

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

November 2010

Me? A member of the Communion of Saints?

Not long ago a lifelong Catholic, educated in fine Catholic schools, expressed her astonishment at the very idea that she is a bona fide member of the Communion of Saints.

Through baptism we become part of a family much larger than our biological family. It is a family of people set apart by God to be light in the darkness—people we call saints. Although we tend to think of them as pious and haloed, true "saints" are much more accessible. Just like us, they live ordinary lives and struggle, for the most part, with ordinary problems. Some of their lives may look quite different, but most of them are remarkably similar to our own.

We belong to that great throng of all the baptized. The "Communion of Saints," which we profess in the Apostles Creed, includes not only all those in heaven with God, but also all of us believers who are still here on earth.

Our union, through sharing in the one Spirit through baptism, is inseparable from communion with others through the Eucharist, through Christ himself in whom the whole Church is united.

The communion of saints means that all of the good of Christians, in some way, belongs to all and is shared with all. Not all of us can be a Dr. Susan Nagele witnessing

to the love of Jesus in faraway lands, any more than Susan can be a Dorothy Day to the homeless and marginalized here in Champaign-Urbana, or any more than Dorothy could wash the hands and feet of the homeless in India with Blessed Mother Teresa. Yet the good done by each of us is shared with all of us in the communion of saints.

The awareness of being part of the communion of saints makes our hearts as wide as the world—and then some. The love with which we love is not just our love, it is the love of Jesus and his saints living in us. When the Spirit of Jesus lives in our hearts, so do all who live or have lived in that Spirit. Our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents; our teachers and their teachers; our pastors and their pastors; our spiritual guides and theirs—all the holy men and women who form that long line of love through history—are part of our hearts, where the Spirit of Jesus chooses to dwell.

The communion of saints is not just a network of connections between people. It is first and foremost the community of our hearts in the heart of Jesus.

So take a deep breath, hold it, and let it out in a song of thanksgiving that each one of us shares in that great company called the "Communion of Saints."



Our own Thanksgiving stories

Thanksgiving is not a holy day of obligation, in this country or any other. But still, on that day many American Catholics attend Mass, and the missals now present special readings for that day. We look forward to a feast with loved ones, but when In Focus asked parishioners what they were most thankful for, "gobble till you wobble" was not high on the list.

Praise
God
from whom
all blessings
flow;
praise him
all creatures
here below

One parishioner wrote:
"My parents were not the savviest people when it came to "the talk" when I was a teenager. The only thing I remember is my mom telling me that French kissing

leads to BAD THINGS. What? I think what she meant to say is that physical affection leads to temptation and if one is going to be tempted, it should be within the covenant of marriage. I hope I have the presence of mind to tell my son and daughters this when they get old enough. But why were Mom and Dad right? Because they were. (How's that for parental logic!) The biggest blessing of my life has been the birth of our four children. They were created in love, born into a committed, faithful family, and hopefully feel our love as parents

See **Thanksgiving** on page 7

What is parish nursing?

Perhaps you have your blood pressure checked periodically by one of our volunteer parish nurses. Or you may have found some of the health information posted on the parish nurse bulletin board interesting and useful. Or you might have picked up some useful health tips at the annual health fair sponsored by the parish nurses. But what exactly is a parish nurse?



offers continuing education and spiritual growth for a large number of clergy, parish nurses, and other health professionals.

The symposium is named after Rev. Granger E. Westberg, a holistic

health pioneer, who envisioned parish nurses as a link between the resources of the health care system and the faith community. He saw that health care needs to be concerned with not only the body and mind, but the spirit as well. Parish nurses do not perform invasive procedures, such as blood drawing or injections, but are part of a health promotion ministry based on the whole person.

Parish nursing is a growing specialty practice of nursing, recognized by the American Nursing Association as "Faith Community Nursing." Qualifications for entering the parish nursing program include a license as a registered nurse, 2-5 years of nursing experience, and completion of basic preparation classes for parish nursing with training specifically designed for health ministry.

One of our parish nurses, Nancy Roth, recently attended the 24th annual Westberg Parish Nurse Symposium in St. Charles, Missouri. Sponsored by the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, this

We are fortunate to have several volunteer parish nurses with many years of nursing experience in various nursing specialties. They are happy to serve as health educators, health advocates, and referral advisors for our congregation. Get to know our parish nurses by coming to a blood pressure clinic or other parish nurse offering.

Experiencing holidays after a loss

In her wisdom Mother Church offers us the opportunity during the month of November to remember those we love who have died. We celebrate the feasts of All Saints and All Souls as a reminder that we are all members of the Communion of Saints, and that our lives are inexplicably intertwined with all those who have crossed our path.

The Ministry of Consolation will offer two evening gatherings during November to remember and help find a way through grief. On Monday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. the ministry team will offer "A Ray of Hope: Facing the Holidays Following a Loss." This evening will



be a time for exploring how those who are coping with the death of a loved one or friend can find peace and comfort when others around them are celebrating the season.

On Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. we will gather for our fall Evening of Remembrance. Those who have lost a loved one in the last several months are invited to join the Ministry of Consolation team and Fr. Joe Hogan for an

evening of sharing, remembering, and praying together. This evening lets us support one another in our grief, examine how our lives have been changed by those we mourn,

Did you know . . . ?

- The Church is a communion of saints, living and dead, and as such, a light to the nations. (And this includes you!)
- Before the renovation of St. Patrick's church in the seventies, the room now used as a vesting sacristy in the back of the church was once the baptistry—a fact memorialized in the room's windows.
- Divorced Catholics who have remarried without an annulment are not automatically excommunicated, may attend Mass, and are welcome at parish activities.

rejoice in the gift of their lives, and pray for them and for one another. Our lives are richer for those we have known and loved, and the Evening of Remembrance gives us time and space to celebrate those relationships.

Any parishioner who has lost a loved one is welcome to join us for either or both evenings. For more information about these events, contact Nancy Olson (359-6424, nancybolson@yahoo.com) or any of the Consolation ministers.



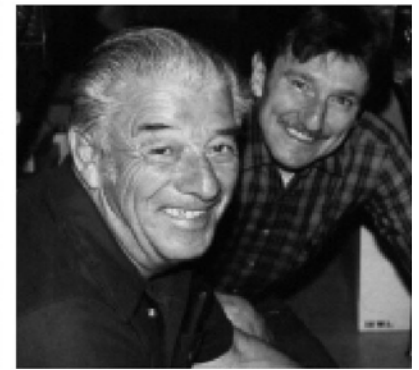
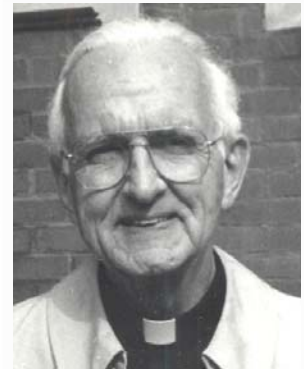
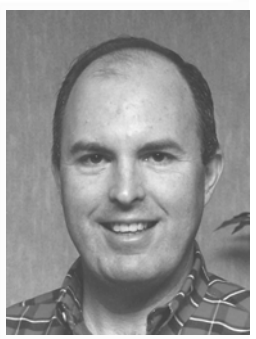
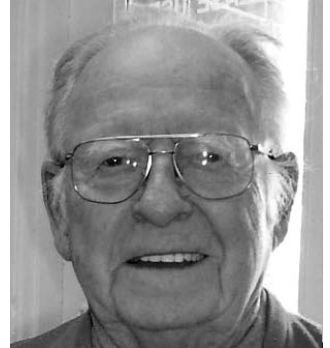
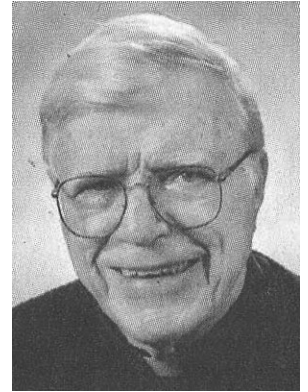
The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is November 7.

All saints, all sorts

You don't have to search far for heroes and saints. They are in our midst. Some have been canonized, many haven't, many may never be. What brings us all together? Love of God, love of neighbor, and a willingness to sacrifice self for others. Saints already with God and saints still witnessing God's love among us are easily discovered—just look around you!

“There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.”

—Thomas Merton



How can we keep from singing?

While we may leave Mass with words from the readings lingering in our minds, what stays with most of us more stubbornly are hymns and songs. After all, if we have participated in the singing, we have personally transmitted those words to ourselves and others. Throughout the week we may catch ourselves humming tunes or singing lines (or, if blessed with good memory, whole verses) from hymns we sang at Mass.

St. Patrick's music director, Laura Theby, knows the importance of this. She cites a quotation she heard not long ago: "What we sing, we remember. What we remember, we believe. What we believe, we live." Just as most of us learned the alphabet through song, music can be a way both to learn about our faith and to express it.

"Singing is one of the most important ways that people participate in the liturgy," Laura says. "As Catholics, we're called to full, active, and conscious participation in the liturgy, and singing is a concrete way that we can take part and involve ourselves in what's happening each time we're at Mass."

Laura points out all the ways we involve ourselves in the rituals of the Mass through singing: "Think of all the things we have an opportunity to sing during Mass: an opening song, Kyrie, Gloria, Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, song for the Preparation of the Gifts, Eucharistic Acclamations, Communion songs, and a closing song." These are some of the ways we actively take part in the celebration.

With this in mind, it's especially wonderful that at St. Patrick's we often hear many, many other voices around us also raised in song. But if we all sing, why bother with a choir?

"Not only do choirs reinforce the congregation's

singing, they enhance it by singing in harmony. They can also provide special choral music at certain times, such as during the preparation of the gifts and

during communion," Laura adds.

The choirs help to introduce new music to the congregation and bring to life great choral music of the past, from plainchant through Palestrina to Brahms and far beyond.

St. Patrick's is blessed with a number of choirs: the children's choir, funeral schola, children's liturgy ensemble, and the choirs most commonly known as "the 9:00 choir" and "the 10:30 choir."

These last two choirs each sing at one Mass every weekend from September through May. Although they occasionally combine for special events, the two choirs have differences that go beyond the times they are scheduled to sing. As its name implies, the 9:00 choir sings at the 9:00 Mass each Sunday. This choir tends to sing music more in the contemporary and folk music styles, much from the Gather hymnal. It is usually accompanied by guitars, flute, and piano rather than organ.

The 10:30 choir sings at the noon Mass on the first two Sundays of the month, and at 10:30 Mass on subsequent Sundays. Laura describes this choir's style as "a melting pot.

We incorporate music from every historical period, so on Sundays you might hear chant, polyphonic pieces, classical anthems, spirituals, or more contemporary choir pieces." The music at this Mass draws from both the Worship and Gather hymnals and is accompanied by both organ and piano.

With these two



choirs Laura tries to incorporate other instruments, such as violin, flute, clarinet, trumpet, and oboe, feeling that their sound adds to the fullness and beauty of the music. Some choir members who play instruments alternate playing with singing, while other instrumentalists simply play. Laura solicits instrumentalists for special occasions and feast days, and she welcomes experienced players who offer their services.

Aside from weekly Masses, the two combined choirs sing for special programs and special occasions, such as Catholic Connected, Fr. Remm's 50th anniversary of ordination, Fr. Kane's funeral, and Parish Missions. Holy Week and Easter always challenge the choirs with plenty of material to learn. The choirs begin working on Holy Week pieces as soon as Lent begins, if not before. Laura describes the increasing pace of rehearsals as Holy Week approaches as "a kind of liturgical whirlwind." Anyone who has attended Holy Week and Easter services at St. Patrick's knows that the results are beautiful, powerful and spiritually rich.

So far, this year has challenged the choirs' creativeness and resourcefulness—without enough singers to cover each part, they've had to come up with other ways to create a blended and full choral sound. However, Laura is very proud of the dedication and energy that current members put into the music in spite of reduced numbers.

Anyone interested in singing is welcome to join one of the choirs. Experience singing with groups is



Singing from page 4

helpful but not required. Likewise, the ability to read music can be helpful, particularly in the 10:30 choir, but is not required. Laura agrees with her predecessor Chris Ángel that "the only requirement is that you have to be able to climb those steep stairs!"

There is a time commitment. The two adult choirs each have a 90-minute rehearsal one night a week, and a warm-up 30 minutes before Mass starts. The Funeral Schola rehearses twice a month for an hour, and sings at all of the parish funerals, which means its schedule is unpredictable. The children's choir has a 45-minute rehearsal once a week; they sing at one liturgy a month.

"We love the opportunity to minister to the parish on a weekly or monthly basis," says Laura, "and we welcome everyone to join us in singing to the Lord!"

Interested in joining one of the choirs? Contact Laura Theby (laura.theby@stpaturbana.org or 367-2665)—you will receive an enthusiastic welcome!



God of love and compassion,
you gave us your son, Jesus,
who calls and guides us. May
we be attentive to his voice
and discern how best to follow
him. Bless all who answer his
call and strengthen their
vocational commitment. May
we be blessed with an increase
of vocations to the priesthood,
diaconate, and religious life.

We pray, as always,
in Jesus' name.

The Gathering of Ministries: Send down the Spirit!

Fr. Joe Hogan revealed this year's theme for the parish at the annual Gathering of Ministries on Saturday, Sept. 25. He began by remarking that one of his favorite scripture passages is Luke 12:49, "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" He recalled that when he was in the seminary, Cardinal Bernadin spoke about Christ coming to start a fire, and that they must challenge their parishioners to run a marathon with Christ to the ends of their lives.

He then observed that Christ's words "Follow me" appear twenty times in the Bible. To enter into a deeper relationship with Christ, we have to follow him and get to know him: "Getting to know Christ helps us to know ourselves. We get to know who we are by following him." And the deepest relationship with Christ is achieved through love.

Love is this year's theme as outlined in 1 Cor. 13:4-8, "Love is patient, Love is kind. Love is not jealous, Love is not pompous, Love is not inflated, Love is not rude, Love does not seek its own interests, Love is not quick-tempered, Love does not brood over injury, Love does not rejoice over wrong doing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."

Fr. Joe concluded that if we could get to the depths of love and live it,



we could change St. Patrick's. We must take God at his word (that is, his Word!) and trust him completely, and then transfer that trust to others. Love always believes the best of the other person, be they parishioner or minister, pastor or pope.

Representatives of the parish ministries then gathered into the six ministry clusters to discuss how this theme might be implemented, and afterward shared highlights from their discussions. Here are a few representative ideas shared:

Parish Community Life Ministries will try to base decisions on how these would benefit children and young families. The Peace and Justice Ministries will show their love by following prayer with action, for example by helping groups like Empty Tomb. The Spiritual Enrichment Ministries will try to emulate Mother Teresa, who saw Christ in every person encountered and revealed something of Christ to those she met. The Worship ministries want to show God's love by fostering a welcoming presence at Mass through greeters and ushers, helping those with special needs, and trying to help parishioners understand and assimilate the new wording of certain elements of the Mass.

The Gathering of Ministries concluded as all present joined in praying the Vincentian Mission Prayer and singing "Send Down the Fire":

Send down the fire of your justice,
Send down the rains of your love;
Come, send down the Spirit,
Breathe life in your people,
And make us the people of God.
And we shall be people of God.

On our church expansion

The following is an address given by Fr. Joe Hogan at all Masses on Oct. 16-17.

Five years ago, St. Patrick's Parish Council set in motion a long-range study of our parish needs. It was a step inspired by the parish's centennial celebration and the belief that we, like our ancestors in faith, are called to plan carefully for our second century.

Since that time, much work has taken place. I'm grateful to the Second Century Advisory Committee for leading our parish through a comprehensive master planning process. And I'm very grateful to all of you for your prayerful support and participation every step of the way.

The input that you have provided throughout this period has helped our parish develop a wonderful plan to renovate and expand the church-one that will preserve the sacredness of our current worship space and unite us more closely as a faith community.

The building plan will double the seating capacity of the current church, create a beautiful gathering

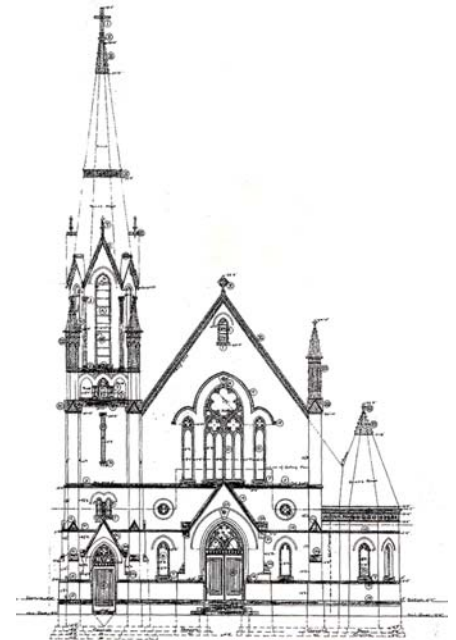
space to connect the church and the parish center, and provide the parish with additional meeting space in a new lower level under the expanded church.

As most of you know, in August St. Patrick's hired a professional fundraising firm to assess the parish's readiness to move forward with a fundraising campaign. The assessment study was completed in early September, with extremely positive results, and it was recommended that the parish move forward with a capital campaign to raise funds for the project. At its September meeting, the Parish Council affirmed proceeding with a capital campaign.

In the weeks ahead, St. Patrick's will be working with the Diocese of Peoria to finalize a contract with a fundraising firm who will help us conduct the campaign. The Second Century Advisory Committee will do some preliminary planning for the campaign. It is our intention to progress in a thoughtful and planned manner to ensure that all parishioners are kept informed as this project unfolds.

Stay tuned for more updates on this. And please continue to ask the Holy Spirit to guide us as we contemplate these important next steps. Think back to your ancestors in faith gathered here in this church and these words from today's Scriptures: "Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed."

PRAY ALWAYS!



Q: Why do we sing at Mass?

A: Let's start by considering what we sing at Mass. Of course we sing things

that are inherently songs, such as the song of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest," and the Psalm. But we also sing the four acclamations, those exuberant proclamations of our faith: the Gospel Acclamation, the "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord," the acclamation after the consecration, and the Great Amen, which sums up the Eucharistic Prayer.

Just as parades have marching bands to draw people in, we sing to accompany the processions: the

gathering at the beginning of Mass, the procession with the Book of the Gospels, the procession in which we bring our gifts to the altar, the procession as we come to the table to receive Communion, and the procession as we leave the church. Finally, we sing litanies, the kind of prayer that has reflective repetition such as the Lamb of God and sometimes the Prayer of the Faithful.

There are musical settings of other parts of the Mass such as the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the prayers that the presider speaks on our behalf. So it's possible to sing these, but it's not essential that they be sung.

You might also consider what happens to us as we sing. Singing requires breath, the breath of life given by our Creator, the breath of

the Spirit that inspires us always. Singing requires our whole body. Singing, when it is done with others, brings us into unity as we all breathe together and reflect on the same words. Singing reflects the unity that we have as members of the Body of Christ and as sharers in the one Bread and the one Cup.

The most important singing at Mass is the song of the assembly. It's nice to have a choir or a presider who sings. It's helpful to have a cantor and instruments to support the singing of the assembly. But only the song of the assembly is essential.

+ + +

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

Thanksgiving from page 1

and the love of the Lord. I am deeply and eternally thankful for my children, who teach me wonder, patience in trying times, how to love unconditionally, even the miracle of life as they stumble sleepy-faced out of bed. I am so thankful that in the covenant of marriage French kissing can lead to AMAZING things."

Another wrote: "I am thankful for all the years I've had to celebrate with my parents and in-laws. Sometimes it is a challenge to get everyone together, especially with growing distances and expanding families and advancing ages, but it is always worth the wonderful memories and laughter in the end."

Ellie D'Andria (age 11): "Math Rocks! I am thankful for my math class. I like numbers and I like equations and multiplication. Math is my favorite part of the day."

Mellie Velázquez wrote: "I lost my father a year ago. Because of distance and family circumstances, I did not have a relationship with him from ages 4 to 24. During the ten years preceding his death we were able to create a lifetime of wonderful everything that life has to offer: good, bad, and everything in between. I can't imagine where I would be without him!"

Freda DeCerbo wrote: "I am grateful for a grandson who weathered a tough birth, for my son, who supports me in many things, for my health—although I have dozens of issues, I am not in a wheelchair or nursing home. And lastly, for lifelong friends."

Jim Pillar wrote: "I am thankful that the Lord led me to marry the right person 53.5 years ago."

Another anonymous contribution: "I lived in darkness for so many years. Not only did I not know God, I was afraid of Him. I was alone,

scared, and hopeless. Two years ago when I had decided that I couldn't live anymore and I would end my life as others in my family had done, God brought me to St. Patrick's. I knew nothing about God or how much He loved me or what He had done for me. The staff and parishioners at St. Patrick's took me in when I thought that no one would ever waste their time on me. I have learned that God desires good for me and that He loves me. He has always loved me even when I couldn't love myself.

"I am thankful that the God of the universe cares enough about me to seek me out and bring me out of

generations of darkness. I am so thankful for my new family at St. Patrick's. I am thankful for the journey I am on as I learn more and more about God and His love. I am thankful that I have a forgiving, loving, and gentle father in Him. I am thankful for the confidence I

continue to gain through Him. Although I know that I have a lot to learn still, I am excited to study and grow in faith.

"My prayer is that one day I can help someone as much as St. Patrick's has helped me. St. Patrick's showed me the love of Christ and in that love I am finally living."

Pam Donze De Ley wrote: "I came to St. Patrick's Parish when I was only 7 years old. During that time I have been touched by many women of the parish. My mother, Pat Donze, has had an influence on me my entire life, from helping me realize my deep faith to loving and caring for others. In grade school Mrs. Alice Dunn helped organize our church processions for Forty Hours, May Crowning, and others. Mrs. Irma Wait, Mrs. Helen Halpin, Mrs. Clara Butler, along with my mother and

others, helped organize many St. Mary School events during my grade school years. Mrs. Catherine Warren and Mrs. Rose Breen led our Girl Scouts into becoming the beautiful women we are today. The Sinsinawa Dominicans and Mrs. Thelma Foster and Mrs. Mary Miller helped guide me in my studies and understanding of the importance of a great Catholic education. During a very difficult time in my adult life, Nancy Steerman, Dottie David, and others helped me to become a stronger and better woman. Many, many others I have failed to mention are the reason that at age 58 I continue to be active and have a deep, deep faith. God bless each and every one of you."

L. John D'Andria (12) put it concisely: "My family, church, my friends, my house."

The thankfulness of Shelby S. (17) overflowed into poetry:

"Family, friends, and food galore,
Oh, how I couldn't ask for more!
Each day your blessings flow,
More than I could ever know."

Finally, even if the apostle Paul isn't a parishioner here, we'll let him have the last word: "Give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thess. 5:18).



A child's prayer

We thank you, God,
for all you have made.
For earth and sky,
wind and water,
plants and animals.
For stoves and phones,
cards and roads,
radios and computers,
and especially
for family and friends
and people everywhere.

Dianne Gordon, bookkeeper and so much more

Although Dianne Gordon's staff title is bookkeeper, she does a lot more than that. Mary Long told In Focus that "Dianne is a pleasure to work with... efficient and a very kind, welcoming presence when people come into the parish office. She brings much computer knowledge and skill to our office, and has implemented many new ideas and technologies that have enhanced our work capabilities. Dianne has a wonderful sense of humor and is very enjoyable to work with. She makes our jobs much easier by the support she provides. I'm so glad we have her working with us." Peggy Loftus and Carolyn McElrath agree that Dianne is "welcoming, capable, and particularly unflappable."

Dianne was born in Winfield, Ill. and spent the first five years of her life in Carol Stream. She has two older brothers. Todd lives in Houston with his wife and four boys; Don lives in Aloha, Ore., enjoying the outdoor activities there including windsurfing and skiing. Her parents, Pat and Dick Husby, just moved to Austin, Tex., for their first year as "snow birds." She will be glad to see them again when she and John can visit them at their summer home, overlooking a beautiful lake in Sandwich, Ill. John and Dianne love to visit there. One special occasion has been the gathering there of family and friends on the Fourth of July, enjoying good food, waterskiing, and tubing.

"Growing up, our family was quite transient because of my Dad's job, so I ended up living in the HUGE town (300 people) of Orwigsburg, Penn., for a couple years, then moved back to Illinois and finally settled in St. Charles for my high school years. One of the best things I remember about my childhood was our annual trip to northern Minnesota. My grandfather built a log cabin in the middle of a 40-acre plot of land that wrapped



around the end of a small lake in the north woods of Hackensack, Minn. We went there every summer. There was no electricity or running water, but I loved the time camping out with our family, reading comic books, and learning games like cribbage and euchre. We also spent a lot of time out on the lake, fishing and water skiing and canoeing from lake to lake. It was truly living without a care in the world."

Throughout her childhood and college years, Dianne was actively involved in music of all sorts, including both choral and instrumental music. Our musicians should ask her about these pursuits. "From the sport side, in college I was a member of the U of I ski team...not the best place for that—the land is a bit flat for good practice!"

Dianne graduated from U of I with a degree in Engineering and a minor in Business Administration. Her professional life has been centered on technology, first as a Systems Engineer at IBM for about 10 years, working with kindergarten through 12th-grade students throughout the Chicago suburbs. Then she moved to

Champaign to work on a U of I project called NovaNet, an on-line curriculum for kindergarten through 12th-grade students. "I was the manager of the technical team and eventually the Director of Global Support for Pearson Education, which bought NovaNet in the late 90s. It was an amazing job because we were actually able to touch the lives of so many at-risk kids throughout the country and could really see how we

affected their lives. I'm still in touch with many of the teachers I worked with while at NovaNet. When our office in Champaign was closed, I decided to step down the stress level a little bit, and took a year off from work."

Dianne's husband, John, is a real townie: he and Dianne were married in 2004 at the First United Methodist Church in Urbana, the same church where John's parents and grandparents were married. He is a computer programmer at the U of I CITES department. Their favorite activities include competing with each other in computer games or a casual night with friends playing board, strategy, or card games. They also enjoy participating with friends in a Road Rally here in Champaign County.

"We love snuggling and playing with our three cats. Two of them are

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Norwegian Forest Cats, which are HUGE long-haired cats. Loki weighs in at almost 20 pounds and the vet tells us that he is underweight for his size! The other kitty is a "mutt," which we rescued on a Christmas Eve on our way home from church. We are working with Catholic Charities to expand our family with an adopted child. Hopefully that will happen in the near future. We can't wait to have a little one whom we can nurture and love running around the house.

"I enjoy crafting stained-glass pieces and also attempt to keep up some sort of garden. Unfortunately my thumb is not very green!"

"I met Suzanne D'Andria at a craft group we both belong to, and she mentioned that St. Pat's was looking for a bookkeeper. It sounded like a job I would really enjoy, so here I am! I'm thrilled to work with such a diverse group of people, both the staff and all the parishioners I meet every day."

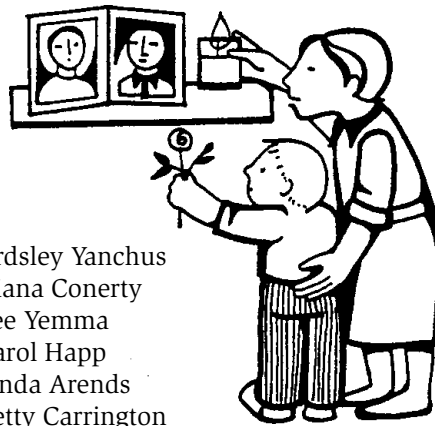
"One cause that I greatly support is the Epilepsy Foundation of America. The foundation and the many researchers it funds are finding new ways to help those of us who suffer from seizures. New technology and new medications are helping millions of people every day. This is a good time for this article because November is Epilepsy Awareness Month. So if you see me in the office wearing a purple ribbon, you will know why!"

How sweet it is!

The Urbana Council of the Knights of Columbus is very pleased with the result of this year's Tootsie Roll Drive. Donations will continue until the supply of Tootsie Rolls is exhausted, but the Knights already have about \$1500 to contribute to programs benefiting local people with intellectual challenges.

St. Patrick's Honor Roll in Heaven

The following members of St. Patrick's faith community entered into eternal life in the past year, joining so many others who have preceded them. We pray for them and for their families, and invoke their intercession with Jesus in answer to our own needs.



Ardsley Yanchus
Diana Conerty
Lee Yemma
Carol Happ
Linda Arends
Betty Carrington
Susan Costello
Joan Noe
Mary Ruth Jacobs
David Hach
Nawal Youakim
Anthony Vattano
Zelda Fitzsimmons
Leonard Salika
Raymond Sturdyvin
Mary Wood
Donald "Joe" LaValle
Irene Vattano
Hilary Holbrook
Hazel Burns
David Grob
Dorothy Douglas

Special calls for volunteers

- Do you enjoy singing in the shower? In church? Lend your voice to the 10:30 choir! Call Laura Theby (531-7003) for information, or just come to a rehearsal on any Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

- The Communications Committee is seeking a correspondent to report on Parish Council meetings for In Focus. Judy Fierke, 352-7670



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.

Amish lunch spiced with tradition

Thirty-one parishioners and friends carpoled to the home of Oba and Lorene Hershberger near Sullivan, Ill., on a warm October day. Oba awaited us with a horse and buggy, which carried many of us around the farm. Thereafter, they followed the scent of cooking and went into the Hershberger's home for lunch. They host lunches for as many as 150 people at a time! This began about 16 years ago as a way to help pay off medical bills incurred when their young son was in a serious farm accident. Their lunches have been written up in national magazines, and are sometimes booked solid for many months in a row.

Once everyone was seated, Oba said grace in Pennsylvania Dutch. This German dialect sounds like it borrows from Swiss and English, and is used both at home and in church. Oba joked that he didn't mind if the visitors didn't understand him, because it was God he was praying to, not them. While the women in his family cooked, he served a wonderful lunch of salad, warm breads, apple butter, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, homemade noodles, chicken, and meatloaf. As if that wasn't enough, desserts followed: apple and pumpkin pies and ice cream. Lorene left the kitchen to come out and meet us and revealed some of her cooking secrets. Oba proudly showed a beautiful hand-stitched quilt made by Lorene

Oba described their Amish way of living. Up to eighth grade the Amish have their own parochial schools, although some children attend public school. After that, most prefer to apprentice to a trade rather than continuing on to high school. When a church community grows beyond 100 families, it divides and new church leaders are elected. Both men and women elect the new leaders by silent ballot. Each church community is free to make minor changes, such as putting a rubber tire on a wagon, or on a steel wheel for paved roads.

All of Oba and Lorene's 13 children have followed their example to live simply. Most are involved in agriculture or carpentry. He talked about the history of their ancestors, who moved from Germany to Switzerland to Pennsylvania to Illinois.

After this wonderful lunch, many of the carpoolers brought back Amish bread, apple butter, cinnamon rolls, cookies, and noodles. The drive back to C-U included stops at the Pumpkin Patch near Arthur, Miller's Dry Goods store, filled with fabrics and quilting supplies, and Beachy's grocery store.

A good time was had by all!



Jane Austen Book Club

The Jane Austen Book Club begins its second year with a new selection of classic literary tales and adventures. Each session consists of group discussion, close text readings, and film screenings. People of all ages in the community are welcome.



This series began on Friday, Oct. 8, at St. Patrick's Parish Center, 7-9 p.m. As you'll see below, however, it's not too late to join in. The schedule of books for this year is:

- Northanger Abbey - October 8, 15, 22
- Wuthering Heights - November 5, 12, 19
- The Scarlet Pimpernel - January 21, 28, Feb. 4
- Jane Eyre - Mar. 4, 11, 15
- The Picture of Dorian Gray - April 1, 8, 15
- Vanity Fair - June
- Atonement - July

For more information, contact Bao Bui (longbui2@illinois.edu).



in our parish library

The parish library has quite a collection of children's books that you and your children may enjoy. Here's a small sampling of what's available. (Information in parentheses is the call number, to help you locate the book on the shelf.)

For the younger set: *Dear God...* This set has cute pictures and short thoughts on things like waiting (179 FIT), Thanks for Jesus (232 FIT), Bless our food (249 FIT), I need you (231 FIT).

Want to help your child learn some simple Bible verses? The series *God Cares When I'm...* (220.5 MUR) features everyday situations that children face, with a Bible verse given at the end of each story. Titles include:

God Cares When I'm Disappointed
God Cares When I'm All Tired Out
God Cares When I Don't Like Myself

God Cares When I'm Sorry
God Cares When I'm Worried
God Cares When I'm Thankful

Want some simple prayers to try with your children at home? Consider *Lord, I am one of your Little Ones* (249 PUI). It has beginning prayers, everyday prayers, prayers of thankfulness, and more.

Looking for some role models? Want to celebrate All Saints Day in a special way? *Saints and Heroes for Kids*, by Ethel Pochocki (234 POC) offers role models, not superstars. This book includes saints from the early years of the Church as well as more modern Catholics, including Mother Teresa, Dr. Tom Dooley, and Archbishop Oscar Romero.

Saints of the Seasons for Children, also by Ethel Pochocki (922 POC), is written for kindergartners through sixth-graders. The book contains short biographies of saints for any time of the year.

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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.

Ordinary saints for kids

If someone close to your family has recently died, help your children to see that person as a saint who can intercede for them. Try something like this for an explanation: "Now that Uncle Joe is in heaven with God, he really knows God so much better than we do. When you have a problem, ask Uncle Joe to take it to God for you. Uncle Joe still loves you so much—even now that he's in heaven. He'll want to do what he can to help you. And because he knows God so well now, he can help you know God better, too."

—Annemarie Scobey, U.S. Catholic
Used with permission.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Helen Halpin

Apple Nut Bread

3 c flour
 2 c sugar
 1 t baking soda
 3 eggs
 1 t salt
 2 t vanilla
 1-1/2 c oil
 2 c finely chopped unpeeled apples
 1 c chopped nuts

Use either Jonathan or Golden Delicious apples. Mix dry ingredients. Beat oil, sugar, eggs, and vanilla to mix well. Add



flour mixture and beat until smooth. Fold in apples and nuts. Pour into 2 greased loaf pans and sprinkle with a little brown sugar. Bake one hour at 350° or until tests done.

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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!

Martin of Tours, activist and saint

Any parent of an independent-minded child can sympathize with the trials of the fourth-century father of the boy who became St. Martin of Tours.

Martin's dad was a Roman tribune, a senior army officer. He named his son for Mars, the Roman god of war. Against his parents' wishes, a very young Martin went to a Christian church and became a catechumen. His parents were upset because, although Emperor Constantine

had at last made Christianity legal, it was still not accepted in the best society. In the army the popular religion was the cult of Mithras, whose chief deity was said to mediate between man and the higher gods.

As the son of a veteran officer, at the age of fifteen Martin was required to join a cavalry unit. He was stationed in Amiens, in Gaul (now France), and there he experienced the episode for which he is most famous. On a bitterly cold day while he was on his horse at the city gate, he was approached by a beggar who was only partially clothed. Martin was so moved by his plight that he took off his cloak, divided it into two parts, and gave one part to the man.

During the night he dreamed that Jesus was wearing the half of the cloak that he had given away. Jesus was saying to the angels, "Here is Martin, the Roman soldier who is not baptized; he has clad me." That dream confirmed Martin in his faith and he was baptized at the age of 18.

Eventually Martin was permitted to leave the army and he was able to pursue his vocation in the Church. He sought out St. Hilary, a Trinitarian, who gave him



permission to engage in a solitary life in a nearby region, and a number of monks gathered there around him. During the time that he lived there he often left the monastery to preach the gospel to the rural inhabitants, who were still caught up in idolatry and superstition. This work became so renowned that when the bishop of Tours died around 371, the clergy there pressed to have Martin installed to replace him. The acclaim of

the populace was so great that he acquiesced.

As bishop, Martin pursued the same way of life: activism, then solitude. He walked among the superstitious residents of the countryside and had the pagan temples and sculptures destroyed, but he also established another monastery and would regularly retreat to the monks' caves.

Down the centuries, the veneration of St. Martin has been closely associated with much of the political life of France, from Clovis's reign in the sixth century through the Franco-Prussian War and the First World War. When the armistice was signed on St. Martin's Day, Nov. 11, 1918, the French saw it as a sign of his intercession in national affairs.

Devotion to St. Martin is widespread through Europe, even in Protestant areas of Germany and the Netherlands, and it also stretches across the ocean to Mexico and Bolivia.

When we observe Veterans Day on Nov. 11 here in the New World, take a moment to think of St. Martin, who long ago brought the Gospel message to his countrymen.

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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