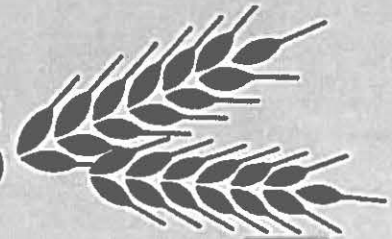


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



An Invitation to Ministry

The Parish Council and staff at St. Patrick's is inviting all parishioners to carefully and prayerfully consider taking an active part in some aspect of parish life this coming year.

Why get involved? It all begins with baptism. We became newly-created and heirs of heaven. But we believe that baptism alone does not guarantee our place. It starts us on a journey of faith that will include the sacraments. The "amazing grace" received in these sacraments prepares us for a life of ministry. We are called and we are ready. God's plan insures that we are worthy of the mission.

A parish is more than a place of

worship. It is a family of believers. No one feels at home among strangers, so all are welcomed here. Relationships are developed by sharing dreams and frustrations, by supporting each other when the going gets tough. It is because our lives are so complex, that we turn to our parish family with our own needs – the death of a loved one, family difficulties, isolation, prayer.

How do you choose an area of ministry? Try answering the following reflective

questions.

What do I really care about? *Children?* Assist with Children's Liturgies or in a religious ed. class. *Living the faith?* Try a faith-sharing group or Base Community. *Justice?* Assist the poor through St Vincent

DePaul; try the JustFaith program or Social Action Committee. *Helping others?* Prepare for a funeral luncheon; take the Eucharist to the homebound or those in nursing homes. *Meeting people?* Join the Seniors, the Young

Adults, the Men's Book Club, the Social Committee, or the Guild.

What gifts do I have? *I'm a "people person".* Be part of the Welcome Team or Coffee Shop. *I sew.* Assist with fundraisers, sew banners for church. *I have computer skills.* Do page layout for *IN FOCUS* or assist with the parish Web site. *I can organize and plan.* Any parish group would welcome you! *I have mechanical skills.* Assist with repairs or CREW Mission trips. *I work well with my hands.* Be a collection counter; serve at parish-wide events. *I enjoy historical preservation.* Assist with parish archives. *I can provide transportation.* Participate in the Good Samaritan Program.

What amount of time can I give? Each day is a gift from God. How I prioritize my time should reflect my gratitude for God's care and many blessings. My parish



How to Be Married and Stay Engaged

How can you be married and still stay engaged?

Find out on Saturday, Sept. 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as St. Patrick's welcomes nationally known speaker and author (and former parishioner) Dr. Jim Healy to share his



insight, humor, and vision for how to strengthen and enrich your marriage. All couples—young and old, newly married, marriage "veterans," and even engaged couples—are invited to attend this lively and thought-provoking morning.

Dr. Healy is the Director of the Center for Family Ministry for the Diocese of Joliet. He speaks across the country on marriage, and his materials are used in every Catholic

diocese in the United States. A counseling psychologist with over 20 years of full-time experience working with families, he was honored with the Family Ministry Award from the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers in 2000. He is

a former advisor to the National Council of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family and resides in Joliet with his wife, Madonna, and their four children.

Cost is \$15/couple or \$7.50/individual. Because seating is limited, early registration is recommended. (Participants registering before Sept. 12 will receive a copy of Dr. Healy's

See *Engaged* on page 6

See *Ministry* on page 7

From our Sister Church

Dear Mr. Youakim,

I send you my warmest greetings from Beit Jala. I hope to find you in good health with this letter.

During the summer we had many activities for the parishioners and for our active groups. We had camping for the youth group in Artas Convent—the participants in it had a good spiritual experience besides the fun and the good time they spent there. We also have been very active with the ladies' group. They attended the lectures we conducted about many important topics, very essential to them. Also they actively participated in the youth mothers' meetings.

We are planning during this month to renovate the church from inside; we are expecting three consulting engineers from Italy to come to our parish and to give us their opinion about church expansion. This project is very important; it is basically about making changes in the internal formation of the church in order to expand the capacity of the church. This expansion will preserve the church and will not require any changes in the original outside structure of the church. We already started to perform some maintenance inside the church.

This is all our new news, we hope to hear from you soon. May God bless you all.

Best regards,

Fr. Nidal
Parish Priest



Welcome to new parishioners

Jean and Reid Anderson, David and Eileen DeMoss, Adam and Emily Johnson Langenfeld, Leo and Thelma Lamera, Anjali Mascarenhas, Linda Miller, Michael and Lori Miller, Guillaume and Changal Ragetty, Troy and Andrea Ray, Gale and Ana Stafford, Mary and William VanCleave, and Karen and Jonny Matsner Yap.

Farewell to these parishioners who have moved away: Joan and Ted Zernich, Robert Link, Danieli and Marcelo Arbex, Chris and Jackie Sturdyvin, Raymond Hoang, Mark and Maura Ramaly, Joshua Gilmore, Marshall Bellville, Deborah Case, Aaron Phelps, and Rachel Schuette.

Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community: Anna Rose Loftus, Elizabeth Mae Wise, Isabella Josephine Buldak, James Thomas Shreve, Bren Addison Henry, and Aidan Christopher Howells.

Congratulations to these couples, married at St. Patrick's: Paul Scarborough and Vania Columbo, Dan Triplet and Brook Reifsteck, Kristin Mary Wilkinson and Benjamin Jay Wood, and Giselle Nunez and Cory Overstreet.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Janet Hahn, Ramon Daguio and Frank D'Urso.

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

Bible Study Programs: Something for Everyone

St. Patrick's offers a new program this year for parishioners interested in learning about the Bible: "The Great Adventure Bible Study." This Catholic Bible study program explores the big picture of the Bible, with reference to a Bible timeline and with the help of a workbook, a video, and memory devices.

You will sometimes see this program referred to as St. Patrick's **Parish Bible Study**, or PBS; it is intended to complement the ongoing ecumenical Community Bible Study (CBS) familiar to many parishioners who have participated in it over the past several years.

The new study, in 24 sessions, will be covered over a two-year cycle, this year and the next. Dates and themes for this year are as follows:

- Aug. 21, 28, and Sept. 4:
Introduction, The Early World



- Nov. 13, 27, and Dec. 4, 11, 18:
Patriarchs, Egypt, and Exodus
 - March 4: Desert Wanderings
 - April 8, 15, 22: Conquest,
Judges, Promised Land, Royal
Kingdom
- Sessions are on Tuesdays, 7 to 9 p.m., in the multipurpose room. Cost of the materials is \$40. Please contact Carolyn McElrath or Mary Long by calling the parish office (367-2665) so

that sufficient materials will be available for all participants.

The theme of this year's **Community Bible Study** is "A Heart for God"; it focuses on Samuel, Books 1 and 2, and the Psalms. The study covers key events in the life of Hannah, Samuel, Saul, Jonathan, and David as their hearts turn to the Lord in the midst of struggle.

The Bible describes David as "a man after God's own heart"; if you are interested in developing a heart for God, this study is for you. Small groups begin the week of Sept. 9; there are different days and times to choose from. Each week's session lasts about an hour and a half, and the cost is \$5 per semester. Call Mary Long at the parish office (367-2665) to register for a small group that fits your schedule nicely, and prepare to enhance your personal journey with God.

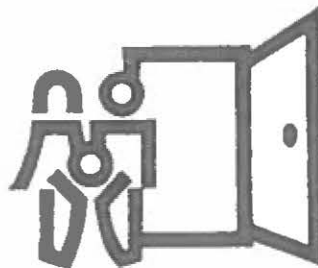
Where Is the Restroom?

For families visiting or new to St. Patrick's, "Where is the restroom?" may be the first and most pressing question. But there is more to know about the church's help facilities.

Emergency telephone: In the room to the right as you enter the church. (Press 9 before entering the telephone number.)

Defibrillator: For use when someone seems to be having a heart attack, an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is located in the rear of the church next to the Mary shrine. Several staff members and ushers have been trained in its use.

Restrooms: There are two. One is to the right as you enter the church, inside the room with the telephone. The other is in the room behind the baptismal font; take the side exit and turn left, without going downstairs or outside. The restroom is on the left at the top of the ramp. This restroom provides better access for those with mobility impairments. You can get a



drink of water in either restroom from paper or plastic cups in the medicine cabinets.

Holy water: You can fill your own container from the crock of holy water in the room behind the baptismal font (see above).

Seating for the handicapped or infirm: The front pew on each side of the church is reserved for the infirm or handicapped. If you remain in the pew, Eucharistic ministers will bring Communion to you there. There is also room for a wheelchair at the ends of the two front pews and the two last pews in the church.

Crying area: Take small children who are fretful or need to stretch their legs to the vestibule, where they won't disturb others. Copies of the hymnals used at Mass are shelved in the lectern there, and the sound system feeds into the area to help parents participate in the Mass.

Reconciliation room: The reconciliation room is to the left as you enter the church. You may kneel

at the screen just inside the door or walk around it to sit face to face with the priest for the sacrament. Two lights outside the room help you to know when you may enter. The upper light is green when a priest is present; the lower light is green when you may enter, red when another person is with the priest. The sacrament of reconciliation is offered every Saturday, 4 to 4:45 p.m. and 6 to 6:30 p.m. or until all have been served. You may also call the parish office (367-2665) to make an appointment with a priest for a different time.



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is September 16.

Seniors Group Honors Sr. Charlene

At their summer luncheon on June 14, St. Patrick's Seniors presented a skit called "The Many Hats of Sr. Charlene" and sang two songs written in celebration of Sr. Charlene's many ministries during her 19 years at St. Patrick's. Walter Splittstoesser narrated, and Shirley Splittstoesser was in charge of the slide presentation.

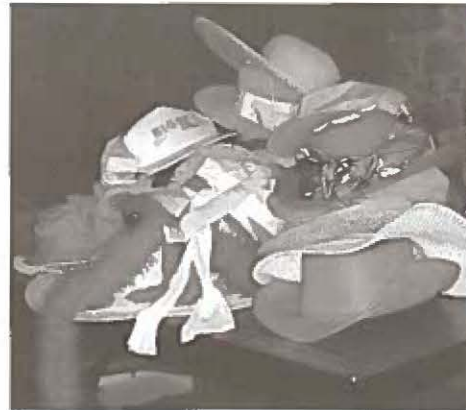
The skit presented a brief summary of Sister's life and parish ministry. On a table where Sr. Charlene and Fr. Remm (played by Betty LaBerge and Wally LaBerge, respectively) sat for a planning meeting, Betty Blanco, Alice McLaughlin, Mary Grace Bowen, and Norma Kite placed a colorful collection of hats, each representing one of the many ways Sister served the people of St. Patrick's.

At the skit's conclusion, Sr. Charlene was presented with a check from the Seniors Group to use on her sabbatical, a book of well-wishes from members of the parish, and a scrapbook of her work at St. Patrick's compiled by Nancy Steerman.

Fr. Remm said of Sr. Charlene, "She

was a true sister to her sisters and brothers." Speaking for all present, Fr. Hogan said, "We will miss you, we will pray for you, we will continue to love you."

When you turn 70, you should be able to do what your heart desires. Sr. Charlene will fulfill her long-time dream of a sabbatical for spiritual renewal and travel when she leaves in September for three months in England, Rome, and Assisi.



Each hat represents one of Sr. Charlene's ministries at St. Patrick's. Think of the dedication, work, time, and energy each required!



Sr. Charlene wore this habit in 1963 when taking her final vows as a Sister of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary.



Q: I'm new in town. What parish do I belong to?

A: For starters, you might call the church closest to your home to find out. If you live in Urbana or St. Joseph, your parish church is St. Patrick's. That's easy enough. But if you live in Champaign, your parish church may be Holy Cross, St. Matthew's, or St. Mary's. Each parish has a territorial boundary established by the diocesan office (all of these parishes are part of the Diocese of Peoria).

It seems commonplace these days for people to "shop around" for a parish, trying one after another for a good "fit," and the local Church has generally been very flexible about territorial boundaries in accommodating them. Enjoying such wide latitude, though, sometimes leads people to neglect to register at

any one of the parishes, even after having attended Mass regularly at the same church for some time.

Belonging to a parish, however, means much more than going to Mass and putting an envelope in the Sunday collection. Church law defines a parish as a "specific (stable) community of Christian believers," and if that means anything, it is that every parish is a fellowship of believing Catholics who help one another and the rest of the community to live out the Gospel of Christ together. The parish priest, staff, and probably many others in the parish are trying to serve your needs and everyone else's, and they need your help.

As a general rule, the pastor is responsible for the care of all the people living within the parish's territorial boundaries: baptizing, marrying, counseling, burying—providing the full sacramental life of the Church. By registering in a parish you make it your "home," with

all that this implies. You establish relationships, share in the life of the faith community, and benefit from the sacramental life of the community.

As a member of the faith community, however, you also take on some responsibilities, assisting in the necessary works of the Church—its worship, apostolic mission, charities, the care of its ministers, and its care of the poor. In other words, you enjoy all the benefits of belonging and are expected to respond by generously using your God-given talents and abilities for the welfare of all.

For all these reasons it is important for you and for the other members of the faith community that you register in a parish.

+ + +

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

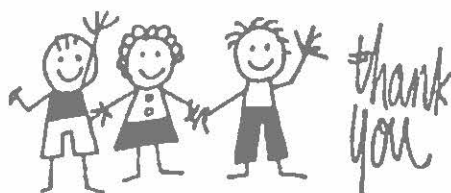
Volunteer Opportunities

Some wheelchair residents at Champaign County Nursing Home need help getting to their chapel for Mass on Fridays. Can you help, either weekly or once a month? *St. Patrick's Guild:* Sandy Anderson, 469-2416

A friendly visit by a parishioner who also brings Holy Communion makes a world of difference to someone who is unable to come to church. The pastoral care of parishioners who are homebound or residents of local nursing homes urgently needs volunteers to continue this compassionate ministry. Can you help even once or twice a month? *Pastoral care:* Donna Thompson, 688-2701

Vital to the life of the parish is the well being of its employees. Assistance is needed to continue the research and monitoring of the parish's personnel guidelines that assure all salaried employees of the parish of fair employment practices and competitive compensation levels. *Personnel Committee:* Cindy Kelly, 355-0541

Those who sort and repackage food items for hungry applicants frequently need more helping hands. Can you lend yours one or two mornings a week or on an occasional basis? *SVDP Food Pantry:* Sophia Zeigler, 328-2671



Parish groups can submit entries for this column to the Communications Committee or by calling Margaret Stewart (356-9475). Provide your name and telephone number or e-mail address, and the name of your group.

Save Lives, Give Blood

St. Patrick's will host its semiannual blood drive from 8:15 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Sept. 9, in the multipurpose room of the parish center.

All blood collected at the drive benefits Community Blood Services of Illinois, the Urbana-based blood bank that serves local hospitals in Champaign (Carle and Provena Covenant hospitals), Vermilion (Provena United Samaritans), Coles (Sarah Bush Lincoln) and Effingham (St. Anthony's) counties.

As usual, our goal is 25 donations of whole blood. In recent blood drives, St. Patrick's has come up short. This time we hope not only to see our regular "veteran" blood donors, but also to attract new ones.

Requirements for donating blood:

- **Age:** 17 (persons 16 years of age may donate with the written consent of their parent or legal guardian)
- **Weight:** At least 110 pounds
- **Diet:** A well-balanced meal is recommended within four hours of donation.
- **Health:** General good health

- **Identification:** Valid identification such as a driver's license, Illinois identification card, passport, Social Security number, etc.

After donating, you will be asked to sit and rest a bit and to enjoy some refreshments – water, juice, cookies, snack cakes. The entire process takes less than an hour.

Ten reasons St. Patrick's parishioners should donate blood:

- 1) Blood transfusions save lives.
- 2) There's still no substitute for human blood.
- 3) Every three seconds, someone needs a blood transfusion.
- 4) A pint of blood, separated into components, can help up to three people.
- 5) You'll make East Central Illinois a healthier, safer place.
- 6) Fulfills your desire to give back to the community.
- 7) You'll receive a mini physical (blood pressure, temperature, iron level).
- 8) You'll learn your blood type.
- 9) It's safe, simple, and it saves lives.

10) It speaks well of St. Patrick's.

If you have any questions about blood donation, go to the Community Blood Services of Illinois Web site at <http://www.bloodservices.org/donating/donating>, call the blood bank at 367-2202, or call St. Patrick's blood drive coordinator, Tom Kacich (344-6760).

BLOOD...

a gift from the HEART!



Faith-Centered Group Formed for Women with Cancer

Women who have had cancer in the past or are currently in treatment for cancer will gather in the parish center on Tuesday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m. for an evening of prayer. This faith-centered group is open to any woman at any stage in her treatment, even if she is in the process of completing it.

When Fr. Joe Hogan became aware that a number of women in the parish are being treated for cancer, he suggested that it would be helpful for cancer patients to come and pray together as companions in hope.

The facilitators are Nancy Olson and Tina DeMoss, who are themselves cancer patients.

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CD *When the Cake Is Gone: How to Get Married and Stay Engaged.*) Use the registration form at the bottom of the page or it can be downloaded at www.stpaturbana.org. For more information, contact Jim or Pat Mayer (384-4860) or Mary Long (531-7008).

Q & A with Dr. James Healy

What can I expect from the seminar?

The morning is divided into three parts, each one focusing on an important part of marriage. I call them back-to-back intimacy, face-to-face intimacy, and shoulder-to-shoulder intimacy. I think you'll find them very interesting. Between the talks, we will all enjoy some snacks and time to check in with friends (or make new ones), or get some fresh air.

I have found that different couples get different things out of the seminar, depending on what their needs are at that time, so my expectation is that the seminar will "float" toward whatever your particular need is at this time in your life. I expect it to be helpful and definitely enjoyable!

What do you mean by "being married and staying engaged"?

Our lives get so busy that if we want our marriages to be a priority, we have to be intentional about it. When we're "engaged" in something, we are involved, focused, and planful. We can certainly be "engaged" in the Illini or in our favorite TV show. Let's make sure we're engaged in our marriages, too.

We aren't having any problems in our marriage; why should we attend?

Marriage isn't just about getting by but in increasing the joy, increasing the commitment. To quote Auntie Mame, "Life is a banquet, and a lot of us are starving to death!" Or at least missing out on some courses.

What can I say to my husband to encourage him to attend with me?

First of all, if you end up having to come by yourself, please come by yourself. Then listen to the CD with him sometime when you're in the car together. But tell him that there will be no group time during the morning when people will have to share personal stories or feelings. Of course, I'm hoping that will happen after the seminar is over, but that will be in your own time and place.

We are not both Catholic; will my spouse be comfortable with the presentation?

My experience is, definitely yes. I speak as a Catholic Christian, and how our marriages fit into the Christian story is an important part of what we'll be doing. If your spouse isn't Christian, he or she will still find much of use, along with an opportunity to learn more about our vision of marriage.


What are the most important things we can do to strengthen and build up our marriage?

We'll have plenty of ideas and strategies at the seminar, so right now the most important thing is to just come!

Why is it so special for you to do this presentation for St. Patrick's Parish?



I came to Champaign-Urbana in 1979 for graduate school and began attending St. Pat's a year later. The Young Adults Group became a very important part of my life. In fact, that is where I met my wife, Madonna. I was in C-U only seven years, but I am astonished at how powerful and ongoing the impact of that time is on my life today.

I always look forward to spending time in the community, and it is a special treat to be able to come back and be a part of the continuing life of the parish.



How to be Married and Stay Engaged

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 (9AM-1PM) • ST. PATRICK'S PARISH CENTER

REGISTRATION FORM

Early registration (by Wednesday September 12)
\$15 per couple or \$7.50/per individual (Includes a copy of "When the Cake is Gone")

After September 12 and day of event (if space is available*)
\$15 per couple or \$7.50/per individual

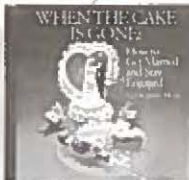
NAME (s) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

(*Seating is limited. Please call to check availability for day-of-event registration.)
As a courtesy to other participants we ask that you not bring children.

If cost is a concern, check here and St. Pat's will cover the cost of registration.



Register Early!
Register by Wednesday, September 12 and receive a copy of Dr. Healy's CD *When the Cake is Gone: How to be Married and Stay Engaged.* (Retail price is \$15.95)

Send registration form and payment (payable to St. Patrick's) to:
St. Patrick's, 708 W. Main St., Urbana, IL 61801

All are welcome! Questions? Please contact:
Pat or Jim Mayer at 384-4860 or Mary Long at 531-7008.

St. Vincent de Paul Society Feeds the Hungry

“Do you love Me? Feed My sheep,” Jesus told St. Peter. The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) at St. Patrick’s lives Christ’s message. SVDP serves the



hungry of the area by gathering and distributing a variety of food. If you are available during the day, your time and energy could help minister to many who don’t have enough to eat.

According to an article in the July 21 *News-Gazette*, more than 15,000 people over age 60 and more than 4,000 children under the age of 18 live in poverty in Champaign County. Sophia Zeigler, who leads SVDP’s work, says that St. Patrick’s has served as many as 400 families a month.

So how does SVDP do this? Volunteers pick up donated food from a variety of sources, including local restaurants and caterers (such as Silvercreek and Town and Country). You may have heard Deacon Cliff

(during Masses Aug. 4 and 5) mention his adventures in contacting restaurants. SVDP volunteers package these foods into family-size

portions. They make use of everything, freezing “odds and ends” to make soup.

SVDP ministers also bag foods—canned goods, produce, the restaurant foods—and staff the food pantry pickup on weekdays. Urbana residents may stop in for a bag of food that may supplement their food budget (or in some cases, be the major source of food for an individual or family). SVDP also provides help to people who might have a short-term or immediate need for a night’s lodging, some gasoline, or a bus ticket.

One of our St. Vincent de Paul Society’s best-known projects is the annual Thanksgiving basket drive. You may have seen requests in the bulletin for donations; SVDP puts together the ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal (and then some!), and these are delivered in the days before the holiday.

How can you help feed Jesus’ sheep locally? If you are available during the day and discern a call to this ministry, phone the parish office (367-2665) and leave a message or ask to speak to Sophia. She says needs vary. Perhaps you could be “on call” for days when there are extra food pickups or on soup-making days, or you could help distribute food in the late afternoon. Another way to help is by making financial donations directly to SVDP. Sophia can obtain canned goods through the Eastern Illinois Food Bank for 23 cents a pound, selecting what’s needed to keep the food pantry replenished and supply nutritious food to those in need.

Ministry from page 1

community is committed to being good stewards of the time I give in service to this community. Can I give a couple hours of service each week? be a member of a team meeting once a month? be called upon when the need is greatest? Am I serving as an individual, apart from my family? or can my family participate together?

The booklet, *Ministry at St. Patrick: People, Programs and Possibilities*, will be distributed after Masses on the weekend of Aug. 25-26. Feel free to call the contact person for any ministry area for which you would like more information. In the center of the booklet is a Time and Talent form. Mark areas in which you will continue to serve, as well as those areas which may be new interests. Don’t see what you’re looking for? Write it in! Don’t forget to fill out your own contact information, including your e-mail address if you use one.

On the weekend of Sept. 8-9, turn in your Time and Talent Form, or complete it with the time allotted before the end of Mass. You may also turn in the form the following Sunday, or mail/bring it to the parish office.

When you are contacted, discuss the amount of time you can realistically give, as well as your level of participation: are you getting in on the “ground-level” or are you ready for a leadership role? As you begin, be patient; don’t give up on yourself too quickly. Feel free to change your mind and choose another area which may be a better fit for your time and talent.

Still feeling uncertain? Consider the handful of people Jesus chose to be his first disciples. They were neither elite nor educated. They were lay people – not religious. Because they trusted their Master, they grew into their roles and eventually met his expectations. It takes *everyone* to build the kingdom of God at St. Patrick’s and beyond.



VOCATION PRAYER

Holy Spirit, as another school year begins, bless all students, teachers, and catechists. Fill us with a desire to know the Gospel more fully, and help us to spread the Good News wherever our life circumstances take us. Stir in the hearts of many young men and women a desire to serve you selflessly, to live a life dedicated to your service as priests or religious. Amen.

Sr. Charlene: Taking New Risks

Sr. Charlene's Farewell Talk

"I need your cooperation one more time. Are you willing to be a cheerleader for me?" After the applause, Sr. Charlene continued: "Give me an 'R'; give me an 'T'; give me an 'S'; give me a 'K'. What do we have?—RISK!" Sr. Charlene went on to say, "Reaching out in Intimacy with Sensitivity and Kindness is the way we live for God alone. I took the risk of coming to St. Patrick's. You took the risk in accepting me. And now we take the risk together knowing God will give us new risks—opportunities for deeper intimacy with God, others, and self." Sr. Charlene concluded by saying, "We are chosen, blessed, broken, and given for eternal living. Every human relationship is an eternal responsibility. Thank you for all your relationships! May reconciliation and love always be the main course of risk-taking till we meet in eternity."



Sister's Fond Remembrances

One seven-year-old girl decided that for her Bible Study project she would visit a Sister. She interviewed Sister Charlene. One of the girl's questions was about being married to God. Sister told her, "I fell in love with God, and falling in love with God meant that he was going to be my life." The little girl asked, "What about children?" Sister Charlene said, "Sisters don't have children, but I have many children from teaching and parish life." The girl smiled and said, "I don't think I could do that," and then she said, "Wow! You did that for God!" Sister Charlene smiled and said, "Yes, I did."

Sister remembers being invited to be a part of the joys and sorrows of

many people here at St. Patrick's.

- "I feel blessed—this is just who I am—sitting at the bedside or being with someone who is dying. I want to take the time to listen, pray, or simply wait in silence, or offer the gift of touch."

- "I have the joy of being a godmother for a family of three children from our parish community."

- "I have experienced the joy of seeing women in the working world having the courage to know what they are responsible for in the workplace and when it is necessary to move on."

- "I hold and treasure in my heart memories of individuals who have sought guidance and spiritual direction."

- "I know faith is a gift. I have enjoyed walking with men and women from other denominations through the RCIA."

- "Something that was an unexpected pleasure was a generous invitation to move to a larger office with an

elegant view in the southwest corner of the parish center. *Merci!* Everyone who comes by says, 'What a nice office!'"

Sr. Charlene's Sabbatical

Sister Charlene's new adventure starts September 9 when she boards a plane to Manchester, England, for a three-month sabbatical renewal program conducted by the Redemptorists at Hawkstone Hall. Hawkstone Hall is an elegant country mansion transformed into a warm home for the retreat programs. It is located near Hawkstone Park, the second largest natural park in England with woodland walks, a medieval castle, and caves. During her stay, Sister will experience living in an international community, making new friends, and sharing the

stories of how many different peoples and races face the challenges of the Church today.

The lectures extend an invitation to be better grounded in your own humanity; to appreciate that your human living is closely linked to a deepening relationship with Christ. Lecture topics include: Jesus and the Gospels I, II, III; The Spirituality of True Self-Esteem; Christian Spirituality "The Parables"; Christ—an Unfinished Portrait; Catholic Morality; Living Pathways; and Going Forth in the Power of the Spirit.

The workshops are: Facing Stress; Introduction to Pastoral Counseling; The Enneagram (appreciating the different ways we look at others and ourselves); Growth through Process and Leadership; and Christian Meditation.

Activities include: Spiritual Direction; Mission and Ministry; Liturgy Group; Monday Night Prayer; Art on Friday; Yoga; Gym; and the Computer Suite. Wednesday afternoon and weekends are free, when participants may enjoy outings to surrounding villages and sites. Every Sunday, participants enjoy complimentary drinks before lunch. During their stay, they are invited to concerts, poetry evenings, and five dress parties.

After the Sabbatical—Rome and Assisi

The eight-day Rome and Assisi pilgrimage will start with Sister staying in downtown Rome. She will visit the Vatican Museum and tour the Sistine Chapel. Next will be a visit to the church of San Gregorio Magno, the site from where Saint Augustine was sent to convert England to Christianity. Other Roman sites include Piazza Navona with its magnificent fountains by Bernini; the Pantheon built in the reign of Augustus and converted into a church in the seventh century; Trevi Fountain; Piazza di Spagna; the Coliseum; Mass at the church of Saint Pietro; the Appian Way; Mass at the Catacombs of San Callistus; Basilica of Saint Paul, built over the grave of

the saint; Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, the first basilica in the West dedicated to the mother of God; San Giovanni in Laterano, which is the cathedral church of Rome. On her last day in Rome, Sister will go to Vatican City to participate in the Wednesday audience with the Pope and visit St. Peter's basilica, the largest church in Christendom, built over the grave of Saint Peter.

In Assisi, the hilltop town of Saint Francis, Sister will visit the Basilica of Saint Francis and the Basilica of Santa Chiara (Saint Clare).

The Future

Sr. Charlene is a member of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, a religious congregation founded in France in 1860. Father Francois Delaplace, founder of the congregation, was concerned about the children in Paris who were left abandoned. In 1889, the sisters came to Bourbonnais, Illinois. Today, 580 Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary serve the Church in France, the United States, Canada, Cameroon, Cuba, Argentina, and Chile. They are engaged in a wide variety of ministries. The form of apostolic service given by a particular sister is discerned by herself and the religious leadership of the congregation, taking into consideration her own aptitudes, needs, gifts, and personal charism, as well as the needs of the Church and the congregation.

Men and women, married or single, Catholic or non-Catholic, may be Affiliates of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. Twenty-six men and women from the Champaign-Urbana area are presently Affiliates. Candidates are interviewed each September.

Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary have served in the Champaign-Urbana area since 1926. They have

worked tirelessly to meet the needs of the people in many facets of life. Sisters living at Mercy Community, which is Sister Charlene's residence in Champaign, serve or have served as chair of the board for Mercy and Provena Covenant Hospitals, administrators of Mercy Hospital (for 50 years), directors of Mercy Hospital's School of Nursing, in directorship roles of Pastoral Care for Mercy and Provena Covenant Hospitals, in designing and developing the Nursing Program at Parkland College, faculty member of the Newman Center at the University of Illinois, counselor, teachers, theologian, pastoral ministers, pastoral associate, nurses, spiritual directors, in central communications for Provena Covenant Hospital, meeters and greeters at Provena Covenant, sacristan at Provena Covenant, and neuro-muscular massage therapist.

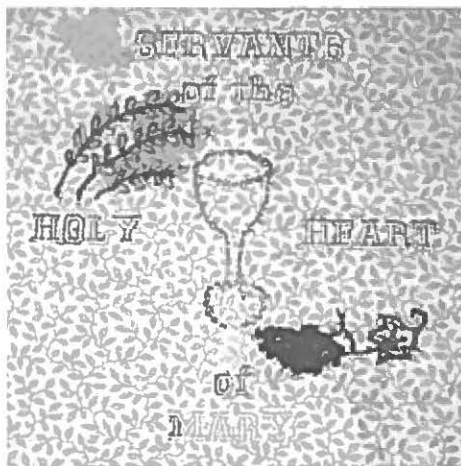
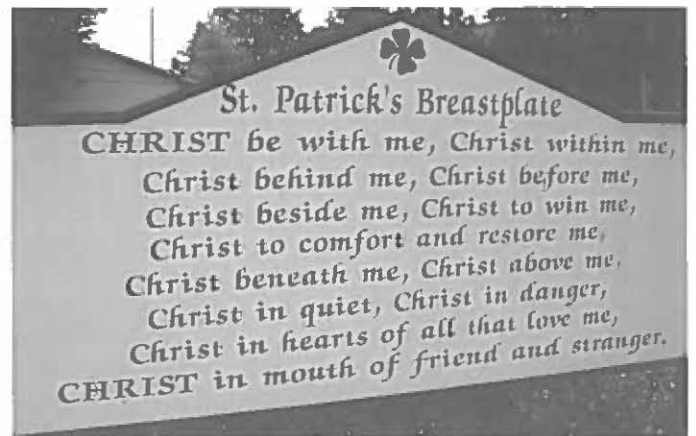
Sisters continue to work in countless fields both in health care and parish ministry, and they are actively involved in the civic community. Sisters are professionally prepared for their ministry and receive the opportunity for both

professional and personal continued education.

Sr. Charlene says that at this point her future work is unknown. A book that she was reading reflects her thoughts. The book describes transitions at age 15 and then 30, 40, 60; and it says that at age 70 you are free to follow your

that the choice you make for ministry is where your heart truly is." She concluded, "I am excited and peaceful in opening my heart to a new adventure upon retiring from St. Pat's."

One of Sister's deepest desires is to continue to experience the face of Christ through the fabric of people's lives. She wants to continue to be available for spiritual direction when she returns in January 2008, if this is God's will. St. Patrick's Breastplate exemplifies the presence of Christ in Sr. Charlene's—and in every person's—journey of faith.



heart's desire. Sister adds, "We always follow our heart," but she cautions, "At this point in life, be sure

What a Difference!

A new generation of landscaping has been planted around the parish center this summer, providing a clean, fresh look and better play space for our children. A maple tree that was held together with wire was removed from the east side of the parish center, opening the area for sun-loving plants.

The design and planting were done by Illini Landscaping, owned by parishioner Justin Taylor. To help the plants get off to a good start Kathy McKenzie, Chris Langendorf, and Bob Miller have been watering and weeding.

Inspired? The Grounds Crew would love to have more help maintaining the plantings. Contact Kathy (328-2241) or Chris (328-2809) to volunteer. And if your inspiration takes a more contemplative turn, be sure to stop and savor their work.



Vacation Bible School 2007



Approximately 90 kids and 40 helpers were involved in SONFORCE Kids VBS. Here they are in the closing assembly.



During crafts the kids made all sorts of spy/special agent supplies (disguise kits) to become special agents for God.



The kids made new friends playing games, laughing, and celebrating God's love.



During Bible stories the kids acted out the story of Esther.

Summer's Over: Getting Ready for Religious Ed

The religious education staff of St. Patrick's has spent the summer making improvements to the parish's religious education programs. Suzanne D'Andria, Children's Program Coordinator, and Peggy Loftus, CREW Coordinator, prepared calendars and classrooms, ordered books and supplies, and planned new ideas for implementation during the coming school year.

Parents and volunteer catechists can look forward to a new Parent/Student Handbook, a new Catechist Handbook, a streamlined registration process, and a Family Faith Formation Night.

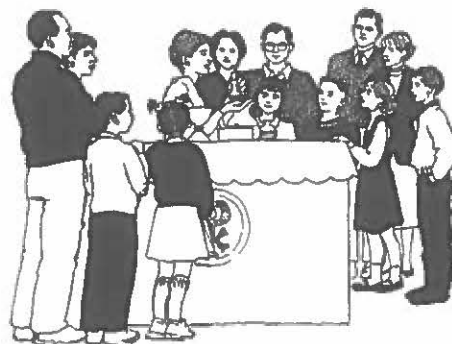
Classes are set to begin the weekend of Sept. 16, with registration before and following all Masses Aug.

25-26. Classes will conclude the weekend of May 11. The extra few weeks this year will allow catechists to prepare and teach youngsters a fuller curriculum of religious education.

This year second-graders will make their First Reconciliation Nov. 27 and receive their First Communion April

26; eleventh- and twelfth-graders will celebrate the sacrament of confirmation May 13.

The success of the parish religious education programs is largely due to parishioners' generous support with the gift of their prayers, their time, and their active participation as catechists and assistants. The staff looks forward to another fruitful year!



First Summer Fest Shows Parish's Playful Side

With a play on words that certainly fits the first St. Patrick's Summer Fest, "A parish that plays together stays together!"

More than 250 parishioners came to the July 14 Summer Fest and enjoyed an afternoon of summertime play with fellow parishioners. On arrival, they were welcomed by two huge brightly colored inflatable toys taking over the lawn—toys that were enjoyed equally by kids and a pastor playing like a kid! Bean bags could be heard being tossed throughout the afternoon, and young and older golfers were seen practicing their short game by chipping into a baby pool. Hundreds of water balloons were available for a water balloon toss or a water balloon fight, depending on how wet you wanted to get. (Most parishioners showed their sense of summer playfulness and went for the fight.)

Inside the parish center, parishioners enjoyed favorite summer treats—hot dogs, lemonade, popcorn, and lots of delicious ice cream—while visiting and playing Bingo. (Molly Smith and Sarah Johnson, many observed, did a fantastic job as Bingo callers for almost three hours.)

From 1 to 4 p.m. one Saturday this summer, St. Patrick's parishioners of all ages played together. It doesn't get much better than that!







in our parish library

The library has obtained hundreds of donated books this summer. Stop by and check some out. Here are a few samples.

***All the Pope's Men: The Inside Story of How the Vatican Really Thinks*, by John Allen, Jr. (282 ALL 2004)** Allen, the Vatican correspondent for the *National Catholic Reporter*, provides an overview of the Vatican and reveals how decisions are made, how papal bureaucrats think, and how careers in the Roman Curia are shaped. He explains who really wields the power and offers entertaining profiles of the personalities, historical and present-day, who have wielded that power for good and for bad.

***The Art of Happiness: A Handbook of Living*, by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Howard C. Cutler, M.D. (294.3 LAM 1998)** Through meditations, stories, and the meeting of Buddhism and psychology, the Dalai Lama shows us how to

defeat day-to-day depression, anxiety, anger, jealousy, or just an ordinary bad mood. He discusses relationships, health, family, work, and spirituality to show us how to ride through life's obstacles on a deep abiding source of inner peace.

***Chicken Soup for the Soul at Work: 101 Stories*, by Jack Canfield et al. (331.25 CAN 1996)** This is a special collection of inspiring tales that share the daily courage, compassion, and creativity that take place in workplaces everywhere. This book gives you new options, new ways to succeed, and, above all, a new love and appreciation for yourself, your job, and those around you.

***Lives of the Popes*, by Richard P. McBrien (920 LIV 1997)** *Lives of the Popes* provides chronologically arranged biographies of each of the 262 pontiffs, revealing the full sweep of the papacy. Each entry contains essential information on a pontiff's life, major writings, contro-

versies, and deeds, both great and evil.

***Long Have I Loved You: A Theologian Reflects on His Church*, by Walter J. Burghardt, S.J. (282 BUR 2000)** This life work crystallizes and clarifies the major developments in Catholic thought and practice before and after Vatican II and illuminates them through stories, experiences, and insights.

***The Man Born to Be King: A Play-Cycle on the Life of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*, by Dorothy L. Sayers. (808 SAY)** Sayer makes the Gospels come to life in this play cycle consisting of 12 plays that depict specific periods in Jesus' life, from the events surrounding his birth to his death and resurrection. It was first broadcast by the BBC Home Service on Sunday evenings beginning Dec. 21, 1941, with new episodes broadcast at four-week intervals, ending Oct. 18, 1942.

***Triumph. The Power and the Glory of the Catholic Church: A 2,000 Year History*, by H.W. Crocker III. (282 CRO 2001)** Crocker (formerly an Anglican) tells a story spanning 2,000 years, concentrating on the most heroic and adventurous chapters of Church history. This reads more like a historical novel and though both affirmative and negative aspects and eras are represented, Crocker attempts to place the most positive spin possible on some of the often-controversial history of Catholicism.

+ + +

If you have trouble locating books or other materials in the library and need assistance, please stop by the library on the last 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 Lori Mestre (365-9994), parish library team coordinator, for help. The parish library is now open during parish office hours, Monday through Friday.

About Woman, Wind, and Ocean

"Ask," the ocean says.
A woman with long, breeze-caressed hair,
her loose white gown
rippled by wind fingers,
stands alone at the edge of the sea.

With both hands above her head
she holds a yellow cloth
that flaps and dances and waves,
blue sea, white sand, pale sky.

Very still, she scans
the straightedge of ocean-sky.
When will I see the topsails of my lover's ship?
A distant lighthouse asks for night.
The ocean surf delivers its ancient prayer
over and over again—
shrimp trawlers sleep in the bay,
sand birds search the wet sands.

I study woman, the colors, the sun, and
frangrances of the sea
and ask only at this moment
to live
forever.

—Unpublished poem by Quentin Kirk

Parish Council News

The St. Patrick's Parish Council gave the go-ahead to the Second Century Committee to hire an architect to develop a facilities master plan for the parish during its monthly meeting Aug. 16.



Trustee Ellen Amberg said the firm, with which the committee hopes to sign a contract soon, will be hired for \$29,500. The firm has a strong history of architectural work for churches — primarily Catholic — and was chosen from four that were interviewed on Aug. 15, out of ten that had submitted proposals.

During his report, Fr. Joe Hogan announced that the parish this week purchased an apartment building on the same block as the church and parish center for \$465,000. With the purchase, the parish now owns the entire block. Fr. Hogan also noted that the parish staff is still interviewing to fill the full-time pastoral associate position vacated by Sr. Charlene.

In other business, the Parish Council:

- Banned alcohol from events hosted by non-parishioners renting the parish center. This action came in response to several parties over the past months that have involved alcohol, ended later than the rental contract stipulates, and required extra clean up afterward. Parishioners who rent parish facilities

will still be able to serve alcohol.

- Heard comments from parishioners Bill and Ruth Plymire about the new scheduling system for Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors.

In the past, the schedule

has been drawn up every two months; the new schedule is on a yearly basis, with Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors serving at the same Mass time each month. Parish Council member Mary Karten explained that the new system gives those serving a more predictable schedule and allows teams of ministers to serve together. The Plymires' concerns included that, with the new schedule, only eight lectors are scheduled for a particular Mass time each month throughout the year, leaving some lectors out of the rotation and assigned as substitutes. This especially affected those who had requested to serve during the popular 9 a.m. Mass. Fr. Hogan said the ministry team will be evaluating the change and the concerns that have been raised.

+ + +

The next Parish Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 20, in the parish center following a 6:30 p.m. gathering in the church for prayer. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open meetings.

Prayer is the basis of all peacemaking precisely because in prayer we come to the realization that we do not belong to the world in which conflicts and wars take place, but to Jesus who offers us his peace. The paradox of peacemaking is indeed that we can only speak of peace in this world when our sense of who we are is not anchored in the world. We can only say "We are for peace" when those who are fighting have no power over us.

~Henri Nouwen



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

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

Articles and information for this issue were provided by Carol Bosley, Suzanne D'Andria, Frances Drone-Silvers, Pat Fettig, Kathy Jobin, Mary Karten, Quentin Kirk, Peggy Loftus, Mary Long, Pat Mayer, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestre, Ellen Noonan, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Sue Schreiber, Shirley Splittstoesser, Margaret Stewart, and Joseph Youakim. This issue was edited by Sue Schreiber and paged by Jim Urban.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Kathy Jobin

Marinated Beef Roast

Great for a Labor Day feast from the grill!

- 1 chuck roast, 2 in thick (2-3 lbs)
- 1 5-oz bottle soy sauce
- 1/2 c brown sugar
- 1 T lemon juice
- 1 t Worcestershire sauce



Place meat in a shallow glass dish. Combine other ingredients and pour over meat. Marinate 4-6 hours, turning meat at least once.

St. Patrick's Parish

September 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 listed events.</p> <p>Deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is Sept. 16.</p>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Time and Talent Weekend 8:30-12pm Blood Drive 8:30-12pm Blood Pressure Screening 6:30pm CREW Parents Meeting 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study	Labor Day Office Closed 9am Mass 7pm Centering Prayer	5:30pm Financial Affairs 6:30pm Mystagogia 7pm Great Adventure Bible Study	12pm Men's Book Club 4:30pm Bible Study 5:15pm SVDP 6:30pm JustFaith 7pm Baptism Prep	6:45am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Mystagogia 6pm Building & Grounds 7pm RCIA	10:45am Mass CCNH	Time and Talent Weekend
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Catechetical Sunday 9:15am Rel Ed 10:15am K of C 10:30am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm CREW Kickoff Party	7pm Centering Prayer	6:30pm Mystagogia 7pm Worship Ministry Team	5:15pm SVDP 5pm Children's Choir 6:30pm St. Joe Rel Ed 6:30 JustFaith 7pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Mystagogia 6:30pm Parish Council 7pm Choir 7pm RCIA	10:30am Mass Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass CCNH	9am Jim Healy's Marriage Enrichment Seminar
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:15am Rel Ed 6:30pm Leader's Bible Study 6:30pm CREW Rel Ed	7pm Centering Prayer	6:30pm Faith Sharing 6:30pm Mystagogia	9:30am Schola 5pm Children's Choir 5:15pm SVDP 6:30pm St. Joe Rel Ed 6:30pm JustFaith 7pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Mystagogia 7pm Choir 7pm Communications 7pm RCIA	10:45am Mass CCNH 6pm Newcomer Welcome	8:30-11am Ministry Training
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
6:30pm CREW Teen Mass						
30						

CCNH = Champaign County Nursing Home SVDP = St. Vincent de Paul Society