

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

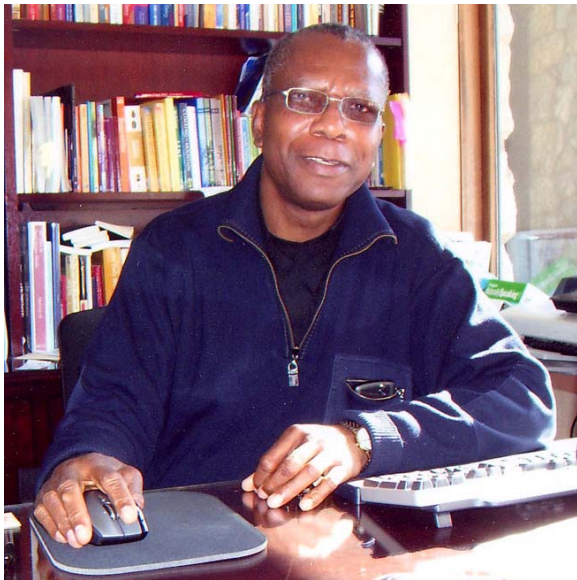


www.stpaturbana.org

March 2010

## Meet Father Mike

We happily welcome Fr. Mike Adrie to St. Patrick's. Together with Fr. Tran, he is helping our parish while Fr. Joe is on his three-month sabbatical. (Details on the sabbatical are in the February *In Focus* and on the parish Web site.)



About half a century ago, Fr. Mike was born on a beautiful farm in Ghana. He lived on the farm for nine years. They grew cocoa as the main cash crop, and also grew for themselves a few acres of beans, maize, tomatoes, cassavas, eggplants, and onions. They kept chickens, ducks, and goats. He enjoyed playing with his brother and sister.

While still a child, his mother died; later his father remarried and had three more children. By then most of the farmers were moving to

nearby villages for electricity and community water wells. Villages were also safer than isolated farmsteads from random crime, which could strike at night. They still owned the farm, and would walk, bike, or motorbike to it every day to work.

Fr. Mike is the only child in his family who joined an apostolic community order. He became a priest of the Society of African Missions (SMA) in 1992. As a member of a missionary order, he has served in a number of African countries and traveled all over the world. He has been assigned to Niger, Kenya, Congo, and Togo where, from 2001 to 2007, he led the African group of the Society of African Missions. He also studied Peace and Justice at the Missionary Institute in London, England.

Fr. Mike first visited Illinois in 1998. He said it was Providence that brought him here because he was supposed to go to New York, but the place was already occupied by another priest and he was therefore asked to go to St. Pius X Parish in Rock Island. He returned there for three successive summers. Fr. Mike speaks lovingly of a Rock Island family who "adopted" him and whom he still visits.

Immediately after Fr. Mike's six

## "I'm bored with Lent already!"

Ten days down, thirty to go, and you're bored. Why should that be? If you are using this Lent to repent of something you've repented of in a dozen Lents before, well, that *would* be boring—better to trust in God's forgiveness and move on. If you use this Lent to focus on yourself, that could be boring too.

Boring isn't necessarily bad; much of our spiritual life could be considered boring. Mass is much the same every Sunday. The words of the Our Father remain constant. The Scriptures haven't changed much in 2000 years. If these seem boring to you, maybe that's okay. Prayer takes more faith and love when it's hard and boring than when it's easy and warm. Surely God recognizes this and blesses us, even if we don't recognize this at the time. Persistence is praised in many prophets' lives and gospel parables.

What about *this* Lent, then? Maybe this is the Lent to spend thinking about others. How can you strengthen your family, parish, or community? How can you help someone in need, not just with your money, but also with your time and your presence? Who needs your prayers? What can you do to make the world a little more just, the Kingdom of God a little



See **Father Mike** on page 2

See **Lent** on page 6

## St. Pat's Day celebration a major parish event!

Grab your shillelagh and dust off your penny whistle—the Day of our patron is nigh upon us! The annual parish celebration will take place on the weekend of Mar. 13–14. Saturday evening's event is set aside for the grown-ups, with dinner serenaded by a live Irish band and home-mixed recorded music for after-dinner socializing or dancing. It's a party sure to please the hungry, those blessed with the gift of gab, and those with a little boogie-woogie in their sole(s). Sunday afternoon includes festivities that will appeal to parishioners of all ages: treats, crafts, Irish dancers, and other live entertainment. It promises to be a fun weekend for the entire parish community!

Tickets to the Saturday evening dinner (doors open at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30) will be available starting on Sunday, Feb. 28, during coffee shop. Attendees who wish to enjoy alcoholic beverages (responsibly, so

the Saint would approve!) are encouraged to bring them. Soda, tea, coffee, and other non-alcoholic beverages will be



provided throughout the evening.

Sunday's celebration is from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. and is free of charge. Flyers and bulletin announcements will provide details.

Because many hands make light work, both events need many volunteers to set up, cook, serve, and clean up! Many tasks are short-term to let you pitch in for a while and then party. Tell us your interests, and we'll find a job to match! Donated desserts are also appreciated for both events, so get your oven preheated. If you can help with either Saturday's or Sunday's celebration, please contact Don or Laura Keefer (337-0768 or [dlrj.keefe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dlrj.keefe@sbcglobal.net)).



*May you always have walls  
for the winds,  
A roof for the rain,  
tea beside the fire,  
Laughter to cheer you,  
those you love near you,  
And all that your heart might desire!*

## Father Mike from page 1

years in Togo, he was reassigned to Illinois. He went to St. Thomas in Peoria Heights, where he helped out during Msgr. William Watson's sabbatical. Msgr. Watson is a long-time friend of Father Joe.

When asked why priests of his order, the Society of African Missions, are sent to other parts of the world, Fr. Mike said that the missionary work in Africa cannot survive without help from the established churches of the developed world. Some parts of Africa don't have enough Catholics to support the development of the Church by themselves.

Fr. Mike likes baseball and especially basketball, which he used to play. He also ran as a sprinter. He is quite fond of America. His favorite foods are Illinois beef and catfish. In fact, he enjoyed fishing during his stays at Rock Island.

When speaking about solving the problems that arise while running a parish, Fr. Mike said, "The priest doesn't do it, it is God who does it, if we listen and pray." Let's hope that Fr. Mike enjoys his time here. May we all "listen and pray" to God for his success.

## Prayer shawls blessed

Thanks to all who are making shawls for the prayer shawl ministry. It is a great act of love to pray countless prayers while crafting a beautiful gift for someone whom you may never know. At a blessing ceremony on Feb. 19, nearly a dozen shawls were blessed in preparation for being given away.

Shawls are available for anyone in need of prayer and the comfort that a shawl can bring. Past recipients have included those who were ill, care givers, persons facing serious surgery, and those who were at a time in their life when they needed the care and comfort of being wrapped



in prayer. Anyone may pick one up from the parish office and deliver it. Each shawl has a card attached with the maker's name and the names of those who were present at its blessing. We simply ask that you let us know who the maker was and who the recipient is. This information is kept in a ministry log book.

If you prefer that a staff member or a member of the ministry deliver a shawl, we will be happy to do so. Please contact Mary Long at the parish office, Nancy Olson (359-6424, [nancybolson@yahoo.com](mailto:nancybolson@yahoo.com)), or Jolene McGrogan (344-6569, [jmcgrogan1@comcast.net](mailto:jmcgrogan1@comcast.net)).

Our Lenten practice should help us to accompany in spirit the nonviolent Jesus who walks from the desert—where he rejects the temptations to violence—to Jerusalem, where he confronts the structures of violence and gives his life for humanity through loving nonviolence. Somehow, we need to walk with him, share his spirit, take up his cross, and carry on his work of compassion and peace.

~ John Dear, S.J.



## Volunteers needed

▪ The church is due for its annual Spring Cleaning on Saturday, Mar. 27, and this year the activity has been expanded to give the parish center a thorough cleaning as well. Have a great time with friends and neighbors giving God's house (and ours) a special shine for Holy Week and Easter! *Kathy McKenzie, 328-2241*

▪ In April, the parish will elect three parishioners to the Parish Council to fill vacancies created by retiring members Mary Rose Cottingham, Susan Hublein, and Marty Sierra-Perry. Have you considered the possibility that God may be calling you to serve your parish as a Council member? Pray, listen, and call! *Mary Rose Cottingham, 355-5721*



*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](mailto: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 Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 14 this year, is called Laetare Sunday because the opening antiphon in the Latin Mass begins with the words "Laetare, Jerusalem," which is translated "Rejoice, O Jerusalem." It marks the halfway point of the season, and priests have the option of wearing rose-colored vestments.

## Communal Reconciliation...

### *What it is and what it isn't*

A story goes that one Saturday evening a penitent entered the reconciliation room of a church. The priest there had just finished celebrating Mass and was wearing a small wireless microphone as usual. Outside the room, the red "occupied" light was on. Several parishioners stood in line quietly, meditating as they waited their turn. Suddenly a voice came over the public address system: "Bless me, Father, for I have..." and a loud squawk as the priest turned off the mike.

This can't happen at Communal Reconciliation services (also referred to as Communal Penance services), in case you wondered what we do when we celebrate the sacrament together. During those services, confession is a very private option following a communal preparation.

In Advent and Lent we gather for this revised rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to restore to public consciousness the social dimension of sin. That purpose becomes clearer each time we participate.

The service includes hymns, a reading from Scripture, a homily, an examination of conscience, and an expression of sorrow for sin with a firm purpose of amendment. Together we acknowledge that no one is free from sin, that we are all called to a continual change of heart, and that we all need God's merciful and healing love.

With this healing love in mind, those who wish to receive the sacrament are invited to approach one of the several priests, stationed at strategically private places around the church, for individual confession. Two stations, in rooms at the back of the church, provide for the penitent to remain anonymous if desired, with a screen between priest and penitent.

In quiet conversation following the penitent's confession, the priest offers some encouragement or advice, followed by a penance,



absolution, and a blessing.

No one is hurried. A respectful distance is kept by those waiting, and the lines often become long, for confession seems popular! Why? Because with the forgiveness of sin we experience the healing love of God and are assured of having been reconciled once again with God, with one another, and with ourselves. What peace this gives!

This Lent the local Church gathers for communal reconciliation on three successive evenings in three parishes:

- Monday, Mar. 15, at Holy Cross
- Tuesday, Mar. 16, at St. Patrick's
- Wednesday, Mar. 17, at St. Matthew's

The service, the same each evening, begins at 7 p.m., with priests from all three parishes participating in each. If you haven't yet experienced communal reconciliation, you won't want to miss this opportunity, available to us only twice a year!

## SVDP Food Pantry innovates



Many students at The High School of St. Thomas More have recently been recognized for their achievements both inside and outside of the classroom. Of these, some are St. Patrick parishioners.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission recognized 19 students as 2010 Illinois State Scholars. Among them are parishioners Tim Colombo, Tyler Faught, Johanna McCarthy, and Andy Wszalek. This prestigious award is given annually to high school students from 752 schools in all 102 Illinois counties. Illinois State Scholars rank in the top ten percent of high school seniors. Selection is based on SAT, ACT, and/or Prairie State Achievement Exam scores, and/or class rank at the end of the junior year.

St. Patrick's STM students who received the IHSA Scholastic Recognition Certificate for their academic achievement in the classroom while participating in fall athletics include Gracie Mayer, Theresa Welle, and Andrew Wszalek (Cross Country); Michael Wagner and Patrick Wagner (Football); Matt Tate (Golf); and Jarred Koerner (Soccer).

Congratulations to all our students for their scholastic achievements!

### *Is that for here or to go?*

Sharing food and fellowship at a table together is a basic Christian tradition, so it's not surprising that members of the Women of St. Patrick found themselves with a similar idea. What if we invited visitors to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry to share a meal, with volunteers from the food pantry and from other ministries at St. Patrick's? They would enjoy a delicious home-cooked meal and get to learn more about the people of St. Patrick's. Conversely, we would get to know better those whom we try to serve.

As the WSP developed the idea, it was natural to involve the Peace and Justice Ministry. The Knights of Columbus joined in, and when the Friends of the SVDP Food Pantry dinner was finally served on Jan. 20, volunteers from the Good Samaritans, the Young Adults group and other parish ministries joined in to make the event a success.

Response to invitations issued through the food pantry, was enthusiastic. Organizer Chris Whippo warned volunteers to expect as many as 200 guests. There were even worries that there might not be enough food for the plan to allow guests to take home leftovers.

Unfortunately, the day began with freezing rain that didn't let up until evening. Some guests began lining up outside the parish center at 4 p.m., but the hazardous weather kept others away. Still, about 135 guests were able to attend that night.

When the doors opened at 4:30 p.m., guests were greeted, given name tags, and invited to tables decked out with tablecloths and vases of fresh flowers. Each table had a parish host to help put the guests at ease.

After all were seated, Fr. Joe welcomed the guests and led the prayer. Then the feasting began! Guests and volunteers alike marveled at the bountiful buffet table. Baked ham and fried chicken took pride of place, but thanks to parishioners' generous food donations, there were many delicious choices to be made among meat loaf, stews and soups, casseroles, vegetable dishes, salads, and desserts.

Conversation was as plentiful as the food. For many guests, this was a social occasion. One disabled man, who can seldom leave his home, was particularly excited by the chance for conversation and socializing. Several table hosts remarked that they easily found topics of common interest to talk about with guests.

When dinner was over, guests were provided with containers and encouraged to take leftovers home. (Despite earlier fears, there were more than enough leftovers.) Most guests were happy to look forward to another delicious meal, but not one little girl. "Don't take it home," she begged her aunt. "I wanna come back and eat *here* again!" She was not alone in her desire. There were many thanks to be heard, from volunteers as well as guests.

Among the 30 or more volunteers who helped out, some deserve special note. A couple of the food pantry clients worked as volunteers for the dinner. One later wrote a letter of thanks for having the chance to contribute to the dinner. A group of women from WSP had arrived first thing in the morning to prepare and serve a funeral dinner, and after cleaning up from that, without a

break they started preparing for the evening dinner. Some of these amazing women put in a 12-hour day!





**Q: How can I find the tabernacle when I'm in an unfamiliar church?**

**A:** In many older churches,

the tabernacle is centrally located behind the altar. More recent documents of the Church say that the tabernacle should be placed away from the altar, someplace beautiful, prominent, and suitable for private prayer. During the Mass, we welcome Christ who comes among us by our attentiveness, by hearing his Word, by the presence of the priest and the community of believers, as well as by our receiving him in Holy Communion. When we pray before the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass, we recall his real and enduring presence with us. These expressions of Jesus' presence are related but distinct, so the Church tries to set aside a distinct space for each.

The Mass requires a large space to accommodate the community, but a more intimate space better serves prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Thus, the tabernacle might be on one side, as at St. Patrick, or in a side chapel or in a room nearby. The sure way to find the tabernacle is to look for the vigil candle burning nearby. This candle, like every candle used in worship, reminds us of Christ, the Light of the World, and draws attention to his presence in the reserved Eucharist.

This is a practical question because, when we genuflect upon entering a church, we genuflect toward our Lord, present in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. (So don't genuflect on Good Friday, when the tabernacle stands bare and empty!) If the tabernacle is not apparent, then the custom is to bow toward the altar as an act of reverence.

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

## Spring cleaning party planned for Mar. 27

Our church is so much more than a building. It's the place where we celebrate, ask for God's blessing, gain strength and wisdom for our days, marry, baptize, and remember God's victory over death when a loved one passes on to be with him.



Still, it *is* a building, and buildings need the care of human hands. Take, for example, the Rising Christ above our altar. Stunning, isn't it? Yet it and its supporting wires need a good dusting. It's been so long since its last cleaning that cobwebs have formed.

Coming up is an opportunity to clean St. Patrick's church from top to bottom in time for our Easter celebration. Just before Holy Week, on Saturday, Mar. 27, parishioners will join in a day of washing windows and doors, dusting, vacuuming, and polishing.

Fr. Joe has asked the Women of St. Patrick, which is sponsoring the



cleaning party, to include the parish center in the spring cleaning so that it too receives the attention it needs to remain an attractive, welcoming space for parish events, activities, and meetings. He would like to have both buildings given a thorough cleaning twice a year, the second time following the Cellar-to-Garret Sale (Sept. 11).

All parish ministries will be asked to collaborate in this effort, and parishioners of all ages are invited to help in some way, so come along and bring your family and friends. Contact Kathy McKenzie (328-2241 or kamckenz@illinois.edu), and join others in a fun and productive day of service.

The Women of St. Patrick plan to make the all-parish effort even more enjoyable by providing food, music, and door prizes.

We have a unique opportunity to demonstrate our love for the place where we find such a warm welcome and so much love. Come one, come all!

## March is National Nutrition Month

### From Our Parish Nurses:

March is a great time to reflect on healthy food choices and holistic eating. Because the keys to healthy eating are balance, variety, and moderation, here are some tips:

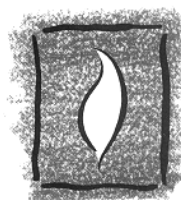
- **Enjoy plenty of whole grains, fruits and vegetables.** Do you get 2-4 servings of fruit and 3-5 servings of vegetables a day? Fill your fridge with raw vegetables and fruits—"nature's fast food"—cleaned, fresh, and ready to eat.
- **Eat moderate portions.** The recommended serving size of cooked meat is 3 oz., the size of a deck of playing cards. One serving of pasta is just half a cup.
- **Keep your fat intake**

**down.** Choose skim or low-fat dairy products and lean cuts of meat.

- **Choose a variety of plant-based foods.** Such a diet is rich in the anti-oxidant vitamins, C, E, and beta carotene. These may protect us from some of the changes associated with aging, cancer, and heart disease, and they often reduce obesity. (Don't be like the typical American whose anti-oxidants come mostly from coffee.)

- **Make changes gradually.** You won't revamp your eating habits overnight. Start with modest changes that can add up to positive, life-long changes.

May the Lord bless and strengthen our bodies, minds, and spirits for his service and the good of others. Happy eating!



## Lent from page 1

nearer?

Behind all that we do is the deeper reality of what God does. Have you ever wondered what God is doing this Lent? Is God helping you, prodding you? But you don't have to figure out what God is doing; it's enough to trust that God is indeed at work in your life.

Then all that we do in Lent becomes a response to God, given as freely and generously as he gives himself to us. Then perhaps we will want to do something better, or more, or less, or different.

On the first Sunday of Lent one year, a choir was practicing the Kyrie and the director said, "Sing it like a love song!" In boredom, in persistence, in community, in trust, can you make this Lent a love song?

### Did you know . . . ?

- The ashes for Ash Wednesday are prepared by our parish sacristan, Mary Ann Luedtke, who makes them by burning palms from the year before. On Palm Sunday, Mar. 28, you can bring in last year's palms to provide the makings of ashes for next year's Ash Wednesday. A receptacle for the palms will be in the church vestibule.
- You don't need to wait for the fall fundraising campaign to contribute to the building fund for the expansion of St. Patrick's church. You can start contributing now. Simply make out your check to St. Patrick Parish Building Fund.
- Morene Christman has volunteered to serve as the Recording Secretary for St. Patrick's Parish Council. (Clap, clap!)

## St. Katharine Drexel, pioneer of racial integration

When Jesus told the rich young man to sell all he had and give it to the poor, the young man went away. Not so Katharine Drexel! She was an immensely wealthy and privileged young woman when she stunned Philadelphia society in 1889 by entering a convent and giving her inheritance to her mission to provide and educate Native Americans and African Americans.

Katharine Drexel was born in 1858. To share their wealth, her parents opened their home several times a week to give out food, clothes, and rent assistance. Still, Katharine and her sisters lived lavishly. During her early twenties, while nursing her mother who was ill with cancer, Katharine saw that her family's wealth could not protect them from suffering and death. She began to feel Christ calling her.

While traveling with her father in the northwest territories of the United States in the 1880s, Katharine had witnessed Native Americans' desperate poverty. A few years later, Pope Leo XIII received her and her sisters in a private audience. She asked the pope to send more missionaries to help the American Indians. Leo then asked why she did not become a missionary herself.

Katharine was shaken. She felt strongly drawn to the contemplative religious life, not the active life of a missionary. However, she accepted the challenge. At the urging of her spiritual advisor, once she had taken her vows she founded her own order, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, to be sure to work with those she was most concerned with, Native Americans and African Americans.

Most challenging for her was establishing schools and promoting racial integration; this was many years before the Civil Rights movement. Schools were vandalized or destroyed; the Ku Klux Klan threat-



ened the Sisters; one state legislature tried to outlaw their efforts. Still they persevered, even when opposition came from within the Church.

Katharine's commitment to social justice is a more enduring legacy for us than even her voluntary poverty. Her support for minorities arguably started the American

Catholic Church on the road to integration. In 60 years she established 65 schools, centers, and churches in the U.S. and Haiti. Still, she took her poverty so seriously that in old age she refused a wheelchair, instead simply bolting wheels to a wooden chair.

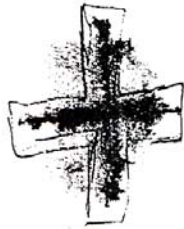
Katharine was beatified in 1988 and canonized in 2000, when two miraculous cures of deafness, in 1974 and 1994, were attributed to prayers for her intercession. Her feast day is observed on Mar. 3.



Almighty God, giver of all good gifts,  
give your grace to all whom you call  
to any office or ministry for your people.  
Give us the courage and generosity  
to respond to your call to service,  
and fill us with holiness so that we may  
faithfully serve you and your people.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
the model of all service.

## Forgiving the Church

When we have been wounded by the Church, our temptation is to reject it. But when we reject the Church, it becomes very hard for us to keep in touch with the living Christ. When we say, "I love Jesus, but I hate the Church," we end up losing not only the Church but Jesus too. The challenge is to forgive the Church. This challenge is especially great because the Church seldom asks us for forgiveness, at least not officially. But the Church as an often fallible human organization needs our forgiveness, while the Church as the living Christ among us continues to offer us forgiveness.



It is important to think about the Church not as "over there" but as a community of struggling, weak people of whom we are part and in whom we meet our Lord and Redeemer.

~ From *Bread for the Journey*, by Henri Nouwen



Loving Father, Joseph is that just man, that wise and loyal servant, whom you placed at the head of your family. With a husband's love he cherished Mary, the virgin Mother of God. With fatherly care he watched over Jesus Christ your Son, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. May we also serve you and your family here on earth with the same unselfish love.

## Women's Retreat an inspiring success

On Feb. 5–6, Avah Ministries led a women's retreat at St. Patrick's. Here's what some of the participants thought of it:

"The weekend reminded me of the importance of creating quiet space in my life, and opened my eyes to how much 'noise' we really have in our lives. I was also struck by the short video and its reminder: there is nothing you can do that will make God love you less."

"It was wonderful being with a group of women at various stages of life talking about issues that are important to all of us. What was truly amazing was how quickly the group was able to develop a sense of trust that allowed us to speak from the heart."

"Attending this retreat was a welcome break from the craziness of being a stay-at-home mom. I walked away with a greater appreciation of God's glory made manifest in my own life and greater determination to share his love. The speakers were

engaging, personable, and completely in love with the Lord...an excellent combination!"

The retreat had two parts. On Friday night, the topic "Prayer Penguins" covered reasons to pray, barriers to prayer, and different ways to connect with God in prayer. The heart-opening segment challenged preconceptions about what prayer is or must be and its relevance to daily life.

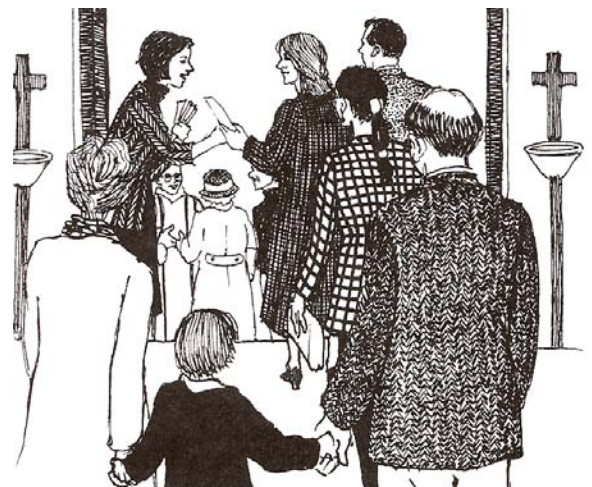
Saturday's topic, "Eye of the Beholder," focused on such issues as body image and sexuality. Participants examined their ideas about beauty and sex in light of what society tells us they are and what God tells us they should be. Overall, the retreat was engaging and enlightening. Many thanks to the wonderful presenters from Avah Ministries, and to the participants who braved snowy conditions. Plans are already underway for a repeat next year.


## "Hey, where are the bulletins?"

We're so used to picking up a parish bulletin on our way into the church for Mass that when we don't see them, our first thought is that the ushers just forgot to put them out. When the ushers tell us that they'll hand them out as we leave, we may feel deprived—after all, we just want to read that new bulletin with so many interesting tidbits about the week ahead.

But. Yes, there's a "but."

Fr. Joe hopes that instead of "reading all about it" while waiting for Mass to begin, we'll spend the moments before Mass in prayer and reflection after quietly acknowledging those around us. Jesus is waiting to welcome you—spend some time for personal conversation with him before we begin our worship together. Meanwhile, have faith that the bulletin's news will be just as fresh and interesting after Mass!




**in our parish library**

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, here are some books in the parish library on the theme of St. Patrick, Irish Catholics, and Celtic Spirituality.

**New Books Section**

- *Discovering Saint Patrick*, by Thomas O'Loughlin. Call Number: 270.2 OLO 2005

- *St. Patrick of Ireland: A Biography*, by Philip Freeman. Call Number: 270.2 FRE 2004

- *Stories of the Celtic Soul Friends: Their Meaning for Today*, by Edward C. Sellner. Call Number: 274 SELL 2004

**Regular Collection**

- *The Magic Cup: An Irish Legend Retold* (Fiction), by Andrew Greeley. Call Number: FIC GRE

- *Open Gate: Celtic Prayers for Growing Spirituality*, by David Adams. Call Number: 248 ADA

- *Read Saint Patrick*, by J.M. Holmes. Call Number: 921 HOL

- *The Saints of Ireland*, by Mary Ryan D'Arcy. Call Number: 922 DAR

**Children's Books**

- *A Child's Book of Celtic Prayers*, by Joyce Denham. Call Number: C 921 DEN

- *Patrick, Saint of Ireland*, by Joyce Denham. Call Number: C 921 DEN

- *Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland*, by Tomie DePaula. Call Number: C 921 DeP

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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.



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is March 7.

## Holy Cross Happenings

Congratulations to the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade Boys Basketball Team for advancing to the 8-2A Sectionals of the State Basketball Tournament on Feb. 13th.

On the same day, the 7<sup>th</sup>-grade Girls Volleyball Team took first place at the Illini Conference Tournament in Gifford.

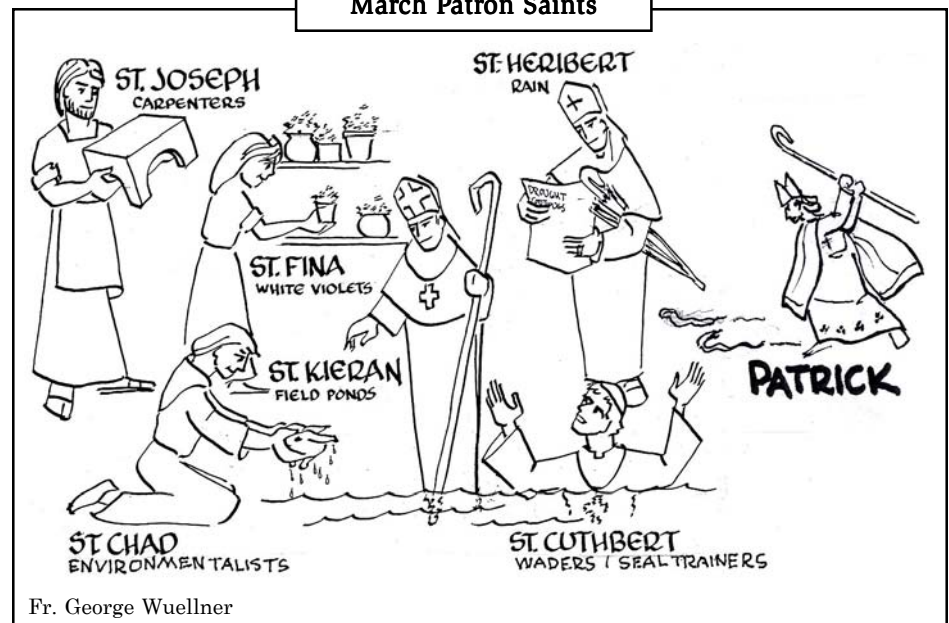
The students raised over \$1300 for Haiti at an all-school mass in January. The funds are being forwarded to the Catholic Relief Service.

**Mark your calendar:** April 8, 9, 10, 11 Spring musical, 1776, 8-11 p.m., in the school gymnasium



At the diocesan Scout Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Feb. 14, three area Girl Scouts received their Marian Medal from Bishop Jenky. From the left: Faith Taylor, Holy Cross Parish; Amy Crull, St. Matthew's Parish; and Molly Smith, St. Patrick's Parish. At the right is their leader, Judy Crull. (You can have only one guess for the name of the seated person!) The Marian Medal is presented to Catholic Girl Scouts aged 12-15 who complete an in-depth study of Mary through Scripture and service.

### March Patron Saints





# Auction to support CREW Mission Trip

“Going, going, gone!” will again ring out on Mar. 7 as the annual CREW auction gets underway. Proceeds from the auction will send our teens to East St. Louis on this summer’s mission trip. Last year, CREW’s tenth Mission Trip was to Memphis. This year celebrates that decade; CREW calls it their Jubilee Year.

Twenty-five teens have committed to participate in the trip this summer by earning 12 hours of fund raising, 20 hours of service work, and attending 17 religious education classes. These committed teens have each been awarded a special Jubilee gift, permission to invite along *any* friend of high-school age. The “Jubilee Friend” need not complete the same requirements, but still has to pay the \$500 it takes to send a



youth on Mission.

Peggy Loftus, High School Religious Education Program Coordinator, explained, “Originally the group was not going to have a service auction as they have in the past. However, the teens of their own accord asked to have it and use the proceeds to help offset the \$500 that it would cost for their “Jubilee Friends” to participate. I want you to catch this—these teenagers are willing to offer up their talent and services to help offset the cost of their *friends* going on the Mission Trip. Isn’t that cool? I am so very proud of them!” So the number of teens going on the trip this summer might very well double, to as many as 50.

The list of items to be auctioned is

still being put together. As in the past, it will include gift baskets with certificates for baked goodies and various kinds of services. For example, Kathy Cimasky won yard work by a CREW member a couple years ago. She recalled, “It was very helpful, especially since I had just broken my ankle. The year before, we won a dinner with Fr. Joe. It was a fun opportunity to have some time with our pastor, who is so supportive of our youth.” Kathy credits Peggy Loftus with a fantastic job of organizing. “CREW is a gem, and the Mission Trip is a wonderful opportunity for our teens to help people less fortunate; it’s a good experience for them.”

Nancy and Joe Costa also were pleased with their winnings, a pressure wash for their house. Joe said, “It was something we needed done anyway, and we were glad to be able to help support the Mission Trip at the same time.”

During the auction exhibits set up around the hall will celebrate the ten years of Mission Trips. Details of other opportunities to support the trip will appear in bulletins and posters.

This year’s theme is “Team Jesus.” During the week of Jul. 11-16, CREW members will work with the East St. Louis Action Research Project, a community renewal program started through the University of Illinois. The group will stay in Belleville at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. On Friday, Fun Day, they will visit the City Museum of St. Louis.

What a great project for all our parishioners to get behind!



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

Peggy Loftus

### Cheesy Corny Mac

- 1 can creamed corn, undrained
- 1 can whole kernel corn, partially drained
- 8 oz. Velveeta, cubed
- 1/4 c (1/2 stick) margarine or butter, cubed
- 1 c macaroni, uncooked

In classic “dump ’n cook” style, mix everything in a small baking dish or casserole.



Bake uncovered at 350° for 45 minutes.

+ + +

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

### We found it—did you lose it?

- a black drop earring
- a large black button backed in gold
- a pair of lined black leather gloves

They are being held for you in the parish office.

## Jewish Seder at St. Patrick's

St. Patrick's will hold its Seder on March 31 at 6:00PM, the Wednesday of Holy Week.

*What is a Jewish Seder?*

It is a Jewish dinner of praise and thanksgiving to God, held on the first night of Passover, when Jews eat symbolic foods and retell the story of the Exodus from Egypt. Many details keep children curious and alert through the long meal. For example, the youngest child starts the story by asking, "Why is this night different from all other nights?" Some of the hymns put "The Twelve Days of Christmas" to shame in their childlike appeal.

*Why would St. Patrick's hold a Jewish Seder?*

The Seder is our heritage too. Jesus was a Jew who celebrated Passover. The meal at the Last Supper was a Seder, but Jesus



went beyond tradition and showed its connection to himself as the Lamb of God. He instituted the Eucharist at this Last Supper Seder. It will include all the symbolic foods and text of the Haggadah. Additional remarks will show the Seder's connection to the Eucharist.

*Who may participate in this Seder?*

Those attending the Seder will be RCIA participants, First Communicants, Confirmands, the Young Adults group, JustFaith participants, Bible Study participants, and their families. The Seder will be led by Fr. Mike, Mary Long, and Carolyn McElrath, with parishioners and

their children reading different parts of the Haggadah. It is a wonderful way to see the tradition on which our faith is based.

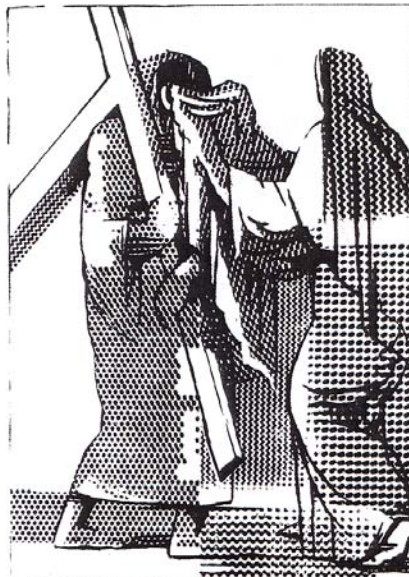
## Teens present live Stations of the Cross

As Holy Week approaches, the teens of CREW will offer living Stations of the Cross in church on Friday, Mar. 19, at 5:15 p.m. The group, in everyday dress, will present all 14 Stations in pantomime, that is, in silence.

A narrator will introduce each Station. Then, in the center aisle, on the steps, or in the sanctuary, the teens will interpret each scene, offered as a meditation to help us understand Jesus' suffering. A brief reflection by the narrator will follow.

Parish Council president Mary Rose Cottingham will direct the group, assisted by youth leader Peggy Loftus in her fourth year of presenting living Stations.

The theme for the Stations on Mar. 5 will be Peace and Justice. On all other Fridays of Lent, the traditional Stations of the Cross will be led by our priests and staff.



### Did you know . . . ?

The feast of the Annunciation, Mar. 25, is celebrated nine months before the birth of Christ. Similarly, the feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8 is celebrated nine months before the feast of her birth, Sept. 8.

### 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 editing by the committee and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

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