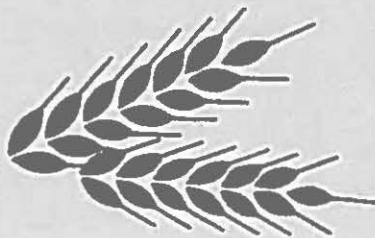


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus


[www.stpaturbana.org](http://www.stpaturbana.org)

## Annual Diocesan Appeal: Pitch In with the Whole Diocese

There's a job that needs to be done, and your help is needed! Each year our diocese raises funds through the Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA). This is the primary source of revenue for the ministries and agencies of the Peoria diocese. The ADA funds ministries that serve the entire 26-county diocese, reaching across parish boundaries in the areas of worship/prayer, Christian education, Christian service, church administration, and more.

This year's theme is "One Faith, One Family." Nearly 250,000 Catholics in Central Illinois are part of the diocese. That's quite a family! That's a family with strength in numbers that has been challenged to come together within one faith to build a diocese with the financial strength to

serve its people by offering ministries that support the needs of Catholics today. It may be easy to feel overwhelmed by all the choices and societal trends that daily test our faith, but this is one way that we can make a positive change in the world around us.

The goal for this year's ADA is \$4,950,000. The ADA funds services and ministries that serve the entire diocese or are too large for an individual parish to sustain. Religious education is a major area of funding, using an anticipated \$1,136,000 for ministries such as Catholic schools, catechetics, evangelization, and university Newman Centers. Other funding areas include vocational development, social concerns, pastoral care, and administration. For more

information about how the money will be used, see <[www.cdop.org/diocesan\\_offices/ada.cfm](http://www.cdop.org/diocesan_offices/ada.cfm)>.

The *Catholic Post* reminds us: "It is tradition in our diocese that thousands of families will respond. But thousands will not. Perhaps they ... assume someone else will do the work." Perhaps you've heard the story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got upset because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Somebody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when

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## Called to Faith

Beginning with weekly Inquiry Sessions in October, over a dozen men and women who felt called to our faith have been studying Catholic teachings and beliefs, under the guidance of Fr. Hogan and his RCIA volunteers. On the first Sunday of Lent, they made the decision to join our faith, and they became new Catholics, or neophytes, at the Easter Vigil Mass through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

These neophytes have shared with St. Patrick's their faith journeys and their hopes and dreams for themselves and their families.

"It all started during college when I

failed to attend church regularly. I felt a void in my life and after a few years I knew I needed and wanted a closer relationship with God," confides **Rachel Schuette**. Rachel's new boyfriend, Aaron, a Catholic, introduced her to Catholicism. "His and his family's enthusiasm towards their faith and my growing faith was amazing and quite contagious. I started attending Mass regularly and found it to be very powerful and comforting. I wanted to know



more about Catholicism and decided to join RCIA in the fall. The people of St. Patrick's drew me in, especially Father Joe and the RCIA team. They are so kind, caring, and knowledgeable. I felt right at home and do now more than ever."

A native of Carlinville, Ill., and the youngest of four siblings, Rachel came to study at UIUC in 2000. After graduation, she has been enjoying her work in corn research at UIUC. She and Aaron met at work; they both enjoy exploring Champaign-Urbana, watching movies, following sports, and playing with their dog, Rusty.

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**Q: What should I do after receiving Holy Communion? I've noticed that some people make the Sign of the**

**Cross then. And is it okay to chew the host?**

**A:** After receiving Holy Communion, you may make the Sign of the Cross or some other mark of reverence if you like. However, before receiving Communion, in approaching the minister offering the sacrament, we should bow the head as a gesture of reverence. The U.S. bishops instruct

us:

"When receiving Holy Communion, the communicant bows his or her head before the sacrament as a gesture of reverence and receives the Body of the Lord from the minister. The consecrated host may be received either on the tongue or in the hand, at the discretion of each communicant. When Holy Communion is received under both kinds, the sign of reverence [a bow of the head] is also made before receiving the Precious Blood."

It is perfectly all right, even preferable, to chew the host on receiving the Body of Christ. In speaking of the

Eucharist, the Church has insisted that the bread for the eucharistic celebration should "have the appearance of food." Food is generally chewed, so although the bread wafers typically used in our celebration of Mass don't resemble other breads that we eat, chewing the host is no sign of disrespect.

\* \* \*

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

## Parish Council News

If everything goes as planned, the Second Century Advisory Committee should have a master plan for the expansion of the church and parish center ready to present to the parish by Oct. 1, members of St. Patrick's Parish Council were told at their April meeting.

Trustee Ellen Amberg gave the ad hoc committee's timeline for completing the master plan, which includes releasing a Request for Proposals to 6-8 architectural firms in the next couple of weeks, narrowing the candidates to 2-3 firms to be interviewed, and selecting one firm with which to work on preparing the master plan.

In other business, the Parish Council:

- Discussed the difficulty of persuading parishioners to run for positions on the Parish Council. The election to fill vacancies on the Council is taking place the weekend of Apr. 28-29 with only five candidates for three positions (the Council's constitution calls for two candidates for each vacant position). Council members discussed what can be done to interest parishioners in future elections, including providing better information about the obligations of membership and the length and format of monthly meetings.

- Made final plans for the Ministry Appreciation Dinner on Apr. 28. The dinner will be catered by Town and Country, and entertainment will be provided by an accordionist and clarinetist.

- Discussed minor changes to the Parish Council bylaws suggested by Council members Jack Collins and Mary Karten, including updating the responsibilities of Parish Council officers.

- Discussed next fall's Ministry Sign-up Weekend, including having the ministry booklet updated by Communications on a yearly basis.

During Ministry reports, Joseph Youakim, representing the **Peace and Justice Ministry**, announced that 15 countries will be represented at the International Fair on May 5. Jim Mayer and Ellen Noonan, representing the **Faith Development Ministry**, talked about the need to expand the duties of the person who oversees the middle school program to include education, service, and social aspects, similar to the way the high school program is overseen. Jim noted that it is important to minister to these younger students as they are discerning the role the church will play during their teen years.

During its June meeting, the Parish Council will review the Ministries

format and look at the accomplishments and challenges of the first year.

The next Parish Council meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, in the parish center following a 6:30 p.m. gathering for prayer in the church. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open meetings.



*Welcome to new parishioners Salvador and Francisca Alvarado, Felicia Desantos, Angela Ford, Marlene Thomas, Patrick Tranel, and David and Kathy Wimer.*

*Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Grace Conlee, Sharon and Terry Craddou, Minh Dang, Eric and Melissa Hayes, Victoria Pifalo, and Joseph and Sara Thomas.*

*Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community: William Besson, Grace Moriarty Chambers, and Madelyn Grace Logsdon.*

*Please pray for deceased parishioners Rosalie Bell, Betty Wolf, and Rita Marie Winchester.*

*Also remember in your prayers the very many seriously and chronically ill members of our parish, whom the "Privacy Act" prevents us from naming here.*



## Vacation Bible School

"We're excited about St. Patrick's Vacation Bible School this summer," said Suzanne D'Andria, children's



program coordinator. "This year's program is SonForce Kids, a week of out-of-this-world adventure!"

It's coming up soon, June 25-29, and will use St. Patrick's parish center, church, and even the grounds.

Through their adventures, children will be challenged to *trust* in God, *unite* with God, *train* to serve God and the community, *follow* God, and *lead* others to faith in God. Youngsters will have a great time with lively songs, hilarious skits, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories,

and tasty snacks—all of the things that make Vacation Bible School so much fun for children. On top of that, children will learn how to have courage to serve as God's special agents.

SonForce Kids is an inspiring educational adventure for the entire family. Classes for children begin Monday, June 25, at 9 a.m. Parents are invited to join them at the closing picnic, noon on Friday, June 29.

Last summer's Vacation Bible School brought together over 140 parishioners of all ages in a joyful experience of community rooted in faith. Just imagine what this summer's experience may be!

Registration information and volunteer forms are available at the parish office. Plan now for a great time at SonForce Kids!

## St. Patrick's Guild Elects Officers

At their spring meeting on Sunday, Apr. 15, members of St. Patrick's Guild elected officers for the coming year. The slate presented by the nominating committee was adopted by acclamation—and with gratitude for their willing and dedicated service: Carole Rebeiz, president; Cesaria Lancaster, vice-president; Susan Hublein, secretary; and Mary Ann Luedtke, treasurer.



Newly elected officers (from the left) Carole Rebeiz, Cesaria Lancaster, Mary Ann Luedtke, and Susan Hublein hope to see more parishioners join them for the socials and special projects they sponsor in the coming year.

## Volunteer Opportunities

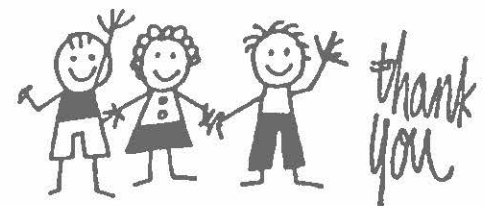
**Help nursing-home residents assemble for Mass on Fridays.** *St. Patrick's Guild:* Sandy Anderson, 469-2416

**Co-chair the popular Cellar-to-Garret Sale, or coordinate one aspect of the sale. Please help—the need is urgent!** *St. Patrick's Guild:* Carla and Bill Simmering, 328-4841; Susan Hublein, 384-8356

**Give the Lord's Body and Blood to others as a Eucharistic minister at Mass.** *Worship Ministries Team:* Patricia Fowler, 351-7578; Chris Angel, 531-7003

**Assist the priest during Mass as an altar server.** *Worship Ministries Team:* Steve Johnson, 356-1807; Chris Angel, 531-7003

**Share your faith with children and teens as a catechist in the parish religious education program.** *Children's program:* Suzanne D'Andria, 531-7015; *Youth program:* Peggy Loftus, 531-7016



Parish groups can submit entries for this column to the Communications Committee or by contacting Cathy Salika (367-7861 or [csalika@uillinois.edu](mailto:csalika@uillinois.edu)). Provide your name and telephone number or e-mail address, and the name of your group.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is May 13.



## The Holy Cross Holler!

By Gracie Mayer

### A loving Lent

This whole Lenten season has been extremely fulfilling for Holy Cross students. As a school-wide project we donated nonperishable food items like peanut butter, jelly, cereal, canned fruits and veggies, macaroni and cheese, etc. It is a great way to donate, because every week there is a contest to see who can bring in the most of whatever food item is assigned that week. One of the sixth-grade classes has really jumped on this project and has gone way above and beyond. They have become very popular with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, but they have not become too popular with the other classes that are trying to break their six-week winning streak. All together, we have raised over 2000 food items to fill those SVDP shelves! In addition, we donated money each Friday at all-School Masses for Children of Hope, an organization that helps children in Tanzania, Africa. Many other classes have also decided to lend a helping hand to Children of Hope.

Twenty heads are way better than one, so some of the classes thought up other fun and creative ways to raise money for Children of Hope! The fifth grade brought in more and more pennies as the days of Lent grew larger. On the first day, they all brought one penny; on the second day, two pennies; and so on. That's a whole lot of pennies! All the proceeds are going to Children of Hope. The sixth grade held a raffle for different-themed Easter baskets. Each of the students offered to bring in something to help fill the baskets, and then they got busy raffling! They have been running around the school selling tickets and raising money, again for Children of Hope!



Other classes are doing their own Lenten projects to donate to other causes and organizations of their choice. The second grade is keeping with their year-long service project to help the Champaign County Humane Society. However, in Lent they decided to do something extra special. They held a bake sale of tasty treats they'd made. They spent lots of time tending the tables, with cookies vanishing left and right, wishing those treats were vanishing into their very own tummies! (I don't think I would be allowed to watch the table!) They did an outstanding job, raising over \$200, becoming school heroes to many hungry eighth-graders.

The two eighth-grade classes decided to do separate projects. In Mrs. Ketcham's class, everyone participated in "Secret Service," a project where every week classmates would draw each other's names from a hat. Their mission was to be nice to that person for that week. Then each week they'd put the names back in the hat for a drawing for their new mission. By now they are all 007 material! The other eighth-grade class, in Mrs. Madix's homeroom, is baking cookies for various shelters around town.

Last but not least, Mrs. Mitchell's seventh-grade class is doing a presentation of the live Stations of the Cross. They have been practicing all through Lent to get ready. They do this for the whole school every year in the church, and it is one of the most hard-hitting and moving representations of the Passion and Stations of the Cross I have ever seen. It is a chilling but touching experience. I look forward to it each year, and each year it plays a pivotal role in my Lenten season.

*Happy Easter from me and everyone at Holy Cross School!*

## St. Thomas More's Saber Stories

### STM Lenten Project

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the easiest, how easy is it for you to purchase a loaf of bread from the grocery store, pour your children a bowl of cereal, or microwave some popcorn for a midnight snack? You'd probably change your answer if you had to grow the corn, carry it to a nearby village, and pay to have it ground into cornmeal before you could feed your family. This process is not only unreliable and time consuming, but very costly. Saint Thomas More has pledged to help its sister school, St. Peter Claver Elementary School in Tanzania, Africa, to buy a new mill. This will ensure a more convenient food source for the students, and generate school income by grinding corn for others. To earn service hours, STM students have been working at the U of I Assembly Hall concession stands, with their portion of the money allocated to St. Peter Claver. In December these students

earned over \$1,400 towards the project. Another \$3,600 is needed to purchase the mill. Even if Lent is over, charity is not! Please consider this cause for you and your family, by making a donation or having your STM student earn service hours at the Assembly Hall.

### "The Secret Garden"

Over 60 cast and crew members at the High School of St. Thomas More rehearsed diligently for their Mar. 29-31 production of "The Secret Garden." This musical adaptation of the beloved novel, first published in 1909, combined a cast of unforgettable characters and a beautiful score for a truly awe-inspiring experience. The cast included parishioners Vincent Christman, Chris Kurtz, Anna Mayer, and Laura Welle. The pit orchestra included Catherine Keane, Patrick Keane, and Nathaniel Perry. Congratulations to them on a magical production.



## Called to Faith

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**Kevin Martindale's** late wife, Marlene, was born into a Catholic family. Kevin shares, "I was baptized Methodist and we were married at Holy Cross Church in Champaign in 1973. Marlene was a member of St. Patrick's and received Communion at home from Sr. Charlene and other Eucharistic Ministers. I have attended Mass every Sunday since Marlene's passing in November 2005. Sr. Charlene invited me to join in the RCIA program at St. Patrick's. I feel honored and blessed to make this step in my life."

Since Kevin's father was a U.S. diplomat assigned to several countries, he was born in Germany and lived in India, England, Norway, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Both his sister and his wife attended UIUC because of its excellent program for the handicapped. In 1970, after being encouraged to work for a local electrical contractor, Kevin moved here from Arlington, Va. There he met Marlene. "We had 32 wonderful years together before Marlene passed away." Kevin and a partner have owned an electrical business in Urbana for over 31 years. His father lives in a nursing home in Seattle; his mother, brother and sister live in Arlington. "Urbana and St. Patrick's are now home to me."

**Elizabeth 'Liz' McLean** has family connections to the Catholic Church through her paternal grandmother and other family members, including a nun, "so I've been interested and curious about the Catholic faith. I suppose it's not just curiosity, I have felt drawn to the Catholic faith. I was attracted to St. Patrick's because of the love and peace I've felt and feel to this day. I also feel a high community atmosphere that I've never felt anywhere



Holy Cross Church in Champaign in 1973. Marlene was a member of St. Patrick's and received Communion at home from Sr. Charlene and

else."

**Liz, 50,** enjoys crafts, movies, crosswords, and reading (science fiction, fantasies, and mysteries). She drives a school bus for Champaign Unit 4 Schools. Both her parents have passed away, but she has an aunt in Champaign. Her son, Jeremiah Jacob Seckman, 27, lives in Payson, Ariz., and will marry next year. Her daughter, Catherine Ann Seckman, 25, and her boyfriend both live in Champaign.

Since he moved to St. Joseph, **Don Owens** and his family have attended Mass here at St. Patrick's. "I have always been comfortable during Mass, and after many years I decided to convert. Father Joe has also inspired me in my decision. His passion and love for the Church led me in my desire to become a Catholic."



**Don** is a chiropractor at the VA hospital in Danville. He and his wife, Melissa, married for twelve years, have two beautiful daughters, Olivia, 10, and Eve, 5. They have lived in this area for two years and "have made many wonderful friends and are looking forward to many great years ahead in the community and the Church."

**Deanna Prather** was baptized and married at St. Patrick's. She shares, "I have been trying to go through RCIA since I've moved back to Urbana." She asks our parishioners please to pray for her.



After attending church at St. Philomena's in Monticello, **William Weldon** "had a strong calling to the Catholic faith. When I moved to Urbana and attended St. Pat's, I was very welcome and liked



the community within the Church. The priest who rides motorcycles had a big influence, too" [we're not mentioning any names, Father Joe!]. William works for Arborsmith, and will marry Kathryn Blacker in June.

**Kathy Cimakasky's** husband, Felix, is Catholic. "So my daughter, Mary, wanted to learn more about Catholicism. I decided to attend RCIA classes with my daughter so we could attend church as a family. We live in Urbana and have many friends who attend St. Patrick's." Kathy has been a pharmacist for 26 years, the last 19 at Carle. The family lives in Urbana. "I enjoy spending time with my friends and family."

**Mary Cimakasky** adds that "I was interested in the Catholic faith because my grandmother was Catholic. Ever since she died I have been interested in becoming Catholic." Mary, 14, is in eighth grade at Countryside School and will attend St. Thomas More High School this fall.

"Even though I was raised Baptist, there are a lot of things I liked about the Catholic Church, and I was very impressed by Pope John Paul II," says **David W. Grob**. "I suppose the turning point came in 2003 when I was being treated for cancer. One of the nurses, a cradle Catholic, took a fancy to me, so we started attending Mass at St. Patrick's and were married in the Church last year. It was clear to me that God was calling me to the Catholic Church."

**David, 51,** is a Champaign Central high graduate and a Vietnam-era Air Force veteran. He and his wife, Col-



Mary, wanted to learn more about Catholicism. I decided to attend RCIA classes with my daughter so we could attend church as a family. We live in



Continued on next page



*Called to Faith*  
From page 5

leen, live in Champaign with their cat, Sheckey, and their Amazon parrot, Bubba.

**Katrin Niebur** and her husband, Chris, were married in St. Patrick's church by Father Remm about five years ago. "I felt so welcomed and comfortable here that I began attending Mass with my husband. I longed to have a church that I could call home, and within the last year I realized God was calling me to become part of this church. The more I learned about the Catholic Church, the more comfortable I felt, the more I realized I was making the right choice. I really love St. Patrick's, the church is beautiful, and the music program is really great."

Katrin works in Champaign as a structural engineer, helping to design local buildings. Chris is a soon-to-be licensed architect, who works for Shive Hattery in Bloomington. A St. Patrick's parishioner, Chris recently joined the Knights of Columbus.

After attending Mass on several occasions, it seemed to **Linda Miller** "like the Catholic Church and the people were closer to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

It seems to me the Trinity is the center of everything in the Catholic Church. RCIA has brought me closer to the Lord

and I look forward to becoming even closer to Him. Wanting to learn more about the Catholic faith and not having any idea where to start, I looked up Catholic churches in Champaign-Urbana. There was St. Patrick's Parish with information on RCIA. St. Patrick's, the RCIA leaders, my sponsor, and Father Joe have made my RCIA experience a very faithful and loving journey."



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Linda grew up with her nine brothers and three sisters in Carmel, Ind. Her husband, Vic, works at the Champaign Post Office. Linda taught preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds, but now stays at home. Linda and Vic have two daughters, Gail and Gwyn, and five precious grandchildren.

**Mike Martin** was guided by numerous people to the Catholic faith and St. Patrick's Parish. "First, I know that God is calling me to this point in my life and I am opening myself to His will and presence.

Second, my friends and family also contributed. Ben Coggeshall was a great mentor to me when I first started this journey. Kelly Zimmerman guided me to St. Patrick's and showed me the greatness of God's love. Finally, my fiancée, Christina Olps, has been the rock in my life and faith. And the people of St. Patrick's have been outstanding and proved to me that this was one of the best choices that I had made in my life."

Mike and Christina will soon be married and live in the Urbana area. They look forward to working as teachers and to being part of St. Patrick's. A graduate of UIUC in Agricultural Education, Mike will soon obtain his Master's degree in the same field. Both Mike and Christina are from the Quincy area, where the wedding will be held.

Concerning his conversion, **Bobby Hamilton** confesses, "I fought it tooth and nail. My fiancée is Catholic, and I tried all of the normal Protestant apologetics, but later I realized something: Was this making me a



good Christian? Did I feel like I was moving closer to God's will for my life? My answer was a resounding 'No.' I learned that the people I admire the most in life are serious about their faith—and I had to get serious. I

started learning about Catholicism, instead of learning how to fight against it. I now feel like a better Christian and act like one. Father Hogan actually took the time to treat me like I mattered. His sincerity, as well as the warmth of Catholicism, made St. Patrick's immediately feel like home—a feeling I had never had before that moment."

"I look forward to learning more about my extended 'family' of Catholics in the parish. My fiancée and I feel genuine friendships here; thank you for continuing to make me feel welcome."

As we meet and greet our new parishioners, we can all help them to feel a real part of St. Patrick's!



### Vocation Prayer



We pray to you, Lord, for those who have already followed you and are now living your call—your bishops, priests and deacons, your consecrated religious, your missionaries, and those generous laypeople who are working in your ministries. Support them in their difficulties, strengthen them in their sufferings, be with them in their loneliness, protect them when persecuted, confirm them in fidelity!

We pray also, Lord, for those who are now opening their hearts to your call or already preparing to follow it. Let your word enlighten them, your example win them, your grace lead them to a life of consecrated service to your people.

Guide them to serve others with the conviction and love that marked your own service while on this earth.



## Greetings from Dr. Susan Nagele

*The following letter was dated Dec. 9, 2006:*

Dear family and friends,

For me, this has been a year of good-byes. In February Marilyn Norris, a Maryknoll Sister and nurse with whom I worked in Sudan, went back to God after suffering with cancer. In April Elizabeth Dooley, a Medical Missionary of Mary Sister, nurse/midwife and Health Coordinator of our diocese, retired and returned to Ireland. In May Ruth Greble and Nancy Lyons, Maryknoll Sisters with whom I worked in Sudan, retired and returned to the United States. Later in May Fr. Gabriel Dolan, a St. Patrick priest who worked in justice and peace in our diocese, returned to Ireland for further studies. In September Vanessa Chelimo, a Kenyan physician assistant who had worked in our hospital for over two years, went to Tanzania to begin a two-year course in dermatology and sexually transmitted diseases. In October Marj Humphrey, a Maryknoll lay missionary whom I have known since 1987 and lived with for the past two years, took a leave of absence and returned to the United States to be closer to her aging parents. In November the medical department of the Kitale AIDS program completed the transfer of the patients they had been treating. Those patients will now be taken care of by AMPATH, a large nongovernmental SIDS treatment program that came to Kitale one year ago. And this month Sylvanus Wafula, a Patrician Brother and nurse who has worked at Kiminini hospital for three years, will leave to begin working in formation for his community.

A friend said, "It's good to say good-bye and to reflect on what the relationship has meant to you." All of these people have been very helpful to me during the three years that I have been in Kenya, and for each one of them I am full of gratitude.

It has also been a year for saying hello. In May, Rose Anderson, a Maryknoll lay missionary and nurse practitioner, came to Kitale and has been working part-time at Kiminini hospital. In September Christine and Kevin Cahalan, also Maryknoll lay missionaries, relocated to Kitale. Chris's specialty is pastoral care of the sick, but

she has been working with our social worker and helping out in various departments that need assistance.

Some of our most gratifying work at the hospital this year has been with patients needing special surgery. We made connections with Kijabe Medical Center, run by the African Inland Church. It is located a day's bus trip from Kiminini. They have been able to do surgery on a two-year-old boy who had a severe abnormality of his urinary tract, a woman that had cancer of her upper jaw, and a woman who had breast cancer. The woman with breast cancer, Esther, had been diagnosed at the government referral hospital and told to go to Nairobi for radiation therapy. She had no money because her husband died two years earlier, and she had seven children to care for. In the course of examining her we found out that she also had AIDS, so we got her started on antiretroviral drugs. The surgeon removed the tumor and placed a beautiful skin graft to close the wound. She is now much better and able to care for her children. Hopefully she will stay strong enough to care for them until they are grown enough to take care of themselves.



I myself am doing well enough with all these changes. I have just moved to a little cottage on a farm much closer to the hospital. There's plenty of green grass, flowers, and trees to come home to, and it is close enough that I can walk to work. There are many different types of beautiful birds, and I enjoy their chirping and the cows mooing after a hard day at work. A few days ago I saw a colony of brazza monkeys in the yard, a fairly rare species, I'm told. Once I get settled in, I hope to be able to welcome some

of our missionaries to come for some rest and relaxation away from the frustrations of their own ministries.

My mailing address has not changed, but I have noticed that not many people write letters anymore. I have included my email address, but at the moment I have to drive 12 miles to get a phone connection. That may change when I find out what other possibilities are available, but for the moment please don't expect instant responses to your messages. Also, please do not email pictures—we must pay long-distance phone charges, and pictures take a long time to download.

Wishing each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Love,

*Susan*

## “Irish” Eyes Were Smiling!

Regardless of one’s national heritage, it was easy to be Irish this Mar. 17 and 18—St. Patrick’s Parish did St. Patrick’s Day in style!

Organized by Tom and Helene Kacich with loads of help from other parishioners and leprechauns, the two-day extravaganza surely rivaled anything seen on the Emerald Isle.

Saturday was for the adults, with a sold-out dinner dance that brought several hundred people to the parish center. Yes, there was the traditional corned beef, cabbage, and potatoes, but the highlight was definitely the wide variety of green-tinted desserts. Music and dancing abounded, with an Irish band entertaining during dinner, and a dance band providing suitable music long into the evening. Apparently we have a few near-professional ballroom dancers among our parishioners—but dancers of all calibers eagerly took to the floor.

The evening also included a sing-along of Irish tunes both popular and

obscure (do *you* know who threw their overalls in Mrs. Murphy’s chowder?), and a trivia contest with prizes (what St. Patrick drove out of Ireland was snakes, not a BMW).

Sunday was set aside for families, with three hours jam-packed with fun. The first-class entertainment included Irish music, an Irish dancer, a storyteller who mesmerized her audience, and a teenaged ventriloquist who utterly convinced a three-

year-old in the front row (and not a few adults besides) that the dog and cat puppets she held were actually talking. There were games and crafts, including the opportunity to make a leprechaun, complete with curly orange pipe-cleaner beard, out of a toilet paper roll—and still more marvelous green desserts.

Aren’t we glad that our patron is St. Patrick instead of, say, St. Quintinus!



*Helen Kacich and Fr. Joe put Mass-goers in the proper frame of mind for the two-day celebration of our patron saint!*



## in our parish library

The month of May is traditionally recognized as “Mary’s month,” a time set aside to encourage and renew devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to recognize the immensity of graces that God bestows on us through her intercession. The dome of the Rosary Basilica in Lourdes bears the inscription (translated) “To Jesus through Mary.”

St. Patrick’s parish library has a trove of books on Mary and Marian devotion. Titles ranging from poetry, prayers, Church doctrine, and a papal retreat are sure to deepen your love for and relationship with Mary, the Mother of God and our mother.

Here is a sampling of titles you might pick up:

*Mary with Us: Readings and Prayers*, by Rev. Joseph Viano, SSP (232.93 VIA)

*The World’s First Love*, by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen (323.93 SHE)

*The Motherhood of Jesus in the New Testament*, by John McHugh (232.93 MCH)

*Mary and Your Everyday Life*, by Bernard Haring, CSSR (232.93 HAR)

*A Woman Wrapped in Silence: A Narrative Poem*, by John W. Lynch (232.93 LYN)

*Mary at the Foot of the Cross*, by James Cardinal Hickey (232.93 HIC)

\* \* \*

*If you have trouble locating books or other materials in the parish library and need assistance, please stop by the library on the fourth Sunday of the month between 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. to speak with one of our library team members. You may also call on Allison Sutton (351-8663), parish library team coordinator, for help.*

## Disciples In Mission Finale

Mark your calendar now for the **Disciples in Mission finale** at the close of Year 3! A celebratory event will be held on Thursday, May 24—anniversary of the dedication of St. Patrick’s church.

Everyone is invited to a Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by a potluck dinner and an opportunity to share your three-year Disciples in Mission experience. Whether you participated through sharing in a small group or by praying and/or using the weekly bulletin inserts, you are invited to take part in this final celebration!





## International Festival Celebrates St. Patrick's Ethnic Heritages

The second biennial International Festival will be held at St. Patrick's parish center on Saturday, May 5, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Come to celebrate St. Patrick's many ethnic heritages, to sample foods from the over 15 countries represented in our parish, to learn about the traditions and faith practices in these countries, and to learn folk dances. At present these include Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, the Congo, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Palestine, Vietnam, much of Eastern

and Western Europe, and more! The accompanying photos capture something of the flavor of the 2005 celebration of our parish's rich multicultural foundation.

There will be a contest for door prizes and gifts from international businesses in town, as well as a raffle for a handmade Cambodian quilt.

Proceeds from free-will donations will benefit the East Central Illinois Refugee Center in Urbana. If you can help out at the event or would like to provide an exhibit, please contact

Sharon Dorsey  
(smondaydorsey@yahoo.com or 344-3016).

## When Love Is Real—the Ministry of Good Samaritans

"It was very scary being in pain and not being admitted to the clinic until I could find someone to give me a ride home and explain my medicines to me. I had no one to call so I finally called St. Patrick's and asked if anyone there could help me."



This is a typical need of those who call the parish and receive help from the Good Samaritan team. One of St. Patrick's Good Samaritans went to be with this person, who was waiting in the outpatient clinic for a medical procedure, and afterwards took her home and got her situated.

To someone in crisis, seemingly small gestures can make bearable the worst situations. The crises vary but may include temporarily disabling accidents, sudden hospitalization of a family member, or rest for a pregnant mother. Short-term care often includes meals, shopping, errands, transportation to church and hospital, friendly visits, and of course prayer.

Dozens of volunteers are needed to help spread the responsibilities among many. Good Samaritans, part of the Ministry of Peace and Justice at St. Patrick's, is facilitated by Carla Simmering. If you have ever been faced with great hardship and loss during a crisis and wish someone could have been there for you, then you know what people are going through. Please consider volunteering for this caring ministry.

For more information about St. Patrick's Good Samaritans program, please contact Carla Simmering (cjsimmer@aol.com) or Carolyn McElrath (531-7014 or cmcelrath@stpaturbana.org).



## Word from Our Sister Church



Dear Joseph,

I am sorry for the delay in contacting you; from now on be sure that I will send you an e-mail each month containing details about our activities when possible.

Our parish council is still in the phase of establishing; it is not an easy task. However, we hope that it will be established as soon as possible.

Nowadays, we are in Holy Week, with all its activities which will be mentioned in my coming letter or e-mail. Give me some time to organize my youth group e-mails in order to establish contacts. I am ready to be involved with any parishioners if you want.

Dear Joseph, the situation here is very calm, safe and secure. I assure you that, regardless of the difficult economical situation, everything else is fine and we hope to see you here.

May God bless you all, we pray for you.

Happy Easter, and may the risen Christ bless you and Fr. Joe Hogan and all the members of your parish.

Suhail Daibes  
On behalf of Fr. Nidal Qatma,  
Beit Jala parish priest



## Mary and Joseph at Home



May, the month of Mary, begins with the feast of St. Joseph. What do you think their life together was like?

Do you think they lived in a one-room home because of their poverty, or would they have had a three-room home

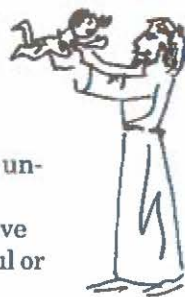
as many extended families did? Do you think Joseph did his carpentry at home, or was he into on-site construction? Do you suppose they had any family heirlooms—maybe Grandma's stone for grinding flour or an uncle's favorite oil lamp?

Where would Joseph have got his lumber? Were there plenty of trees nearby? How far would he have had to travel to buy new tools? Do you think he made furnishings for his home, or

was his perhaps the case of "the shoemaker's family being the worst shod?"

How far do you think Mary had to walk to the village well? To the shared baking oven? To the dump? To a place where firewood could be collected? Would Mary have had to cut kindling for the fire, or do you think that as a carpenter's wife she always had plenty? Did she spin or weave or bake enough that she had some to sell or to give to the needy?

Did the Nazarenes remember that Jesus was born less than 9 months after his parents married? Did they hold it against the family, or was this not so unusual? If you had lived in the village, would you have noticed anything unusual about the family? Would they have seemed especially joyful or peace-filled?



## A New Experience of Reconciliation

By Carol Mosca

I have attended communal penance services and made private confession before, but this year was the first time that I participated in a reconciliation service that combined both forms of confession. I can say that it was a great experience.

The prayers, readings, and beautiful songs led me to a deep reflection about things that I have done, my wrong steps, and the changes that I should make in my life in order to follow more closely the word of God. I thought a lot about the meaning of repentance and forgiveness. Jesus loves us and always forgives our sins. We have the chance to repent from our mistakes. Confession is our opportunity to ask for forgiveness of Jesus and to commit ourselves to keeping away from sin.

Lent is our walk following in the steps of Jesus to his crucifixion and resurrection. It is a call for conversion. It is a time to give up an old way of living and to accept a new life in

Christ. I feel that the communal penance served as a bridge for my conversion, where I committed myself to acting and living close to Jesus' example and teaching.



**The stewardship over nature, entrusted by God to human beings, should not be guided by shortsightedness or selfish pursuit; rather it should take into account the fact that all created goods are directed to the good of all humanity. The use of natural resources must aim at serving the integral development of present and future generations.**

*Pope John Paul II  
Address to the UN Center,  
Nairobi, Kenya  
August 18, 1985*

## JustFaith— A New Pentecost

**J**ustFaith is called "a new Pentecost" by a recent graduate of the program, who is also a pastor. "Like Pentecost it's new life, it's energy! It has changed the parish and it has changed me."

JustFaith is a process of conversion in which participants deepen their commitment to care for the poor and vulnerable—they can become advocates for justice. As one JustFaith graduate puts it, "After going through JustFaith, I can never look at a homeless person and walk past and dismiss them again."

The JustFaith process has thirty weekly sessions. Through books, videos, lectures, discussions, prayer, two weekend retreats and four immersion experiences, it lets you really see the face of the poor and vulnerable, to develop a spirituality of compassion and justice.

Another pastor reflects on those in his parish who have experienced it: "JustFaith is ultimately about conversion, about transformation, about learning to see. The people from my parish talk about their hearts being transformed, their spirituality being transformed. Now their lives are committed to justice and the spirituality of justice."

This fall, St. Patrick's Ministry of Peace and Social Justice will offer the JustFaith process for parishioners. For more information about this exciting faith-based immersion in the justice tradition of our Church, contact Carolyn McElrath (531-7014 or [cmcelrath@stpaturbana.org](mailto:cmcelrath@stpaturbana.org)).



## What's Up with CREW?

### Religious Education

- CREW has two more religious education sessions, the final class on Apr. 29 and the Teen Mass and barbecue on May 6.
- In the past months CREW has participated in the Disciples in Mission Bible studies. On Good Friday, several teens attended the Catholic Teen Connection to witness the Live Stations of the Cross on the U of I Quad.
- Vocations Night for both junior and senior high youth groups went very well. They heard from a number of guest speakers and had a chance to ask questions.
- More than 60 teens attended the Palm Sunday Teen Mass. The group consisted of the junior and senior high youth groups from St. Patrick's and teens from St. Matthew's youth group.
- The high school graduation Mass will be on May 13 at 9 a.m. The CREW Praise Band will lead the singing.

### Mission Trip/Social Activity

- The last two Mission fundraisers for the year wrapped up in March. The Service and Talent Auction raised \$6100, and the 50/50 ticket sales at the fish fries raised about \$280. People enjoyed the Second Chance drawing for a homemade cake.
- Again, unfortunately, lack of interest cancelled March's social activity, a scavenger hunt around Champaign-Urbana. The next social activity is a Ropes/Challenge Course at the Upper Limits in Bloomington on Sunday, Apr. 22. So far only half the teens needed for a minimum group have signed up. We are praying that more teens will sign up so we won't have to cancel it.
- On Mar. 3, dedicated teens and adults hosted a Mom and Dad's Night Out for twelve families with kids from 11 months to 12 years old. All the kids had a terrific time, evidenced by cries of "Mom, can we come back and do it again?" and "I don't want to go home yet!" at the end of the evening.
- The teens going on the Mission Trip have chosen "CREWzin" as their theme. Teen artist Caroline Jones is designing artwork for the T-shirt. The teens have completed their room preferences and lunch choices for the trip and have volunteered to be Bible study leaders too.



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

### Roasted Asparagus

- 2 pounds fresh asparagus
- Good olive oil
- Kosher salt, plus extra for sprinkling
- Freshly ground black pepper

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Break off the tough ends of the asparagus and, if they're thick, peel them. Place the asparagus on a baking sheet, drizzle with olive oil, and then toss to coat the asparagus completely. Spread the asparagus in a single layer and sprinkle liberally with salt and pepper. Roast the asparagus for 15 minutes, until tender but still crisp.



### Diocesan Appeal from Page 1

Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Please don't take for granted what our parish and diocese have offered, and will offer, to you. The Appeal weekend at St. Patrick's will be May 5-6. Your pledges and donations to the Annual Diocesan Appeal should be made through the parish so these can be properly attributed to St. Patrick's. Our parish's goal of \$111,181 toward sustaining the Diocese of Peoria's services, services that we all enjoy, will be met if we remember that St. Patrick's is a parish of Everybody. Together we can get the job done.



St. Patrick's Parish In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Written materials must include the name and telephone number of the writer.

Please leave news items in the Communications Committee mailbox in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

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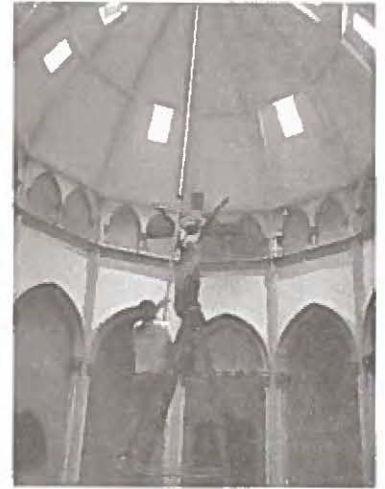
**Articles and information** for this issue were provided by Suzanne D'Andria, Nancy Costa, Sharon Dorsey, Pat Fettig, Lisa Hall, Gracie Mayer, Carolyn McElrath, Mary Lou Menches, Carol Mosca, Lenore Nagele, Hannah Noonan, Nancy Olson, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Sue Schreiber, Mary Welle, and Joseph Youakim. This issue was edited by Camille Goudeseune and paged by John Colombo. Drawings by Fr. George Wuellner.



## Dusting and Polishing God's House

On a chilly Saturday morning at the end of March, St. Patrick's church received its annual spring cleaning to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Parishioners washed windows, walls, and doors; washed kneelers and polished pews; removed dust from baseboards and all horizontal surfaces, and even managed to clear cobwebs from the wires that guide light to the figure of the Rising Christ in the sanctuary. The crew also spruced up the choir loft. Thanks to the efforts of Jim Westervelt, Chris Ángel, Cathy Salika, Fatima Zapota, Carrie and Garrett Hunter, Mike Fitzgerald, Emily Polonus, Carol

Mosca, and Mary Lou Menches, Palm Sunday was celebrated in a church that passed the white-glove test!



*Youngsters gather on the steps of the sanctuary with Fr. Joe for the celebration of Children's Liturgy in our oh-so-clean church on Palm Sunday.*





St. Patrick's Parish

Urbana, IL

May 2007



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Because the calendar is prepared in advance, be sure to check the parish bulletin to confirm dates and times of events.</p> <p>Deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is May 13.</p>		<p>5:30pm Financial Affairs 6pm Mystagogia</p>	<p>9am Moms UIP 5:15pm Children's Choir 5:15pm SVDP 7pm Baptism Prep 7pm Choir</p>	<p><b>National Day of Prayer</b> 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Baptism Prep 7pm Choir 6pm Building &amp; Grounds</p>	<p>10:45am Mass CCNH</p>	<p>6-9pm International Fair</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Annual Diocesan Appeal</b></p> </div>
<p>10:30am Last Children's Liturgy Rel Ed Picnic 6:30pm Teen Mass And Dinner 7pm Website</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Annual Diocesan Appeal</b></p> </div>	<p>7pm Centering Prayer 7pm Pro-Life</p>	<p>6pm Mystagogia</p>	<p>9:30am Schola 5:15pm Children's Choir 5:15pm SVDP 7pm Choir 7pm Social Action 7pm 2nd Century Advisory Com.</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Choir</p>	<p>10:30am Mass Care Center 10:45am Mass CCNH</p>	<p>8am Rel Ed Classroom Cleanup</p>
<p><b>Mother's Day</b> 9am Graduation Mass</p> 	<p>7pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>12pm Catholic Daughters Luncheon 6pm Mystagogia 7pm Worship Ministries Team</p>	<p>5:15pm SVDP 7pm Choir 5:15pm Children's Choir</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>Pentecost Novena Begins</b> 10:30am Mass Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass CCNH</p>	
<p>8:30am-12pm Blood Pressure Screening 10:15am K of C</p>	<p>7pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>6pm Mystagogia</p>	<p>9:30am Schola 5:15pm SVDP 7pm Choir 5:15pm Children's Choir</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 6pm Disciples in Mission Mass and Dinner for All Participants 7pm Choir</p>	<p>10:45am Mass CCNH</p>	<p>6pm Congolese Mass</p>
<p><b>Pentecost</b></p> 	<p><b>Memorial Day</b> 9am Mass and Breakfast</p>	<p>6pm Mystagogia</p>	<p>7pm SVDP</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Communications</p>		



