Catholics to join them in this effort.

The need for more good people to follow a religious vocation is great. The shortage borders on critical in some areas. We can address the problem in a small but significant way, with prayer. Praying for vocations is tantamount to providing an important service to the Church and at the same time gaining fulfillment and other benefits from doing it. As we pray, we are spiritually strengthened by affirming our Christian faith and belief in God; we are contributing to the vitality of the Church; and we are acting upon an important element of our Christian discipleship. A great return for so small an effort!

A prayer for vocations, like any other prayer, should be prayed with a sincere conviction in God's supreme power. If we were to do so, and regularly, God's call to those he chooses to be his ministers would surely not be ignored.

Vocations come from parishes such as ours, and as parishioners we reap the spiritual benefits from our answered prayers.

A prayer card for vocations will be provided at all Masses on May 2 by parishioners active in Serra International.

Jane Addams, prodigious worker for justice and peace

Born in Cedarville, Ill., in September 1860, Jane Addams influenced our country's laws and actions by her work and went on to win a Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1889 Jane founded the world-famous Hull-House in Chicago, where she lived and worked until her death on May 21, 1935. For residents of this immigrant neighborhood, Hull-House provided a kindergarten and daycare for children of working mothers, an employment bureau, an art gallery, libraries, and music and art classes. The movement eventually included the Jane Club (a cooperative residence for working women), the first Little Theater in America, and a Labor museum and meeting place for trade union groups.

Projects launched included such reforms as a strong child labor law and an accompanying compulsory education law. With the creation of the Federal Children's Bureau in

1912 and the passage of a federal child labor law in 1916, the reformer's influence reached the national level.

Jane Addams wrote prolifically on topics related to Hull-House activities, producing books and articles and giving speeches nationwide and around the world. Early in the twentieth century she was involved in the peace movement and became an important advocate of internationalism. She maintained her stance as a peace activist after the United States entered the war in 1917, becoming the first president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931 in recognition of her labors in the cause of peace.

What one woman can do, Jane Addams did-and seemingly more. She serves as an exemplary model for all advocates of justice and peace.

No greater love

There is no greater love, says the Lord,
than to lay down your life for a friend.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;
live on in my love.

You will live in my love if you keep my commands
even as I have kept my Father's.

All this I tell you that my joy may be yours,
and your joy may be complete.

Love one another as I have loved you:
this is my command.

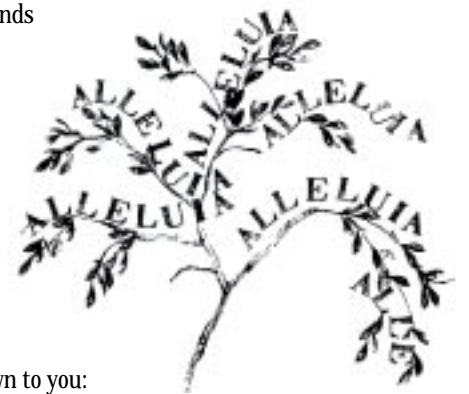
You are my friends if you keep my commands,
no longer slaves, friends to me.

All I heard from my Father, I have made known to you:
now I call you friends.

It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you,
chose you to go forth and bear fruit.

Your fruit must endure, so you will receive
all you ask the Father in my name.

Paraphrase by Michael Joncas



Transitions—Walking in the Lord's will

With the realization of the coming retirement of Fr. George Remm, both the parish staff and the Parish Council dwelt on the theme "Transitions" during their annual retreats. Because they wanted to share with parishioners some of the reflections on transition from these retreats, Sr. Mary Kay Himens, SSCM, retreat facilitator, was invited to provide a brief overview of her presentations on this theme. Transition, as she points out, can be an opportunity for real growth, not only in this particular situation but in the lives of parishioners and in the life of the parish. Her overview follows:

"Without change, something sleeps inside us and seldom awakes. The sleeper must waken."
~Frank Herbert

We all know change is inevitable. Without it, all—everything and everyone—would stagnate. Life would be as the gray days of November rather than the burgeoning of new life in April.

When we are faced with change, whether in terms of health and activity, of roles and positions, of work setting and skill sets, we usually approach the encounter with fear and trepidation. Even when the expected outcome of the change is something we have dreamed of and desired—a marriage, the birth of a child, completion of a degree—we still experience fear and unease. And when it comes to a major change in leadership in our worship community, our parish family, we experience uncertainty, both personally and collectively.

Your wise and loving pastor (following the model of the Good Shepherd, who sought to prepare the apostles and disciples for his death and resurrection) engaged the Parish Council in a process of transition last August. Other groups in the parish have also sought to prepare themselves for the change in leadership at St. Patrick's by looking seriously at the elements of change,

of transition.

"Transition"-the very word means "the act of going across," the movement from one state or stage or position to another. In any transition there are certain stages to be encountered. I recommend that you, the reader, reflect on the changes you have experienced as you acquaint yourself with the stages of transition. Recognize and name the specifics of the experience in light of each stage as honestly and openly as you can.

1. Immobilization: At the beginning of the transition one feels frozen, overwhelmed, paralyzed by fear, unable to make plans, to reason, to understand what's happening. All are functions of the ambiguity and unfamiliarity of the situation. Negative expectations and fear of the unknown lead one to ask "What if...?" and there are a thousand aspects to that question.

2. Minimization: This is the "whistling in the dark" stage, in which denial, trivialization, and making light of the situation are very prominent. This stage is necessary; it must not be subverted or repressed.

3. Depression: Suddenly the reality seems to be too much, the awareness of the complexity and multiplicity of the necessary adaptations lead to frustration, anger at self and others—particularly authority figures. Again, these are normal feelings in the face of change. If by nature or temperament one is imprisoned by negative belief systems, the "nothing ever turns out right" or "why me, why now" attitude, this stage may lead to paralyzing resentment and despair. (Both are contrary to Christ's message of hope and newness of life!)

4. Acceptance of reality: The three earlier stages involve attachment to "what used to was!" This stage implies unhooking from the past, realistically taking stock of what is, and a letting go so that thought and feeling can be freed for creative problem solving.

5. Testing: The new ways of

thinking, doing, being, and coping, the fruits of brainstorming, prayer, and creative problem solving, must now be tested. As the options and alternatives are examined and tested, one becomes energized and challenged, or made painfully aware of one's vulnerability and perhaps even returned to the depression stage.

6. Search for meaning: As new attitudes and behaviors, or adjustment to the new situation, begin to be integrated into one's life, there is a gradual shift toward a deeper understanding and reflection on how it all fits in with the patterns in one's life or the life of the group. At this point it is crucial to step back and gain perspective on what meanings and learning can be found in the changes, both internally and externally.

7. Internalization: The change or transition is now incorporated into one's life and being. This integration is a key experience—a feeling of wholeness, of comfort, of again "*being with myself and in myself,*" not "*beside myself.*"

This "stage" theory of transition can be applied to both individuals and groups, but it is imperative that all individuals recognize that they move through the process according to their own rhythms, "march to their own drummer," and that others may or may not be marching to the same drumbeat.

As applied to the forthcoming change in leadership as the parish bids farewell to Fr. Remm and makes the necessary adjustment to whomever the Holy Spirit sends as pastor, through Bishop Jenky's discernment and assignment, each parishioner must name his or her fears, concerns, losses, and grieving. The solid Christian virtues of submission, of hope, of trust and reliance on God's wisdom and grace will be given ample occasions for practice. St. Patrick's Parish has a long history of virtuous adherence to God's will, and that spirit will carry the parish through the changes that are on the horizon.

A Mother Who Prays

This transition (as I have expressed it to the Parish Council and to other groups that have consulted with me) makes this the "year of adaptation" and next year the "year of adjustment."

The adage "The family that prays together stays together" can be adapted to "The parish that prays and celebrates the Eucharist together stays together." The prayerful manner in which St. Patrick's community walks through this transition will be the greatest honor and tribute the family can give to Fr. George Remm, your beloved pastor who has served you so well and faithfully.

Sr. Mary Kay, SSCM



Some have had kings in their lineage,
Some to whom honor was paid.
Not blest of my ancestors—but
I have a mother who prays.

I have a mother who prays for me
And pleads with the Lord every day for me.
Oh, what a difference it makes for me—
I have a mother who prays.

Some have worldly success
And trust in riches they've made—
This is my surest asset:
I have a mother who prays.

My mother's prayers cannot save me,
Only mine can avail;
But mother introduced me to Someone—
Someone who never could fail.

Oh, yes, I have a mother who prays for me
And pleads with the Lord every day for me.
O what a difference it makes for me—
I have a mother who prays.

~Anonymous

It's time to renew your enrollment...

in the IGA **HVC** Charitable Rebate Program. By registering your HVC card to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Society receives a rebate for a percentage of your purchases. The program costs enrolled participants nothing but can amount to a fair piece of change for SVDP—in the past year the Society has received rebates totaling more than \$300. If you wish to enroll or renew your enrollment for the program year July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, please complete the form below and drop it off at the service desk in any participating IGA store before July 1. Participating stores in the C-U area are the Jerry's IGA on Kirby Ave., C.; Jerry's IGA on Round Barn Rd., C.; and Jerry's IGA on Philo Rd., U.

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IGA **HVC** Charitable Rebate Customer Enrollment

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Organization Name: **St. Vincent de Paul Society**

Organization number: **055123**

From our Sister Parish in the Holy Land

Dear Rev. Father George F. Remm, Amy Kuka, and parishioners of St. Patrick's Church:

On March 17 we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The parishioners of Beit-Jala are happy to celebrate this holy occasion to convey their congratulations and deep feelings of gratitude for all our benefactors. Through the intercession of St. Patrick may God bless your church and reward you with prosperity and happiness.

Within a few weeks we celebrate Easter. May the Risen Lord provide your leaders, as well as ours, wisdom and strength.

You are right to be concerned about us, especially the people of the Bethlehem region. This famous "wall" is the "finishing stroke" for the daily life of our people, unless [there is] a miracle from heaven!

Rev. Jakob Abden-Nour

Joining our Community from page 1



Julie Bauer

affected by it. I think I decided then that I would become a Roman Catholic, though it took me five years until I had the courage actually to do something about it." John, retired after 30 years' service to the UI, comes from Baptist, Presbyterian, and Christian Science backgrounds, "pretty much the full spectrum of Protestantism. Plus I have an uncle who converted to Catholicism in the 1940s, which was viewed as a family scandal at the time." He finds his passion for classical music surprising since he is completely tone deaf!

Originally from Danville, **Cheri Milliken** plans to complete her Ph.D.



in biochemistry at the UI in the next year and hopes to move on to a career either in academia or at a National Research Institution. "I have always had an interest in the Catholic faith. Although I have thought about joining the Church on several occasions, it wasn't until I attended Mass at St. Patrick's that I knew the time was right."

Tom Stanley was attracted to St. Patrick's by the "worship community and the presence of Christ. I have been on a journey all my life, like everyone else.

Since coming to the RCIA, I have discovered that it is a quest for truth." Tom, divorced, lives in Urbana, and has two children and two grandchildren.

"I have wanted to join the Catholic

faith for many years. I heard about St. Patrick's from Alice McLaughlin, Director of Pastoral Care at Carle," says **Pam Starkey**, who works



weekends in the Emergency Room office at Carle. "Alice said such wonderful things, I wanted to come to this church and be a part of the RCIA program. I am working full time as a nanny for four girls, ages 7, 6, 3, and 2. Many evenings are spent at Parkland College taking accounting classes to update my degree." In her "spare time," Pam loves reading, watching old movies, traveling, and volunteering at her sorority on the UI campus.

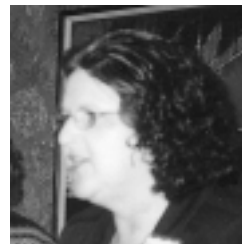
Pat Prothe, a life-long resident of



Champaign-Urbana, tells us, "I felt called to visit St. Patrick's Parish. After the first visit, I could not stay away because God's love was always evident in the Mass and in God's family. It brought God's love to me in a very personal way." Pat has a son, Bruce, and a "dandy" miniature dachshund, named Porgy. "I still work part-time as a secretary and am an independent gal, as my husband died young, but life is good!"

Our next group of neophytes, or new Catholics, came into the Church because their spouse or other family members are Catholic. Many of them had been attending Mass with their spouse.

"My daughter and son-in-law (Liz and Bill Vavrik) and their daughters are members of St. Patrick's Parish," relates **Donna Oakes-Novak**. "Their



wedding in the church was beautiful. I wanted to be able to support my granddaughters (Maggie and Sophie Vavrik) as they grew in faith." Donna is a

continuing catechumen and will be received into the Church at a future date. A life-long resident of Urbana, she is married to Greg Novak and is assistant principal at Urbana Middle School.

A Maine native, **Matt Olsen** came



here to work on his Ph.D. in philosophy at the UI and plans to finish this in May. His wife, Celeste, is a life-long parishioner and Urbana resident, daughter of the late Dr. Shig Yasunaga and Judy Yasunaga. Matt was drawn to St. Patrick's by a desire for community and by the strong tradition in the Church. He and Celeste live in southeast Urbana.

"My trip to Rome intrigued, inspired, and drew me toward Catholicism," says **Kelli Maxwell**,



who lives in Newman with her husband, Doug, and daughter, Samantha. "Discussions with my now-sponsor brought me to St. Patrick's, where I have found a wonderfully close community." Kelli teaches at Ogden Grade School.

"I have attended St. Patrick's for many years with my family and enjoy the faith community," **Karilyn Sonka**, wife of parishioner Steve



Sonka, tells us. "My husband, Steve, and I have four daughters. We enjoy traveling and getting together with our children and their families. We are blessed with three beautiful grandchildren. Family and children are a very important part of my life and career." A learning disabilities teacher at Holy Cross and St. Matthew's Schools, Karilyn enjoys hiking, reading, and following her daughter Teresa's cross-country and

soccer events.

Lee Kirwan was attracted by the "acceptance and friendliness that the St. Patrick's parishioners have shown me. I believe in the moral values of the Catholic Church. I believe in the charities and concern shown for the community." Lee is married to John Kirwan, a member of St. Patrick's Parish. The Kirwans are both retired and travel frequently.

"My husband is Catholic, and we are raising our children in the faith," shares **Julie Porter**. "I originally



began RCIA to learn more to support them. Thanks to Carolyn, Lenore, and the RCIA team for such an amazing, life-changing experience!" Julie lives in Urbana with her husband, James, and their children, Aidan (3) and Megan (7), and is an assistant manager of the Developmental Training Programs at Developmental Services Center. Her hobbies include reading, journaling, and spending time with her family.

Tamera Straw and her husband,



Joseph, and son, Julian, came to Urbana in 2002 when Joseph accepted a position as Professor of Library Science

at the UI. Tamera says of St. Patrick's: "The people seem friendly here, and I liked the way I was welcomed here. I am joining the Catholic faith because my husband is Catholic and our son, Julian Chad, 2, was baptized Catholic last August." Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Tamera has a BA from Cleveland State University and worked in insurance sales for six years. The Straws are expecting their second child later this year.

Ten things impressed **Quentin**


Kirk about St. Patrick's and the



Catholic faith: "Coming from a non-Catholic background, I was first impressed by the (1) order and dignity of the

Mass (both in the U.S. and in Mexico), by the message in the (2) homilies, and by (3) Holy Communion. I was delighted that the (4) beautiful old church was (5) unlocked, (6) candles were burning, and (7) people came to pray. I was moved by the great numbers of (8) volunteers in all aspects of church life (in the coffee shop, the Knights, RCIA, social activities, WATCH groups, and education programs). It was for us (9) a strong accepting congregation." Quentin has lived in different places in the world and loves to talk about his wanderings in Mexico with his adventurous wife, Blanca. Together they take great pleasure in dancing. Quentin taught literature for many years and now belongs to weekly writing groups to create his own literature. He has enjoyed three WATCH groups and the RCIA program, and he is a member of the Social Committee. Quentin sums up his St. Patrick's experience (in impression number 10): "But most of all, I kept noticing a mood of pleasant joyfulness in the people we met."

Let's show that Christian joyfulness as we meet and welcome our new Catholics into our parish family!



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

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



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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