

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

July/August 2010

Time and Talent — Two Precious Commodities

Many hands make light work, or so we hear. In a community like St. Patrick's, many hands can work miracles.

Christ told us there is much to be done but few willing to help. In working for Christ and his Church we are storing up a different kind of treasure, one that is worthy of the people of God—and that is who we are, the people of God!



Time is a precious commodity. We do seem to have much to do and little time to do it. Our days are filled by our job, our chores, our errands, being present to family and friends. We don't seem to have time for anything extra. But is an hour or two a month spent for someone else too much "extra"? The rewards can be far more satisfying than the temporary enjoyment we find doing something for ourselves alone.

What can you do that would be helpful? Well, what is it that makes you special? Maybe you have great organizational skills, are a terrific cook or good with people. Maybe you have an especially pleasant speaking voice and good read-aloud ability. Perhaps you have experienced the loss of a loved one and could help someone else who is grieving. Shopping or giving a ride for someone who needs it would be an enormous help. Spending a few moments with someone who is homebound or ill is a precious gift indeed.

Jesus asks us to live our lives so that all will know us to be his followers by how we love and serve one another.

"What shall I give to God for all that he has given me?" The gift of your precious time and your God-given talent is as necessary as your financial support to your parish. In serving one another we serve Christ. What we do for him, no matter how insignificant it may seem to us, will be like the ripples of a stone dropped in a pond—who can say how far the good of an individual act of service will reach?

At all the Masses on Aug. 28-29 we will be asked to respond to that question the psalmist raised: "What shall I give to God for all that he has given me?"

A sign for St. Patrick's

The Zoning Board sign on the corner of Main and Coler is (literally) a sign of things to come. As his Eagle Scout project, parishioner Will Justice has been developing plans for a permanent sign to identify the parish grounds. Pending approval from the Zoning Board, it will be built this summer.



Will Justice

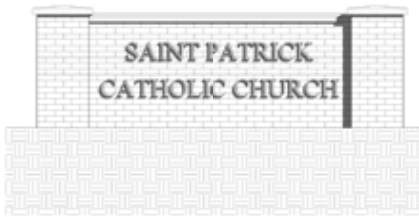
Will has been working on the design with architect Chris Niebur and the Parish Council. The plans were carefully developed to harmonize with the parish center and the church. The sign will be 14 x 4 x 2 ft., with a concrete core and brick facing. The top caps will be of limestone, and aluminum letters will read "St. Patrick Catholic Church." Chuck Shaw will arrange lighting so that it can be seen at night.

A good Eagle Scout project in-

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volves leadership and service to benefit an organization that the scout is involved in. Will has been working for months to develop the plans and move them through the Council and the Zoning Board. He has enlisted the aid of Chris, Chuck, and many others. When building time comes, some of the work will be done by a skilled mason, but there will be plenty of need for volunteers.

Would you like to help? To raise funds for the project, Will is inviting parishioners to “buy a brick.” You can buy 1 brick for \$10, 2 for \$25, 6 for \$50, 9 for \$75, or 12 for \$100. Checks made out to St. Patrick Parish can be put in the Sunday collection or dropped off at the parish office. Please write “Buy a Brick” on the check’s memo line and enclose a note telling Will who you are so he can properly acknowledge your donation. If you want to “buy a brick” in memory of someone, tell him that too.



Architectural drawing of proposed sign

Vocation Prayer



Creator God, you made us in your image. Help us to be creative in whatever work you call us to do. As members of our families, parishes, communities, and workplaces, help us to see how best to build up your Kingdom by encouraging young men and women to dedicate themselves as priests, deacons, and religious to the service of your people.



in our parish library

How do we make the Eucharist the “source and summit” of our lives as Christians? Two books in our parish library offer very different approaches.

Henri Nouwen’s *With Burning Hearts: Meditation on the Eucharistic Life* (234 NOU) offers what the author hopes will be “new food and drink on your journey to God.” Nouwen helps the reader seek a fuller understanding of the Eucharist through the story of the disciples on their way to Emmaus from Jerusalem after the Crucifixion. He shows how the Eucharist reveals the deepest of human experiences: loss, sadness, invitation, and engagement, and how we can more fully experience this sacred journey.

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

* * *

If you would like to donate books on the parish library’s wish list, please contact Lori Mestre (365-9004), library team coordinator. If you need help locating materials in the library, Lori or one of the other team members will be happy to help. The parish library is open weekdays during office hours and on the fourth and fifth Sundays of the month from 8:30 to 10:45 a.m.

Coming in August!

“Super!” “Fantastic!” “Wonderful!” These are just a few of the enthusiastic comments from patrons of last year’s Cellar-to-Garret (read “garage”) Sale, sponsored annually by the Women of St. Patrick. Proceeds from this our most successful parish fundraiser have funded such parish projects as the kitchen renovation, dishes and flatware for parish events, furniture for parish offices and the lounge, and liturgical vestments purchased in celebration of the parish’s centennial celebration—and many others.

The Cellar-to-Garret Sale will take place Aug. 19-21, following several days of setup in the parish hall. Many helping hands are needed if it is to be a success! Watch the parish bulletin for information about when and where to bring your gently used articles and the ways you can help.



On pilgrimage to the “Vatican”

Fifty-two members of our parish got to experience the highlights of the Vatican on May 25 when they took a bus trip to the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis. The exhibit, “Vatican Splendors: A Journey through Faith and Art,” is the only Midwest presentation to be held in the United States.

It took a committee of eight to organize the pilgrimage bus trip to



“Vatican Splendors.” They organized everything from renting a bus and reserving exhibit tickets to packing a sack lunch and planning bus activities. The pilgrimage began with 7:00 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick’s.

On the bus Chris Whippo quieted the pilgrims to pray the sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary, aided by a video from Family Theater Productions. After a rest stop in Effingham, everyone received a bag of food to serve as a belated breakfast or an early lunch. Chris’s father added

color by telling stories about his native Vandalia area.

The exhibit includes over 200 works of art and historically significant objects, many of which have never before left the Vatican.

An authentic atmosphere is set by a video presentation of a view of exteriors of the Vatican and breathtaking art inside the Vatican. In the dramatic lighting of the first gallery is seen an oil lamp, a brick, and a gold plaque, all objects found in St. Peter’s tomb. Also on display is a jewel-encrusted reliquary with tiny slivers of bones from Sts. Peter and Paul, together with a reproduction of the old ivory cathedra (chair) of St. Peter.

The most artistically impressive gallery was devoted to Michelangelo. Entry is through a half-scale reproduction of the Filarete Doors to see the stately white cast of the “Pieta” glowing softly in the dimmed lighting. Nearby was a hallway transformed into a reproduction of Michelangelo painting the Sistine Chapel, with scaffolding, paints, and tools.

This hallway led to the “Renaissance Basilica” Gallery, which described the construction of the new St. Peter’s Basilica, authorized in 1506 by Pope Julius. For over 100 years the most famous architects worked on it, including Michelangelo and Bernini. On display is a timeline of the construction’s progress, together with actual tools and objects used, including Michelangelo’s caliper and a dress sword of Bernini.

Across the Grand Hall were the galleries covering the 500 years from the Council of



Trent to contemporary times. Highlighted were tempera and oil paintings, vestments, liturgical objects, and a bronze cast of the hand of Pope John Paul II. There was also a gallery devoted to the Archdiocese of St. Louis, with mosaic samples, tools, and photos telling the story of the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica.

The tour ended with the obligatory visit to the gift shop filled with books and religious objects. Some of the pilgrims indulged in purchases, while others found time to visit the Charles A. Lindbergh and 1904 World’s Fair exhibits before boarding the bus for home.

This Vatican exhibit opened May 15 and will continue to Sept. 12 before traveling to another museum. The museum itself is free, but there is an admission charge to “Vatican Splendors.” If you’d like to make arrangements for your own pilgrimage there, contact the museum by phone (314/746-4599) or online (www.mohistory.org) for information.



The whole is indeed greater than the sum of its parts!

Lest you think that having attended one Catholic Connected event, you have “been there, done that,” think again. This year’s event retained the ambiance and spirit of last year’s but the messenger was quite different in style of delivery from Bishop Jenky. From beginning to end, this year’s event addressed how large and encompassing the Church is today and how we are united in faith, whatever our differences may be.

“Catholic Connected: Beyond the Pew” took place June 8 in the Foelinger Great Hall at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, on the campus of the University of Illinois. Parishioners from the 19 parishes comprising the Champaign Vicariate were invited to attend the evening, with its gorgeous music, worship, and a message from Fr. Stan Fortuna, a Franciscan Friar who lives and works in the South Bronx.

The Great Hall stage was adorned with banners representing each parish in the Vicariate, underscoring the fact that even in East Central Illinois we are a part of something

much bigger than any one of us. Our own Fr. Joe Hogan gave a welcome that was characteristically warm and filled with facts and figures about the Catholic Church, both locally and worldwide.

Following a prayer, the All-Area Choir sang a variety of selections, including some that the assembly was encouraged to join in. Later, music director Laura Theby accompanied parishioner Ricardo Herrera as he sang the moving “Aria from St. Peter” (Sir J. Benedict). The music for the evening was carefully chosen to reflect the variety of musical styles in which we can praise the Lord.

Fr. Stan’s presentation was musical, rollicking, funny—and spiritually deep. He is a talented singer and guitarist, and as he sang and played one could feel the strength and depth of his faith. His delivery included hip hop lingo and poetry, sharing the inspirations he has received in his life from several saints,

for example St. Teresa of Avila and St. Therese of Lisieux—or, as he referred to them, “Big T” and “little t.” From St. Teresa he learned that even if we feel we have nothing to give, we are to give the Lord that nothing. One could not miss understanding this simple message.

Fr. Steve Willard, from Holy Cross, closed the program by singing the Irish Blessing, a lovely and fitting ending as the group adjourned to the reception. Seeing and spending time with Catholics from all over East Central was both motivating and enriching, and it left us wanting more.

Many thanks to those who worked so very hard to make this an unforgettable evening of reflection and fellowship. Special thanks to Fr. Joe, Mary Long, Laura Theby, and those who sang in the choir. Your many hours of preparation and planning resulted in the spiritual strengthening of many in the Catholic faith.



From Our Parish Nurses: Summer Health Tips

For many people, summertime means fun in the sun. Here are a few simple precautions to follow to for a safe, fun, and healthy summer:

- Wear sunscreen when outdoors. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer and protection of your skin from ultraviolet (UV) radiation can help prevent skin cancer. Wear sunscreen even on cloudy or overcast days; UV rays can travel through clouds. Also, wear a lip balm with sunscreen protection. While some experts advocate for short periods of unprotected sunlight to help with vitamin D deficiency, the key here is moderation; most experts agree you should not be unprotected for more than 10-15 minutes.
- Wear sunglasses. They can help protect your eyes from damage from the sun. UV exposure has been linked to cataract formation and other eye disorders. Wear glasses with 99% to 100% UV absorption, especially around water, which can reflect a tremendous amount of light to your eyes.
- Remember to drink plenty of fluids and take frequent breaks when working and playing in the sun.



Peace is Shalom—well-being of mind, heart, and body, individually and communally. It can exist in the midst of a war-torn world, even in the midst of unresolved problems and increasing human conflicts. Jesus made that peace by giving his life for his brothers and sisters. This is no easy peace, but it is everlasting and it comes from God. Are we willing to give our lives in the service of peace?

—Henry Nowen

Vacation Bible School a big hit

VBS (as it is commonly known), the popular summertime program held at St. Patrick's during the last week of June, was "a big hit for everyone," according to children's program coordinator, Suzanne D'Andria. "We had over 140 kids aged 4-20" with older folks helping young participants. Over 30 junior high and high school students volunteered this year.

The theme was "High Seas Adventure," as anyone could guess who walked through the main hall or

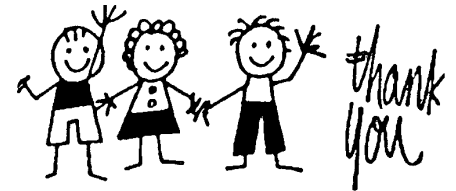
any of the classrooms, adorned with nautical graphics, last week.

"We heard and acted out Bible stories every day with our friends, and we learned all about how God's word affects our life," Suzanne said. "We learned new songs and movements for them that were shared at the beginning and end of each day. The dancing and singing at the opening and closing sessions were a big hit!" (Do you suppose they sang "I'm Popeye the Sailor Man"? Well, maybe not.)



Special calls for volunteers

- Can you lend your ideas and talents to the Liturgical Arts Team for the seasonal enhancement of our worship space? *Jan Callahan, 469-9346*
- The Communications Committee is seeking a correspondent to report on Parish Council meetings for *In Focus*. *Judy Fierke, 352-7670*
- If you enjoy singing in the shower (or in church!), consider lending your voice to swell the marvelous sound of our parish choirs. There are many to choose from: the 9:00 choir, the 10:30 choir, the children's choir, the funeral schola. *Laura Theby, 531-7003*



Parish groups or individuals can submit entries for this column to the Communications Committee or contact Mary Lou Menches (344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu). Provide your name and telephone number or e-mail address with a brief description of the kind of help being sought.

Did you know?

- The magazine rack that formerly stood outside the multipurpose room has been moved to the parish library, where you can continue to find your favorite Catholic periodicals and newspapers. A wall display of parish and other publications, organized and monitored by our staff, is now in place outside the multipurpose room.
- The first pew on each side of the church is reserved for the frail and the infirm who come to celebrate Mass with us.
- Fr. Vincent Doan Bui, a former parishioner and University of Illinois graduate (as well as a faithful member of the Communications Committee for several years!) was ordained for the Diocese of Lansing, Mich., in 1995 and now serves young men and women in California. More on Fr. Bui in a later issue.



Q: Sometimes the servers hold candles on either side of the priest while he reads the Gospel. Why at some times and not at others?

A: If there are at least two servers, they will usually carry lighted candles during the entrance procession and during the proclamation of the Gospel. It's as simple as that. The liturgical books say that the servers may carry candles, but it isn't a requirement. It is a wonderfully rich custom, though.

Any time you see a candle in the liturgy, you may be sure that we are saying something about Christ, the Light of the World and the light of our lives. We believe that Christ is present in the proclamation of the Gospel. We show this not only by the candles, but also by standing in reverence, by singing "Alleluia," and by our response addressed directly to him, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

At times in our history, the procession with the Gospel book has been seen as a foretaste of Jesus' coming in glory at the end of time. We express that glory in song and with the light of candles.

Another way to think of it is to consider the parallels with Holy Communion. When we break bread and feast on the Body of Christ, we do it at a banquet table adorned with candles. When we break open the Word of God and take it into our hearts, we do it at the ambo, the "altar" of the Word, and it too is adorned with candles.

This is an ancient custom. Writing in the fifth century, St. Jerome says that it is the custom to light candles at the proclamation of the Gospel, even on the brightest of days, to give joy to the gathering. So we are grateful to our servers who help us to recall this rich tradition.

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



Patron Saints for July

Fr. George Wuellner



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of In Focus is August 15.

St. Patrick 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. Materials must include the name and telephone number of the person submitting them.

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 Judy Fierke, Elizabeth Hendricks, Peggy Loftus, Mary Long, Mary Lou Menches, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Nancy Roth, Cathy Salika, Shirley Splittstoesser, Margaret Stewart, Chris Whippo, and Peggy Whelan. July/August saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches and paged by John Colombo.

CREW “ready for blast-off”!

On Sunday, July 11, St. Patrick’s Parish will send forth a CREW that is primed and ready to accomplish a mission. Twenty-six teenage members of CREW (Christ Renews Everyone’s World) mission group, accompanied by 13 adult leaders, will be on their way to East St. Louis on the tenth CREW mission trip. In honor of this anniversary, four Jubilee Friends have also been invited to join them for the trip.

After attending the 10:30 Mass, the group will be given a blessing and soon be on their way to East St. Louis. Family, friends, and well-wishers are welcome to gather outside for the send-off in front of the church.

In this tenth anniversary year of their first annual mission trip, CREW will return to East St. Louis to assist the East St. Louis Action Research Project (ESLARP). Working through the University of Illinois, ESLARP directs service learning and action research. It coordinates mission vol-

unteers with residents and community organizations in distressed areas. Four years ago, the CREW team worked on repairs inside Opal’s House, the first domestic violence shelter to open in the East St. Louis area. This year, plans involve assisting with outside enhancements, including re-siding part of the house, building a fence, and landscaping a new children’s playground.

Although definitely not Benedictines, CREW members will follow a routine for the week that is in keeping with St. Benedict’s motto, “Pray and work.” Each evening, after a day of lending helping hands in very physical ways, they will unite in prayer, a Bible study on the theme “Team Jesus,” a social justice study, and a “Catholic Olympics” event (hmm, that’s intriguing). According to past reports, there is also likely to be a good measure of fun on the side. On Monday, Fr. Joe Hogan will join the team for a day of work,

followed by celebration of Mass at their home base for the week, The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois. When Fr. Joe appears, Fun always seems to slip her foot in the door!

By Friday, the group hopes to say “mission accomplished” and go off to explore The City Museum in downtown St. Louis. Return arrival at St. Patrick’s is tentatively expected to be around midnight on Friday—before the bus with all its occupants turns into a pumpkin!

Stay tuned: The returning team will have a lot to report to St. Patrick’s parishioners, who helped to “send them packing.” Please continue to keep CREW and their adult leaders in prayer.



NCR interview with Dr. Susan Nagele

National Catholic Reporter has an extensive interview with Dr. Susan Nagele in which she talks about her missionary work, its impact on her spirituality, and the special gifts of a lay woman in the missions. Susan, you may recall, is a life-long parishioner of St. Patrick’s who has served in the Maryknoll missions in Africa since 1984. You can read the interview at <http://ncronline.org/news/emerging-church-laypeople-future-missions>.



David, a man on a mission

When parishioner David Kraft first met Fr. Stan, who assisted at St. Patrick's two years ago, he didn't realize that what he learned from the visiting priest from Tanzania would lead to a mind-opening trip to that far-away place and a commitment to raise money for the school that Fr. Stan envisioned.

The school, named Kwauso, is to be a coeducational secondary school serving 14- to 21-year-olds. Students will come from hundreds of miles to attend, so it will be a boarding school. The need for a secondary school is great in this poor country, where the average family income for a year is only \$300.

Fr. Stan has raised about \$200,000 so far, and that has paid for the construction of five buildings. David's goal is to raise another \$75,000, which will be used for bathrooms, a sewage system, glass for the windows, and completion of a fence. These will make it possible for the school to open with an enrollment of 40-80 students. Eventually the school will accommodate 400 students.

All the labor so far has been done by local people, who work without the machinery we take for granted. The land was donated by the city of Bukoba, the regional capital where the school is located, because of the importance of the school to the area.

To reach Bukoba, David took 12 flights. He was warmly welcomed, and people came from miles around bearing gifts. Even the bishop and the mayor of the city came to meet him. He was so aware of the poverty around him that he was humbled and deeply touched by their generosity. When the school is finished, he plans to return for the grand opening.

David hopes to encourage donations that will help complete Fr. Stan's project. If you choose to help make this school a reality, send your check, payable to "St. Mary's (Kwauso)," to St. Mary's Church, 79 W. Third St., El Paso, IL 61738.



Shy but curious youngsters came to greet this white stranger from America.



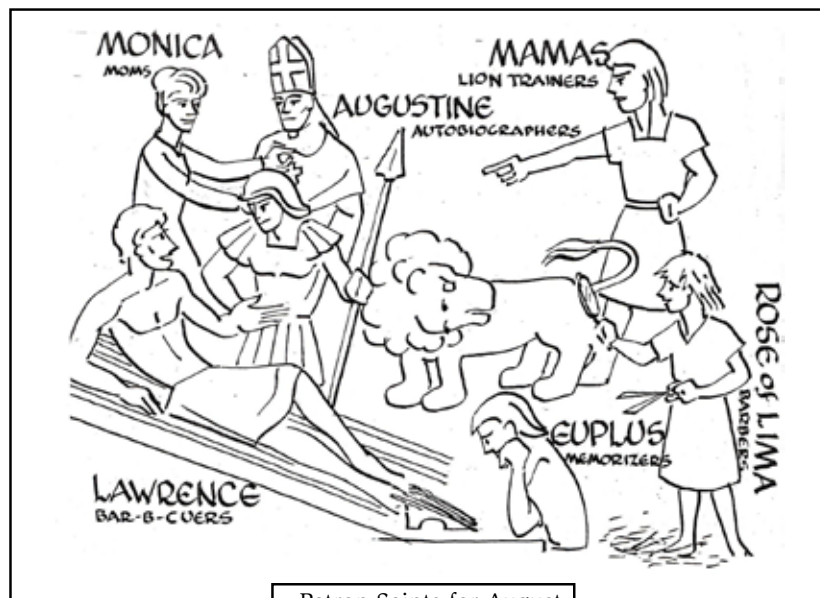
David Kraft was introduced to the local bishop, left, by Fr. Stan.



Close-up of an entry to one of the school buildings—all made through the efforts of local people without the benefit of construction equipment.



New buildings, in a lonely landscape, await a sewage system, bathrooms, window glass, and a fence to protect the school children from marauding animals.



Patron Saints for August

Seniors Group plans luncheon in Amish country

St. Patrick's Seniors Group met June 9 for their summer potluck luncheon. Members welcomed Margaret Hartrich as a new member, and guest Betty Steel.

For the luncheon, Ron Eagan prepared the turkey breast in his new oven, part convection and part microwave. Bill Plymire called Bingo until everyone had received a white-elephant prize. The committee planning the event included Betty Blanco, Bill and Ruth Plymire, Mary Jo Thomsen, Betty D'Urso, Ron Eagan, Leo Wood, and Walter and Shirley Splittstoesser.

For their next meeting, Oct. 15, the group decided to have lunch at an Amish farmhouse near Sullivan, Ill. The cost will be \$15. Participants will meet at St. Patrick's parking lot at 10:00 a.m. and carpool to Sullivan. After the meal, individuals may go for a short buggy ride, look at farm animals, or carpool to other interesting places nearby. Places mentioned were Bechy's Grocery, Miller's Fabricks, Rockome Gardens, and The Pumpkin Patch.

If you plan to participate, send a check for \$15 payable to St. Patrick Church, noting "Amish Trip" on the memo line. You can mail it to St. Patrick Church, 708 W. Main St., Urbana, IL 61801, or give it to Dianne in the parish office.

Questions? Call Shirley Splittstoesser (367-3330).



Marcia Reed explains arrangements for the Amish lunch.



New member Margaret Hartrich (left) contemplates her gift while Mary Jo Thomsen patiently watches her cards for the next winning number.



Carefully wrapped white-elephant gifts await Bingo winners.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Nancy Olson



Chicken Marsala

2 whole boneless, skinless chicken breasts
Flour for dredging
Salt and pepper to taste
1 T olive oil
1 T butter
1/2 c Marsala wine
1/2 c chicken stock
1 c sliced fresh mushrooms

Cut each chicken breast in half, and pound to 1/4 inch thick. Season with salt and pepper. Dredge in flour and shake off the excess. Heat oil and butter in a large sauté pan. Add the chicken and lightly brown each side, about 2 minutes per side. Add the Marsala, chicken stock, and mushrooms. Cook until the mushrooms soften and the sauce thickens slightly, about 5 minutes.

* * *

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