

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

April 2011



## Honoring Our Past BUILDING OUR FUTURE

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH CAMPAIGN

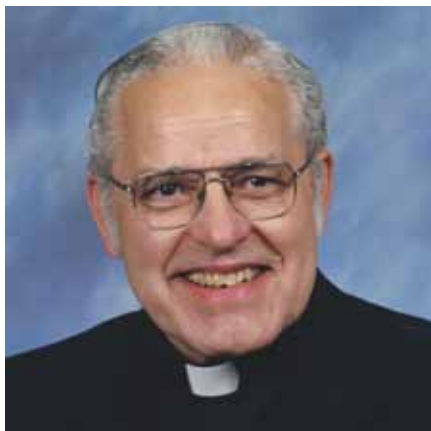
On the weekend of Feb. 19-20, Father George Remm, St. Patrick's pastor from 1986 to 2004 and Honorary Campaign Chair, joined Father Joe Hogan in addressing parishioners, as the parish launched its campaign. Below are Father Remm's remarks.

Our campaign is entitled "Honoring our Past, Building our Future." I'm part of that section, "honoring our past." I'm privileged to be here with you after six years and eight months of grateful retirement, and I am pleased to be designated "honorary chairman" for this important campaign.

I bring the wider perspective of the past twenty-five years as an eyewitness and participant in the evolving awareness that something has to be done for the worship space of this community.

Early in the 1990s I became concerned about the capacity of our church and the condition of a building that was approaching 100 years of age. My worry about the safety and condition of the walls and structure was put to rest by a thorough inspection of the heavy wooden beams above the ceiling and of the corbels that are a special feature of our architecture and help to support the walls and the roof. That roof is the original slate roof that has now lasted for almost 108 years. Before the Centennial renovation of the interior of our church, we made a decision to try to keep repairing the roof as long as we could in case we made a decision to expand the church building.

In the mid-1990s we actually secured the services of Renaissance Architects from Springfield, Ill., to offer us some possibilities for enlarging the church building and connecting it with the parish center. We discovered that if we did so, we would have to have adequate parking spaces for the enlarged capacity of worshippers. At that time I believed that it would be impossible to acquire the apartment buildings on the north side of the alley, and beyond our means to do so. I actually looked into the possibility of buying additional properties on the east side of Coler Avenue for additional parking.



## This joyful season of Lent

One of the Prefaces (the prayer before the "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" at Mass) for the season of Lent says, "Each year you give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed." Do you think of Lent as a joyful season?

Consider the joy of planting your garden, knowing that lots of flowers and vegetables are on the way. Consider the joy of learning something new, knowing the pleasure of accomplishment. Consider the joy of listening to God's word in scripture and in prayer, being in the presence of the One who loves you best. Consider the joy of our catechumens, anticipating the coming of life renewed in Christ. Consider the joy of sharing your time, talents, and treasure with those in need, recognizing and using the gifts that God has given you.

These things are somewhat rewarding in themselves, but it takes some maturity to savor their joy more deeply. They all require some time and effort from us. But there is great joy in anticipating the results, a closer relationship with God and with others. Lent is a joyful season indeed!



see **Fr. Remm** on page 5

## St. Patrick's church a study in change!

When you see the interior of our beautiful church, you see it after its third major "makeover." There have been a lot of changes over the years. How far back can you remember?



*St. Patrick's church, in 1903*

Many will recall the change from the red and tan interior to our present shades of green and cream. This was done in 2002, as part of the centennial renovation of the church.

In 1996, the statue of St. Patrick in the vestibule was restored and given a sturdier base.

In 1988, the statue of Mary was refurbished and placed in beautiful surroundings. The baptismal font was given a permanent place. Artwork was added above the font and the tabernacle to enhance these areas.

On Easter Sunday, 1981, the new hanging crucifix in the sanctuary, *The Rising Christ*, was unveiled. It must have lent a great sense of awe to the feast! This icon of our parish and the art that followed was the work of Nick Britsky, parishioner and member of the U of I art faculty.

The 75th anniversary of the church in 1978 was the occasion of a major renovation. The baptismal font was moved from the southeast corner of the church to the front. The floor space in the sanctuary was expanded to make more room for the ministers. The altar and ambo that we use today were acquired.

The statues and ornate woodwork behind the altar were removed and replaced with rich wood paneling. The image of the Last Supper was restored and moved from the base of the altar to its present location, which also provided a place for the vigil candles. New stairs to the choir loft were built with space for a reconciliation room below them.

In 1961, there was a small fire in the sacristy in the northeast corner of the church. The structural damage was confined to that area, but there was smoke and water

tower, was another door. To your right, in the southeast corner, an iron gate opened to allow access to the baptismal font; the stairs to the choir loft were on that side. The wall between the porch and the body of the church was solid. Inside, the beams of the walls and ceiling were painted. The spaces between the beams were painted with designs, not solid colors. The gated altar rail stretched across the front. The altar was set in an ornate wooden reredos that was painted white and gold with incandescent lights illuminating each arch. To either side, a statue of an angel held a large candelabrum. Above the tabernacle was the statue of St. Patrick, flanked by those of two other saints, Peter and Paul.

Where are these today? The two angels were ultimately moved to a church in Henry, Ill. The statues of Mary and Patrick, and the Last Supper plaque from the foot of the altar, can still be seen in our church.



*...in 1983*

damage throughout the building. As part of the cleanup, the walls and ceiling were painted gray to make them easier to maintain.

From 1903 to 1961, the interior seems to have been pretty stable. Coming in the Main St. entrance, you would have entered a shallow porch. To your left, at the base of the



*...and in 2002*

## Parishioners elect three to Parish Council

At all Masses the weekend of Feb. 26-27 members of St. Patrick's voted for three parishioners to fill vacancies on the Council effective in May upon the retirement of Pam Donze De Ley, Shelly Benson, and Doug Wolfersberger at the expiration of their three-year terms.

The newly elected—Oscar Gonzales, Bridget McGill, and Barb Thomas—will be officially seated at the May Council meeting. The election was held several weeks earlier than its customary April schedule to allow time for orientation and mentoring to help them get off to a good start.

Congratulations to the three parishioners elected to serve a term of three years on the Parish Council, in service to our pastor and to the parish. To help our readers become better acquainted with them, we repeat here the statements they prepared for the election process:

### Oscar Gonzales

I would like to be involved in the expansion of St. Patrick's church in the next three years. I am in the public sector and also in property management. I am currently managing units owned by St. Patrick's Parish. My two daughters, Paloma and Thalia, have been through communion in St. Patrick's, and my wife is a teacher for Urbana.



### Bridget McGill

I am committed to the capital campaign and would like to bring my fundraising experience at STM high school and my property management experience to our community. I eagerly support Fr. Joe Hogan's mission with St. Mary's Parish. My family and I have been parishioners at St. Patrick's for 25 years. Our children were baptized here, attended St. Patrick's Sunday school, and participated in CREW missions; recently my granddaughter was baptized here. I sing in the choir and funeral schola. I have been active in the WATCH and JustFaith ministries. Born in Ireland, I truly belong to St. Patrick's Parish!



### Barb Thomas

Involving young families and new members of St. Patrick's Church is the main reason I want to serve on the Parish Council. Serving for 3 years will allow me to continue to learn about the Church and our faith. I have volunteered with CREW's Spring Auction, Bible school, and the women's group since joining St. Patrick's less than 2 years ago. I want my children, Hallee (8) and Hank (6), as well as my husband, Mitch, to grow in faith and family in the St. Patrick's community.

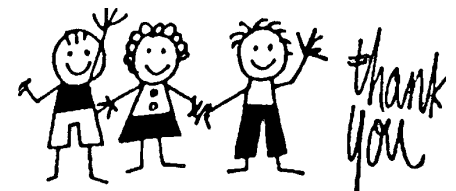


## Special volunteer opportunities


- Do you enjoy the colorful first page of In Focus? To keep it in color, this page must be printed separately and then collated and stapled with the rest of the issue's pages. Can you help? The work crew gathers usually on the last Saturday of the month from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu

- Two small groups of parishioners, alternating monthly, count and recount what was collected at all the Masses. With some counters unavoidably out of action, both groups need help. They gather on Mondays at 8 a.m., enjoy a quick cup of coffee, and get to work. Can you help? Parish office, 367-2665

- Do you enjoy singing in the choir? In church? Lend your voice to the 9:00 Mass choir! The choir rehearses in the choir loft on Thursday, 7-8:30 p.m. Laura Theby, 531-7003 or laura.theby@stpaturbana.org



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.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is Sunday, April 3.



**Q:** What is a Seder?

**A:** A Seder is a meal that marks the beginning of the Jewish holiday

of Passover, which commemorates the Angel of Death's "passing over" Jewish homes as God visited the Tenth Plague upon Egypt, the slaying of all the firstborn. The Seder is a ritual dinner based on the biblical verse (Exodus 13:8) commanding Jews to retell the story of the Exodus from Egypt: "And you shall tell it to your son on that day saying, This is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt."

Traditionally, families and friends gather in the evening to read the text of the Haggadah, which contains the narrative of the Israelite exodus from Egypt, special blessings and rituals, commentaries from the Talmud, and special Passover songs. Seder customs include drinking from four cups of wine, eating matzah, and partaking of symbolic foods.

Why would Catholics attend a Seder meal? Jesus and all the first Christians were Jews, and they all celebrated Passover from childhood. The Last Supper was Jesus' last Seder meal, but during it he made a momentous change in the ritual. The usual blessing over the matzah (unleavened bread) was, "This is the bread of affliction our ancestors ate in the Land of Egypt. All who are hungry, let them come and eat." Instead, Jesus said, "Take this and eat. This is my body" (Matthew 26:26). During the Seder, the third cup of wine is the cup of blessing and thanksgiving. At the Last Supper Jesus said, "All of you must drink of it, for this is my blood, the blood of the new covenant, to be poured out on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:27-28).

The Passover Seder and the Christian Eucharist coincide at four points:

- Both celebrate a delivery from bondage to freedom: the Jews from bondage and slavery in Egypt, the Eucharist from the bondage of death, oppression, and sin.



## in our parish library

Lent is here! If you'd like to add some spiritual readings to your daily routine, the parish library has many possibilities for you. Here are just a few:

**Here and Now: Living in the Spirit**, by Henri Nouwen. Call Number: 248 NOU. Nouwen challenges us to think about living in the present, joy, conversion, suffering, disciplined living, and prayer. His straightforward style, the brevity of his meditations, and his practical statements will give you plenty to ponder this Lent.

**Living a Gentle, Passionate Life**, by Robert Wicks. Call Number: 158 WIC. This author presents a healing life philosophy to help you develop a strong inner life. He emphasizes simplicity and silence. Each chapter offers reflections for further consideration.

**Psalms for All Seasons**, by John F. Craghan. Call Number: 223 CRA. No matter what stage of life you're in at the moment, you'll be able to find a psalm that speaks to it. The author looks at 22 psalms and how they address times of life, from "the pits" to times of confidence, even praise.

**Reaching Jesus: 5 Steps to a Fuller Life**, by David Knight. Call Number: 248 KNI. The author of this book suggests five choices for us to die to ourselves and rise to being Christ. He offers clear steps to a more meaningful life.

\* \* \*

*If you need help locating materials in the library, Lori Mestre (365-9004), library team coordinator. She will be pleased to help. The parish library is open weekdays during office hours (ask for a key at the parish office) and on the fourth and fifth Sundays of the month from 8:30 to 10:45 a.m.*

- Both are ritual meals with prescribed procedures, blessings, and prayers.

- Both are memorial celebrations that both celebrate and represent mysteries of salvation so that they can be appropriated personally by those living in the present.

- Both signify hope and the strengthening of the community.

This history of the Seder and Eucharistic celebrations explains why St. Patrick's is holding a Seder—in fact, two Seders. The first one will be held on Wednesday, Apr. 6, at 6:00 p.m., for the First Communicants and participants in the RCIA, JustFaith, Engaging Spirituality, and Great Bible Adventure Bible Study programs.

The second Seder, on Monday, Apr. 18, also at 6:00 p.m., is an all-parish Seder. Since seating in the parish hall is limited, parishioners must obtain free tickets from the parish office for their reservation. For both Seders, participants are asked to bring a dish to share. Watch

the bulletin for specifics as the dates near.

\* \* \*

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

### Vocation Prayer



Almighty and ever-living God, the source of all created life, we praise you for the beauty and bounty of creation. Help us to use these gifts wisely, especially in caring for those in need. May more young people answer your call to serve your people through the priesthood and consecrated life.

## A conversation with Father Luong Tran

It's hard to believe that Father Luong Tran has served at St. Patrick's for more than two years, since January 2009. Father was sent to us through an agreement between Bishop Daniel Jenky and Fr. Tran's Archbishop Stephen Nguyen of the Archdiocese of Hué.

There are three Catholic archdioceses in Vietnam: Hanoi in the north, Saigon in the south, and Hué in the middle. Fr. Tran comes from a rural area near the city of Hué, situated about halfway between Saigon and Hanoi. Hué is seven miles west of the South China Sea coast. After his ordination in 1994, Fr. Tran served for a total of 12 years as an assistant at the Phu Cam Cathedral and then as the pastor of the churches in two villages before coming to the U.S.



*Fr. Luong Tran on his arrival at St. Patrick's in 2009*

Vietnamese of many faith traditions practice ancestor worship at the communal houses found in every village. Buddhists comprise the largest single faith community in Vietnam. Their pagodas are familiar sites in Vietnam. While only seven per cent of Vietnamese are Catholic, because of their strong ties they are a unified group. Their influence goes beyond their numbers, especially in comparison with the majority Buddhists, who are not very unified.

Although Catholic churches are not common in the small villages, many large villages have either worship houses or small chapels where

Mass is celebrated.

During the long French Colonial period, missionaries spread the Catholic faith across Vietnam. In contrast, the few Protestant communities in that nation are either in the major cities or among some of the 54 ethnic minority groups in the country.

As you know, Fr. Hogan and Fr. Tran are extremely busy right now, serving both St. Patrick's and St. Mary's parishes, as well as performing pastoral care duties at Carle and Provena hospitals. On Mar. 6, Fr. Tran celebrated all four Masses at St. Patrick's while Fr. Joe celebrated all the Masses at St. Mary's and introduced himself to his new parishioners there.

While in Vietnam, Fr. Tran had the impression that Americans were not a spiritual people, that we were more like our European counterparts, where most Christian churches are relatively empty except for the elderly and some women. When he came to St. Patrick's, he found that we are a faithful people involved in many good works. He has a special place in his heart for our seniors and others who attend the daily 7 a.m. Mass. He has enjoyed his close ties with the Vietnamese Catholic community in Champaign-Urbana. When his service here is completed, he will return home with many fond memories of St. Patrick's.

—Carole Rebeiz



*...and two years later, with a little gray hair, celebrating his 56th birthday with the 7-Alive breakfast crew*

## Fr. Remm from page 1

How blessed St. Patrick's has been in the past seven years to actually have acquired this entire block for our needed expansion, especially through the generous bequest of Tom Moran that enabled the parish to buy the apartments after the death of one of the owners.

So you see that this improvement and expansion of our original church structure has been in process for more than 15 years. I believe that it is now time to move forward and do what needs to be done for this and succeeding generations of Catholics at St. Patrick's. I heartily support this campaign and pray for its success.

From 2001 to 2003 we celebrated the centennial of St. Patrick's Church. We honored our past. Now it's time to build our future.

## Last bricks purchased for the new church sign

The new church sign at the corner of Main and Busey streets has now been fully paid for, with donations totaling \$6,545.00, and the sign was blessed on Sunday, Feb. 27. Thanks to everyone who helped Will Justice's scouting project become a reality!

The last bricks were purchased by the following (parentheses indicate in honor of, or in loving memory of):

- The children of Gene and Connie Osmond: Cathy, Mark, Teresa, Mike, and Laura (Gene and Connie Osmond)
- Pat and Tony Sheehan (Past and present members of the Sheehan family)

# “For I was hungry and you gave me food”

Feeding the hungry is one of our callings as Catholics. As we fast and abstain during Lent to remind us of what it is like to live without, our prayers may be more concerned with hungry people in faraway places, yet there is an ever-rising number of people going hungry or in danger of doing so right here in our own backyard.

At St. Patrick’s we are blessed to have a means for helping those people right here in our parish. The St. Vincent de Paul Emergency Food Pantry operates out of the room next to the north entrance of the parish center. Four days a week, from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m., volunteers distribute food to individuals and families from Urbana, Champaign, and elsewhere in Champaign County who need food assistance.

Monday through Thursday, people start lining up outside the door at about 4:00 p.m. Inside the building, food pantry coordinator Ellen Abell and her volunteers prepare. Paper grocery bags, already packed with canned and boxed goods, line the top and bottom levels of long tables. Now plastic bags are packed with the day’s available protein choice

and a few other items to make up the “cold bags.” These are lined up on another table.

Ellen makes last-minute adjustments and peeks outside to estimate the number of people waiting. Before she unlocks the door, however, she gathers the volunteers for a prayer. It is a moment to focus, to remember who they are serving and why. Then the doors are opened and the waiting people file in.

Each person must sign in at the first window, presenting an identification card. They don’t need to prove their need, but they must sign a State of Illinois form certifying that their household falls within the federal poverty guidelines; for a family of four this means a monthly income of \$2,389 or less.

At the second window, they will receive one paper bag of food (two if their household has more than 6

people) and one cold bag. Finally, they may choose one item from a table that is crowded with a wide array of selections, ranging from personal care items to household products to “luxury” food items.

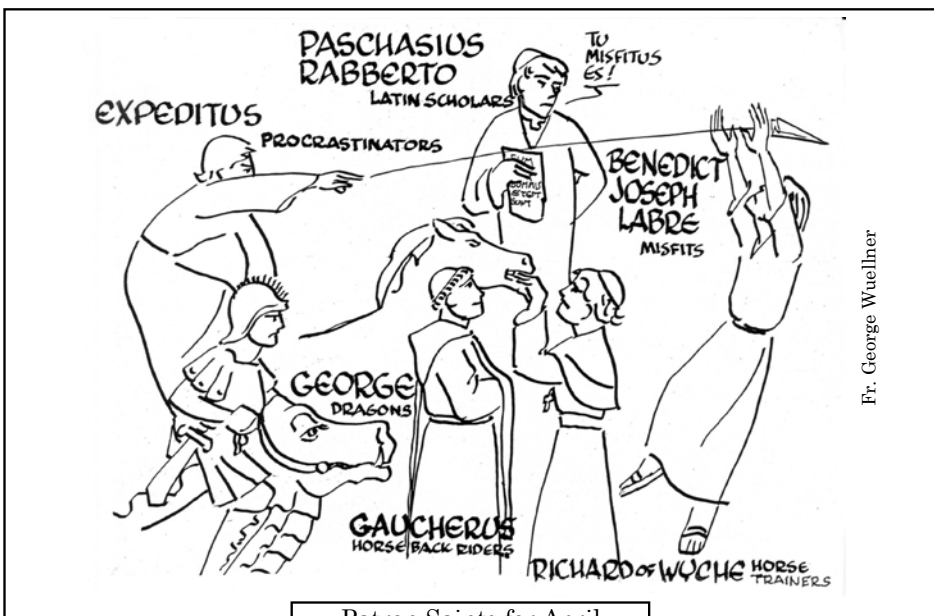
The paper bag contains enough food for a little over 3 meals for 6 people. What food is included depends on what Ellen has been able to buy from the Eastern Illinois Food Bank (EIFB) that week, as well as what government commodities might have been received. On one night, the bag contained two cans of vegetables, one of fruit, two of spaghetti sauce, a package of spaghetti, a carton of cheese soup, and a sleeve



of saltines. Other nights’ selections might instead include macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, cereal, pork and beans, a skillet dinner mix or a can of tuna. In addition, there is usually a treat of some kind, cookies or a couple of candy bars, and either a bag with a half-dozen repackaged rolls or a loaf of bread.

The client can choose a cold bag containing the available meat (obtained through the government commodities program, this could be anything from a whole chicken to pre-cooked pork patties) or a carton of eggs, as long as supplies hold out.

The table from which clients may choose one item includes such things as toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, diapers, and other personal care items; canned and dry pet food; dish or laundry detergent and other household items; cooking oil,



Patron Saints for April

From the Parish Nurses:

## The challenges of caregiving

Many of our parishioners serve as caregivers for those they love—an adult family member who needs help with basic daily tasks, a child with special needs, or a friend. Whatever the circumstance, know that you are not alone. A 2009 survey found that in the United States 65.7 million people, or 28.5 % of the population, served as unpaid caregivers.



Caregiving is a thoughtful and necessary act of kindness; however, it can also be exhausting and unrelenting. Research has shown that caregivers are more likely to have symptoms of depression or anxiety, a weaker immune response, slower wound healing, or have a long-term medical problem, such as heart disease, diabetes, or arthritis. Part of the reason that caregivers often have health problems is that they are less likely to get needed medical care for themselves, get enough sleep, prepare healthy meals, or get enough physical activity.

Here are some suggestions for coping with the challenges of caregiving for your loved ones and yourself:

- Educate yourself about the care receiver's illness. Search out information from the Internet, other caregivers, your physician, and associations related to specific diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.
- Set realistic goals and accept that you may not be able to do things the way you used to, i.e., housekeeping, meal preparation. Say "no" to requests that are draining, such as hosting holiday meals.
- Attend to your own health-care needs. Have regular check-ups. Be sure to inform your physician that you are a caregiver, and report symptoms of depression or illness you may be having.
- Make time to do something for yourself. Participate in activities you enjoy. Add guilt-free breaks from caregiving to your scheduled list of things to do, and take them!
- Stay in touch with family and friends. Ask for and accept help. Be prepared with a mental list of ways that others can help you, and let the helper choose what to do.
- Draw strength from your faith. More than 60 percent of Baby Boomers cite the power of prayer in helping them cope with stress associated with caregiving, particularly caring for aging parents. Turning to your faith can help you spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

Although caregiving is challenging, it is important to note that it also has its rewards. It can give you a feeling of giving back to a loved one, lead to a stronger relationship with your loved one, and bring a sense of personal satisfaction.

### Did you know?

- St. Patrick's is an active parish of about 1200 families in the Diocese of Peoria; Fr. Joe Hogan is our pastor. As of Mar. 1, Fr. Joe is also pastor of nearby St. Mary's, a parish of about 240 families.
- The ashes we received on Ash Wednesday are made by burning blessed palms from a previous Palm Sunday. You can bring in the palms you received last year; these will be burned to prepare ashes for next year's Ash Wednesday. Look for a carton labeled OLD PALMS in the church vestibule.
- On Laetare Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Fr. Joe will wear a new rose vestment, designed and made by parishioner Marcia Raab. Why rose instead of the customary purple? The Church's joy at our redemption by Christ's death and resurrection spills over as we near the completion of our Lenten journey. Its joyful note accompanies the ancient practice of "handing over" the Apostles' Creed to catechumens, the last and decisive step for those preparing for baptism.

## Taizé: An ecumenical call to prayer

Take a break from the hectic pace of everyday life during this Lenten season. Let your heart respond to the music of Taizé, the words of Scripture, and the pleas we make of our God in a Taizé prayer service in St. Patrick's church at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Apr. 5.

Taizé prayer originated with an ecumenical Christian monastic community in Taizé, France. It is simple, accessible, and meditative. An essential part of the prayer is meditative singing. The songs, composed by members of the Taizé community, are an easy way to enter into prayer and help us become even more deeply aware of God's presence. They are short, simple, and repeated many times over to allow their meaning to penetrate one's whole being. They also evoke a prayerful response to the readings from Scripture.

You will probably recognize several Taizé songs, such as "Veni Sancte Spiritus," "Ubi Caritas," "Jesus, Remember Me," and "Jesu Christe Miserere." Even if you are not familiar with them at the outset of the prayer service, you will quickly and easily be able to sing them well.

The service also includes spoken petitions, Scripture readings, extended periods of reflective silence, candlelight, and the presence of icons, images that reflect the beauty and glory of God on earth.

If you can, join the ecumenical gathering in St. Patrick's church for a renewing, prayerful, and peaceful preparation for the days to come. You'll be very glad you did.

I honor in you  
That place in you  
Where the Lord resides

And when you  
are in that place  
in you

And I am  
in that place in me

Then there is  
only one of us.

*Ancient Indian prayer,  
"Namaste"*

## Hungry from page 6

pancake syrup, rice, cake mix, juice, canned meat or fish, and other foods not generally available.

Clients may use the food pantry once every other week, although large families are allowed to use it once a week if needed. In fiscal year



2009, the pantry served about 700 households, or approximately 2,253 individuals.

Ellen estimates that she spends about \$1200 a month buying food from EIFB and other sources. This is supplemented by government commodities, donations from local grocery stores (Meijer makes weekly donations), free items offered once a month from the Midwest Food Bank, and bread donations from Panera, Einstein Bagels, and, sometimes, Great Harvest. A licensed egg farmer has recently been donating fresh eggs.

The SVDP Food Pantry is funded in part by money from the second collection taken on the third Sunday each month, and by individual cash donations. Ellen says that St. Patrick's parishioners have been very generous with their donations. Yet Ellen also says she is told by some people in the parish that the food pantry merely enables those too lazy to work. Sometimes people claim to have seen food pantry clients driving their groceries home in Cadillacs.

Ellen herself has not seen any clients climbing into Cadillacs. She tells of seeing food pantry clients

who are working but cannot support a family on minimum wage or who have been hit by large medical expenses; of older people who must choose between buying medications or buying food; of newly unemployed people still coming to grips

with needing to ask for help, as well as long-unemployed people struggling to keep hope and keep their families going. She also affirms a volunteer's observation that a number of clients are developmentally or physically disabled, or appear to have other physical and mental challenges that could make it very difficult for them to find

employment or to maintain it. The few people who may be taking advantage are greatly outnumbered by those who truly need assistance.

Although Ellen (and her husband, Joe) volunteers a significant amount of time and energy keeping the food pantry stocked and running smoothly, she feels that she receives far more than she gives in serving those in need. She says she finds great joy in her work, and mentions how much gratitude is expressed by many of the food pantry clients as their burden is eased a little.

During Lent, she suggests that we all offer some prayer time for those people who are searching for jobs, struggling to make ends meet and to feed themselves and their families.

While food donations are always welcome and are a good way to teach children about sharing their blessings, cash donations go further. A case of a food item from EIFB

(which buys in bulk) often costs less than a single item of that same food item bought from a supermarket.

Exceptions are items not generally available from EIFB or that can't be purchased with a Link card. Donations of items such as cooking oil, dish or laundry detergent, instant coffee, family-size toothpaste, and pet food are always needed. (Dry pet food is repackaged, so a large bag will help multiple households.) Also needed are toothbrushes, feminine products, and diapers.

Cash donations to the SVDP Food Pantry may be placed in an envelope clearly marked "SVDP" and put in Sunday collection baskets; food donations may be placed in the large marked basket in the church vestibule.

Because of the small size of the food pantry room, volunteer opportunities are currently limited. However, there is a need for someone to fill grocery bags for the next day every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. There is also a need for substitutes to fill in for regular volunteers who are sick



or out of town, those who help with the 5:00 p.m. bagging and the 4:00-5:00 p.m. prep and food distribution. Also, every Monday and Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m., volunteers are needed to package donated rolls and bread. Call Ellen Abell at the parish center (367-2665) to volunteer or for more information.



## Wined, dined, and entertained on their (K)night out

“A meal I don’t have to cook!” one guest remarked, and those around her echoed the sentiment. Yet Ladies’ Knight Out, the annual Knights of Columbus event to thank the women of the parish, was much more than that. With the parish center main hall looking elegant,



*Chris Stack sings “Tiny Bubbles”*

lights low and candles glowing on wine-colored table cloths, the evening began with socializing and appetizers. Waiters—Knights and other men of the parish—filled water glasses and offered wine.

Master of Ceremonies David Mendoza welcomed everyone and sang an opening prayer, after which he



*Jim Mayer sings “Don’t Cry for Me Argentina”*

oversaw the drawing for door prizes that ranged from gift certificates for local restaurants to raffle tickets. Then dinner, featuring expertly grilled steak or chicken, was served, followed by cheesecake. Could it get any better?

It did, as the infamous (or is that notorious?) Catholic Boys took the stage, promising “Comedy Tonight.” As usual, they delivered. The show, written by Jim Mayer and Terry Bosley, contained a wide range of musical styles, showcasing the variety of vocal, instrumental, and comedic



*The Catholic Boys ride the “Peace Train”*

Executioner declared that “I Have a Little List” and they were on it. Somewhere in Africa, the Lion tried to “Sleep Tonight,” while in London a “Couple of Hip and Groovy Guys” stumbled on “Love Potion #9.”

On to Paris, where they asked the musical question, “Do You Know What it Means to Miss New Orleans?” (Miss New Orleans, resplendent in a shimmering silver gown, wasn’t talking.) Argentina was urged not to cry (a challenge, with that chorus of kazoos and the appearance of Evita, looking suspiciously like Miss New Orleans). After “Waltzing with (and deflating) Matilda” in Australia, the now tie-dyed and hirsute Catholic Boys brought peace to the Middle East via the “Peace Train.”

Alas, they never did find the Holy Grail. A cameo appearance by Father Joe brought word of the newest iPhone app, “Find Holy Grail,” but the Catholic Boys had decided that they already had what they needed and “That Old-Time Religion” was good enough for them.

It was certainly all good to the 170 women—50 more than last year—who were pleasantly wined, dined, and entertained, thanks to the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Boys.



*Two Hip and Groovy Guys, aka Terry and Gary Bosley*

talents of the group, which, in addition to Jim and Terry, includes Chris Freidhof, Chris McDonald, John Miner, Chris Stack, Gary Bosley, Sam Reese, Dave Madden, Joseph Youakim, and Gary Wszalek.

There were many memorable stops in the Catholic Boys’ tour the world in search of the Holy Grail. After dealing with tumbleweeds and airport security, they ended up in Hawaii seeing Tiny Bubbles (with a little help from the audience). In Japan, the Lord High



**March for Life.** In January a group of students and faculty of The High School of St. Thomas More traveled to Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life. Led by school chaplain Fr. Lampitt, these Sabers participated in a rally on the National Mall, a march to the White House, and speeches on pro-life issues.

The March for Life was created to commemorate the Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion. The March hopes to serve as a positive response to the attack on pre-born life.

In addition to joining in the march, the STM contingent participated in a youth rally and Mass at the Verizon Center, a guided tour of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and Mass at the National Shrine. St. Patrick's parishioners participating included Mary Cimasky and Theresa Welle.

#### Coming Attractions

- Spring Break – Mar. 19-26
- Spring Musical – Apr. 6- 9
- Spring Gala – Apr. 16
- Prom – May 7
- Graduation – May 22



## Future of Islam and Muslim-West relations

Professor John L. Esposito of Georgetown University will deliver the annual Marjorie Hall Thulin Lecture in Religion on Thursday, Apr. 14, at 8 p.m. in the Knight Auditorium of Spurlock Museum, 600 S. Gregory, Urbana.

The lecture, sponsored by the U of I department of religion and titled, "The Future of Islam and Muslim-West Relations," is free and open to the public.

University Professor as well as Professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies at Georgetown University, Esposito is founding director of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding: History and International Affairs in the Walsh School of Foreign Service.

A consultant to the Department of State as well as corporations, universities, and the media worldwide, Esposito specializes in Islam, political Islam, and the impact of Islamic movements from North Africa to Southeast Asia.

He has served as President of the Middle East Studies Association of North America and the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies, Vice Chair of the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy and is currently a member of the World Economic Forum's Council of 100 Leaders and President of the Executive Scientific Committee for the Maison de la Mediterranee's 2005-10 project, "The Mediterranean, Europe and Islam: Actors in Dialogue."

While on campus he is also scheduled to interview with David Inge on WILL-AM's "Focus" show on Thursday, Apr. 15, beginning at 11:06 a.m.

Marjorie Hall Thulin (1910-2009), for whom the annual lecture is named, was a 1931 graduate of the University of Illinois. She enjoyed a successful career in advertising and published poetry and children's literature in addition to editing a book on the history of Glencoe, Ill.

Mrs. Thulin's desire for students to understand how religion grows and functions in a complex society, especially Christianity in American society, led her to endow a fund establishing the Marjorie Hall Thulin Scholar of Religion and Contemporary Culture. This endowment each year brings to the Champaign-Urbana campus an internationally known scholar of religion and contemporary culture for several days.

A reception in the Spurlock Auditorium will follow the lecture.

#### Photos on display—come and see!

Walk through the parish center lobby to see several photos of architectural renderings that illustrate planned changes to the parish church and its connection to the parish center.

## Why do we pray the Stations of the Cross?

It's a Friday in Lent, and people are gathered in the church to make the Way of the Cross together. At each pictured Station, they read or hear a brief meditation and join in the prayer, "We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world."

An uninitiated onlooker might be puzzled. The words may not inspire, having perhaps little relationship to the stark reality of human suffering today. The pictures may not enlighten, perhaps failing to represent realistically the physical aspects of Christ's passion.



For all that, the fourteen numbered crosses that mark fourteen incidents on Christ's way to Calvary are intended to show not so much the exterior incidents of the Passion as their inward meaning. The Stations not

only remind us of the historical passion of Christ, but they help us to understand what is happening now.

Christ did not choose his passion only to suffer it in his own human nature, tremendous though that would have been, but to suffer it in the suffering of each one of his members until the end of time. He was not only feeling his own grief, fear, compassion, need of sympathy, and so on, as a human being, but feeling ours as well.

The power of love is to transform suffering, to heal its inevitable wounds. In Christ's way of the cross we find the meaning of our own suffering, the power of our own capacity for love. We find the explanation of ourselves in those who take part in the passion of Christ—Jesus' mother, Simon of Cyrene, Mary Magdalene, John, Veronica, the women of Jerusalem, the good thief, the centurion, the man who lent his tomb, the scattered apostles.

The Stations help us to see how each one can lighten the heavy cross laid upon the back of the whole human race, now, today. This is why the prayer "We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world" echoes down the centuries. It is a cry of welcome to him whom all of us must meet on the way of sorrows, changed for us to the way of love.

Please remember in your prayers Elizabeth Lan, who died recently. She was the mother of Fr. Hoa Pham, who served here at St. Patrick's from 2006 to 2008.

## Earth Day: You can be a part of it

Each year Earth Day, Apr. 22, marks the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. It began as a tiny seed planted by a determined and caring individual.



At the time, although mainstream America seemed oblivious to environmental concerns, the stage had been set for change by the publication of Rachel Carson's best-seller *Silent Spring* in 1962, which raised public awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment, and public health.

Earth Day 1970 capitalized on the emerging consciousness, putting environmental concerns front and center. Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, witnessed the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. He announced the idea for a "national teach-in on the environment" to the national media; persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair; and recruited Denis Hayes as national coordinator. Hayes built a staff of 85 to promote events across the land.

On Apr. 20, 1970, a million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Students at colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

The first Earth Day led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. All this because of a single person who cared and acted.

In 1990 Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage. It gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Earth Day 2000, with 5,000 environmental groups in a record 184 countries reaching out to hundreds of millions of people, sent world leaders the loud and clear message which citizens around the world wanted quick and decisive action on clean energy.

Despite challenges from those who denied climate change, well-funded oil lobbyists, reticent politicians, a disinterested public, and a divided environmental community, Earth Day 2010 served as a powerful focal point around which people demonstrated their commitment. Over 225,000 people gathered at the National Mall for a Climate

## Kwauso School in Tanzania now open

Dear friends,

Fr. Stanislaus has asked me to send you a few photos of the first students of Kwauso. The school opened on Feb. 28th with 8 students and since then they are growing fast. Two days later there were 19. The announcement went late, as one could not call them without at least the tacit okay of the ministry.

Fr. Stan is overwhelmingly happy, as he sees his dream slowly taking shape. From now on the going will be easier. The bishop has given him a very experienced teacher-priest to help him. Fr. Marcel was for many years the rector of our seminary. He is becoming the Headmaster while Fr. Stan remains the overall coordinator and manager of the school until the school is well established.

Once again many thanks for the help you have given him that has made this good work possible. May God bless you.

Bishop Method Kilaini  
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## Overheard biblical conversations

“Oh, dear! Adam, do you know what this means? We won’t be on the Garden Walk next year!”

“I say let’s quit talking about that tower and build it! We can talk all we want later.”

“Poor little Job—do you think he has colic?”

“Here’s your robe, Bathsheba. Whatever will you do when I’m not here to remind you?”

“My Noah—he’s right at home on the water.”

“I warned her about marrying Lot. Maybe she’ll remember when she looks back!”

“Moses, where did you leave your sandals? They were brand new!”

“Matthew, you should go ahead and take that tax collector job until something better comes along.”



**April Fool!**

## From Dr. Susan Nagele

To all the good people of St. Patrick's Parish,

Greetings from a very hot and humid Mombasa—summertime in the southern hemisphere. I know you have had a long hard winter in Illinois, and I hope the worst is over and spring is on its way.

The world seems to be brimming over with tragedy and misfortune these days. While we have our share of challenges here in Kenya I want to share our successes of late.

Thanks to all of you who joined us in prayer for the referendum held in Sudan Jan. 9-15. The voting was very peaceful, and on Feb. 7 the results were announced: 98.83% of Southerners voted for secession. The Khartoum government has publicly agreed to accept the results. On Jul. 9 a new country will be formed, called South Sudan. Southerners were determined to vote, and they feel their dignity has finally been recognized by the international community. There is still the possibility that the north will arm different factions in the south to continue fighting and destabilize the new government. Southerners also have problems with corruption and ethnic conflicts. So we will keep praying for peace on their long, hard road to freedom!



*Maureen, Age 6*

In January I was able to make a trip back to Kiminini Cottage hospital on the other side of Kenya, where I worked from 2003 to 2009. Some of you may remember the little girl, Maureen, who was born with low thyroid hormone. When we first saw her three years ago, when she was three, she couldn't sit or speak and only weighed 20 pounds. With just one pill a day she has blossomed, and I have sent a picture to show you how well she is doing! This disorder usually decreases intelligence, but she seems to be doing well and has started to go to school. She could speak to me in Swahili and is a very happy child. The hospital continues well with the Kenyan staff and Kathy Dunford, a Maryknoll Lay Missioner and physician assistant.

I also visited a home for children who are orphaned; you can see a picture of me with Daisy and Geoffrey, two children who were infected with HIV at birth. When I first began treating them in Kiminini in 2004, they were so sick that they were admitted to our hospital nearly every month. When treatment for AIDS became available, both children grew stronger and healthier, and now neither child is sick enough to be hospitalized.

The renovation of Mrima clinic here in the Archdiocese of Mombasa has come along well; we moved to the new rooms in January. Originally there was just one big hall with no privacy, lighting, or running water. Now you can see that we have a proper clinic with different rooms for reception, consultation, lab, pharmacy, and counseling. The builders are still finishing up the smaller details but the patients are proud that they now have a big "medical center." I'm happy to have a desk and a door that can be closed and locked when I'm seeing a patient!

At this time last year I was in Urbana to journey through Lent as I recovered from my illness. I am grateful for that time in the parish to be with all of you. I am equally grateful to be well enough to be sweating and swatting mosquitoes here in Mombasa this Lenten season. May this be a time for each of us to return to God with all our heart and listen ever more carefully to that small whisper within. Each one of you is helping us to put our faith into action. I hope that you will be blessed by knowing how you have helped to make this part of the world a bit better. Let's pray that we each receive the grace of new life in the risen Christ.

*Susan*

*We are grateful for your prayers and financial support. If you would like to know more about Maryknoll Lay Missioners, log on to our Web site ([www.mkln.org](http://www.mkln.org)) or call toll free 1-800-867-2980.*



*The renovated Mrima clinic*



*Susan, Daisy and Geoffrey*

## Earth Day from page 11

Rally, amassed 40 million environmental service actions toward its 2012 goal of "A Billion Acts of Green," launched an international, 1-million-tree-planting initiative, and tripled its online base to more than 900,000 community members.

You too can be a part of Earth Day 2011. Discover energy you didn't even know you had and channel it into building a clean, healthy, diverse world for generations to come. One person can achieve wonders!



**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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### Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Kathy Sarnecki



#### Salmon Cakes with Lemon Herb Sauce

- 1/4 c chopped green onion
- 1/4 c mayonnaise
- 1 T lemon juice
- 1/4 t seasoned salt or garlic salt
- cayenne pepper to taste
- 1 pouch skinless boneless Pink Salmon  
(or 1 can salmon)
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 c dry bread crumbs, divided
- 3 T butter

#### Lemon Herb Sauce

- 3/4 c mayonnaise
- 1 T lemon juice
- 1 T prepared horseradish
- 1 t thyme
- salt and pepper to taste

Combine green onions, mayonnaise, lemon juice, seasoned salt, and cayenne pepper. Stir in salmon, egg, and 1/4 cup breadcrumbs, and mix until well blended. Divide and form mixture into 8 balls. Roll balls in remaining bread crumbs, flatten into cakes about 1/2 inch thick. In buttered skillet, over medium heat, fry cakes until golden brown. Serve with lemon herb sauce: Combine all ingredients, blend well, and chill until ready to serve.

\* \* \*

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