July/August 2006

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Watermelon seeds and the Eucharist

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he followers of the Prophet Mohammed say that eating a watermelon produces a thousand good works. This saying comes from a culture where watermelons are eaten mostly out-of-doors. In the

process of eating one, the seeds drop to the ground and so is the source of countless other watermelon plants.

As disciples of Christ, our principal food and drink is the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. The Eucharist is our watermelon food. While the wheat seeds have been ground into flour and the grape seeds removed from the

wine, the Eucharist also has sacred seeds. It is these invisible seeds that we should drop along the roadside of our daily lives and so produce a thousand good works.

The next time you eat a watermelon, be conscious of its seeds as more than something to spit out or push aside with your fork. Let eating a watermelon be a spiritual exercise in the meaning of the Eucharist. While Communion incorporates us into the Risen Christ, that unity is also intended to last beyond Communion time. As we leave the church, we should leave a trail of seeds of goodness that produces a

great harvest of good works.

While scientists have given us seedless grapes and seedless watermelons, Jesus never intended to give us a seedless Eucharist. We are told that Jesus went about doing good (Acts 10:38). If we are truly made one with Christ in the Eucharist, then we also should leave a trail of good works everywhere we go in life.

The next time you come home from Mass, look behind you and see if you can tell whether you've just been to a great watermelon feast.

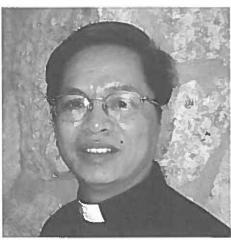
~From Feathers on the Wind, by Edward Hayes Used with permission

Meet and welcome Fr. Hoa Pham!

He started his ministry at St. Patrick's on June 14. He is fluent in Vietnamese and French, and he is trying hard to become fluent in English. He is Father Hoa Ngoc Pham.

Fr. Hoa, as he prefers to be called, has come to our parish from Chicago, where he has spent the last five months studying English at DePaul University. He expects that regular usage will soon improve his understanding of this most difficult of all languages to learn.

Ordained Sept. 7, 2000, for the Archdiocese of Hue, Vietnam, he spent the following years managing services of various kinds for his bishop. Ordination did not come easily for Father Hoa. While in the seminary, he was arrested for teaching



Fr. Hoa Pham, Assistant Pastor

catechism to children and for involvement in other parish activities that were frowned upon by the Communist regime. After a trial at which he was found guilty, he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment. On his release he was not permitted to return immediately to the seminary so he enrolled in a university where he studied French. Only after graduation could he resume his studies for the priesthood.

Father Hoa (accent the *second* syllable: ho-AH) is the eldest of seven children; he has one sister and five brothers. A younger brother, also a priest, has graduated from

Mary of Bethany, to Martha



Now, my dear sister, let's talk about it. Put that broom away for just a moment.

Look at me, please: He wasn't putting you down. I was just doing what my heart told me to do, and He was stating what He knew to be true. He never does otherwise. You know He can't.

Surely, He never intended to hurt you. He was just trying to make a point. You know Jesus; He's always making a point. This time it was about love coming first, something you, with your generous soul, would never deny. And He knows that.

Next time I'll prepare dinner and you can let your hair down. Okay? When you feel the joy that comes with serving what is holy, wrapping yourself in it, you'll know what I mean.

Dear Martha, without you he would never have come.

Give me that broom. My heart right now feels like sweeping, and you need rest.

~Robert Longoni Used with permission

You can give the "gift of life"

St. Patrick's will host its summertime blood drive on Sunday, July 9, from 8 a.m. to noon in the Multipurpose Room of the Parish Center. The drive is held in cooperation with the

Urbana-based Community Blood Services of Illinois.

Anyone who is in good health, is at least 16 years old, and weighs at least 110 pounds may donate whole blood every 56 days (persons 16 years of age may donate with the written consent of their parent or legal guardian).

To schedule a blood donation on that Sunday morning, please call Tom Kacich (344-6760)—or just stop by and wait your turn to donate blood.

Here's how the process works:



1. Prospective donors complete a health history questionnaire and screening interview.

2. A brief physical examination follows: blood pressure, pulse,

temperature, and a test for anemia.

3. If prescribed medical requirements are met, a unit (about a pint) of blood is drawn from the donor. Afterward, the donor is served refreshments while remaining seated for 10 minutes.

The entire process usually takes about 45 minutes.

At St. Patrick's last blood drive, parishioners donated 26 pints of blood. Let's see if we can beat that number on July 9!

Thank you, Father Kane and Father Mullen!

On Sunday, Jun. 11, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, parishioners gathered to thank Fr. Kane and Fr. Mullen enthusiastically for their years of ministry at St. Patrick's. They have faithfully assisted Fr. Joe Hogan, as previously they assisted Fr. Remm, with the celebration of Mass, especially on Sundays.

The reception took place in the main hall of the parish center. In addition to the regular Sunday coffee shop fare, parishioners enjoyed fresh fruit and juices.

We should not be sad, however, because this is not a final farewell to these two priests, who have ministered among us for so many years. We will still see Fr. Mullen and Fr. Kane occasionally, when Fr. Hoa and/or Fr. Joe Hogan will be unavailable to celebrate Mass with us.

We wish Father Mullen and Father Kane a most enjoyable "semi-retirement"!

Drivers needed for Faith in Action

Imagine being told by your doctor that you are no longer able to drive due to your chronic health conditions. Your first thought then turns to possible alternatives: How

am I possibly going to get to my doctor appointments? How will I get my groceries? Issues like these can cause great anxiety.

Many older adults in the Champaign-Urbana area need transportation for cancer treatments, dialysis, physical therapy, cardiac rehab, outpatient surgery, grocery shopping, and other important needs. The more fortunate may have friends or family members to take them, but many older adults are isolated and do not have any social support. Standing at a bus stop or taking a cab may not be a feasible option. For those who are frail, maybe a little confused, and living alone, the best choice for transportation is a caring and dependable volunteer who can assist them with getting in and out of the car, make sure they get to the right place at the



right time, assist with loading and unpacking groceries, and provide needed social interaction. Without being able to access vital services, an older adult may lack

adequate health care or nutrition. Assisted transportation for these individuals may make it possible for them to live independently in their own homes rather than in a longterm care facility. Currently there is a great demand for volunteer drivers.

This is a wonderful opportunity for someone who can spare a couple of hours a week or a month. Becoming a Faith in Action volunteer is easy; simply come for an orientation session on Jul. 25, 5:30-7:00 p.m., or on Jul. 29, 9:00-10:30 a.m. Both sessions will be held at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Auditorium B. Please contact parishioner Martha Paap, Program Director (337-2022), for more information. Discover how this ministry can brighten your life as well as the life of someone who needs you!

"Flowers donated by ... "

Have you sometimes wished that you could provide flowers for the church, adding an element of natural beauty before the altar or the Marian Shrine to mark a special occasion or in memory of a loved one? You are invited to do just that by the Liturgical Art Team of St. Patrick's Liturgy Committee.

A local florist has agreed to make up a floral bouquet in a vase provided by St. Patrick's for a fee of \$35. A sign-up book has been placed in the church vestibule (east side) so that you can

select the weekend of your choice,



giving your name and the occasion or person to be commemorated. (Two requests can be accommodated on any weekend.)

The payment of \$35 should be turned in or sent to the parish office (checks payable to St. Patrick's Church, with "flowers" noted on the memo line). When it has been received, the Liturgical Art Team will take care of the rest! Questions?

Call Jan Callahan, team facilitator (469-9346), or Mary Ann Luedtke, sacristan (328-1143).

Volunteer Opportunities

Designers and creative thinkers, please apply! The Liturgical Art Team is looking for parishioners with a creative bent to provide designs and/or suggestions for visual effects in the church that will enhance our worship experience. Designs can be implemented by others if need be. *Liturgical Art and Environment Team: Jan Callahan,* 469-9346



Parish groups are invited to submit entries for this column to the Communications Committee or by calling Peggy Whelan (367-3668). Provide your name and telephone number or e-mail address and the name of your group.



VOCATION PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and minds with the fire of your love. Make us courageous witnesses to the death and resurrection of Jesus in all our comings and goings. May the Eucharist enable us to live faithfully, day by day, the vocation we have received. Inspire more young men and women to give their lives in service of the Gospel, so that all may come to know and love Jesus and, through him, to know and love the Father. Amen.

"Summertime, and the living is easy"

Summer is generally looked upon as a time for rest and relaxation. For the parish staff, it's also a time for catching up, pursuing special projects, participating in conferences and retreats. *In Focus* asked the staff what their plans are for this summer.

Fr. Joe Hogan will spend 10 days in July with some seminary buddies. Their time together usually includes lots of hiking, swimming, and boating as well as praying together. And Fr. Joe's the cook! Also on the docket for him this summer is implementation of the realignment of parish groups and some new assignments for the staff.

Kristi Turner, our new business manager, is planning some weekend trips, maybe to the Indiana Dunes, to Navy Pier, or to Peoria. Her parents may move from northwest Indiana to the C-U area, so of course she is looking forward to family reunions and other fun gatherings.

Carolyn McElrath's year always ends with a bang in late spring with RCIA, First Communion, and (often) Confirmation, so she spends a fair amount of her summer catching up on record keeping and cleaning out her files. She also hopes to make a retreat this summer, but realizes that she may have extra planning to do as a result of the realignment of parish groups and new staff assignments.

Sr. Charlene is already in summertime mode. She was on retreat when we tried to reach her to learn about her plans for the summer.

Leslie Risatti and her husband, Jim, will spend time in Colorado at



Mort and Ceil Weir's log cabin. The big event there will be a celebration of the restoration of a caboose. Folks were invited to dress in period clothing, so she and Ceil have been scouring downtown Champaign for what they need. Leslie expects to fill the rest of their time there with concerts, theater, fishing, and antiquing.

Chris Angel plans to visit his family in California. The priest who first invited him into music ministry is still the pastor at his home parish. Later in the summer he'll attend the annual Hymn Society Conference, an ecumenical group that includes composers, text writers, clergy, and scholars who share an interest in

> congregational song. When you look for a member of the parish staff and find, instead, an empty chair, relax and enjoy the "lazy, hazy days of summer" when "the living is easy."



Q: How are priests assigned to parishes?

A: With the recently announced reassignments of several priests of our diocese, some

have wondered just how priest assignments are determined. In the past, the bishop of a diocese, with some advisors, made the assignments. In most dioceses today, however, there are priest personnel boards. The Diocese of Peoria has such a board, whose membership is made up of the bishop and some priests from the diocese.

The personnel board meets regularly to prayerfully discern the needs of parishes and the talents of priests in the diocese. The overwhelming concern is to match a priest as closely as possible to a parish. In moving a priest from one parish or diocesan ministry to another, an opening is created that must be filled by another priest, an action that has something of a domino effect, with priests being moved to fill openings created by moving other priests.

One can imagine the task of the personnel board becoming more and more difficult; the aging of our priests and the shortage of vocations combine to mean that there are fewer priests to meet the needs of parishes and diocesan ministries. We already see that many priests are responsible for three or even four parishes or missions, requiring that a priest travel as much as a hundred miles or more on a weekend to celebrate Mass in each place, and even more to preside when possible at weddings, funerals, and baptisms, and to anoint the sick-in short, to minister to the needs of his people.

Most reassignments of priests are announced in May and June to coincide with the ordination of priests, who are then eligible for assignment. However, assignments may be made throughout the year as emergencies, sickness, death, or other circumstances require a change in parish personnel. It used to be that a priest could expect to serve in a parish for 7-10 years before being reassigned, but this practice has also fallen victim to the shortage of priests, with the result that a priest may end up serving in the same parish for a much longer time.

Their vow of obedience to the bishop at the time of ordination and their commitment to ministry give priests the strength and generosity to move when asked, particularly when they must sacrifice a personal desire to stay with the people they have come to know and love through years of ministry.

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

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Summer Choir returns

Last summer parishioners at the 5 p.m. Mass were treated to music from a Summer Choir. Inspired by their success, the ad hoc group returns this summer.

The Summer Choir is open to all who can attend the rehearsal before Mass. Last year's informal group included veterans of the 10:30, 9:00, and children's choirs, their family members, cantors, visitors from out of town, and many people who had never before been in the church's choir loft. Some eagerly sang harmony, while others were happy to sing melody—all

contributed to the work of praising our God.

The Summer Choir meets for a brief rehearsal at 4:15 p.m. each Saturday in the

Now hear this!

It's always nice to know that one's efforts to help are appreciated. While a "thank you" is never a condition of one's good work on behalf of another, still it helps to affirm that good work and perhaps encourage a person to offer more of the same or to help others in need. And so it was good to learn that the considerable efforts of the St. Vincent de Paul Society on behalf of the poor and marginalized in this area are appreciated.

The Eastern Illinois Foodbank recently presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Urbana "for your outstanding contribution to your community and dedication to alleviating hunger

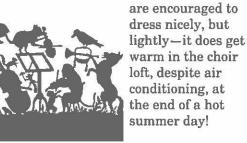
in eastern Illinois." The certificate was signed by Jim Hires, Executive Director, and by Andrea Rundell, Director, External



center to prepare music for the upcoming Mass. The rehearsal will include a special choir piece that can be mastered in that time. Unlike choir rehearsals during the year, there is no rehearsal of music for future weeks. The Summer Choir is directed by Chris Ángel, Music Director, and by special guests. If you'd like to sing with the

multipurpose room of the parish

Summer Choir, come to the multipurpose room for rehearsal at 4:15 p.m. any Saturday afternoon between Jun. 26 and Aug. 13. You



and Agency Relations. Because many people of St. Patrick's assist in this effort-preparing soup for the Catholic Worker House. collecting foodstuffs from supermarkets, bakeries, and restaurants, cataloging and storing food items, packaging and distributing bags of food for hungry applicants, carrying Thanksgiving dinners to the homes of persons in need, helping the homeless find overnight shelter, directing inquirers to agencies that can provide other needed services, and supporting all this good work with donations of money and time-all of you should know (if you didn't know this already

from the people you've helped) that your efforts are recognized and appreciated. Thank you!

Welcome from page 1

university in Austria with a doctorate in theology and ministry.

When asked what he likes to do for fun, Father Hoa replied, "Soccer! Do you have any soccer teams here?" He was on the soccer team while in the seminary. (You soccer fans might invite him to a pick-up game or two!) He also enjoys folk music.

On a visit to the United States a vear ago. Archbishop Stephen Nguyen of Hue, Vietnam, met with Peoria's Bishop Daniel Jenky, who asked whether he had any priests he could spare to serve the Vietnamese community in the Diocese of Peoria. Bishop Jenky added that he hoped for two such priests. The archbishop returned home and selected Fr. Hoa Pham and Fr. Hung Phan for service under Bishop Jenky. Both will minister to the considerable number of Vietnamese Catholics in our diocese, Father Hung from Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Galesburg and Father Hoa from St. Patrick's in Urbana.

Welcome, Father Hoa, not only from your Vietnamese brothers and sisters, but from all of us. How fortunate we are to have you with us!



Fr. Joe Hogan welcomes Fr. Hoa to St. Patrick's



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is August 13.

"Permission to die, Mother?"

Picture this: It is July 17, 1794, in Paris, France. Terror reigns. Carmelite Sixteen sisters, all dressed in their forbidden religious habits, one by one ascend a scaffold to face death. Starting with the youngest, a novice, each one asks her prioress, "Permission to die, Mother?" and the

prioress replies, "Go, my daughter." Then the sister lays her head under the blade of the guillotine to be executed. Finally the prioress herself goes to her death.

These horrific events developed from the excesses of the French Revolution, which began in the late 18th century. Early on, the leaders of the French Revolution targeted the Catholic Church and contemplative religious communities. As required by law, these communities disbanded, but many of them, including the Carmelite nuns of Compiègne, who followed the reform of St. Teresa of Avila in the 1600s, went into hiding. In 1790 the Carmelites were discovered. All their property was taken by the government, and the sisters had to discard their habits and leave their house.

They then divided into four groups,

in our parish library

How do we make the Eucharist the "source and summit" of our lives as Christians? Two books offer very different approaches to this question.

With Burning Hearts: Meditation on the Eucharistic Life, by Henri Nouwen (234 NOU), offers what he hopes will be "new food and drink on your journey to God." Nouwen helps the reader seek a fuller understanding of the Eucharist through the story of the disciples on their way to Emmaus from Jerusalem after the Crucifixion. He shows how the Eucharist reveals the deepest of human experiences: loss, sadness, invitation, and

and each group secretly continued their religious life until the watchfulness of the revolutionaries increased and the sisters' activities were again revealed. In June 1794 they were arrested, their devotional objects and tabernacle trampled underfoot. They were

told that their place of worship should be transformed into a dog kennel.

Far from being unwilling victims, the sisters had anticipated that this would happen and even prayed for it. A couple years before, their prioress had suggested that the "Community would offer itself as a sacrifice to appease the anger of God, so that the divine peace of His Dear Son would be brought into the world, returned to the Church and the state." The sisters agreed to this.

After their arrest the sisters were taken to Conciergerie prison, the holding place for many who were to be victims of the guillotine. The women wrote a canticle for their martyrdom, one that they sang to the tune of the Marseillaise, the French national anthem.

The sisters were tried and convicted. The day after the trial they

engagement, and how we can more fully experience this sacred journey.

The **Eucharistic** Mystery: Revitalizing the Tradition, by David Power (265 POW), provides a historical view of the range of Eucharistic thought and tradition across the centuries of the Church. Power takes the reader through a contemporary reading of the New Testament texts, reviews the Church prior to the Nicene Council, and delves into the Church of the Middle Ages to look at traditions and devotions through the ages. He has an ecumenical point of view and a strong belief that "the Eucharist forms the Church."

piled into carts for the hour's journey to the guillotine, singing the Salve Regina and the Te Deum as they rode. As they approached the guillotine, the usually loud and raucous crowd that gathered for such events fell into complete silence. Then the sisters began to sing Veni Creator Spiritus. As each sister went to her death, those remaining continued to sing; finally only the prioress, holding a small statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was left. The end came at about 8 p.m. The crowd continued to be deathly silent.

The Reign of Terror lasted only ten more days.

The story of these martyred nuns has been dramatized in several novels and in an opera. They were beatified by Pope Pius X in 1906.



Welcome to new parishioners Celeste Faris, Joe Plunk, Joan Price, and Catherine Schneider.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Minn Brine, Arthur Hackman, Shonda Kamphaus, Emily Kerestes, Michelle Nahas, Gabriella and Louis Roussos, and Marajen and Terry Stacy.

Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community: Joshia Robert Loftus and Andrew Thomas Stowe.

Congratulations to the following couples, married at St. Patrick's: Nicole Ann Parker and Matthew Charles Scott, Joanne Arie and Ramon Daguio, and Cynthia Gail Shaw and Daniel William Ditchfield.

Please pray for deceased parishioner William P. Morgan.

Also remember in your prayers the very many seriously and chronically ill members of our parish.

July/August 2006

Parish Council News

At their June meeting Council members met and welcomed Fr. Hoa, who is lodged in one of the apartment buildings owned by the parish.

Father Hogan reported that efforts are being made to reconcile various accounts in the proposed budget for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, for sign-off by Council members—by e-mail, since the Council will not meet again until August. The parish is still about \$18,000 short of its goal (\$112,000) for the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

There was considerable discussion of the realignment of ministries involving all parish groups and activities, their makeup and interactive relationships, and terminology in referencing them. Then elected members of the Council, excepting officers, were named Council representatives to the ministries of their choice, as follows:

Mary Karten: Worship

Cyndy Morgan: Community Life Randy Pankau: Stewardship Joseph Youakim: Peace and Social Justice

Cathy Sarnecki: Spiritual Enrichment

Jim Mayer and Ellen Noonan: Faith Development

Each ministry will have a steering committee, or leadership team, made up of a staff representative, a Council

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of ...

Lorraine Kim

Crab Gumbo

 lb crabmeat, fresh or canned
large celery stalk, chopped
l/4 c margarine or butter
10-oz pkg frozen okra (or green pepper or zucchini)
t sugar
t sugar
t whole or powdered thyme
c cooked rice (hot)
medium onion, chopped
clove garlic, chopped
cans chopped tomato
bay leaves



representative, and a ministry representative, whose primary responsibilities are to develop visions for the ministry, foster interaction and cooperation among ministries and ministry groups, enlist helpers, serve as facilitators, and do strategic planning. Each leadership team will meet with representatives of the individual groups within its ministry. A planning meeting for leadership teams was scheduled for June 22.

The traditional stewardship weekend, with its focus on ministry, will take place in late summer (date in August still to be set), but with a view to repeating the invitation to ministry throughout the year, thereby encouraging continual engagement of parishioners in some form of ministry. The familiar booklet "Who and What Is St. Patrick's" will undergo a substantial revision to reflect the changes under discussion, which are



2 t salt 1/4 t pepper 1/4 t chili powder (or to taste)

Remove all cartilage from fresh crabmeat (or use canned). In a 4or 5-quart pot, cook onion, celery, and garlic in butter until tender. Add tomatoes, okra, and seasonings. Cover and simmer 1 hour. Add crabmeat and heat through; serve over rice. Makes 6 servings. to be implemented this fall.

Ellen Amberg, of the Second Century Advisory Committee, reported that data and feedback from the parish survey have been compiled, and information drawn from them will be presented to the parish in the September issue of *In Focus*.

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The next meeting of the Parish Council will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 17. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open

parish meetings. Those interested in a more complete report will find minutes of the most recent Council meeting posted in the church vestibule and on the bulletin board in the office wing of the parish center.



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.

Editorial board: Mary Lee Brady, 344-3752 (bradysipes@sbcglobal.net); Judy Fierke, 352-7670 (j-fierke@insightbb.com); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 (mmenches@uiuc.edu); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@uillinois.edu); Margaret Stewart, 356-9475 (mkestewart@aol.com); and Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

Associates: Carol Bosley, Artha Chamberlain, Betty Christian, John Colombo, Joe and Nancy Costa, Frances Drone-Silvers, Mary Fonner, Camille Goudeseune, Dave and Cole Grabow, Ellen Noonan, Marty and Nathanial Perry, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika, John Towns, Jim Urban, Naneera Vidhayasirinun, and Mary Welle.

Articles and information for this issue were provided by Chris Ángel, Jan Callahan, Frances Drone-Silvers, Judy Fierke, Tom Kacich, Lorraine Kim, Alice McLaughlin, Mary Lou Menches, Ellen Noonan, Martha Paap, Marty and Nathanial Perry, Marguerite Pijanowski, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, and Margaret Stewart. This issue was edited by John Towns and paged by Jim Urban.

St Patrick's Parish					Urbana IL	
₽Ŭ *	Pette	July	/ 20	06		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Because the calendar is prepared in advance, be sure to check the parish bulletin to confirm dates and times of listed events. Deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is Aug. 13.				1
	7pm Centering Prayer	Independence Day Offices closed 9am Mass & Breakfast	9am Moms UIP 5:15pm SVDP	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Building & Grounds	10.45am Mass, CCNH	8
2 8:30-noon Blood Drive 9am Mass, CREW Mission Send-off	3 7pm Centering Prayer	4	9am Moms UIP 5:15pm SVDP	6:45am Men's Bible Study	10:30am Mass, Care Center 10:45am Mass, CCNH	0
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30am-noon Blood Pressure Screening	7pm Centering Prayer		9am Moms UIP 5:15pm SVDP	6:45am Men's Bible Study	10:30am Mass Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass CCNH	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	7pm Centering Prayer		9am Moms UIP 5:15pm SVDP	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Communications	10:45am Mass CCNH	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	7pm Centering Prayer 31					