

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



www.stpaturbana.org

## A carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed that as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen, where she filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In the first, she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them boil, not saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She spooned the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Finally she ladled the coffee into a

bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me, what do you see?"

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. She then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed that the egg had become hard-boiled. Finally, she asked her to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. Then she asked, "What does it mean, Mother?"

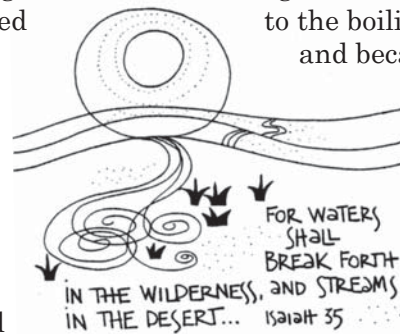
Her mother explained that each

of these objects had faced the same adversity—boiling water—but each reacted differently. The carrots went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, they softened and became weak. The eggs

had been fragile. Their thin outer shell had protected their liquid interior. But after sitting in the boiling water, their inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique,

however. After they were in the boiling water, they changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks  
*Continued on next page*



## Friday fare for Lent—for you

We mark the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday when we are marked with a cross of ash as a sign of penitence and our human mortality. It takes on an added dimension when we realize that the ashes used are made from burning the palms from Passion Sunday.

How do you plan to observe Lent this year? Will you be "doing without" or "doing more?" The Fridays



of Lent offer two special ways you could "do more"—by participating in the Stations of the Cross and afterward at the fish fries prepared by St. Patrick's Knights of Columbus.

Parishioners can make the Stations of the Cross at any time. During Lent, booklets for this purpose are generally available at the lectern in the church vestibule to assist you in this popular devotion. On the

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### *An invitation to inactive Catholics*

On Wednesday, Feb. 6, St. Patrick's Re-Membering Church Team will offer the first of six weekly sessions designed to assist inactive Catholics who seek to reconnect with a faith community. All sessions will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center. For additional information, please call the parish office (367-2665).



**Q: Why do priests wear a distinctive collar, and where did the practice come from?**

**A:** In the days when laundry was time consuming and hard on fabrics, undergarments were washed more frequently than outer garments. A removable collar functioned to keep dirt and oil from the neck away from the top of an outer garment. It could be laundered or discarded without affecting the outer garments.

Since about the year 1000, the cassock was common garb for priests, but the style of the collar varied with the fashions of laity. Henry McCloud, in his book *Cleri-*

*cal Dress and Insignia of the Roman Catholic Church*, says that the Roman collar was originally “the shirt collar turned down over the cleric’s everyday common dress in compliance with a fashion that began toward the end of the sixteenth century. For when the laity began to turn down their collars, the clergy also took up the mode.” When the laity moved to fancier collars, decorated with lace and needlework, so did the clergy, although some thought this extravagant. In 1624, Pope Urban VIII banned the use of lace, yet a collar was needed to protect the cassock or shirt, and the style evolved to what we see today.

Even in the Roman Catholic Church, there are minor varia-

tions in the style and size of the collar. Some priests and ministers in Anglican, Lutheran, and Methodist churches wear a similar collar, although they are more likely to call it a “clerical collar” than a “Roman collar.” Some wear it only when they lead worship services or do pastoral work; others wear it most of the time. Sometimes the collar is attached to a shirtfront. In any case, the symbolic function of the collar is the same: to identify a religious leader at work in the world.

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

*A carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?*

*Continued from page 1*

on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?”

Which am I? Am I like the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I like the egg that starts with a malleable heart but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship, or some other trial have I become hardened and stiff? Do I look the same on the outside, while on the inside I am bitter and tough with a hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor of life. If I am like the coffee bean, when things are at their worst I get better and change the situation around me.

How do I handle adversity? Am I changed by my surroundings, or do I bring life, flavor, to them? Lent provides many options for change; all that is needed is to respond with an open and accepting heart.



**March for Life 2008** A group of students and faculty from the High School of St. Thomas More are traveling to Washington, D.C., for the 35th annual March for Life in January. Led by theology teachers Mrs. Hakl and Mrs. Telthorst, they will participate in a rally on the National Mall, a march to the Supreme Court, and meetings with U.S. Representatives and Senators to discuss pro-life issues. The March for Life commemorates the Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion; it serves as a positive response to the attack on pre-born life and memorializes the lost children.

**Calling Future Sabers** The High School of St. Thomas More is accepting applications for next year’s freshman class. There is a Future Sabers night in both spring and fall semesters to allow area middle-school students the opportunity to tour the high school, meet faculty and staff, learn about the many extra-curricular options, and participate in a mini “typical

day.” Eighth-graders interested in attending St. Thomas More should look for information and an application at [www.hs-stm.org](http://www.hs-stm.org).

#### **Coming Attractions**

Dance MORE , Feb. 9  
Battle of the Bands, Feb. 16  
Spring Break, Mar. 17-21  
Spring Musical, Apr. 3-5  
Spring Gala, Apr. 19  
Graduation, May 18

#### *Vocation Prayer*



Loving God, help those you call to be priests, deacons, and religious to be generous in responding to that call. Help us all to do the work you have called us to do, and through it to share the Good News with others. Help us to proclaim the Good News in the way we live out our faith so that others may also hear your call and answer it.

## From Dr. Susan Nagele

**Editor's note:** Susan's Christmas letter, which arrived a little too late for the January newsletter, was to be included in this issue. But we felt that you would better appreciate receiving Susan's reassurances that she is safe despite the violence that erupted in Kenya following the presidential elections there. Her Christmas letter will appear in our next issue. Here is Susan's telling of the events following the Dec. 27 election.

To all the good people of St. Pat's,

The presidential elections here in Kenya went smoothly on Dec. 27, but the results weren't announced until Dec. 30. There were long delays in presenting the actual numbers, and to date [Jan. 5], the chairman of the electoral commission says he doesn't know the exact results. An hour after he announced that President Kibaki was reelected, he was sworn in again as president.

Violence began immediately. Over 350 people are known to have died. In our area, 800 people are displaced from their land and are living in churches and local homes. There is no gas, little food, and phone cards are very hard to find.

I am safe and have what I need for the moment. Because we don't know how long this situation will last, I am being very stingy with using my phone and vehicle. I plan to drive to Kitale tomorrow and will send this then so that you will know that I am quite all right, albeit working hard enough to earn my pay!

The very good news is that I have \$9,810 [U.S.] in my mission account. Not only did I cover all the expenses I had last year, but I have this much money to spend to deal with the expenses for displaced people who are coming in for medical care, food, blankets, jerry cans, utensils, etc. Having lived in Sudan, I am very experienced in these difficulties and quite able to help others get organized to meet immediate needs. The farm where I live hasn't been able to sell their milk for the last week. They produce 500 gallons per day. So we are buying milk from the farm and giving it to the displaced people, killing two birds with one stone.

I know that you were especially generous in contributing to my mission account this Christmas, and I am very grateful. I have never had to worry about money, and I still don't, thanks to all of you.

Because of the lack of fuel, I can't drive to Kitale often to send e-mail. Because of the lack of phone cards, I can't call on the phone. At the moment I have about \$20 of credit in the phone, and I need to protect it so that I can use the phone when necessary.

The political problems with the voting irregularities

have uncovered the big problem in this country, tribalism. Youths stop vehicles on the road and ask what tribe the people belong to. Sometimes they are hurt or killed because of their answers. The displaced people have been called cowards, so the men are now starting to talk of revenge.

Many are calling for the President to stand down and to form a government of national unity with the opposition. The opposition doesn't trust the government, and refuses. Some have suggested holding another election in three months, but the Kenyans I talked to today said they wouldn't vote again; they don't trust that things would be any different.

A very good friend and our best nurse, Winnie, has said that everything is ruined and that everyone will suffer except for the politicians, who will steal all the money, put it in foreign bank accounts, and go abroad to live. She is such a good woman, she and so may other ordinary people who are just trying to make ends meet, put food on the table, and send their kids to school. I hope I can help them get through this mess and not lose hope for the future.

Do say a prayer for peace in Kenya, and in the rest of the world. I hope that you are well and that this new year will bring you many good things.

Susan



*Doctor and lay missionary Susan Nagele, shown here in her Kiminini outpatient clinic, has been serving the poor in Africa for 23 years.*

### ***Help is urgently needed***

Because of illness or simply a change in life's circumstances, the number of parishioners who bring Holy Communion to the homebound members of our faith community has once again declined. The need is great if this compassionate parish ministry is to continue. If you've ever been separated from your faith community for any length of time because of frailty or illness, you know just how much these visits mean to our shut-ins.

If you can help for a couple of hours once a month, or even once every other month, please call Donna Thompson (688-2701). She will be delighted to hear from you and will see to it that you receive "on the job" training with an experienced pastoral care minister.





## in our parish library

This month's library column features some recently catalogued books related to the catechist, especially appropriate as individuals prepare for Lent, for Confirmation, and for membership into the Church. These can be found on the New Books shelf in the library. There are many additional books available in the call-number range of 238.2 that could be checked out as well.

***100 Activities Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church***, by Ellen Rossini (C 268.4/ROS/1996) The worksheets, memory games, etc., in this resource are intended for use for grades 1-8. Activities are organized according to the four pillars of the Catechism: the Creed, the Sacraments, the Commandments and Beatitudes, and Christian Prayer.

***The Catechism: Highlights and Commentary***, by Brennan Hill and William Madges (238.2/HIL/1994) This book offers a commentary on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and, in addition to reflection about the document itself, also offers other theological views.

***Handbook for Today's Catholic Children***, by Francine O'Connor (282/OCO/2002) Intended for younger children, this handbook contains illustrations, analogies, and simple text to explain the basic beliefs of the Catholic faith

***The Joy of Being Catholic***, by Mitch Finley (282/FIN/1996) This book provides a context for what it is to be Catholic from the inside out. It celebrates the spirit of Catholicism as a way of life, particularly its spirit of joy.

***The Seeker's Catechism: The Basics of Catholicism***, by Michael Pennock (238.2/PEN/1994) The author provides concise, readable answers to basic questions about God, Jesus, the Church, sacraments, prayer, etc. This book is well

suiting for use in RCIA, adult education, and for personal reading.

***This Is Our Faith: A Catholic Catechism for Adults***, by Michael Francis Penneck (238.2/PEN/1989) This catechism is specifically designed for Catholic adults, for those new to the Church, and those journeying through the RCIA. It is arranged according to the four pillars of the Catechism: the Creed, the Sacraments, the Commandments and Beatitudes, and Christian Prayer.

***Why Be Catholic?*** by William O'Malley, S.J. (282/OMA/1993) Filled with Fr. O'Malley's wit and wisdom, this book is a commentary on basic dogma, with a historical frame that should be appealing to all Catholics. It also provides straight answers for potential converts. Each chapter is followed by a list of questions.

### **Web pages containing catechesis articles and Church documents:**

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church in Audio (MP3) available at [www.thecatholiccatechism.com](http://www.thecatholiccatechism.com)
- The Essentials of the Catholic Faith (including the four pillars of the Catechism) from Pocket Catholic Catechism at [www.therealpresence.org/essentials/acc.htm](http://www.therealpresence.org/essentials/acc.htm)
- Catholic Pages Directory (church documents, multimedia, online articles) at [www.catholicpages.com/dir/catechesis.asp](http://www.catholicpages.com/dir/catechesis.asp)
- Index of Catholic Catechism Articles at [www.parishwebmaster.com/archives/cc/index.htm](http://www.parishwebmaster.com/archives/cc/index.htm)

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*If you have trouble locating materials in the library, you may call Lori Mestre (365-9994), library team coordinator, for help. The parish library is open during office hours on Monday through Friday, and on fourth and fifth Sundays from 8:30 to 10:45 a.m.*

*Friday fare for Lent - for you  
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Fridays of Lent, at 5:15 p.m., those who gather to make the Way of the Cross together are led by Fr. Hogan and members of the staff.

After this prayer service, you may want to walk over to the main hall of the parish center to keep your Friday abstinence from meat by sharing in the fish fry prepared by the Knights of Columbus.

You will have your choice of fish baked or fried, and for a very reasonable fee: \$7 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens, \$5 for children aged 4 to 12 years. The meal includes French Fries and cole slaw. Desserts (for those who are "doing more" instead of "doing without") can be purchased for a small additional cost. Proceeds go to the Fr. Charles Martell Scholarship Fund, given to parish graduating seniors who apply.

The line that forms for the ever-popular fish fry may seem long, but it provides time for friendly chats with others. Experienced parishioners suggest that one person in a group be designated to hold the place in line while another gathers up table service, pickles, catsup, drinks, etc., and secures a table, rejoining the line in time to receive a plate of fish, fries, and cole slaw.

The film series enjoyed in former years on the Fridays of Lent will not be offered this year.

## Parishioners enjoy evening of good food and faith

Members of St. Patrick's Guild were expecting around 210 people to attend this year's "Spice Up Your Spirituality" event. Approximately 250 people came, making the evening an unexpectedly successful fundraiser for the group, reported Guild president Carole Rebeiz.

The Guild thanks Steak & Shake for their donation of all the supplies needed to make the chili. The restaurant had originally planned to charge the group for half of the supplies and surprised members by deciding to donate all of the ingredients instead.

Fr. Pat McGrath, a Jesuit from Chicago, was the guest speaker for the evening. He helped to demystify prayer by explaining that everyday occurrences are opportunities to speak with God: "There is no right or wrong way to pray, no set way to pray; just talk to God. Even 'O God, I ache this morning' is a prayer!"

His talk focused on how to live a life more closely in tune with God's will. Relating some of his personal experiences, he spoke movingly about the ability of ordinary people to serve God with their lives. He emphasized these four main points:

**1. Notice.** Be attentive to God in your life every day; pray, "Show me, God, where you are in my day."

**2. Wonder.** Ponder what God is doing in your life every day, in the people around you.

**3. Thank God.** This could be your first and last prayer every day.

**4. Live.** Live to the fullest the life God gives you, embracing every day your vocation as a child of God.

Fr. McGrath will be posting Web casts starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing each week throughout Lent. These five-minute reflections, at [www.jesuits-chi.org](http://www.jesuits-chi.org), can help to provide focus for this year's Lenten journey.



*Will Justice and Leslie Risatti ladle up steaming bowls of chili prepared by Guild members.*



*Left: Terry Jobin enjoys a few moments with Fr. Pat McGrath.*



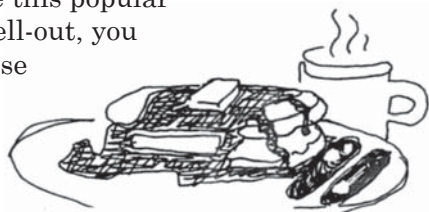
*Right: During Fr. Pat's presentation Tina Sherman engages youngsters' interest with a few articles representing Baptism: white robe, salt, water, and candle.*

## Knights offer more winter specials

This year's **Ladies Knight Out**, on Jan. 26, will serve women of the parish a sit-down meal and home-grown entertainment with a baseball theme. Because this popular event is usually a sell-out, you are urged to purchase tickets ahead of time, both to be assured of a place at the table and of enough chicken to go around.


At the **Super Bowl Breakfast** on Feb. 3, instead of the coffee and

donuts usually served at the Coffee Shop after 7:30 and 9:00 Masses, come to the main hall of the parish center for your choice of an



omelet, biscuits and "lean" sausage gravy, or pancakes—all for a free-will offering. The Knights track the competition

of choices to announce the "winning choice" for this year's Super Bowl.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is February 10.

## Fr. Augustine Tolton, first black priest in the U.S.

The life of Fr. Augustine Tolton is an inspiring story of perseverance. Fr. Tolton was a slave who grew up to become the first acknowledged black Catholic priest in the United States. He had the desire to be a priest but for many years was unable to realize his dream because of prejudice against blacks. After years of rejection by U.S. seminaries, some sympathetic Catholics petitioned Rome and obtained a place for Augustine in a seminary in Rome. He was ordained in 1886, when he was 31.

Fr. Tolton had hoped to become a missionary to Africa in order to avoid the racism he knew he would encounter in the United States. However, he was assigned to a church in Quincy, Illinois, and later, Chicago. Even though it was

a bitter disappointment to him, he accepted the position dutifully. He struggled against the racism he encountered daily, recognizing that the Catholics who discriminated against him were in direct violation of the teaching of the Church on the dignity of all people.

Fr. Tolton was known for his good sermons, his exceptional singing voice, and his gift for playing the accordion. When he first came to Chicago, some of the black parishioners who came to see him wept for joy because they finally had a priest who was "one of their own." Even Protestants in the vicinity, when sick, would call upon his services rather than that of their own pastors. He dedicated his life in Chicago to changing the views of people toward blacks and

to unifying black Catholics. He was known as "Good Father Gus."

By 1893 Fr. Tolton was beginning to experience periods of illness, which he ignored, focusing his attention on his work and his parishioners. In 1897 he collapsed and died during a brutal Chicago heat wave. He was 43.

A book about Tolton's life, *From Slave to Priest*, is being published by Ignatius Press. His life should inspire us to fight against prejudice wherever we encounter it so that people can concentrate on day-to-day struggles without the extra burden of fighting racism. It can also inspire all people, but particularly young people, to keep pursuing their dreams. Sometimes, if we keep working at it, our dreams can be accomplished under the most contrary of conditions.

## St. Caedmon, first English poet

St. Caedmon is an inspiration for all of us who are afraid to sing out at Mass. In the late 600s, when Caedmon was an illiterate herdsman for Whitby Abbey, it was the habit of the servants of the monastery to gather in the evening with a harp and take turns singing. Caedmon was so ashamed of his lack of skill at poetry that he would find an excuse to leave the party before it became his turn to sing.

One night, after leaving the festivities, he fell asleep in the stable. An angel came to him and bade him sing. Caedmon responded, "I cannot sing, and therefore I left the feast." The angel then told him to "sing to me, however, sing of Creation." At once Caedmon began to sing in praise of God verses he had never heard before.

The next day Caedmon told Abbess Hilda of Whitby Abbey about this experience and repeated the verse that had come from his mouth. The abbess presented him with several Scripture passages and asked him to render them in verse. When he complied, she and

others agreed his was a divine gift, and he was urged to take the habit. He spent the rest of his life as a monk of Whitby Abbey, translating sacred history into excellent verse. Caedmon died about 680, having received a premonition of his death.

Caedmon is the earliest English poet whose name is known. His most famous verse is "Caedmon's Hymn." Part of the translation from Old English follows:

"He, the holy Creator,  
first created heaven as a roof for

the children of men.

Then the guardian of mankind,  
the eternal Lord,  
the Lord Almighty, afterwards  
appointed the middle earth,  
the lands, for men."

If you travel to England, you can visit the ruins of Whitby Abbey in Northumbria. You can also view the Cross of Caedmon (1898) near the abbey's cliff-top graveyard.

You may be inspired to sing out at Mass in memory of St. Caedmon, whose feast is observed on Feb. 9.



February Saints  
Drawing by Fr. George Wuellner



## Parish Council News

St. Patrick's Parish will publish a new pictorial directory this year, members of the Parish Council learned during their meeting Jan. 17. The previous pictorial directory dates back to 2001, in celebration of the parish's centennial.



Father Joe Hogan said scheduling of photographs for the new parish directory is to begin the weekend of Jan. 19-20. Tureskis Photography of Monticello will take the photos; parishioners will not be charged for their directory picture but can order photos for their own use.

In other business:

- Fr. Hogan announced that on Saturday, Mar. 1, representatives of all of the groups within the various ministries of the parish will gather with members of the St. Patrick's staff and the Parish Council for a review of parish ministries. The meeting, which is scheduled to follow the 8 a.m. Mass and is expected to last until 11:15 a.m., will give parish groups the opportunity to meet both separately and as a large group to discuss what they have been doing, what is good, and what can be improved.

- During his report, Fr. Hogan noted that there will be several changes coming up in the parish staff over the next year: (1) Leslie Risatti, long-time parish secretary,

will retire; (2) Father Hoa will complete his three years in the U.S.; and (3) a full-time pastoral associate will join the staff, probably in June.

- Election of three Parish Council members will take place in April. The nominating committee will consist of two council members—Kathy Sarnecki and Ellen Noonan—as well as three other parishioners, yet to be determined.

Jim Mayer, representing the Faith Development Ministry, noted that only 20 people attended a recent Confirmation meeting. There is concern that families of juniors and seniors may not be aware that Confirmation is taking place this year. Those interested should contact Peggy Loftus, senior high youth minister, as soon as possible.

Mary Karten, representing the Worship Ministry, announced that Cheryl Mitchell has been appointed altar server coordinator. She also noted that the liturgical theme for the coming Lenten season is "We trust in the mercy of God to overcome human frailties."

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*The next Parish Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 21, 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.*

## Council's Constitution and By-laws undergo change

The Parish Council has been taking a fresh look at its Constitution and By-laws. Doing this periodically helps to make sure that such documents are consistent with current practice and to determine whether any policies or procedures should be reconsidered.

Since the last revision of the By-laws several years ago, all parish committees, groups, and organizations have been sorted into six areas of ministry—a change that will be reflected in the revision of the By-laws. At the end of the review process, the Council itself will vote on proposed changes to their By-laws.

## Volunteer Opportunities

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 a month? Pastoral care: Donna Thompson, 688-2701.

Assistance is needed to continue the Personnel Committee's research and monitoring of parish personnel guidelines that assure all salaried employees of the parish of fair employment practices and competitive compensation levels. Can you help? Personnel Committee: Cindy Kelly, 355-0541.

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



*Parish groups can submit entries for this column to the Communications Committee or by calling Mary Lou Menches (344-1125). Provide your name and telephone number or e-mail address, and the name of your group.*

## From our Sister Church

Dear friends, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May Jesus Christ bless you all and bless your work.

I would like to share with you some of our news here in the parish. During the past two months we had some activities. We gathered the entire active groups from Beit Jala, Bethlehem, and Beit Sahour parishes (choirs, Annunciation ladies group, scouts groups, St. Vincent societies, etc.) to a general meeting held in the Annunciation building. There were 160 participants. They shared their experiences, missions, and goals, so it was a fruitful meeting.

The choir group received an invitation from France to conduct some concerts there in Arabic from July 2 to July 11, 2008.

We prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord Jesus the Christ, starting on Saturday, Dec. 15, with daily Masses. And also we have some activities during the week for this occasion; we had a little Christmas party for 85 children, and we have Christmas market, in which we sell Christmas decorations, chocolates, etc., and the revenues from it will be used to help the needy families.

On Dec. 23, there will be a big celebration for all the children of our parish, in which there will be a Children's Theater that will perform a Christmas play. After that we will give them gifts.

After Christmas, I will visit all the parishioners' houses to pray and to bless their homes. We need your prayers in this season, that God will provide us with the strength and the perseverance necessary to lead the faithful people to Christ.

Finally, I would like to thank you for everything, and I send you my regards. I will remember you in my prayers, especially in Christmas Mass.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Nidal Qanzou'a  
Parish priest

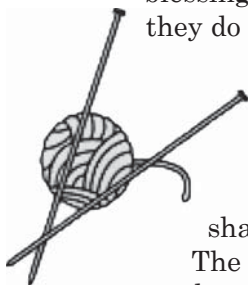
*P.S.: I checked my bank account, and there are [two] money transfers of \$3,250 each, made payable to my account, the first on Nov. 10. This money was used in buying gifts for the children and also to help some families. So we thank you again for your continued support to our parish.*



## St. Patrick's takes up Prayer Shawl Ministry

Perhaps you have heard of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, received a shawl yourself, or know of someone who has. Or this may be the first time you have encountered the words "prayer" and "shawl" together, coupled with the word "ministry." The Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in 1998 by Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo after they experienced a program of applied Feminist Spirituality taught at The Hartford Seminary by Sr. Miriam Therese Winter, MMS. From there it has grown to encompass groups throughout the country.

A prayer shawl is simply a knit-



ted or crocheted shawl. What makes it special is that the person who knits or crochets the shawl does so with intention. The maker begins by reciting a prayer or blessing for the recipient, whom they do not know. The prayers and intention are carried through the creation of the shawl and upon completion, a final blessing is offered. Then the shawl is sent on its way.

The recipient may be a new mother or someone facing surgery, undergoing chemotherapy, facing a time of loneliness and grieving after the loss of a loved one, or simply facing a situation in which the comfort of being wrapped in prayer

is needed. The shawls wrap the recipient in the prayers of the maker. They are a knitted hug, a warm arm around the shoulder, and a reminder of the unconditional love of God that enfolds us at every step in our life but is felt most especially in times of need.

St. Patrick's will begin the Prayer Shawl Ministry as a part of the Ministry of Consolation in February. On Saturday morning, February 2, we will gather in the lounge at the parish center at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the details of this ministry. We will be joined by Barbara Wuebbles from "Shawl We Pray," an ecumenical group that meets to

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## Felicia Milewski, a disciple in China

When Felicia Milewski, who is serving for a year in East Asia with Campus Crusade for Christ and is taking language classes at a university in China, refers to the



fellow students she is sharing her Christian faith with, she calls them by code names. That's because she is in a part of the world where there is no freedom of religion, and since

she has been questioned by university authorities, she is taking these precautions.

Felicia is the daughter of Chuck and Cheryl Milewski. While living in the university community, she and three young Chinese women have been meeting weekly to study the Bible together.

She recently wrote to her supporters here to describe some of her experiences in China. In her letter she speaks of three young women whom she calls sisters.

One is called Bo Peep, a sweet,

shy girl who is very quick to understand the meaning of Bible passages. Felicia writes, "Often when we look at a difficult passage together which I am prepared to explain to her, she will say, 'Oh, ok, this makes sense!'...when I ask her to explain what she thinks it means, she hits it right on the head."

"Peacock" Felicia describes as a "genteel, loving girl who has an incredibly deep faith. When we study together she always asks many questions about different areas of walking with the Lord, but through it all she seems to have a deep trust of her Father's character and overwhelming love."

The third young woman is Atlantis. Felicia describes her, as "an energetic, spunky extrovert who has an unquenchable desire to know Jesus better." Atlantis has eagerly read the Bible and other materials that Felicia has given her, and keeps asking her for more.

The girls have been inspired to share their new-found faith with other friends. One is their roommate, a Moslem. Another friend, who had joined the Communist

party, was told that she "could not learn about Jesus." But now she has decided that this prohibition doesn't matter to her, and Felicia has been sharing the gospel with her as well.

At Christmas time Atlantis, responding to a challenge from Felicia, threw an "evangelistic" Christmas party. Felicia offered her own apartment, and Atlantis eagerly did the planning. Twelve young people came. They played games and iced Christmas cookies, which Atlantis had made. To explain the true meaning of Christmas to the guests, she read the account of Jesus' birth from her Bible. The girls are following up with those guests who said they wanted to know more.

Her letter concludes, "It has been really exciting to watch these girls share their faith!"

St. Patrick's parishioners and some individual families in the parish are part of Felicia's support system. She is very grateful to those here who are supporting her ministry in prayer and with financial contributions.

## If you can pray...

St. Patrick's has a not very visible but an extremely valuable resource, a prayer network also referred to as the Prayer Tree or the Prayer Line. "The greatest thing one person can do for another is to pray for him," writes Corrie Ten Boom. "If at this moment you pray for someone, even though he is on the other side of the globe, the Lord Jesus will touch him."

Is this hard to do? Well, one parishioner who is a member of the Prayer Line recently expressed the personal satisfaction experienced by being able to serve the parish community from her kitchen table. Another parishioner, who has relied on the Prayer Line

often, said she felt great relief in the fact that she could call just one person and know that many others would be praying for her intention, regardless how insignificant or how noteworthy it might seem to anyone else.



Whether the need for prayer support is for preparing for an exam, for marriage, for a doctor's visit, for safe travel, for the birth of a child, for relief from tension or stress, for recognizing one's vocation in life,

for a family member who is dying, for a friend who is undergoing surgery, for healing of mind or body or family relationships—whatever the need, just ask to be remembered in prayer by the members of the Prayer Line.

Would you like to be on the Prayer Line as one who prays for others in need? Just ask to join them! You too can serve the parish community from your kitchen table, or from your bed or wheelchair.

To place a request for prayer, or to join the Prayer Line as a pray-er, call Nancy Steerman (328-1217) or Lu Pillar (344-4909).

### *Mesmerizing Mountains*

This small airport embedded in tall mountains of Sierra Madre del Sur was dead at first but at nine o'clock began to stir. We were led to a waiting room and then, in a group, out a side door to (behold!) a very shiny, new, defiant-looking, mid-sized plane. "I can go over any mountains you can imagine," it said. Its mirror finish radiated its magical powers. The pilot looked very Mexican, the brother, maybe, of our earlier uniformed bus driver.

Loaded, sealed up tight, bumped awkwardly down the asphalt runway, extremely unpromising—swayed like an old man—not even as graceful as his brother's lowly bus. Mountains on all sides were not impressed.



Then an overwhelming burst of silent energy, an epiphany of power from no observable source, it rose, rose, rose, transfigured...godlike! It miniaturized everything outside its windows.

A great-granddaughter of Aztec warriors stood before us in uniform, cast a spell to counter the mountains. In liturgical Spanish she told us oxygen masks would fall from the ceiling, ballet-like she demonstrated.

Mountains melted but we could still see lonely churchyards, tiny clotheslines.

These mountains had human settlements as far back as the iron-age in Europe—real people (smiling eyes, sick children, loneliness, people who had jokes, feared death, fell in love, pleaded with God). We flew with profound lack of reverence over their lives, their wild flowers, and holy silences, Mother Mary (over their dreams, their stories, sorrows), forgive us.

*Unpublished poem by Quentin Kirk*

*Shawl Ministry  
from page 8*

stitch at Faith United Methodist Church. She has been active with the shawl ministry for some time and has generously offered to give us some ideas for our ministry.

This may be a perfect ministry for those who are shut-ins as a way to share their time and talent with the parish. However, anyone may participate who likes to knit or crochet and would find this ministry appealing. It can be done in a group or at home at one's own pace. A pattern, prayers, and materials will be provided.

If this ministry speaks to you, please consider joining us in the parish center Feb. 2 at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to participate but are unable to attend the meeting, please call Nancy Olson (359-6424). More information can be found at the Prayer Shawl Web site: [www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com).



**Welcome to new parishioners** Matthew and Susan Gillenwater, Mary and Stephen Sligar, and Everett and Katharina Westmeyer.

**Farewell to these parishioners who have moved away:** Dan and Grazia DeRocco.

**Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community:** Lindsay Dang Bui, Katherine Margaret Miller, and Carly Hunter.

**Please pray for deceased parishioner** Doris Roedl.

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



A spirituality of communion implies also the ability to see what is positive in others, to welcome it and prize it as a gift from God: not only as a gift for the brother or sister who has received it directly, but also as a “gift for me.” A spirituality of communion means, finally, to know how to “make room” for our brothers and sisters, bearing “each other’s burdens” (Gal 6:2) and resisting the selfish temptations which constantly beset us and provoke competition, careerism, distrust, and jealousy.

*Pope John Paul II, Novo Millennio Ineunte*

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

## In Focus

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

Please 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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**Articles and information** for this issue were provided by Mary Lee Brady, Pat Fettig, Judy Fierke, Suzanne Kayala, Bonnie Kimball, Quentin Kirk, Mary Long, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestre, Chuck Milewski, Lenore Nagele, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Margaret Stewart, Peggy Whelan, and Joseph Youakim. This issue was edited by John Towns and paged by John and Tim Colombo. Artwork by Fr. George Wuellner.

### *Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Bonnie Kimball*

#### **White Chicken Chili**

48 oz Northern Beans, drained  
16 oz salsa  
2 t cumin  
2 chopped jalapeno peppers  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1-1/2 lbs chicken  
3 c chicken broth  
1/2 lb Monterey Jack cheese, grated



Brown chicken and cut into bite-sized pieces. Add a small amount of oil to chicken, and then add garlic, cumin, and peppers. Cook 5 minutes. Add chicken broth, salsa, and beans, and bring to a boil. Turn off heat, and add grated cheese.

\* \* \*

*If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it to Ellen Noonan (403-0979 or jpnoon@insightbb.com). The only requirement is that it be easy and quick to prepare!*





# St. Patrick's Parish

## February 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Because the calendar is prepared in advance, be sure to check the bulletin to confirm dates and times.</p> <p>The deadline for the next issue of In Focus is February 10.</p>					9am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 10:45am Mass CCNH	2pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:15pm Great Dates
					<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">             Junior/Senior High Ski Trip           </div>	
1	2					
8:30am Superbowl Breakfast 9:15am Rel Ed 10:30am Children's Liturgy	7pm Pro-Life 7pm Centering Prayer	6:30pm Mystagogia	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Masses: 7am, 12:10, 5:15, 7:30pm 5pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm JustFaith 6:30pm St. Joseph Ash Wednesday Service 7pm Choir 7pm Re-Membering Church	6:45am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Mystagogia 7pm Choir 7pm RCIA 7pm Social Action	9am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 10:30am Mass Care Center 10:45am Mass CCNH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry	7pm First Annual Refugee Center Fundraiser Dinner
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:15am Rel Ed 10:30am Children's Liturgy 4:30pm Catholic Teen Connection 6:30pm Jr. High Rel Ed	7pm Centering Prayer	5:30pm Financial Affairs 6:30pm Mystagogia	9:30am Schola 5pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm JustFaith 6:30pm St. Joseph Rel Ed 7pm Choir 7pm Re-Membering Church	6:45am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Mystagogia 7pm Choir 7pm RCIA	9am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 10:30am Mass Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass CCNH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry	Vietnamese New Year 8am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
10	11	12	13	14	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">             Teen Retreat: Destination Jesus           </div>	
15	16					
9:15am Rel Ed 10:15am K of C 6:30pm Confirmation Prep 6:30pm Jr.-Sr. High Rel Ed	7pm Centering Prayer	6:30pm Mystagogia 7pm Cursillo Meeting & Mass 7pm Worship Ministries Team	5pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm JustFaith 6:30pm SALT 6:30pm St. Joseph Rel Ed 7pm Choir 7pm Re-Membering Church	6:45am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Mystagogia 6:30pm Parish Council 7pm Choir 7pm RCIA	8am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 10:45am Mass CCNH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry	
17	18	19	20	21	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">             Cursillo Weekend           </div>	
22	23					
Library Open 8am-12pm Blood Pressure Screenings 6:30pm Sr. High Rel Ed	7pm Centering Prayer	6:30pm Mystagogia	9:30am Schola 5pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm JustFaith 7pm Choir 7pm Re-Membering Church	6:45am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Mystagogia 7pm Choir 7pm Communications 7pm RCIA	10:45am Mass CCNH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross for Peace & Justice 5:30pm Fish Fry	
24	25	26	27	28	29	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">             Cursillo           </div>						