

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

September 2010

Hi, my name is Sarah Johnson

I've been a member of St. Patrick's since I was born. This fall, I will be a tenth-grader at The High School of St. Thomas More. In July, I had the wonderful opportunity to go to El Salvador on a mission trip, and I have been asked to write about my experience for readers of *In Focus*.



group of seven (two doctors, a nurse, two translators, a teacher, and me) made up the delegation, plus two guides from El Salvador, with many village people accompanying us from place to place.

We spent about a day in each village, arriving in the afternoon with a welcome ceremony to greet us. We then celebrated the Word, ate dinner, went to bed (in a hammock!), and worked the following day until it was time to hike to the next village.

This was a medical mission trip, so in the morning the doctors and nurse set up the clinic and gave consultations to the villagers that came. They saw about a hundred people each day, giving them pain medications, vitamins, antibiotics, creams, basically any treatment that could have been brought for them.

I was in the schools, helping teach children in grades K-6 about sea creatures (the lesson the teachers there had asked us to teach this year). Everything was



"Welcome to Guachipilin!"

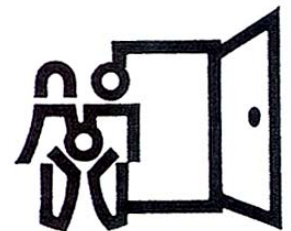
See **Sarah** on page 6

"Where's the restroom?" A quick guide to St. Patrick's help facilities

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

Emergency telephone: Located in the room to the right as you enter the church from Main Street.

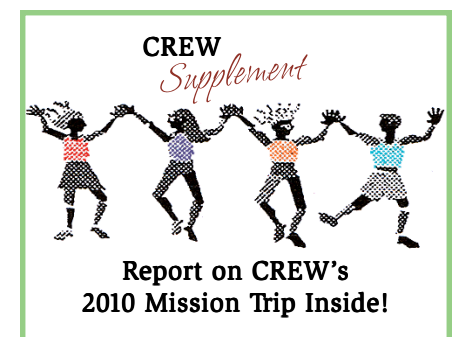
(Press 9 before entering the telephone number.)



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

Restrooms: There are two. One is to the right as you enter the church

See **Guide** on page 7



Who says Catholics don't read the Bible?

There may have been some truth to that assertion several years ago, but no more. At St. Patrick's, there are at least four continuing Bible study groups that are gearing up for new studies starting in September, and all of the groups welcome new members.



The **Great Adventure Bible Study**

will take up a study of Acts, "The Spread of the Kingdom," providing a historic framework for the understanding of the rest of the New Testament. Mary Long and Carolyn McElrath, pastoral associates, will again share leadership responsibilities. The class will be offered on Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 7; participants can choose a class at either 1-3 p.m. or 7-9 p.m. It will run for 20 sessions through the year. To register, contact Mary or Carolyn at the parish center (367-2665).

The **Great Adventure Bible Timeline**, a four-week overview of the entire Bible, is offered on Tuesdays Sept. 7-28, 1-3 p.m. or 7-9 p.m. It provides an excellent understanding of how all the Bible tells our Salvation History. This study can be taken on its own or as background for the study of Acts. Call Mary or Carolyn (367-2665) for more information.

Two groups are continuing their use of the **Community Bible Study** materials. One of these groups, led by Carole Rebeiz, will study the

letter of **James**, one of seven letters known as the "catholic letters," which were written to strengthen all the early Christian communities, rather than any particular one. The nine lessons will begin Monday, Sept. 13, and continue until the week before Thanksgiving. The group will meet in the parish center in

the St. Matthew room. To register, contact Carole (356-3675).

The other group growing out of the **Community Bible Study** will study **Joshua**, "Going to the Promised Land," using a question-and-answer study guide by John MacArthur. The study will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 14, in the parish center. Originally designed for a lunch hour, it will begin at noon and go for an hour and 15 minutes. Chris Whippo is the group leader; contact her (352-7263) to register.

A fourth Bible study group will begin a study of the Israelites through an exploration of Old Testament history, theology, and stories from the Creation accounts to the fall of the Northern Kingdom. The materials are from the **Little Rock Scripture Series**, with a DVD to enhance the study. An organizational meeting will be held in September to decide on the meeting times, which will be determined by the availability of the participants. Contact Margaret Stewart (356-9475) for more information or to register.

Be sweet, get a treat!

Make a contribution and get an immediate reward when the Urbana Council of the Knights of Columbus holds its annual Tootsie Roll drive. This fundraiser is exclusively for the benefit of people with special needs. Although Knights all across the United States hold Tootsie Roll Drives, each council keeps all of the money it collects to use locally.

The Urbana Council has used proceeds from past Tootsie Roll Drives to make donations to agencies such as the Developmental Services Center and the Rural Champaign Special Education Cooperative. They have also purchased equipment for local schools, including special swim suits needed by special education students at Urbana High School.

The Knights and other volunteers will be stationed outside the Urbana Schnuck's and Wal-Mart stores on the evening of Friday, Sept. 17, and all day Saturday, Sept. 18, to ask for donations and to hand out Tootsie Rolls. The drive will continue outside St. Patrick's church on Sunday, Sept. 19.

All children will be given Tootsie Rolls, with or without a donation. If you don't like candy, don't worry—taking the Tootsie Roll is not mandatory! Drive organizer Joseph Youakim says many people give generously but decline the candy.

Besides collecting money outside stores, the Knights also contact local businesses to ask for donations. For a contribution of \$50, they will send the business a case of Tootsie Rolls to distribute as they wish.

Can't get enough Tootsie Rolls? In the weeks after the drive, boxes of Tootsie Rolls will be available for a \$10 donation.

Volunteers are needed to help take donations and hand out Tootsie Rolls. If you can give some time to help with the drive, contact Joseph Youakim (355-0793, jyouakim@ameritech.net). Whether you like Tootsie Rolls or not, it's always a treat to be able to help very special people in our own community. So when you see those canisters, give generously!



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is September 12.

Knights News

The Urbana Council of the Knights of Columbus has started off a new year of activities with one of their delicious pancake breakfasts (Aug. 29—hope you haven't missed it!). Next up is the annual Tootsie Roll Drive to benefit people with special needs. Look for donation canisters and sweet treats Sept. 17-19.



The new sign for St. Patrick's will get a boost from the Knights. They plan to purchase bricks in memory of the unborn and of Fr. Charles Martell, Fr. Eugene Kane, Fr. George Wuellner, and other deceased priests of St. Patrick's and St. Mary's parishes.

If you missed the first pancake breakfast, take heart. The Knights hope to offer another pancake breakfast later this fall. Keep watching *In Focus* and the bulletin for news of this and other Knights activities.

"Meet and Greet" Barbeque planned

All parishioners are invited to meet and mingle at a barbeque on Sunday, Sept. 12. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., following the 10:30 and noon Masses. This event will include the religious education fall kickoff, the parish newcomers welcome, and a social for the entire parish.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, P B & J, drinks, plates, cups, and utensils will be provided. You are invited to bring a favorite dish to share:

- A-K, salad or veggies
- L-R, chips or fruit
- S-Z, desserts

The event will be held on the lawn between the church and the parish center, so bring blankets or folding chairs for your comfort. In the case of rain, the gathering will

move to the main hall.

You are invited to pick up a name tag and display your artistic skills by decorating your name and interest or ministry.

If you can volunteer to help, contact Peggy Loftus, Suzanne D'Andria, Mary Long, or Carolyn McElrath at the parish office (367-2665).

As calendars get more crowded, it seems to make sense to have a single event that accommodates the purposes of several smaller ones. In keeping with this effort to consolidate events, on May 1, 2011, another major event will encompass the religious education end-of-year picnic, the newcomers welcome dinner, the volunteer appreciation dinner, and an all-parish social.



"Great Dates" returns

The Great Dates program, for married couples of all ages and all stages of married life, returns for its fourth year with an expanded mission, new leadership, and a new parish-created book of shared stories of married life.

For seven Saturday evenings, once a month beginning in October, married couples will meet in the church to hear one of the couples share a story on a chosen topic. Topics can range from the art of negotiation to spirituality in marriage, from financial conflict to mixed marriages. Then each couple will head out on a date—time together to reflect, to enjoy each other's company, and to reconnect.

Four years ago, participating couples used the book *10 Great Dates to Energize Your Marriage* as a basis for exploring and enriching their lives together. This year couples will be treated to a book of



short stories submitted by parishioners from St. Patrick: *Fried Chicken & Donuts*, and *Other Stories of Covenant Marriage*. After each story reflection questions and a verse from Scripture tie in with the story.

A new feature of the program this year will be an "after-chat"—an option for couples to extend the discussion with other couples beyond the 15-minute presentation. The hope is that "after-chat" will help couples get to know one another and offer support in their marriage vocation.

This year's leadership team includes Steve and Mary Karten,

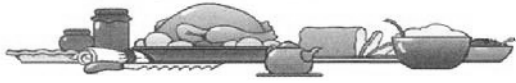
Mark Freedman and Laurie Kaufmann, and Chris and Ja Nelle Pleasure. You can e-mail questions about the program to mlkarden@hotmail.com. Registration forms will be available in the bulletin, at the parish office, and on the parish Web site (www.staturbana.org). The program cost is \$20 per couple, payable to St. Patrick Church, and includes the book.

And let's not forget that **childcare is provided** on each date night by the high school youth and parents of CREW, who are supervised by Peggy Loftus. Couples must register for the program and childcare **no later than Sept. 26**. CREW accepts donations for this service, which will be applied to the expenses of next summer's mission trip.

Join other parish couples of all ages and stages of marriage because **WE ALL NEED A DATE NIGHT!**

Enjoy an Amish Lunch on the Farm

St. Patrick's Seniors will meet on Friday, Oct. 15, to enjoy



lunch at an Amish farmhouse near Sullivan, Illinois. (The Oct. 29 meeting date has been canceled.) Those participating will meet at St. Patrick's parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and carpool from there. The cost for the lunch is \$15, prepaid.

All parishioners are welcome to come to the Amish lunch. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 4. If interested, send a check for the lunch (\$15 per person) payable to St. Patrick Church or give it to Dianne in the parish office. Include the names of those attending, your phone number, and your e-mail address. Reservation confirmation will come to you by Oct. 8.

The Amish home hosts small groups or large groups up to 45; therefore, this trip is definitely a "go." Mr. and Mrs. Obie Hershberger, our hosts, started hosting lunches to defray medical costs when their son was injured in a farm accident.

After the meal, participants are free to go for a short buggy ride on the farm, look at farm animals, or visit other interesting places near Sullivan and Arthur.

Following is a list of some places in the area one might choose to visit. (Maps to these locations will be distributed when the group meets at St. Patrick's parking lot.)

Beachy's Grocery and Bulk Foods There is no electricity in this store, so shopping is by light provided by skylights. In 1976, Beachy moved his family from Ohio to the Amish community outside of Arthur. As the popularity of their products

grew, the family decided to open a store in 1980.

You can purchase fresh baked pies on Friday and Saturday in addition to a wide variety of fresh and dried foods.

Miller's Dry Goods This Amish-owned fabric store offers unique home items, home schooling materials, over 10,000 bolts of fabric, sewing and quilting materials, clear and colored glassware, baby items (everything from blankets to bottles), toys, books, boxed greeting cards, and wrapping paper.

Rockome Gardens (\$8/adults, \$6 seniors 60+, \$4 ages 5-12, children under 4 are free) Rockome Gardens had its beginning in the 1930s when an Arthur business man, wishing to provide continued employment during tough times, sent some of his workers out to landscape and build rockworks on his nearby farm. Later the farm was opened to the public to enjoy. At the end of the season this year it will be closed for a five-year renovation by new owners, who plan to restore Rockome to its past.

The Great Pumpkin Patch In 1859, McDonald immigrants from Scotland settled in East Central Illinois and purchased land to begin their new lives. The Great Pumpkin Patch is a family business and a work of love. Pick your own produce or select from their tables. In addition to a landscape of pumpkins, they offer Indian corn, garden mums, corn stalks, and straw bales. Admission: Adults, \$5; seniors (60+), \$3; children aged 6-12, \$2; and children 5 and under, free. Questions? Call Shirley Splittstoesser (367-3330).

Did you know ... ?

- Tracey Johnson has just begun serving as Lector Coordinator. If you'd like to serve our parish as lector, give her a call (356-1807). She can give you tips on how to use the microphone effectively and on resources to help you read with meaning to convey the message of the day's Scripture.

- The church has two restrooms, one inside the vesting sacristy (next to the Marian shrine) and the other in the servers' sacristy (turn left at the top of the ramp inside the east entrance of the church). Regrettably, both areas can be quite busy before Mass, when ministers are gathering and preparations are being made for Mass, but everyone can make room when needed!



Father, in your loving care for us, you give each of us a piece of your saving work to do.

Call from among us people who will preach your Word, seek out the lost and lonely, bring healing and reconciliation to those who are crushed in spirit, provide food for those who hunger in body or soul, and bear witness to your love.

Bless all who serve in these ministries. Give them gifts of love, faith, prayer, and friendship, that they may persevere in the life you have given them until you call them home to you.

From Our Parish Nurses

Protect your child's vision

Did you know that 1 in 20 preschoolers and 1 in 4 school-aged children suffer from vision problems? In the first 12 years of life, 80% of a child's learning is visual, so failure to get regular vision examinations for your children may affect their academic development.

The American Optometric Association recommends the following examination guideline for early detection of vision problems:

- A comprehensive eye examination at 6 months of age. To find optometrists in your area who provide a comprehensive eye assessment for infants between 6 and 12 months of age as a no-cost public service, please go to www.infantsee.org.

- A comprehensive eye examination at 3 years of age, and again prior to entering school. (Illinois law requires proof of an eye examination when a child enters kindergarten.)

- Children should continue to have comprehensive eye and vision examinations every 2 years thereafter. Symptomatic or at-risk children may need to have examinations more frequently.



What makes me Catholic?

Sacramentality. Mediation. Community. What is the meaning of these words, and why are they so important to our Catholic faith? If you would like to find out the answers to these questions (and many others), you are encouraged to attend *Mystagogia*, a small Christian community at St. Patrick's that caters especially to people recently confirmed into the Catholic Church but is open to anyone who desires to explore the faith in greater depth.

In *Mystagogia*, each individual is helped to grow in faith through prayer, discussion, and readings. New members are helped to make an easy transition into the St.



Patrick's community and to deepen their Catholic experience. From cradle Catholics to those newly confirmed, all who would like to know more

about the Catholic faith are welcome. Participants are encouraged to bring a spouse or a friend to share this experience.

If you are interested in knowing more about your faith, consider participating in *Mystagogia*. You may direct questions about the program to Jonathan McCoy (jdmccoy8@comcast.net). Keep your eyes open for announcements in the bulletin in coming weeks: meetings will resume in September.

Special calls for volunteers

- *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.

Here I sit with pen in hand
and wonder what to write,
just as I've sat for near an hour
and watched day change to night,
and waited for the words to flow
and thought with all my might;
but nothing's come, except these lines,
so I give up—all right?



Sarah from page 1

in Spanish, so I was kind of quiet since I don't speak much of it! This gave me a nice chance, though, to observe the kids and notice that they were very appreciative of everything we were teaching. The children were extremely well-behaved and attentive—more so than at schools here!

This trip was very special for me because we really got to live with the people. We stayed in their homes; women from the villages cooked for us. We were welcomed into their lives and were received with great hospitality. The “regulars” that go every year are really like family to the people of Calavera. The relationship is special and very deep.

The local people are very excited for the visit every summer. I have never had such a fulfilling experience, and I have never felt so much gratitude and love like that given us by the villagers. Their lives are so simple, yet they are the kindest, most sincere people I have ever met.

At our fourth community, San Miguelito, the children performed a song for us at the welcome titled “*Lazos de Amistad*,” or “Ties of friendship.” In the chorus there is one line that really resonated with me (the whole song is beautiful but I have to narrow this down!): “*Y sentirás dentro del alma la sensación de ser mejor.*” Roughly translated, it means, “And within the soul will feel the sensation of being better.” That really sums up the trip for me. I truly feel that I am a better version of myself coming back from this trip. I feel really blessed that I got to go to El Salvador and see, in a very real way, the peace God wants for us. I saw that people don't need material things and possessions to make them happy and to have strong faith; just living a simple life, focused on important things like family and community, is a true gift.



Sarah with the El Rusio school children, who had been playing a beanbag game about sea creatures.



Hiking from village to village took the group through beautiful mountain terrain like this.



The group from St. Mary's, accompanied by villagers who saw them safely to their next destination, pause for a brief rest—and a photo.

Guide from page 1

from Main Street, inside the room with the telephone. The other is in the room behind the baptismal font; take the side exit near the baptistry and turn left, without going downstairs or outside. The restroom is on the left at the top of the ramp. This restroom provides better access for those with mobility impairments. You can get a drink of water in either restroom; plastic cups are in the medicine cabinets.

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

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

Sign language: Mass is interpreted in sign language at the noon Mass on the first and third Sundays of the month, and on some holidays. Watch the bulletin for the holiday schedule.

Large-print hymnals: Copies of the hymns from the red *Worship*

hymnal are in the vestibule of the church.

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

Reconciliation room: The reconciliation room is to the left as you enter the church from Main Street. You may kneel at the screen just inside the door or walk around it to sit face to face with the priest for the sacrament. Two lights outside the room help you to know when you may enter. When a priest is present, the upper light is green; the lower light is red when another person is with the priest, but will turn green to let you know when you may enter. The sacrament of reconciliation is offered every Saturday before Mass from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. and after Mass until 6:30 p.m. or until all have been served. If you need to make an appointment during a different time period, you may also call the parish office (367-2665) to do so.

Coming soon to St. Patrick's

In mid-September it will be possible to use a credit or debit card online at St. Patrick's Web site to pay for church-related expenditures such as weekly offerings or registration fees for religious education and special events.

The accepted credit cards are Visa and MasterCard. This service is fully secured with P.C.I. Security. No one at St. Patrick's will ever see your account; the transaction is strictly between you and your credit card company or bank. If you currently



use automatic withdrawal from your checking account for your offering, you now may choose any day of the month, not just the 20th, for the

withdrawal.

You may continue to use cash or checks for all transactions, but for those who appreciate the convenience of a paper-less transaction, you now have another option for payment.

Watch the bulletin for more information and the date this service will begin.

Discerning your gifts

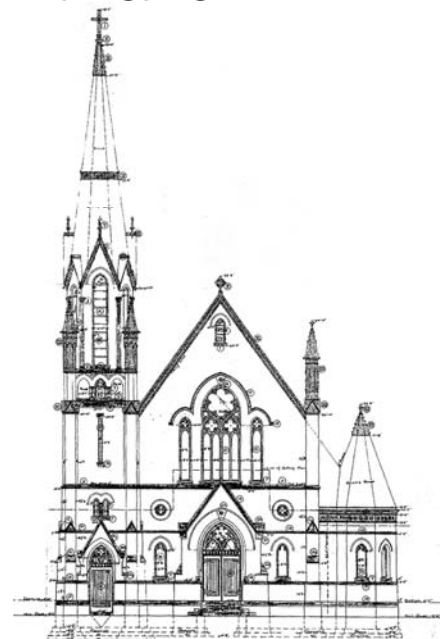
The spiritual term for identifying your gifts and determining how they can be best used for service to others, is "discernment," from a Latin word meaning "to sift through."

Discernment takes time, prayer, and reflection. Set aside some quiet time, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognize your gifts and talents. Then ask yourself some questions:

What are my talents? What are my special abilities? What skills have I developed? What people skills do I have? When people compliment me, what do they recognize? What do family members or close friends see as my best traits? What is my job or profession? What makes me good at what I do?

We are called to use our talents. Once we realize how God has gifted us, we can ask for God's help to use those talents effectively. In the booklet *Ministry at St. Patrick* you will find many opportunities listed for making good use of them. Look through these to find the best fit between your gifts and ways of putting them to good use. It's never too late!

The late Erma Bombeck once wrote: "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me.'"



Who is Father Joe Hogan?

In coming months In Focus will highlight individual members of the parish staff to give our readers the opportunity to know more about them, who they are at work, and who they are apart from their work.

Fr. Joe Hogan is the pastor of St. Patrick Parish, of course. As such he is the chief financial officer of the parish for the Diocese of Peoria, parish administrator, chief liturgical minister—



although you won't see these titles in print anywhere. He is also advisor, spiritual director, counselor, and friend to many in the parish. But these do not make the whole man we know as Father Joe.

To begin at the beginning: Joe Hogan was born in Parma, Ohio, to Bob and Kathy Hogan. He was the third of four children and their only son. When he was four, they moved to Normal, Illinois. His parents still live in Normal, as does one sister; the other two sisters live in California and Chicago. They are a very close family and talk to each other every week.

Joe's parents instilled in him a strong work ethic. His first job was in junior high school, detasseling corn at Funk's Grove. He continued working through college at any number of jobs, including at the local IGA, liquor stores, and gas stations.

While at Normal Community High School, Joe participated in several sports. He excelled in wrestling, and one year went to State at 119 pounds. Then he discovered girls and didn't have much time left for sports. The idea of becoming a priest didn't enter his head, although when he was young his sisters would tease him, sometimes telling him he would like girls when he

grew up, and other times that he'd become a priest.

At Illinois State University Joe completed a double major in psychology and sociology, intending to become a counselor upon graduation. During his junior year the concept of becoming a priest caught him. He tried to ignore it, but every day it would burst into his consciousness. He wrestled with God over it until he finally accepted that God was calling him. Since he was such a free spirit, his parents were surprised—but happy to learn of his vocation.

Joe attended the Seminary of St. Mary of the Lake in northern Illinois. He loved it. He was amazed and ecstatic that so many other men were driven to find out more about God. He loved the prayer and openness with God.

Ordained for the Diocese of Peoria and now *Father Joe*, he served his internship at St. Thomas in Peoria Heights, learning from Msgr. Bill Watson. His next challenging but rewarding assignment was at St. John's Catholic Newman Center at the University of Illinois. After that, he was assigned to St. Philomena in Monticello, St. Edward in Chillicothe, and St. Anthony in Spring Valley. For the last seven years, he has been inspiring us at St. Patrick.

You may be surprised to learn that Father Joe has sold his Kawasaki 800 motorcycle this year. He had been riding for 25 years and found it a great way to pray while riding in the country, where everything goes away except the grandeur of the sky and the cornfields. But he wasn't riding it often and his riding was nerve-racking for his parents, so being a dutiful son he quit. From his sabbatical he has learned to take long, quiet walks, and now he walks three to four miles a day, six days a week.

Have you ever wondered how long it takes Father to prepare his Sunday homily? He said he once heard that for every minute of a sermon, one should spend an hour

in preparation! Father indicated that for him some homilies are easy and others require research. He added that he honed his delivery skills and content at St. John's Catholic Newman Center, where students responded to the emotional and dramatic. They demanded that the sermons articulate the Catholic faith using Scriptures so that they could defend their faith to fellow students.

For the last 17 years Father Joe has been getting together monthly with a group of ten priests, a group that includes Msgr. Doug Hennessey and Msgr. Bill Watson. Every August, he joins priest friends from seminary days for a week's vacation in Wisconsin, a tradition of 25 years. Father believes a regular get-together with other priests should be required for all priests!



A sabbatical is something else every priest should be required to take, he says. Father Joe spent last February on a 30-day Ignatian retreat at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos, California. (He said his only difficulty about not talking for a month was not being able to communicate with his family!) The

Father Joe from page 8

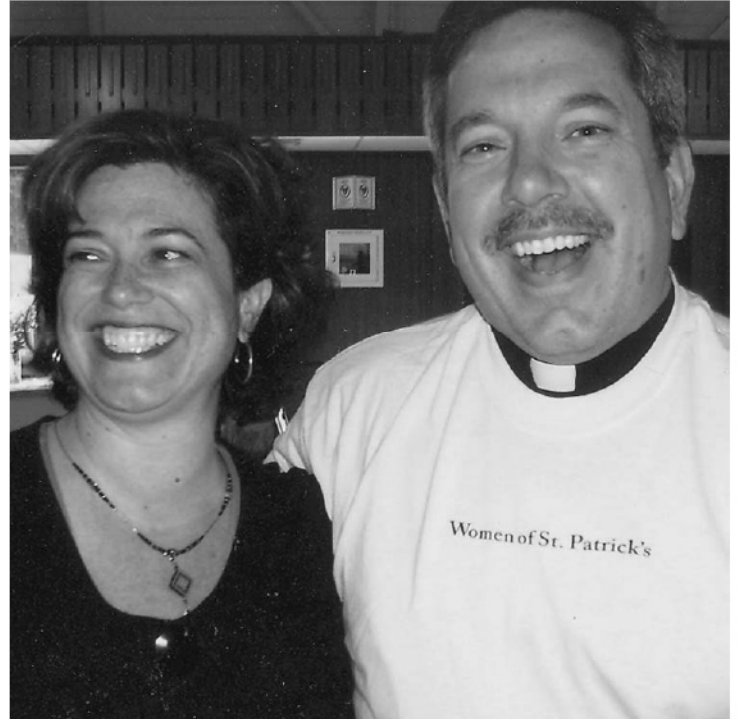
retreat showed Father how deep it is possible to get with God if one makes the effort in time and prayer—"God blew me away!" he exclaimed.

The other two months of his sabbatical gave him the opportunity for independent study at St. Patrick's Seminary and College in Menlo Park, California, where he studied spirituality, morality, the Church today, and more. He took with him 25 books to read, half of which were about the lives of saints, which he particularly enjoys reading.

Father Joe also believes that pilgrimages strengthen faith. For 20 years he has been leading a pilgrimage every other year, and he finds that going to different religious places provides a perfect opportunity to challenge and deepen one's faith life. This fall he will lead a pilgrimage to Israel accompanied by 38 people, half of whom are from St. Patrick and the others from his former parishes.

He relishes all aspects of parish work. He likes sacramental prayer, communal worship, and being with people in joyous times, like weddings and baptisms, and in sad times, like illness and death. He enjoys working with the staff and parishioners, who present many interesting and different personalities in a parish of such great diversity!

Father Joe promises that this will be an exciting year for us, so tighten your seatbelts and hang on while he guides us down the road to deeper faith!



With his sister Mary, featured speaker for the Women of St. Patrick



Hosting Bishop Daniel Jenky at Confirmation



Re-Membering Church has a new name!

After much discussion and prayer, members of the Re-Membering Church Team have decided to move forward with a new name—RETURNING CATHOLICS. Why the name change after all these years?

RETURNING CATHOLICS clearly defines and focuses on the individuals for whom this ministry is tailored. We are most interested in reaching out to Catholics who, for any number of reasons, are not currently practicing the Catholic faith into which they were baptized.

The RETURNING CATHOLICS program responds to Catholics who feel called by God to return to their roots, but need support and encouragement to reintegrate into a Catholic setting. Some appreciate a review of the Mass and the sacraments—the form, the rituals, and the theology that underpins them. Some require an understanding of lay ministry options and programs offered by a parish community as we all continue to grow into a deeper awareness of our faith. Still others seek counseling and spiritual direction as they reconcile their past and confront the

reasons that contributed to their non-participation.

Under its new name, RETURNING CATHOLICS will offer three six-week sessions beginning this fall. The first starts Sept. 15 and extends through Oct. 20. These Wednesday evening sessions begin at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center. The spring session, Mar. 9 through Apr. 13, again meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

The summer session, July 6 through Aug. 10, meets on Wednesdays during the noon hour, 12:10-12:50 p.m. It is a brown-bag series; we encourage folks to bring their lunch, especially those who appreciate the daytime offering but have to return to jobs or other commitments.

Members of the RETURNING CATHOLICS TEAM—Judy

Corbett, Mary Lou Menches, Mary Jo Thomsen, and Barbara Wysocki—will be on hand to share their experiences of Church. Readings and videos round out the sessions as catalysts for discussion.

If you know someone who could benefit from this ministry, please share this article with them; better yet, offer to accompany them to the sessions. For more information, call the parish office (367-2665).

This Is Your Invitation to Reconsider the Catholic Church



Q: Why does the priest wash his hands before the Eucharistic Prayer?

A: There are several answers

to this when you look at the history of the liturgy. One answer is: For the same reason that you take a shower before going out to a nice dinner. It's just natural to want to be clean when you're doing something festive or solemn. Some ancient rubrics tell the priest to wash before Mass as part of his preparation. It's the same idea.

Another answer has to do with the gifts brought up in the offertory procession. In some times and in some places, people brought gifts either for the priest or for the poor. If someone brought up a bushel basket of wheat or a chicken... well, you get the idea.

Nowadays, the washing is perfunctory, since it isn't really needed for any practical reason. Instead, the priest recites a verse from Psalm 51: "Lord, wash me of my iniquities and cleanse me from my sins." It's just another way to cleanse oneself before the festive and solemn celebration of the Eucharist.

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

An easy way you can help

The Food Pantry responds to other needs, not just food, of the men and women who come for help. Ellen Abell, who manages the Food Pantry, recently remarked that they often need some very simple items that we probably take for granted in our day-to-day living. She specifically mentioned these:

- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Shampoo
- Dishwashing liquid
- Diapers
- Bars of soap

So the next time you go grocery shopping, you might pick up a few of these items and drop them off at the Food Pantry, or leave them in the large basket in the church vestibule. (Ellen also has an ongoing need for clean plastic grocery bags—minus the receipt slips!) See? It really is an easy way to help!



in our parish library

Please stop by the parish library this fall to view the wide range of materials available for browsing and for checkout. Categories of materials include magazines, fiction and nonfiction books, children's books, reference materials, and a new book section.

Following is a selection of newly processed books, thanks to recent donations.

- *Catholics and American Culture: Fulton Sheen, Dorothy Day, and the Notre Dame Football Team*, by Mark Massa. Call Number: 305.6 Massa 1999
- *Gifts from a Course in Miracles: Accept This Gift; A Gift of Peace; A Gift of Healing*, edited by Frances Vaughan and Roger Walsh. Call Number: 299.9 VAU 1995
- *The Gospel of Mary of Magdala: Jesus and the First Woman*

Apostle, by Karen L. King. Call Number: 229.8 KIN 2003

- *Jesus, a Revolutionary Biography: A Startling Account of What We Can Know about the Life of Jesus*, by John Dominic Crossan. Call Number: 232.9 CRO 1994
- *The Mass Is Never Ended: Our Mission to Transform the World*, by Gregory F. Augustine Pierce. Call Number: 248.4 PIE 2007
- *People of God: The Struggle for World Catholicism*, by Penny Lernoux. Call Number: 261.7 LER 1989
- *Roman Catholicism: Yesterday and Today*, by Robert A. Burns, O.P. Call Number: 282.09 BUR
- *When God Was a Woman*, by Merlin Stone. Call Number: 291.2 STO

On the circular rack there you will also find a selection of second-hand magazines and newspapers that are free for the taking. These include *U.S. Catholic*, *America*, *Tablet*, *Spiritual Life*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *Weavings*, *Journey and the Joy*, and *Alive Now*—among others. You may take and keep these or perhaps return them for someone else to read.

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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.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Mary Lou Menches

Ice Cream Pie

1 graham cracker shell
1.5 qt ice cream

How easy this is! Soften the ice cream in its container by microwaving it for 15-20 seconds. Turn the ice cream into the pie shell, and freeze it again until firm. Before serving, soften the pie in the microwave 5-7 seconds (so you can cut it for serving), and garnish it if desired.

Use your favorite ice cream—strawberry, orange-vanilla, or root beer ice cream (yes, there really is a root beer ice cream) is great in summertime, peppermint or eggnog ice cream around Christmastime, pumpkin ice cream for... yes,



Thanksgiving. Heap it up in the pie shell and whatever doesn't fit can be your reward for "going to so much trouble"! For garnishes, you might use fresh strawberries, shavings from a chocolate bar, blueberries, orange slices, nut pieces—whatever suits your fancy. It's easy, it's fun, it's tasty, and your family or guests will love it!

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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!

Supplement

CREW ON MISSION, 2010

This year's CREW Mission Trip began with 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, July 11. The 26 teens and 13 chaperones loaded a bus and headed to East St. Louis for this year's Mission. CREW worked once again with ESLARP, the East St. Louis Action Research Project, building on a relationship begun in 2006.

East St. Louis Action Research Project (ESLARP) is a program of sustained engagement with distressed urban areas through service learning and action research. Together with residents and community organizations in severely distressed areas, faculty, staff, and students from across the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign work on highly tangible and visible projects that address immediate and long-term needs.

Since 1987, this program of mutual learning and assistance has been an important part of neighborhood improvement and other community-based efforts in East St. Louis and surrounding communities. Parishioner Mike Andrejasich, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs at UIUC, and "Mission Maestro" has worked with ESLARP for many years and helped to develop St. Patrick's CREW relationship with this organization.

Return to Opal's House

This year CREW went back to work at Opal's House, a domestic violence intervention agency and shelter program in East St. Louis, Illinois. Opal's House primarily serves women and children escaping domestic violence in St. Clair and

Madison counties. In 2006 CREW did work inside to prepare the building for use as a shelter. This year's work emphasized the exterior: landscaping, replacing a chain link fence with a privacy fence, and re-siding and painting. Work included pulling cement-anchored posts from the ground and digging 30 two-and-a-half-foot post holes.

CREW stayed at the Shrine of our Lady of the Snows, which provided beautiful surroundings and rest for weary workers. On Monday, Fr. Joe joined the group to celebrate Mass at the Christ the King Chapel, under the Shrine Amphitheater.

CREW's theme this year was the "Catholic Olympics" – their T-shirts put everyone on TEAM JESUS. Each evening included a social justice teaching, such as "Same God, different perspective," allowing teens to attempt activities with a temporary physical disability.

Working, praying, learning all the while

On Tuesday, the group worked on fence building and trying to avoid

poison ivy, as well as putting up siding. That evening, they did a mock simulation of the show "The Apprentice." In this "episode" the audience had to vote off one of five contestants: a man from Sudan, an elderly sick woman, an unborn baby, a murderer on death row who has found God, or a physically handicapped woman. After some lively discussion, the teams were then assigned to read a portion of the USCCB document "Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics."

Wednesday, the fence workers nearly completed the new fence, while the siding team continued their work. Their social justice study was a Catholic version of "Pick Your Own Adventure." Teens were to pick an introductory story of the life of a teenager in one of five countries (Haiti, India, Zimbabwe, Sudan or the Holy Land). They then had to make decisions about how to live that teen's life and see where their decisions took them. After completing a walk, the teens "debriefed" with two adult chaperons. After-



Team Jesus, ready to tackle anything on Mission 2010!

ward, they could choose to walk that path again, making different decisions, or walk a new path in a different country.

On Thursday, CREW and adult volunteers worked hard to finish up their projects and even do some extra things like trimming bushes, pulling weeds, and mowing the lawn. Some groups finished up early, but the "Siding Team" stayed late to make sure their work was done. The Catholic Olympic event was "Power and Might." Each team was given a drawing of a cross, supplies, and tools and had to build a wooden cross. Speed, neatness, and accuracy counted. Afterward, each team was assigned a core value (service, justice, care and compassion, respect for human dignity, and faithfulness), which they had to define and then make a poster about. These posters will be a part of the Mission Report at the Masses on Sept. 18-19.

Signing off and heading for fun

On Friday, the group traveled back to Opal's House for a group photo and signed the wall that the 2006 CREW had signed. Then they traveled to the City Museum for some well-earned fun before heading back to Urbana.

Teens and adults faced extreme heat and humidity, poison oak and ivy, and minor injuries, but their attitude and work ethic overpowered all obstacles! The adult volunteers kept telling Peggy about the great work the teens were doing: "Peggy, you wouldn't believe those kids today! They worked so hard! They never complained! They got so much done! *Man*, did they work hard!" "Those kids worked their butts off today." "I am so proud of them, the way they tackled their jobs and never gave up." "I can't believe how much we got done today!"

These teens and their chaperones provided salt for the earth and light for the world!



Father Joe celebrates Mass with the missionaries in the Christ the King Chapel.



The depths to which people will pour concrete!



Mary, Dan, Josh, Julia, Will, and Kaitlin dig out a very big cement fence post!

"Today Cora, Mark, and I were making 30 holes 30 inches deep. After measuring precisely the spot for one hole, it just so happened to have 7 pieces of brick in the exact same spot in the first 6 inches! But not to worry, with teamwork and raw talent, we won. Yeah! P.S.: It was humid!"



Chris and Kyle work on plumbing the new fence posts.



Essie Calhoun, founder of Opal's House, and Mike Andrejasich, head of the East St. Louis Action Research Project



Shelby, Kaitlin, Gracie, Andy, and Derek work on their final Olympic challenge, to build a wooden cross to detailed specifications.



The chaperones judge crosses made by the five teams.



Sam, Josh, Will, Julia and Mary - Team Gold (even though they are the green-colored team!)



"Once upon a time, in the far-away land of East St. Louis, there was a beautiful stump. One day King Chris F. rode in on a valiant steed (a.k.a. car). With the neon magical chain of power, he freed the beautiful stump from the evil ground it was dwelling in with irresistible force. The end."



Randy, Denise, Patrick, Peggy, Shelby, Kaitlin, Gracie, and Chris enjoy a fast slide on the rooftop at the City Museum.



Kaitlin, Cora, and Gracie traverse the steel cages at the City Museum.



Kelsey, Caitlin, and Betsy learn how to make animal-themed snowflakes.



Mission 2010: Team Jesus outside Opal's House in East St. Louis, Illinois

Teens on Mission

- Mary Cimakasky
- Luke Cottingham
- Amy Crull
- Chris Fowler
- Cora Freidhof
- Kristen Hammel
- Kyle Hammel
- Derek Hauslauden
- Will Justice
- Kelsey Kaiser
- Will Laumann
- Jo Ellen Maches
- Chris Mathy
- Grace Mayer
- Joshua McCarty
- Julia Morriss
- Sam Noonan
- Kyle Ritten
- Mark Sandwick
- Betsy Schuele
- Dan Schuele
- Caitlyn Schutz
- Shelby Simmering
- Kaitlyn Squire
- Freddie Stavins
- Andy Wszalek

Adult Volunteers

- Mike Andrejasich
- Judy Crull
- Chris Freidhof
- Denise Freidhof
- Patrick Hatch
- Dick Justice
- Pat Justice
- Gary Laumann
- Peggy Loftus
- Jim Mayer
- Pat Mayer
- Randy Pankau
- Fred Stavins

M³, especially for moms

Are you a mom who needs a little support from some other moms? Are you willing to help mothers of young children find some time to relax and recharge? M³ (Moms Meeting Moms) is starting up

again, and looking for moms who want to participate as well as caring volunteers who can provide childcare during the bi-monthly meetings.

M³ will have its first meeting of the year on Wednesday, Sept. 22, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Breakfast and childcare will be provided.

What can you expect from joining M³? First and foremost, you can count on meeting other moms who face the same daily challenges you do and can lend a supportive ear. Beyond that, the M³ curriculum will focus on topics such as health, spiritual well being, and many



momsmeetingmoms

others. A variety of guest speakers throughout the year will enrich and enlighten our times together. Most of all, there will be plenty of time to sip, nibble, chat, and laugh with your mom friends

while your children are cared for in a safe, loving environment!

Speaking of volunteers: Anyone willing to spend a few hours each month providing childcare for the meetings is encouraged to lend a helping hand. To our current volunteers: Your wonderful ministry is greatly appreciated—the moms can't thank you enough!

Whether you're a mom who'd like to participate, or a volunteer who's willing to help out, contact Rachael McMillan (402-5005 or rachmcmill@gmail.com) to get started.

We're looking forward to a great M³ year—hope to see you soon!

Martyrs are very human

Lawrence Ruiz (1600-37) lived at a time when Europeans were turning Asian cities into colonies, with entire regions and even nations subjected to European countries. Japanese leaders, afraid that this might happen there too, tried to shut out influence from other countries.

Lawrence was born in Manila in the Philippines to Christian parents; he married, had three children, and became a professional calligrapher, transcribing documents in beautiful penmanship. Fleeing from authorities who were looking for him "on account of a homicide to which he was present or which was attributed to him," he sought refuge with two others who had found asylum with three priests who were about to set sail. After they had left port, he learned that the ship was bound for Japan.

It wasn't long after they'd disembarked that they were found out,

arrested, and taken to Nagasaki—where 50,000 Catholics who'd once lived there had been dispersed or killed. They were subjected to unspeakable kinds of torture, during which some of them died and others were broken. Lawrence himself, in a terrible moment of temptation, asked whether, if he renounced his faith, his life would be spared. However, he regained his courage and endured even harsher torture that brought about his death.

Pope John Paul II canonized all of these men; Lawrence Ruiz became the first Filipino martyr to be canonized.

We Christians today, how would we stand up in the circumstances these men faced? We understand Lawrence's terrible temptation, and we see the incredible courage he drew from the faith that sustained him. Martyrdom, like ordinary life, is a miracle of grace!



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 Frances Drone-Silvers, Judy Fierke, Elizabeth Hendricks, Sarah Johnson, Mary Karten, Peggy Loftus, Jonathan McCoy, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestre, Nancy Roth, Cathy Salika, Shirley Splittstoesser, Margaret Stewart, and Barb Wysocki. September saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by John Towns and pagged by Jim Urban.