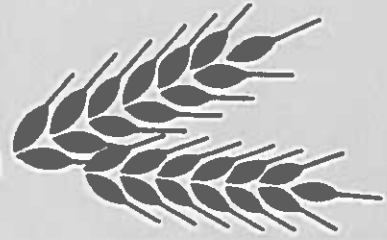


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



www.stpaturbana.org

Giving To God First

*Faith without works
Is like a song you can't sing
It's about as useless as
A screen door on a submarine*
Rich Mullins,
in the song "Screen Door"

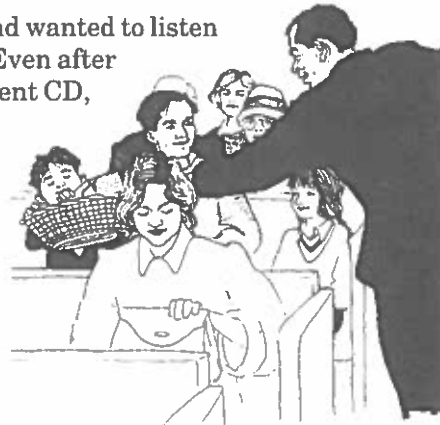
Dear friends,

Once again, I must credit my children for teaching me about stewardship and what that really means in my life. In thinking about stewardship for many, many days, I struggled with the "why" of stewardship, for me personally. I continued to ask the question over and over to myself. Why do I tithe? Why is stewardship a part of my life?

The answer came in a car ride home from my parents' home recently. My children wanted to listen to a song many times over by Rich Mullins entitled "Screen Door." In fact, by the fifth time hearing it, I was becoming

rather impatient and wanted to listen to something else. Even after changing to a different CD, I kept hearing the refrain. I realized that is exactly why stewardship of treasure is part of my spiritual life. (You may need to listen to the song to understand.) My faith is useless without works, without action, without being a steward for others and the Church.

In a conversation with my mom regarding stewardship, she mentioned that perhaps I ought to tell a story about a time that I faithfully gave of my treasure *first* and how God blessed me hundredfold. As we continued to talk, I realized that the best examples of how God has blessed



me begin with my parents.

They were dairy farmers at the mercy of the market prices and the weather to provide a bumper crop or a bad crop. Farming was not very lucrative, yet my parents never stopped giving to God *first*.

It was not until I was an adult that I realized the depth of their faithful giving, and why, as I look at their lives now, they are so incredibly blessed by the Lord every day. It didn't matter what the financial picture was for them; they gave to God *first*. They gave to God through the Church, of course; however, they also helped a family or individuals in their community—anonously—

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The Year of the Eucharist 2004

"We do well always and everywhere to give you thanks..."

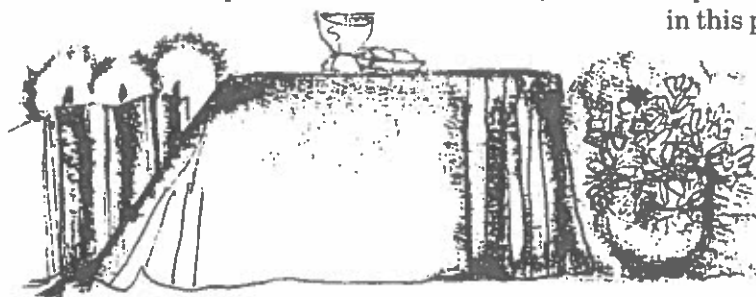
Always and everywhere.
Not just here and now,
gathered with this assembly
offering this prayer,
but at all times
and in all places
we give you thanks.

Because you first loved us
with profound simplicity

we know that
in the tasks we accomplish,
our manner of speaking
or attentive listening,
our patience with frustrations,

and generous hospitality
you see our thanks
all summed up,
manifested,
expressed
in this prayer of praise.

May all that we do
always and everywhere
give you thanks.



Parish Council news

At their October meeting Council members learned that as a result of the just-completed audit of parish books, this year's end-of-year funds are much lower than expected; the software used by the parish deducted tuition payments from "extraordinary funds" instead of from "ordinary funds," leaving a balance of only \$7367.97 for disbursement. The parish is changing to the software recommended by the diocese, the checks and balances now in place are to be recorded for future reference, and more in-depth financial reports will be prepared for the Financial Affairs Committee. The allocation of end-of-year funds includes 10% to Dr. Susan Nagele and 10% to our Sister Church, with the remainder applied to property acquisition.

Liz Bazar, reporting for CREW, mentioned the fund-raising efforts currently underway: selling holiday wreaths and raking leaves. Mission meetings will be held on the first Sunday of every month. Fr. Hogan suggested that the criteria for going on the Mission trip should include regular Mass attendance, 12 fund-raising hours, and more than the 20 service hours currently required.

Mary Long presented a video and information about a new three-year program to begin during Lent 2005, called "Disciples in Mission." It was described as a parish-wide, lectionary-based renewal program to foster a greater awareness of our calling to be ambassadors for Christ. Its three goals: (1) Year 1, the call to holiness, (2) Year 2, the call to welcome and invite, and (3) Year 3, the call to transform the world in Christ. Bishop Jenky has expressed the desire that this program be adopted by every parish in the diocese. The structure of the program is similar to that of RENEW, a parish renewal program conducted here a few years ago. Features include faith-sharing groups, family activities, evangelizing homilies, and bulletin inserts, with a leadership team formed to implement the program. The first meeting of the



leadership team will be Thursday, Oct. 28, to begin planning.

Bob Miller has been hired to fill the parish's maintenance position and is already on the job. Budget proposals are due Jan. 11. A report from the ad hoc committee reviewing procedures governing the use of parish center space is expected by the next Council meeting. And with that, Council members went into closed session.

Committee news: The *Building and Grounds* Committee has determined that money already invested in needed improvements to the Yauk property (east side of Coler, south of the alley) and what will be required to make it usable cannot be recouped. The *Communications* Committee has acquired at least one new regular member and one associate member from the Time and Talent weekend, and has put the latter to work already as editor of this issue of *In Focus*; the committee will discern a new chair at its next meeting. The *Financial Affairs* Committee assisted the audit process to facilitate closing the books on FY 2003-4. The *Liturgy* Committee is training new liturgical ministers and completing the revision of its Handbook. The *Social Action* Committee welcomed Sharon Monday-Dorsey and Amy Jobin as new co-chairs.

* * * * *

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



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is November 14.



Q: Why are names listed beside Mass times in the parish bulletin?

A: In our bulletin you will notice that with the listing of Masses for the week are given the readings for each day's liturgy. Beside the time of each Mass is printed the "intention," that is, the person or persons to be remembered in a special way through the intercession of the Mass. The names given in parentheses identify those who have requested the intentions.

This tradition of naming persons or special needs goes back more than a thousand years in the Church. Every Mass, however, is offered for all the living and all the dead—what we call the Communion of Saints. Phrases in the Mass such as the following remind us:

"in union with the whole Church"
(Roman canon)

"remember your Church throughout the world; make us grow in love, together with John Paul II, our Pope, Daniel, our bishop, and all the clergy; ... remember our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest in the hope of rising again; ... have mercy on us all" (second Eucharistic Prayer)

"remember those who take part in this offering, those here present and all your people and all those who seek you with a sincere heart" (fourth Eucharistic Prayer)

The Mass is always for those who gather and for the whole Church. It is appropriate, then, as we intercede for all the Church—the Communion of Saints—to include persons living or dead for remembrance in a special way through the intercession of the Mass.

* * * * *

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

“Promoting an enduring peace”

The first Veterans Day was celebrated in 1938 twenty years after the armistice that concluded World War I, and was appropriately named Armistice Day. It was to be a day “dedicated to the cause of world peace” in remembrance of those who gave their lives in that war.

Subsequently, however, after the greatest mobilization of men into the armed services in the nation’s history for World War II and the military action in Korea, the name was changed to Veterans Day, and November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars

“for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.”

In his proclamation in 1954 President Eisenhower stated, “On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so val-

iantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of

promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain.”

Noble words, these, and perhaps too easily forgotten in our enjoyment of this national holiday. This year, as our country’s men and women are engaged in yet another battle “on foreign shores,” the holiday takes on a more somber note. Some of us already count among the

acquaintance and may know families mourning the loss of loved ones.

In our prayers, then, let us remember not only those fallen in war but those still serving and sacrificing for the common good with the aim of

promoting an enduring peace, especially those from our parish families:

Anna Marie S. Brown
Kwame Curtis
William Erickson
Ben Fox
Albert Gentile
Adam Gentile
Andy Harpst
Tim Jobin
Jason Kimball
Adam Long
Zachary Long
Mike O’Rourke
Matt Palmisano
Aaron Pijanowski
Amy Thompson Preen
Martin Preen
Joe Yasunaga

In addition to our prayers, the children in St. Patrick’s religious education classes are asking for donations of supplies and foods for care packages to be shipped out around Thanksgiving. If you missed the announcement and flyer, you can call Carol Retz (239-2176) for information about the kinds of items to be sent.

Meanwhile, pray for that tragically elusive enduring peace!



Help CREW rake in cash for mission trip

Is your yard full of leaves this fall? Don’t have the time or energy to rake them? Let a group of dedicated young teens do the job for you. St. Patrick’s CREW youth group is holding its fifth annual leaf raking on Saturday, Nov. 13, to help raise funds for the summer 2005 mission trip.

To sign up to have your leaves raked, call Carol Retz today (278-2216). Hurry—CREW can accept only the first 12-15 people who call!

All donations will go toward funding for the trip.



An invitation to “a time apart”

We know that Jesus often took time to go off by himself to pray, and that he sometimes took a few friends along with him with the invitation to “come away and rest for a while.”

An opportunity for “a time apart” is offered on Saturday, Nov. 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Patrick’s parish center. The day will include several prayer sittings as well as time for shared and private reflection on Scripture (*Lectio Divina*).

Anyone who has attended an Introduction to Centering Prayer workshop, has attempted Centering Prayer, or has participated in center-

ing prayer groups is invited to take up Jesus’ call to “come away and rest for a while.” The opportunity is

timely, coming as it does just a couple of weeks before Advent, to help us focus on preparation for the Lord’s coming.

“A Time Apart” will be facilitated by Florrie Dammers of Contemplative Outreach. Light refreshments (e.g., coffee, fruit, coffee cake,

bagels) will be available. Walk-ins are welcome, but a call to register with the parish secretary (367-2665) will help to assure adequate accommodation for all who come. There is no registration fee.



Holy Cross happenings

Congratulations to the Holy Cross School Baseball Team for going all the way to State. Coach John Kuczera and Assistant coaches Mark Tate and Russ McDuffy worked the baseball team hard, and it paid dividends. The team of seventh- and eighth-graders worked hard to end the season with a record of 12 wins and four losses. They beat St. Matthew's in the Regional to advance to the Sectional, where they won. They traveled to Peoria to play in the state tournament. It was the first time in 27 years that the team made it to state. They were very proud, as was the entire school!

Prayer Pals: During the month of October, seventh-grade classes took milk and fruit every week to the Catholic Worker House. Because of the nice weather, the students and teachers walked whenever possible. During one of the trips, they walked with their kindergarten prayer pals. It was a wonderful way to involve kids in serving others.

Fourth-Grade Saint Project: Both fourth-grade classes, taught by Mrs. Bramfeld and Mrs. Tate, are spending the month of October studying the saints. Each student chose a saint to research in-depth and will write a paper about that saint. On Nov. 1, 8:30 a.m. Mass, the saints process into church for a special All Saints Day Mass. Afterward they will visit all of the classrooms to share stories about their chosen saint.

Seventh-Grade Trip: On Oct. 14, at 6:30 a.m., seventh-graders embarked on their day-long journey to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. Forty-

five students and ten chaperones went along for a day of fun. They had the opportunity to look at many exhibits, as well as to see how movies are made; they even got to make their own movie. The day ended with an IMAX movie called "The Forces of Nature." It was an educational and fun day for everyone.

Hot Dog Day: Neither rain nor wind nor cold can keep Hot Dog Day from happening at Holy Cross in October. This year's successful Hot Dog Day was held on Oct. 15. A bit of drizzle at the start of the day didn't dampen the spirits of the volunteers who were cooking lots of hot dogs and serving a sack lunch to all students and their parents. Laughter and music and fun made for another successful day!

Straw Election: Election fever was in the air! Mrs. Madix's eighth-grade social studies classes and Mrs. Mitchell's seventh- and eighth-grade Current Events class organized a straw vote election for grades 4-8. Each student in those grades had to register on their own during the week of Oct. 4-8 to be allowed to vote on Wednesday, Oct. 27. Watch for the next issue of In Focus to find out whether the vote of Holy Cross students reflected the nation's vote!

Scholastic Book Fair: Holy Cross School will be sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair on Wednesday, Nov. 10, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. There will be great prices on books. It's a fantastic way to holiday shop, as well as to support the school library. Feel free to come and browse the book fair!

Mark your calendars

- Nov. 1: All School Mass for All Saints Day
- Nov. 2: Third-grade field trip to Early American Museum
- Nov. 3: Fifth-grade field trip to Early American Museum
- Nov. 4: Kindergarten field trip to Anita Purvis Nature Center
- Nov. 5: Report cards
- Nov. 10: Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:00-8:00 p.m.
- Nov. 11-12: No school
- Nov. 13: Market Day
- Nov. 15: Seventh- and eighth-grade Mass; Confirmation robes
- Nov. 16: VIRTUS session at St. Thomas More
- Nov. 17: Third-grade trip to Anita Purvis Nature Center
- Nov. 19: Fifth-grade visit to Carle Arbours
- Nov. 20: Confirmation
- Nov. 24: All School Mass; Grandparents Day; early dismissal
- Nov. 25-26: No school
- Nov. 29: Kris Kringle Shop opens

Spotlighting St. Patrick's Children



Chris Fowler, parishioner in fifth grade at Robeson School, Champaign, earned his Parvuli Dei badge and pin May 2004. This Catholic Faith Award was a part of his Webelos Cub Scout program. Chris is the son of Susan Fowler. Congratulations, Chris!

* * * * *

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).



Welcome to new parishioners Kathy Cain, Angela Fearon, Judith Fierke, Alessandra Gardini, Lisa Hooser, Garrett Hunter, Dana Milan, Joe O'Brien, John and Sue Schreiber, Ung Tang, and Grace and Leo Zulu.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Eduardo and Denise Baez-Alba, Earl Bialeschki, Tammy and Matt Hall, David Novak, and Magloire and Clarisse Some.

Congratulations to these couples married at St. Patrick's: Marci Renee McKee and Phillip Joseph Swope, and Amanda Danielle McKay and Patrick Stephen Biarkis.

Welcome to the following, recently baptized into our faith community: William Patrick J. McDonald, Emmett Ritter O'Brien, Daniel Eric Hays, Elizabeth Kathryn Milan, and Isabella Marjorie Wallis.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Richard Leroy Tavis, Arlene J. Herzberg, Nicholas Britsky (son of Nicholas and Anne Britsky), and Richard Allan Barrett.

Seniors group enjoys Halloween cookout

A good time and good food was had by 53 of St. Patrick's younger seniors on Oct. 13 at the fall cookout. A skeleton bride who asked you for the first dance, a scarecrow who said, "Get a life," and a witch stirring a cauldron and wishing you a happy Halloween greeted the seniors as they walked into the parish center. The tables, covered with orange, black, and spiderweb tablecloths, featured candle pumpkins. Those winning the drawings for the pumpkins were Carole Rebeiz, Artha Chamberlain, Norma Kroes, Betty Wolf, Connie Knake, Dora Larrain, Rose Brown, Oscar Kocher, and Tony Vattano.

Carole Rebeiz gave a talk and slide show on Lebanon. She and her husband, Tino, lived there for several years. The seniors welcomed several new members: Betty Wolf, Bernie and Corky Gast, and Dora Larraín. Committee members who planned the event were Bill Plymire and his wife Ruth, emcees for the evening; chef Ray Wait, who cooked the hamburgers and hot dogs; Irma Wait, who prepared the decorations; Artha Chamberlain, who arranged for the speaker; Leo Wood, who reported on the event for *In Focus*; and Shirley and Walter Splittstoesser, who were generally in charge of details.

Watch the Sunday bulletin for details on the next seniors meeting, Wednesday, Dec. 1. All seniors in the parish are welcome. The age requirement is easy—anyone who feels like a senior *is* a senior!



Emcees for the evening were Bill and Ruth Plymire. The "bride" is still waiting for the groom to show up!



The youngest "senior" (Cody Gudgel, grandson of Ray and Irma Wait) roasted marshmallows at the Halloween party.

Time and Talent weekend a success

The Parish Council, parish staff, committee chairs, and volunteer coordinators were very happy to see the response to Time and Talent weekend. Over 400 of the green signup sheets were turned in. Many sheets represented more than one person's offering of time and talent.

As Parish Council members were tallying the sheets, someone said "this one has almost everything marked." At first they thought it was



a joke, but then they realized it had been filled out by a family that gives many hours in service to the parish.

The prayerful consideration given by so many to the opportunities to serve our faith community is appreciated.

The most popular item marked was "Cooking/Baking for funerals or special events." Over 100 people marked that section! Rest assured, you'll be needed; you may be called for WATCH, events such as the Goal Setting Workshop, and other parish activities.

If you weren't at St. Patrick's for Time and Talent weekend, or if you're new to the parish since then, contact the parish office to learn about the many possibilities for service, or to volunteer. Keep an eye out in the bulletin—you'll see many calls for volunteers throughout the year. Although we devote a specific Sunday to this stewardship, your contributions are welcome at any time. You don't have to wait until next fall!

Your mom was right

Your mom was right—eat your fruit and vegetables. We need to eat more fruit and vegetables, especially powerhouse vegetables and fruit. These fruits and vegetables have been linked to a reduced risk of cancer, heart disease and other serious health problems. Try to go for five a day.

Powerhouse vegetables and fruits fall into one of four groups: dark green leafy vegetables, yellow/orange vegetables and fruits, cruciferous vegetables, and citrus fruit. The green

leafy vegetables, like spinach and kale, provide folate, vitamin C, and beta-carotene. Yellow and orange vegetables like carrots and winter squash are the other main source of beta-carotene. Cruciferous vegetables, including cauliflower, broccoli, and bok choy, contain phytochemicals that seem to inhibit colon and other cancers. (Phytochemicals are the chemical compounds produced by plants.)

Continued on page 11

Dorothy Day lived the Gospel

After Dorothy Day died on Nov. 29, 1980, readers of the Catholic Worker newspaper wrote in dismay, "How can you go on?" The newspaper staff replied succinctly, "Why not? We have the Gospel." It was so like what Dorothy would have said, strong and to the point.

And, of course, Dorothy had lived the Gospel for them, translated it in terms we can understand. The Sermon on the Mount came through in her unswerving focus on solidarity with the poor, her willingness to feel their pain, to bristle with anger at the oppression, poverty, and racism that ground them down every day. She raised her voice again and again at the system, the militarism, and consumerism that erode our spirits and rob the poor of

their God-given dignity. And, to our eternal gratitude, she left her words to inspire, exhort, and enlighten.



Dorothy was born on Nov. 8, 1887. The closing of the Church Year and her beloved season of Advent are reminders of her life and death. Her soul responded to the spare, cleansing, hopeful tone of the weeks of preparation for Christ's birth. How refreshing that reminder is as we see Christmas trees and decorated windows even before Halloween.

Here at the Worker House in Champaign, we try to remember that

Dorothy showed us that the Gospel is possible. Noting that each Worker House is unique, she said they were similar to "a large, disorganized family." Even though our daily Soup Kitchen may seem like a M*A*S*H episode with its incessant emergen-

cies, we count on love shining through. Christ gave his life for us and feeds us with his body in the Eucharist. We give ourselves and feed the poor so that the broken body of humanity can become one in him. Dorothy called it "a revolution of the heart." It did not cease with her death; it goes on.

To join as a volunteer, call the House at 355-9774 or 355-9095. To send a donation, mail to P.O. Box 1612, Champaign, IL 61824-1612.

Sinai Temple thanks child care volunteers

"We will return your kindness when Christmas comes," said staff at Sinai Temple to volunteer babysitters from St. Patrick's. Again this year St. Patrick's parishioners joined volunteers from other C-U congregations to mind children for our Jewish neighbors during their fall High Holy Days. The grateful parents were freed to attend Temple services.

Sandy Anderson and Charline Waldron of St. Patrick's have taken on this child care for several years. This time, Charline worked two shifts minding the same infant. New and welcome volunteers this year were Bonnie Kimball, mother of four, and Theresa Sweeney, a school psychologist and mother of two. "Really nice" was what Theresa said about her time with the Sinai children.

The Temple, St. Patrick's, and a dozen other congregations in town are members of the C-U Council of Congregations. Every year the council recruits babysitters from member churches. In turn, Temple volunteers fulfill duties at Provena Covenant Hospital and the Department of Children and Family Services to relieve Christians for religious services.

In their two-hour shifts, Sandy, Charline, Bonnie, and Theresa found likable children grouped by age, and plenty of toys and games for them. Why not make this interfaith gift of love by volunteering next year when you see it announced in our Sunday bulletin? Bring your teenager!



in our parish library

Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin have inspired many to social activism through the Catholic Worker movement. If you would like to know about the Catholic Worker philosophy, how it began, or the lives of those who started these houses of hospitality, you might find one or more of these books helpful (library call numbers follow each title):

The Long Loneliness, by Dorothy Day (921 DAY), is Day's autobiography, from her family history, through her involvement in causes such as socialism and communism, to her conversion to Catholicism and the beginning of her love of the poor.

Loaves and Fishes, by Dorothy Day (921 DAY), continues her autobiography with an account of her work as leader of the Catholic Worker movement and editor of its newspaper.

Revolution of the Heart: Essays on the Catholic Worker, edited by Patrick G. Coy (266 COY), includes background reading on Peter Maurin and Dorothy Day, the spirituality of the Catholic Worker, and case histories of two Catholic Worker houses.

Dorothy Day: Champion of the Poor, by Elaine Murray Stone (921 STO), is a brief biographical look at Day, from her early years to her advocacy for the poor and marginalized. This is an easy-to-read book that provides an inspirational look at an amazing woman.

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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 help.

Help St. Patrick's Thanksgiving tradition to continue



People Touching People

have food on their table during Thanksgiving week. They invite parishioners to help make this event a success again this year.

Sophia Zeigler, of the SVDP Society, remembers well the first Thanksgiving they delivered food to families living in the north end of town: "We who delivered came back with warm hearts and tears. We met many senior citizens up to 90 years old who told us that this was the first time something was given to them, and this was going to be their very first Thanksgiving dinner. These were the people who never asked for anything. As we gave them the food, they had very surprised and happy faces. They could not thank us enough, and we heard many a *thank you* and *God bless you and all the people in St. Patrick's Church.*"

The staff at the Mental Health Center annually provides the SVDP Society with the names of more than 150 clients who greatly need food at this special time. Many of their clients are disabled and in poor health, so help is much appreciated. This year the Society plans to feed a total of 225 needy families.

The menu includes items that are easy for them to prepare. Each family receives a food basket that contains a canned ham, canned soup, sweet potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, fruit, egg, cranberry sauce, pudding, dinner rolls, butter, pumpkin pie, coffee or tea, and sweets. Each food basket is valued at \$55.

SVDP needs volunteers on both Sunday, Nov. 21, and Tuesday, Nov. 23. On Nov. 21 volunteers are needed to bring food from the brown garage to the parish center. The food is arranged on the table for the junior-high religious-education students, who will fill the food bags during their usual class time. On Tuesday, Nov. 23, volunteers are needed at 9 a.m. to add perishable foods and at 10 a.m. to make deliveries to families in our area. (The Mental Health Center staff

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is hard at work to make sure that needy local families

delivers the assembled food baskets to their own clients, which is a great help.)

Donations of money are greatly needed from all parishioners. Sophia asks that you put your donation in an envelope clearly marked "For Thanksgiving Food Baskets" and place it in the collection basket at Sunday Mass or drop it off at the parish office on weekdays. "Whatever you feel you can afford will be greatly appreciated," she says. "It has been proven many times that the more we give, the more we receive."

Thanksgiving has a long history!

Think you know your Thanksgiving history? The first Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Pilgrims, right? Actually, humans have been setting aside a day (or days) to express their gratitude for the harvest since before the Christian era. The Jewish faith has an eight-day celebration called Sukkot, or Feast of Tabernacles. Greeks and Romans held long festivals to celebrate the harvest. Europeans held Harvest Home Festivals followed by Lammas (the Loaf Mass), when they took the first loaves baked with the newly harvested grain to be blessed in church.

One of the first Thanksgiving Day services was held on August 9, 1607, in what later became Phippsburg, Maine, led by the Rev. Richard Seymour. The next known American Thanksgiving was December 4, 1619, when a group of English settlers wished to give thanks for their safe arrival at the Berkeley Plantation in what we now know as Virginia.

Now we'll get to more familiar stories. In 1621, Governor William Bradford, of Plymouth Colony, proclaimed a fest to give thanks for the survival of the colony through its very difficult first year. The First Comers,

as they considered themselves—the term "Pilgrim" wasn't used until the late 1700s—invited Massasoit and his men as guests. The Native Americans stayed for three days, eating, playing games, and competing in marksmanship displays. In 1622, the harvest was too poor to celebrate. Thereafter, the Pilgrims never set a specific date, but the governor could command days of thanksgiving.

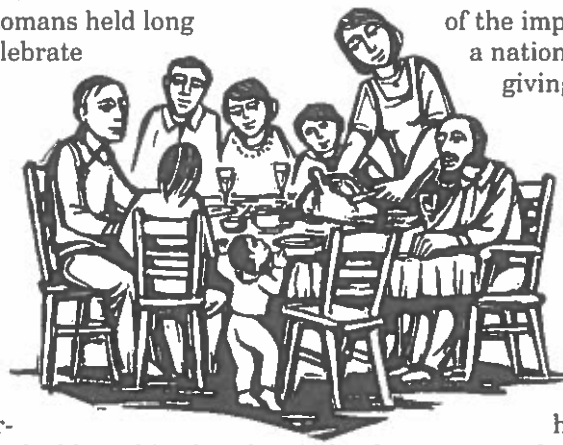
During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress declared a national day of Thanksgiving, celebrated December 18, 1777. In 1784 a special Thanksgiving Day was held to celebrate the end of the war. Other special days of thanksgiving were called for at various times, such as the end of the War of 1812, and some states began officially adopting a Thanksgiving Day.

In 1827, Sarah Josepha Hale, later editor of the *Godey Lady's Book* (a popular women's magazine) began promoting the idea of establishing an annual, national Thanksgiving celebration. She wrote to governors and to President Lincoln and later met with Lincoln to convince him of the importance of having a national time of Thanksgiving.

In 1863, President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as an annual national Thanksgiving Day. With this proclamation, it became a legal holiday; schools,

banks, stores, and offices were closed. Practices varied for 75 years, when in 1939 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, under pressure from retailers, moved the day to the third Thursday in November. This earlier date allowed more time for Christmas shopping. Two years later, Congress ruled that the fourth Thursday in November would be the legal federal holiday.

Although many of us are not closely connected to the harvest process, Thanksgiving Day remains a time to give thanks to God for our many blessings and a time to share our blessings with those who are in need.



An Evangelization Minute



As an adult, I've had a roller-coaster relationship with the Church. I've been up and down, in and out, involved and apathetic.

When I started college, I also started skipping church. I wasn't resentful, just lazy.

Transferring to the University of Illinois, I attended the Newman Center, but in my college classes I also befriended some evangelical Christian students. With these evangelical Christians I found a different language of faith and a different experience of worship. I began to doubt my own faith experience growing up as a Catholic; was I really a Christian?

Fortunately, there were knowledgeable priests at the Newman Center who were able to address many of my concerns, and I eventually drifted back to the Church. But the roller-coaster ride wasn't over. After graduating from college, I drifted out again. For many years I attended an evangelical church here in Urbana.

Nevertheless, the Catholic Church was seldom far from my thoughts. During the winter of 1991 I started attending "Re-Membering Church" meetings here at St. Pat's. Fr. Remm was very welcoming. The people in the Re-Membering Church group accepted my faith journey. And I came back to the Church during the Easter Vigil, 1992.

Mass isn't often "exciting" or emotional like many evangelical services that I have attended, but I often have a deep experience of Christ's love here at Mass. Christ is truly present here in the Eucharist, and I experience his love in a tangible way through his people—all of us, together. I have been deeply moved seeing families with young children faithfully attending Mass, and the deep spirituality of couples who have been here their whole married lives. I thank you for your witness to the

love of Jesus here at St. Pat's.

I have certainly experienced that kind of love in a very direct way over this past year. During the fall of 2003 I went on a different kind of roller-coaster ride when I was told that I had two different cancers, and they needed treatment. I plunged very low when I first got the news, but subsequent events lifted me up again.

Though I was referred to Loyola Medical Center, in Chicago, for the surgeries, my church family here at St. Pat's reached out to me up there as well as when I was convalescing back in Urbana. I was prayed over and anointed by Fr. Remm before both of my surgeries. Two parishioners visited me in the hospital. Other people brought me meals when I came back home, and many others prayed for me. I have had folks help me with my house and yard.

I have been cancer free since January, and in wonderful health, yet people still show concern, asking me how I feel. Thank you, St. Pat's, for making the love of Christ real in my life!

Frank Modica

Prayer for Vocations



Jesus, in the past you have called men and women to dedicate their lives to you as priests and religious. Today stir up the grace of Church vocations in the hearts of many in our community. Grant them the willingness and generosity to place their lives completely in your hands. Help us support them by our own fidelity to your call to holiness through prayer and service. Amen.

Giving to God First from Page 1

every year, even when they didn't have much to give. They did this because God continued to bless them, not because they were recognized in any way.

I asked my parents how and why they did this. Their answer was simple: "As we continued to be good stewards of treasure, God blessed us abundantly in return." Many times it was not in the form of monetary blessings. They learned, through much prayer, that these blessings took many forms, all part of God's plan to continue to help them be open to his blessings in big and small ways.

Now for *my* story. When I moved to Champaign almost five years ago, I didn't have any idea what was ahead of me. I often joked to my parents and friends that the only person I knew in Champaign was the bagger at the grocery store. The day I moved into my house, my mom said, "Cheryl, there are blessings in store for you that you cannot even begin to believe; be faithful." So I was. I came to St. Pat's and began my stewardship of treasure, which, while meager by many people's standards, was huge for me in that I could not even afford garbage collection service at my house. Four years later, my life is abundantly blessed with family and friends and a job and this church, and I believe that those blessings came to me all because I continued to share my treasure—not because I had to, but because it was modeled for me throughout my life.

The reason I continue to be a faithful steward of my treasure *first* is that I continue to be blessed a hundredfold each day, and want to share that with others. I challenge you to receive those blessings as well by being good stewards of treasure.

*Faith without works
Is like a song you can't sing
It's about as useless as
A screen door on a submarine*

Prayerfully,
Cheryl Mitchell

Nursing home ministry rewarding to givers and receivers alike

Many St. Patrick's parishioners have long known about the volunteer ministry that enables residents of the Champaign County Nursing Home to enjoy Mass on Fridays and Communion on Wednesdays. But perhaps one of the best-kept secrets at St. Patrick's is the number of other nursing homes and assisted-living facilities that are served by volunteers from this parish. While it is easy to see how residents in these facilities benefit, it is less obvious how rewarding this ministry can be for the volunteers themselves.

Rose Breen and Donna Thompson are two volunteers who have found this to be true. "It's been a much more rewarding experience than I expected, and a much happier one," says Rose Breen. Donna Thompson characterizes her experience as "one of the most rewarding" she has had.

Loretta LaFave, involved in this Communion ministry for 23 years and serving as coordinator of the homebound program for more than 20 years, still visits members of St. Patrick's in Carle Arbours of Savoy

and Manor Care on Springfield Avenue in Champaign. She takes Communion upon request. She says she usually sees about four or five residents in each place. (Although these two homes are served by St. Matthew and Holy Cross parishes, St. Patrick's likes to keep in touch with its parishioners.)

Loretta also visits and takes Communion to residents of Florida

House, where some residents have difficulty getting to church on Sunday. She still coordinates the ministry to nursing homes in Urbana, other than Canterbury Ridge and Manor Care.

"It has been

a great privilege for me to represent our parish as a minister of Communion to the homebound and residents of nursing homes," Loretta says. "It is a very special way to serve those who are unable to be present with us in church. Our visits are very much appreciated, and the blessings to us are many."

Catholic residents of Canterbury Ridge unable to get to church who wish to receive Communion are seen by Cathy Rutledge and Peggy Brooks, who alternate Tuesdays throughout

the month. Cathy also assists with preparation for Mass when Fr. Joe Hogan joins them for celebration of Eucharist on the first Tuesday of each month.

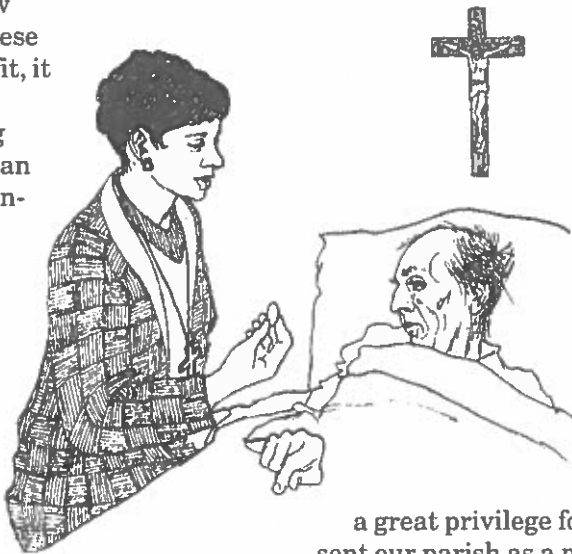
At Manor Care in Urbana, Donna Thompson makes Communion calls on the first, third, and fifth Tuesdays, while Meg Grady fills in on the second Tuesday. Meg and Carole Rebeiz also help with preparation for Mass. Fr. Joe is at Manor Care for Mass on the fourth Friday of the month. Donna also coordinates the ministry to Manor Care and Canterbury Ridge and to the homebound.

Rose Breen and Susan Hublein take care of Communion calls at Meadow Brook/Clark-Lindsey three Wednesdays a month. Rose assists Fr. Joe with Mass setup on the third Friday.

Catholic residents of Care Center of Urbana on North Lincoln Avenue receive Communion from Susan Reese, unless Mary Grace Bowen or Leo Wood is substituting for her. One of them assists Fr. Joe when he celebrates Mass there on the second Friday of the month.

Fr. George Wuellner celebrates Mass at Windsor of Savoy on Thursdays and at Manor Care on Springfield on third Fridays.

The entire ministry operates under the supervision of Sr. Charlene Cesario. She visits both the homebound and those in nursing homes as time permits, and she is always looking for new recruits for this compassionate and much-appreciated ministry.



Bob Miller fills parish maintenance position

On the job for little more than a week as of this writing, Bob Miller had already become acquainted with many of the maintenance needs of our parish facilities and was trying to re-establish some order in storage areas for parish supplies and tools. Things tended to go somewhat awry during the weeks of searching for just the right person to fill the maintenance position, despite the best efforts of Building and Grounds Committee members.

Bob Miller is a native of Urbana, has a wife and child, and has many years' experience in his field. At St. Patrick's he is responsible for maintenance of church, parish center, religious education "annex," and pastor's residence, making small repairs as needed and organizing work crews



for bigger jobs, setting up the hall for receptions or Coffee Shop, gathering

equipment needed for special meetings, and helping to restore order after parish events. He is also expected to keep the lawns mowed in summer and walks cleared of snow in winter.

It's a big job, but one that he is taking in stride. Welcome to St. Patrick's, Bob!

Facing the holidays after a loss

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are fast approaching. What is anticipated by many people as a time of joy may instead heighten sadness and grief for the bereaved. On Nov. 22, Sr. Charlene will offer "Life after a Loss: Facing the Holidays" from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., and again from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., as a way of helping the grieving to cope with the holidays, a time when one's defenses may be very low indeed.

There is no predictable schedule for grief. For those who have lost a loved one, it is important to be patient in experiencing feelings and unique reactions. Although it can be quite painful at times, especially during holidays, the pressure always to be in a "holiday" mood should be avoided. Being assertive with people can help them better understand and be more supportive.

Talking with friends and family can also help to find a way in which to remember by acknowledging the pain of loss. Sharing stories and looking at photo albums may bring a smile or perhaps tears, and at the same time may evoke social support and a reaffirmation of life. The days, even months, after a loss may seem to last forever, but as the song says, "the sun will come up tomorrow." We may not see it, but it *will* rise and so will one's spirit.

Taking care of one's health, eating well, seeking support, acknowledging one's feelings, and seeking out grief counseling during these times are important ways to cope.

Feelings of loss are very personal and only those who experience them can know what is significant. The following list of things bereaved individuals wish others understood is taken from several bereavement Web sites. It may help friends and relatives help the grieving through the tough times the holidays may bring:

- ◆ I wish you would not be afraid to speak my loved one's name. He lived and was important, and I need to hear his name.
- ◆ If I cry and get emotional when we talk about my loved one, I wish you knew that it isn't because you hurt me: the fact that she died causes my tears. You have allowed me to cry, and I thank you. Crying and emotional outbursts are healing.
- ◆ I will have emotional highs and lows, ups and downs. I wish you wouldn't think that if I have a good cry, my grief is all over, or that if I have a bad day, I need psychiatric counseling.
- ◆ Being bereaved is not contagious, so I wish you wouldn't stay away from me.
- ◆ I wish you knew all the crazy grief reactions I have are in fact very normal. Depression, anger, fear, hopelessness, and questioning of values and beliefs are to be expected following a death.
- ◆ I wish you wouldn't expect my grief to be over in 6 months. The first few years are going to be exceedingly traumatic for me. As with alcoholics, I will never be cured or a "formerly bereaved," but forevermore will be recovering from my bereavement.
- ◆ I wish you understood the physical reaction to grief. I may gain weight, lose weight, sleep all the time or not at all, develop a host of illnesses, and be accident prone, all of which are related to my grief.
- ◆ I wish you wouldn't offer to take me out for a drink or to a party. This is just a temporary crutch; the only way I can get through this grief is to experience it.



Dear St. Patrick and Aunt Susie, pray for me!

We are all part of what the Church calls the Mystical Body of Christ, all those who live—or have lived—their faith through works of mercy, love, and compassion. In Catholic tradition this oneness in Christ, this "communion of saints," includes the saints we know well, like Mary, Francis of Assisi, Catherine of Siena, Patrick, and Therese, the Little Flower. But there are also plenty of lesser-knowns in that group, including all the faithful who are living and those who have died.

Just as you might ask friends, family, or fellow parishioners to pray for you as you struggle through a difficult time or celebrate a particular blessing, you can ask those who have gone before us to do the same. They are still part of our community of believers; their faith in God connects them to us through the apparent boundaries of death and time. And our relationship to them is important. Remembering Dad's commitment to honesty or Mom's appreciation of nature or Aunt Susie's patience with the elderly gives us familiar examples of how to be holy in our own everyday lives.

Praying for those who have died has been important from the Church's earliest days. On the flip side, we can pray to those who have already gone before us to be with God because they are specially poised to intercede on our behalf. Our prayers can go through our loved ones, whether they be Mother Mary or Mom, on their way to God, having gained a champion on the way.

On Nov. 1 we celebrate All Saints Day, and on Nov. 2, All Souls Day—each a good reminder to broaden the scope of our intercessory prayer. When you pray for your loved ones, don't forget to ask for their help as well. And give some thought to your own membership in this great company, the Communion of Saints, and its ramifications for you in your journey of faith—you needn't walk alone!

Keeping vigil at the School of the Americas

The peace vigil at Ft. Benning, Georgia, the location of the U.S. Army School of the Americas, began over a decade ago when Fr. Roy Bourgeois, a Catholic priest and Vietnam veteran, began to investigate links between graduates of this school and human rights violations in Central and South America. He found that alumni include notorious dictators Manuel Noriega, Omar Torrijos of Panama, Leopoldo Galtieri and Roberto Viola of Argentina, and Juan Velasco Alvarado of Peru.

Graduates have participated in human rights abuses, including the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, and in the massacre of 900 civilians at El Mozote, El Salvador. Training manuals released in 1996 included advocacy for the use of torture, extortion, and execution.

The School formally changed its name to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation in January 2001 as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. It is still widely known, however, by its former name.

From the courageous work of one priest and a handful of lay persons,

this nonviolent vigil for peace has grown to include thousands of people, including students, religious, labor, veterans, and human rights and justice groups who continue the struggle to close the school and halt the policies it represents. Teachings, trainings, and caucuses will be held on Friday, Nov. 19, in preparation for the Saturday and Sunday peace vigil, Nov. 20-21.

For more information about this vigil for peace and justice, and to keep alive the memory of the martyrs and victims of human rights abuse in Central and South America, please visit the website www.soaw.org or contact Amy Jobin of St. Patrick's to view a video on the School of the Americas. A roundtable discussion, a viewing of the SOA video, and preparation for attending the vigil is scheduled at St. Jude Catholic Worker House on Friday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m.

Call Eric at the Catholic Worker House (355-9774, evenings) if you would like to know more about the vigil or would be interested in carpooling to Ft. Benning with some parishioners from St. Patrick's and members of the St. Jude Catholic Worker community.

*Mom was right
from Page 5*

Citrus fruits are full of vitamin C, an antioxidant that slows down deterioration and helps fight age-related health problems.

Although eating more powerhouse produce is a good nutritional idea, focusing only on those overlooks equally healthy foods: apples, onions, berries, mushrooms, tomatoes, and watermelon all offer important phytochemicals, yet these foods don't fit in any powerhouse category. Garlic is thought to support the immune system and thus play a role in preventing cancer. Powerhouse produce isn't the only source of vitamins and minerals, either. For example, red peppers, kiwi, and strawberries are excellent sources of Vitamin C.

Perhaps the best vegetable or fruit for you is the one you haven't had for a while.



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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Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Linda Webber

Chicken and Salsa

- 1 T vegetable oil
- 1 small onion, thinly sliced
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 16-oz. jar salsa
- 1 t garlic powder
- 1 8-oz. pkg. angel hair pasta



Heat oil in saucepan. Add onion; cook until tender. Add chicken breasts; turn frequently until nicely browned. Add salsa and garlic powder; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat to low, and continue to cook for 10-12 minutes.

Prepare angel hair pasta according to package directions. Serve chicken over pasta. Serves 4.

November 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	All Saints Day 7am, 5:15pm Masses 1:30pm Bible Study 7pm Centering Prayer 7pm Pro-life 7pm Ed Com. 7pm Bible Study	All Souls Day VOTE 9:30am Mass, Canterbury Ridge 7pm CYA 7pm Financial Affairs 6:45 pm Reconciliation Class	9:30am Moms Grp 11am, 4:30pm, 7pm Bible Study 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6pm Rel Ed, St J 6:30pm Rel Ed, U 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Choir 7pm Bible Study 7pm Building and Grounds 7pm Baptism Prep	8am Church Women United 10:45am Mass, CCNH	
	1	2	3	4	5	6
9, 11am Rel Ed 10:15 Children's Liturgy 6:30 pm Leaders Bible Study 6:30 pm J.H., H.S. Rel Ed 5:30pm Crew Mission Mtg	1:30pm Bible Study 7 pm Centering Prayer 7pm Bible Study	7pm Marriage Prep 7pm CYA 7pm Parish Council Exec Com 6:45pm Reconciliation Class	9:30am Moms Grp 9:30am Schola 11am, 4:30pm, 7pm Bible Study 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Chil's Choir 6pm Rel Ed, St J 6:30pm Rel Ed, U 6:30pm Soc Action 7pm Choir, RCIA 7pm Memorial Serv	6:45am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Guild 7pm Choir 7pm Bible Study	10:30am Mass, Care Center 10:45am Mass, CCNH	CREW Leaf Raking 9am-1pm 9:30am-1:30pm A Time Apart
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9, 11am Rel Ed 10:15 Children's Liturgy 5pm Teen Choir 6:30 pm Leaders Bible Study 6:30 pm JH, H.S. Rel Ed	1:30pm Bible Study 7 pm Centering Prayer 7pm Bible Study	6:30pm Liturgy 7pm CYA 6:45pm Reconciliation Class	9:30am Moms Grp 11am, 4:30pm, 7pm Bible Study 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6pm Rel Ed, St J 6:30pm Rel Ed, U 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm CYA 7pm Choir 7pm Bible Study 7pm Parish Council 7pm Communications Com	10:30am Clark-Lindsey, Mass 10:45am Mass CCNH	5pm Teen Liturgy
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9, 11am Rel Ed 10:15 Children's Liturgy 6:30 pm Leaders Bible Study 6:30 pm JH, HS Rel Ed 10:15am K of C	7 pm Centering Prayer 1 or 7pm Facing the Hoidays After a loss	7pm CYA 6:45pm Reconciliation Class	9:30am Moms Group 5:15pm SVDP 7pm RCIA	THANKSGIVING 8am Mass, Breakfast	Office Closed 10:30am Mass, Manor Care 10:45am CCNH, Mass	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1st Sunday of Advent 6:30 pm Leaders Bible Study	7 pm Centering Prayer	6pm First Reconciliation Celebration	<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 Nov. 14.</p>			
28	29	30				