

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

May 2011

Meeting Jesus

There is great variety in the Gospel stories of how the disciples encountered Jesus after his resurrection. They met him at the tomb, along the road, in the room where they were hiding, even at a cookout. Jesus knew the faith of his followers, so perhaps he appeared to each in the way that they needed. But it's not that simple. Some of the disciples, meeting Jesus a second or third time, still had trouble recognizing him.

Maybe this shouldn't surprise us. Even though he tried to tell them about it, even though they saw him raise Lazarus, resurrection just isn't something they might have expected to encounter in everyday life. The finality of death is much more down to earth. So he continued to teach them, he ate with them, He gave them his Spirit, and gradually they began to believe. Do you think they ever fully understood? Maybe not, in this life. Maybe the experience of their own resurrection was another step on the way of understanding what God was doing for them.

Our faith is like that of the first disciples. It starts small. It grows in fits and spurts, sometimes dormant like grass in winter, sometimes bursting forth in exuberant growth. Through the



changes of our lives, God nurtures his gift of faith to us. In his tender love, with his profound understanding of us, he gives us opportunities to grow.

One common thread in the Gospel stories is that Jesus rarely appeared to anyone alone. He came among them in twos and threes and larger groups. Faith isn't just for us as individuals. It is for us as a community. Imagine the conversations that they must have had after each encounter. "What do you think he meant when he said...?" "What word did he use?" "Do you think we'll ever see him again?" When someone's faith faltered, the others were there. When someone's memory failed, the others were there. When there was more to learn by pondering more deeply, the others were there to help, with their faith, their shared memories of Jesus' life and his new life, and the comfort of their presence.

If you think you have less faith now than you used to have, don't worry. If you think your faith is too weak for today's challenges, don't be afraid. Just stay with the disciples. We will help each other. And Jesus, who knows what we need, will be there too.



Honoring Our Past
BUILDING OUR FUTURE
ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH CAMPAIGN

Our generosity will plant the seeds of faith for generations to come

As we enter into the Easter season and continue with St. Patrick's capital campaign, we have much to celebrate. Over the past few months, it has been exciting and rewarding to work together toward the goal of raising \$4 million for our church expansion plan. As we've said from the beginning, this is no ordinary fundraising effort; this is an opportunity to help shape the next chapter in St. Patrick's Parish history.

Our building plan is not just about new bricks and mortar, more physical space. It is about re-creating our spiritual home. Trusting in God's grace, we are broadening our hopes and dreams as a Catholic community today in Champaign-Urbana. We are preparing the way for those who will follow.

This Easter season, as we raise our voices and sing "Alleluia," we thank the Lord for those 40 families who, 100 years ago, believed in planting the seeds of faith by building a church. As we lead the way building for the future of St. Patrick's Parish, may we join together in that same Spirit, with confident hearts and our eyes set joyfully on God's Kingdom.

Mysteries without words: The stained glass of St. Patrick's

The images in the stained glass windows in our church tell us something about its history. For example, take the vesting sacristy in the southeast corner. This was originally the baptistry. The images in the windows are a baptismal font, a seashell for pouring the water of baptism, a dove carrying an olive branch, and a basket of loaves and fishes. A parent might use the windows to tell a young child about his or her baptism!

The servers' sacristy in the northeast corner of the building was originally the place where the priests prepared for Mass. The images there reflect the hierarchical Church, a papal tiara with keys, and a bishop's miter.

The choir loft has always been the place for musicians. The large round window is an image of St. Cecilia, their patron saint. Two of the smaller windows display a lyre and a harp, recalling the Psalms of David and the music of the angels in heaven.



In the nave (the central open space) of the church are six large windows with images of persons. Starting near the tabernacle, we find young St. John. The book in which he writes reminds us of his gospel, his three letters, and the Book of Revelations in the New Testament. Next to him is St. Patrick, vested in the purple robes of a bishop, but also in Irish green. Beside him is the 13th-century Franciscan St. Anthony of Padua. The book that he holds recalls his knowledge of the scriptures. He also holds the child Jesus, a reminder of a vision he once had. On the other side of the church, we find a guardian angel watching over a child, Jesus revealing his sacred heart to us, and Jesus crowned with thorns.

The nave of the church also has eight narrow windows. The four near the back relate to Jesus' passion. The four near the front have images related to the Holy Eucharist; two of these are animals, reflecting the two species of the Eucharist. The Paschal Lamb reminds us of Jesus, the Lamb of God, who feeds us with his flesh. The pelican feeds its young with its own blood, a legend perhaps started by its long bill seemingly stabbing its breast when it empties fish from its bill-pouch. This legend was happily retold by medieval zoologists, who often lacked first-hand experience of this animal.

Before the church renovation in



1978, there was a narrow window at floor level behind the altar with a plain pattern of colored glass. It couldn't be seen from the nave, so it probably served to light the area behind the reredos (the screen behind the altar).

Before the fire in 1961, there were five triangular windows high in the arch above the altar. It's hard to see them in archival photos. Two of the saints depicted are probably St. Peter and St. Paul. One may be St. Brigit of Kildare, a scholar and abbess of the 6th century, reflecting the Irish heritage of many of our founding families. Another may be St. Isaac Jogues, one of the Jesuit North American martyrs of the 17th century. These were probably backlit with electric lights because they were backed by the roof rather than the outside.

Take a few moments after Mass to examine and enjoy the windows of our church. Next month's In Focus will tell the stories of the people whose names are in these windows.



They've been on a great adventure

This year many parishioners studied the Acts of the Apostles in The Great Adventure Bible Series. Two groups met on Tuesdays, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, to make the program available to meet parishioners' convenience.

"Acts, the Spread of the Kingdom," was a 20-lesson program that began in September, paused for Advent, and finished in March. Participants in the afternoon group enthusiastically offered reasons why they attended this Bible study group.

First was the variety of approaches used in each lesson. Each session began with reading the verses from the chapter of the Bible that they were studying that day. Then the leaders went through the questions that were completed for homework. Some consider this to be the most interesting part because participants inevitably had more questions or ideas to share. After a short break for refreshments, participants watched the recap video from Jeff Cavins. Jeff Cavins, who prepares each study guide, has a deep understanding of the Bible and Hebrew history, language, culture, and geography. Many participants jotted down notes.

What else brought these people together week after week? Many felt that it was the other participants who enlightened them. Bob said that the group had good answers; you just have to listen to other people to gain so much more. Lucy enjoyed the sharing of ideas and learning how others felt. Mary also liked to meet



and enjoy this different group of participants. Jayne enjoyed the open format of discussion, to hear what others think. She added that it helped to have as leaders both Carolyn McElrath and Mary Long, whose knowledge of the Bible and the Church catechism enabled them to answer questions that arose. Chris also valued their leadership and Jeff Cavins' knowledge. Norma liked how Jeff Cavins ties everything together to make sense of this historical time flow. Barb liked learning about the early Church and how much the Gentiles were involved in its foundation.

Everyone appreciated the power of the Holy Spirit to embolden and lead the early Christians, and began to feel the Holy Spirit's power in our lives today. Angel said that Acts taught her how faith works; no matter what the obstacles, they can be overcome with faith in God. Mary remarked that learning the stories from the Old Testament made her more interested in Sunday homilies.

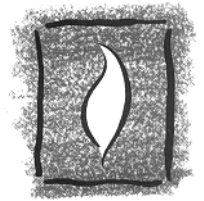
All the participants are excited about next year's study. On Tuesday, Aug. 30, an introductory four-week study, "A Quick Journey through the Bible" will begin, followed in September by a ten-week study of "Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come." It will conclude before Advent. Next winter's study has not yet been chosen. Those who miss a session may borrow the DVD of Jeff Cavins' lecture and printed answers to the weekly questions, to catch up.

Will you go on the next Great Adventure this fall?

From our Parish Nurses:

Protect your bones!

May is National Osteoporosis Prevention Month. Osteoporosis is a common condition in which the bones become weak and can break more easily. It is estimated that about half of all women over 50 will break a bone because of osteoporosis. And it's not just a woman's disease! Up to one in four men over 50 will break a bone due to osteoporosis, too.



Osteoporosis can sneak up on you, because you can't feel your bones getting weaker. Often, breaking a bone is the first clue that you have osteoporosis. Or maybe you notice that you are getting shorter or your upper back is curving forward. It is important to work with your health care provider to determine your risk for osteoporosis. A simple bone density test may be ordered to determine if you are showing any loss of bone density.

Now the good news: Thirty years ago, most people considered osteoporosis and broken bones to be a normal part of aging. Fortunately, we now know that you can help protect your bones by healthy eating and exercise. It is important to get adequate calcium and vitamin D in your diet; good sources for these include low-fat dairy products, fruits, and vegetables.

If you have been diagnosed with osteoporosis, you can do many things to protect your bones. Besides taking any drugs that may be prescribed, you should also continue to eat healthily, avoid smoking, and ask your health care provider for safe exercises to promote bone health.



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is May 15.

Bidders take the high road for CREW

This year's annual service auction to help fund CREW's summer mission trip was a lively affair, as usual. Bidders strove mightily to win the services of parish teens for cleaning a car inside and out, power-washing a deck, baby sitting to give parents a night out-whatever CREW members offered, bidding parishioners wanted! Successful bidders also took home pies, cakes, rolls, and all things delicious, including some promises of repeats when ready.

All told, the auction brought in \$5975 to help with mission trip expenses. Thanks to everyone who donated items for the auction and to CREW members for helping to make the auction such a success!



Auctioneer Dianne Ducey bones up on services before the auction begins.



Lu Pillar looks over items presented for silent bids.



Raffle tickets for two 30-minute massages drew a lot of interest!



Keeping a careful record of numbered paddles for bidders' identification.



Q: What is the "laying on of hands"?

A: In simple terms, this phrase refers to the extension of hands on or over the head of another person. But why? And when?

The Church employs this significant symbolic action to confer authority, as in the ordination of a priest or consecration of a bishop. It is also used in the sacrament of Reconciliation in absolving a person of sin, and in Confirmation in invoking the Holy Spirit. A priest may also place his hands on or over the head of a person in conferring a blessing or while praying for the person.

There are many instances in Scripture where the laying on of hands is mentioned. In the Old Testament: Israel gives his parental blessing to Ephraim and Manasseh, Moses passes his authority to his successor, Joshua receives the spirit of wisdom to lead his people, Aaron prepares a ram for sacrifice. In the New Testament: Jesus blesses the children, heals the lepers, and brings the official's daughter back to life, and Peter and John call down the Holy Spirit on the Samaritans.

After Pentecost, the laying on of hands especially denoted the conferral of the powers and authority of the episcopacy, which Christ had given to the Apostles.

The Church continues this ancient Jewish tradition to signify a giving of special authority, healing, and blessing. This gesture is used in some form in all the sacraments.

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



A special election took place

On a Thursday evening in March, our RCIA catechumens participated in the Rite of Election, thereby entering the final phase of preparation and intense prayer before their Easter Vigil reception of the sacraments of initiation into the Church: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

The candidates, their sponsors, and the RCIA team gathered in the church for song and prayer. Each catechumen was called forth to sign the *Book of the Elect*, witnessed by his or her sponsor. At the end of the service, the book was placed near the baptismal font, under the image of the Baptism of Jesus, as a re-



minder to all of us to pray for our elect, that they continue to listen to God's call in their lives.

Why are they called the elect? With this rite the catechumens declare their intention to receive the sacraments of the Church. For the Church's part, the priest, catechists, sponsors, and godparents carefully weigh the election of the catechu-

mens, deliberating on suitability based on their state of preparation. The "election" of the candidates is thus two-way: the candidates elect to join the Church, and the Church elects to receive them.

With this rite the elect begin their final preparation for participating in the



Paschal Mystery. In the final weeks of Lent the Scrutinies, special prayers by the parish, were offered for the elect. Please continue to pray for these men and women:

Dominique Aarons
Sean Blanchard
Howard Erlandson
Sean Finland
Patty Greenan
Matt Johnson
Donna Lacey
Nikki Melander
Richard Mierkowski
Nicola Serao
Joe Siegel
Terry Walker
Kristin Weatherford
Brad Weir

Did you know . . . ?

- The parish library, in the classroom wing of the parish center, off the main hall, is now fully functional once again, with information about available books stored on computer. The library is accessible during office hours-obtain a key to the room from the parish office-and on fourth and fifth Sundays, 8:30-10:45 a.m.

- The Jane Austen Book Club, sponsored by the Catholic Young Adults, is open to all parishioners. The book club's name derived from the fact that during its first year the focus was on Jane Austen's books (and films). This year the group has been reading and discussing works by other authors. More information from Bao Bui (626/213-4295).

- A new base community is currently being organized. For information about this group-how to establish one-contact Mary Long (531-7008, mary.long@stpaturbana.org).

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Pat Justice

Gold Room Chocolate Pie

1 oz unsweetened chocolate
1/3 c semisweet chocolate chips
3/4 c sugar
1/2 c butter or margarine
3 eggs
graham cracker crust or baked pie shell
whipped cream
shaved chocolate for garnish

Melt together unsweetened chocolate and semisweet chocolate chips; set aside to cool. Cream together sugar, butter or margarine; add eggs, 1



at a time, beating more after third egg. Add cooled chocolate and beat well. Fold into graham cracker crust or baked pie shell, and top with whipped cream and shaved chocolate. Chill at least one hour before serving.

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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!

ADA 2011



The theme for this year's Annual Diocesan Appeal, "Let us do great things together," was revealed at opening day ceremonies in Peoria. People from the entire diocese participated in the kickoff event; our parish, represented by Pat Sheehan and Dwight and Marcia Raab, received special recognition for showing the diocesan film on the Appeal.

Giving to this annual Appeal is a clear response to need, and certainly there are many needy among us in the Diocese of Peoria. Diocesan programs are designed specifically to meet those needs, whether in Peoria, here in Urbana, or elsewhere among the 177 parishes and missions that make up the local Church. Geographically, ours is the largest of the six dioceses in Illinois, taking in more than a third of the state's territory. Its 138 active priests care for 161,242 Catholics and last year registered 2216 baptisms, 2056 First Communions, 2434 confirmations, and 3586 marriages.

We can help.

Our parish has been asked to contribute \$127,372 this year (a reduction from last year's goal of \$149,879). The diocese employs a rather complex set of factors to determine each parish's goal, generally based on a parish's general income from Mass collections and other sources, with a reduction for parishes that operate schools.

Parishes, acting together, support diocesan ministries for vocations, evangelization, Catholic education, pastoral services, catechetics, marriage and family, and Catholic Charities—all of which benefit all of us.

On May 7-8 we will be asked what we can contribute to help reach our parish goal in support of these ministries. The great things we may not be able to do alone, we can do together.

Holy Cross Happenings

Almost a hundred students, from kindergarten through 8th grade, recently staged Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," the annual spring all-school musical presented by Holy Cross School. The musical enjoyed the support of hundreds of parent and teacher volunteers.

All students who audition are included. No experience is required, and every child gets a part. Past musicals have included "1776," "Willy Wonka," "The Wizard of Oz," and "The Sound of Music."



Belle (Isabella Dallas) and Beast (Jack Reeder) read King Arthur aloud to the attentively listening Enchanted Flatware, including Salt (Connor Whittington).



Silly Girls Molly Smith, Hannah Niccum, and Natalia Aguas, and Townspeople Abby Goad, Justin Smith, and Nico Perez during the opening number, "Belle."



All the Enchanted Characters take the stage, inviting Belle to "Be Our Guest."

Remembering our deceased loved ones

On Wednesday, May 11, at 7 p.m. the Ministry of Consolation will host the spring Evening of Remembrance. This evening is a time for those who have lost a loved one or friend to death in recent months to come together, remember, and pray for the deceased and for themselves.

Grief affects everyone differently, but in the end it leaves no one unchanged. There are as many ways of dealing with death as there are those of us who are left to grieve. Sharing stories of the persons who have died, recounting how their lives touched our lives, laughing and crying, are all part of the process of grieving.

The Evening of Remembrance is a chance to come together with others from our faith community, family members and friends, who are mourning the loss of a loved one. In a loving and supportive environment participants are able to celebrate the life of their deceased loved one, recalling how that person touched their lives and remembering with gratitude the gift of that life.

The evening concludes with a time of prayer both for the souls of the deceased as well as for the lives of those left behind. During the time of prayer participants are reminded of God's great love and mercy for all of us and that we will all be together again in God's kingdom.

If you or someone you know has lost a loved one or friend to death, please join the Ministry of Consolation team, Fr. Joe, and Fr. Luong for the Evening of Remembrance. If you would like more information about the evening, please call Nancy Olson (359-6424 or nancybolson@yahoo.com).



Watch, O Lord, with those who wake,
or watch, or weep tonight,
and give your angels and saints
charge over those who sleep.
Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ.
Rest your weary ones,
Bless your dying ones,
Soothe your suffering ones,
Pity your afflicted ones,
Shield your joyous ones,
And all for your love's sake. Amen.

—St. Augustine

Volunteers needed

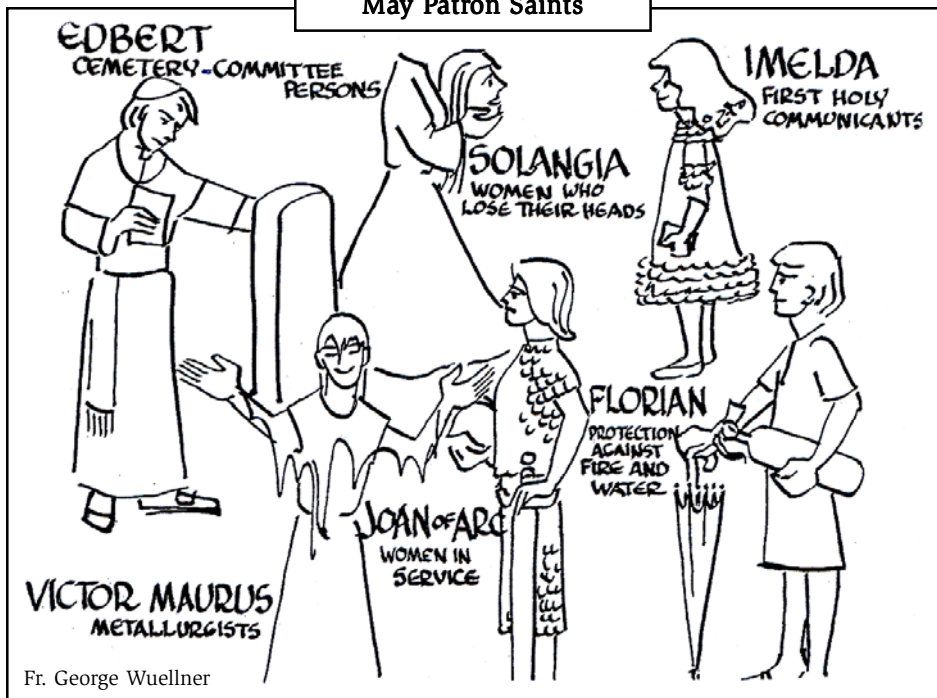
More Communion ministers to Catholics at Carle Foundation Hospital are needed. The recent loss of some who have faithfully visited Catholics there means that those who are left are unable to take up the slack. Fr. Tran visits on Tuesdays, with lay ministers visiting on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Many have said that this ministry gives them new life and energizes their faith. Can you help? *Carolyn McElrath, 531-7014*

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.

May Patron Saints



Father of us all, we pray that the young people today, who want careers that will make a difference, that will have an impact for good, will choose to follow your call to be a priest, sister, brother, permanent deacon, or lay minister. May our parish nurture and foster these vocations for the building up of your Church.

Remembering...

It was a Sunday in May, 1941. I was eight years old, and I felt really and truly wonderful—it was my First Communion Day!

I was dressed in white from the inside out, from head to toe—I, who had never before worn white, so very impractical for a child. I was wearing a perfectly beautiful white dress with short sleeves, white knee sox, and white patent leather shoes. (I don't know whether they "reflected up," but they were indeed very shiny, and I knew I'd never have to polish them!)

My hair, normally confined in tight braids, had been brushed into soft curls and topped with a white veil. I carried a white rosary, a gift from my godmother, and a First Communion prayerbook with a shiny cover, a gift from my godfather.

I felt special, and I knew that something really exceptional was going to happen that day—I WAS GOING TO RECEIVE JESUS FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME!

My father was persuaded to drive us all to church that morning instead of our making the 45-minute walk across town, thereby ensuring our arrival on time—and still clean!—to join our classmates for Mass.

My little sister was also dressed for the event. She was to be my "angel" and would lead me to the prie-dieu placed in front of the altar, where I was to kneel before the priest who would give Jesus to me in Holy Communion. She carried a basket of rose petals to be scattered with abandon on our way to the sanctuary, whose gates had been opened wide for the occasion.

As we excitedly waited our turn in the class of 63 First Communicants, I wondered what that mysterious wafer would taste like. Would I open my mouth wide enough and stick my tongue out far enough, the way I'd been taught? And there was something I was supposed to say when the priest spoke to me, kneeling in that holy place on the other side of the communion rail—what was it? Well, it would come to

me when I needed to know it.

But now it was time to start moving up the aisle. "O Lord, I am not worthy," we sang, "that thou shouldst come to me. Only speak a word of comfort, my spirit healed shall be." Finally, that moment for which we had studied and prayed and practiced was NOW. I knelt, the priest spoke, I answered. My hands clasped palm to palm with fingers pointing to heaven, I opened my mouth and JESUS WAS MINE AT LAST!

I wish I could say that Jesus and I had a little talk that glorious morning, that I was filled with the sweetest of thoughts, that I felt "holy." Probably like every other child that morning, I simply felt "special." I knew that something really momentous, though in a very quiet way, had happened to me that day.

These days, children may or may not gather in a special group or sing special hymns as they make their First Communion. They may receive Jesus for the first time with their families, instead of with their classmates or a group of other First Communicants. But regardless of the circumstances, they are indeed special and the event itself is truly momentous, in its very quiet way. First Eucharist is the climax of their initiation as children of God at Baptism, and Eucharist is at the very center of our lives as

Christians.

So let us pray for our First Communicants, these special "little ones," at this special event in their lives and in the life of our faith community. We pray, with Jesus, that we and they may be one in him as he is one with the Father, living in us.

—A "yesteryear" First Communicant



Yesteryear



...and today



in our parish library

This month's selected list includes books and Web sites pertaining to lay ministry and vocation within the Church. There are many other books at call numbers 253, 261, and 262.

Books

- *A Priest's Life: the Calling, the Cost, and the Joy*, by Edwin F. O'Brien. Call Number: 262.14 Obr 2001.
- *Come Down Zacchaeus: Spirituality and the Laity*, by Thomas H. Green. Call Number: 262.15 Gre.
- *Could You Ever Become a Catholic Priest?*, by Christopher J. Duquin. Call Number: 253 Duq.
- *Diary of a City Priest*, by John P. McNamee. Call Number: 921 Mcn 1993.
- *The Lay-Centered Church: Theology and Spirituality*, by Leonard Doohan. Call Number: 253 Doo.
- *Lay Ministry: A Theological, Spiritual and Pastoral Handbook*, by William J. Rademacher. Call Num-

ber: 253 Rad 1991.

- *Let Your Life Speak: Listening to the Voice of Vocation*, by Parker J. Palmer. Call Number: 248 Pal 2000.
- *Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community*, by Suzanne Farnham et al. Call Number: 253 Far 1991.
- *Pilgrim in the Parish: A Spirituality for Lay Ministers*, by Virginia Finn. Call Number: 253 Fin.
- *The Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World*, by John Paul. Call Number: 250 Joh.
- *Why We Serve: Personal Stories of Catholic Lay Ministries*, by Douglas Fisher. Call Number: 262.15 Fis.

Web Sites

- *Co-workers in the Vineyard of Christ*: www.usccb.org/laity/laymin/co-workers.pdf. In November 2005, the United States Catholic Bishops approved a major document, *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*:

A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry.

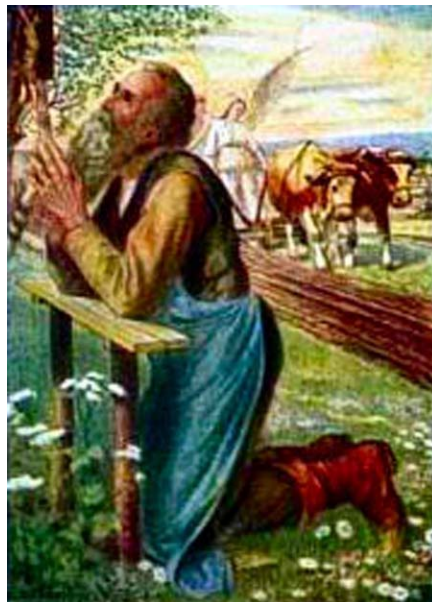
- *Lay Ecclesial Ministry Website*: www.usccb.org/laity/laymin/. Provided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, this site includes links to articles, research, and publications pertaining to lay ministry (such as the previous document).
- *Good News International*. www.goodnewsinternational.net. This Catholic "grass roots" lay ministry serves the entire Church community.

If you need help locating materials in the library, call 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.

Isidore, farmer—and saint

In March 1622 five great saints were canonized together. They included four of the giant figures of the Catholic Reformation: St. Ignatius, St. Francis Xavier, St. Teresa of Avila, and St. Philip Neri. The fifth, St. Isidore, founded no order, accomplished no great deeds (apart from tilling the land), left no teachings, did not inspire any disciples. He was, in fact, a simple farm worker, born in Madrid, who spent his entire working life in the service of the same wealthy landowner.

With his good wife, Maria, Isidore bore one son, who died in childhood. He knew the hardships, the toil, and the sorrows of all farm workers then and since. And he displayed the simple though profound faith so common to *campesinos* the world over. He attended Mass daily and prayed continuously as he worked the fields. In Isidore's case, however, his faith was attended by visible signs



and wonders. (It was reported, for example, that angels were seen assisting him as he plowed.)

He was famous for his generosity toward those even poorer than himself. His table was always open to the indigent, while he was

content to live on the scraps left over. His kindness extended to animals. One winter day he was so moved by the sorrowful noise of some hungry birds that he opened the sack of corn he was carrying and poured out half its contents. Though witnesses scoffed at this prodigality, later, at the mill, the bag was found miraculously to be full.

Other similar stories are told of this holy peasant, who died on May 15, 1130. Yet for all the miraculous legends, what most stands out is how very ordinary his life was. He is simply one of the "little ones" so beloved of God. Though not a monk, he passed his life in work and prayer. Though poor himself, he poured himself out in charity. Though happily married, he communed with angels. In the list of canonized saints his kind is surprisingly rare; in heaven, presumably less so.

What's new with Deaf Ministry?

In November 2009, Deaf Ministry Coordinator Minette Sternke traveled to the Vatican for a conference on deaf people in the life of the Church. This January she attended the annual Pastoral Week hosted by the National Catholic Office of the Deaf (NCOD) in Atlanta.



Two of the primary topics were reaching deaf teens, and the revisions to the Roman Missal that will take effect in November.

Minette has also started course work at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens, Fla., towards a master of arts in pastoral ministry with a deaf ministry emphasis, a four-year program. This program is unique in the United States in that all courses are taught in American Sign Language, mostly by deaf people.

Our parish volunteers have interpreted Masses on the first and third Sundays at noon each month, as well as for holy days such as Christmas and Easter and for such

important family events as First Communion, Confirmation, Baptism, and funerals, where family members are deaf or hard of hearing.

Because other churches in our diocese also have interpreted Masses, St. Patrick's is hosting a workshop on Satur-

day, May 7, to help those interpreters be more effective. The presenter, Sue Gudenkauf, is a certified interpreter from Madison, Wisc. Sue is a member of an NCOD team that provides resources for interpreters on the Roman Missal revision, and she will discuss these resources during the workshop. She will also interpret the 5 p.m. Mass after the workshop.

Previous workshops hosted by St. Patrick's have included one presented by a deaf priest on the meaning and structure of the Mass, another on St. Paul, and a communal reconciliation service. The help of the Women of St. Patrick, who have served lunch and dinner during

workshops has been greatly appreciated.

Interpreters and workshops aren't the only Deaf ministries in our parish. Minette takes communion to sick or homebound deaf parishioners and visits them in the hospital or nursing homes.

If you have questions about deaf ministry, or need to arrange interpreters, please e-mail Minette Sternke (mksternke@gmail.com).

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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Remember,
O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to thy
protection,
implored thy help,
and sought thy intercession
was left unaided.
Inspired with this confidence,
I fly unto thee,
O Virgin of Virgins,
my Mother.
To thee I come,
before thee I stand
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incar-
nate,
despise not my petition
but in thy mercy
hear and answer me.
Amen.

