

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

April 2012

The Great Three Days

The greatest feast of the church year, the feast of the death and resurrection of Jesus, will be upon us soon. While many people celebrate only Easter Sunday, the three days beginning on the night of Holy Thursday are really one



continuous celebration. The goodness of God that we ponder on these days is so rich, so multifaceted, that it takes us three days to begin to savor it all.

Holy Thursday feels like a family gathering, a time of great warmth, with its reenactment of the Last Supper. We remember that Jesus washed the feet of his disciples during the meal, and we end with an opportunity for extended adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as we keep company with Jesus, betrayed and led off to examination and torture. We remember with gratitude Jesus' example of service, the gift of himself in the Eucharist, and the gift of our priests.

Good Friday is a mix of somberness and glory. The death of Jesus is a reason for sadness, especially sadness for our part in his suffering. But it is also an occasion to stand in awe of what he has done for us. The liturgy centers on the reading of Jesus' passion and death from John's gospel. We are invited to respond by praying for the world, as he did, and by venerating the cross. We receive Christ's body, broken and raised on a cross for us, then placed in his mother's arms before given a quick burial.

The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday is a time to savor and rejoice. How to describe it? The gathering procession is a celebration of Christ the Light among us. We listen to many readings that retell our salvation history—we recall creation,

see **Great Three Days** on page 6

Dan Schuele completes Eagle Scout project

Dan Schuele knew he wanted to be an Eagle Scout, and when he was approached by Peggy Loftus with a suggestion for his project, he accepted it with alacrity. He met with Fr. Joe and Peggy to discuss just what was needed to renovate the parish center basement, and then he got to work.

He coordinated the project from start to finish, doing the kinds of work he could and arranging with others to do the kinds he couldn't. He had help from CREW, his Scout troop, and some friends from outside these groups. They moved all the furniture away from the walls, painted walls and doors, added new



cove molding at the foot of all the walls and quarter-round molding at the tops of the walls in the small classrooms, and put all in good order when the work was done.

Mark Cousert replaced the vanities and toilets in the two bathrooms,

see **Dan Schuele** on page 8

"Irish" was the word for it!

We made a day of it, yes we did. Starting at 3 p.m. and lasting until well after bedtime for some of us, we gave ourselves a grand time! We enjoyed Irish music, Irish dancing, Irish food (Irish stew, of all things!), Irish singing, Irish desserts, even an Irish lilt to the Mass and an appearance from St. Patrick himself.



Fare-thee-well, Sophia!

Friends gathered on Mar. 19 to say good-bye and offer their best wishes to Sophia Zeigler, soon to depart for Pennsylvania to spend her remaining years near her extended family. This 93-year-old parishioner has given years and years of service to the Lord at St. Patrick's through her efforts on behalf of others, perhaps most notably in feeding the hungry locally with her homemade soups, donated breads, and nonperishable food items from the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

Sophia also prepared many gift baskets for holiday shoppers at our parish Christmas boutiques, baked her signature cream puffs for Lenten suppers, CREW auctions, and other parish events, and found ways to support most fund-raising efforts for the parish. Last winter she sewed over 100 aprons for the Women of St. Patrick's Christmas Cookie and Basket Extravaganza.

She will be missed by many of us, accustomed as we are to visiting with her at parish gatherings and enjoying stories about her adventures of a lifetime over coffee after weekday Mass. Go with God, Sophia!



A personal note...

On Saturday I was lucky enough to work on empty tomb's furniture truck, picking up furniture from those generous enough to give it away and delivering it to those who need it. This is usually much more challenging or depressing than working on home maintenance; on home maintenance, we usually work on one home and get to know the folks well, but on furniture runs we usually see a number of sad families all in one morning, deliver some needed furniture, and then move on.

However, this Saturday we picked up a kitchen table and chairs, at least 4 dressers, and sundry furniture from Sophia Zeigler as she prepared to leave town; she was still working for those less well off than herself. So please make some mention of this if you write an article about her in *In Focus* and let others know of her generosity.

She is "only" a lay person so her chances of canonization are slim, but she is still a hero to me.

Richard D. Keane

Four new Council members welcomed

Last year the Parish Council decided to move the annual election of new members from April to February to provide time for orientation and mentoring, thus enabling the new members to hit the ground running (in a manner of speaking) and to feel more comfortable with what they are about as they do so. This year the election was “overcome by events,” in that persistent recruiting drew just the number of potential candidates that were needed to fill positions on the Council that would be vacant in May.

However, four strong candidates had volunteered to serve as representatives of St. Patrick’s parishioners in their role as members of the Parish Council, an advisory and consultative body to the pastor. As such, they will meet monthly first to pray, and then to review progress on ongoing concerns, take up matters of concern to the pastor and to parishioners, report on parish ministries and whatever research was called for, present information for discussion and evaluation, and assist the pastor in all ways requested.

Is it all work and no play? Not a bit! They gather for an annual off-campus retreat, thereby getting to know one another better, and enjoy an evening with the pastor over the holidays in place of a meeting. They participate in parish doings that bring them into regular contact with parishioners, whom they hope will share ideas, suggestions, reflections, and concerns. Outgoing members often speak nostalgically about their time on the Council, with the sense of having participated in something really worthwhile, and in appreciation of the knowledge and understanding of how the parish functions that they had gained.

The four who take up their three-year terms at the May Council meeting must have sensed something of all this, to have volunteered their service. As you will have noticed in the parish bulletin, all have families here and thus are fully invested in the future of the parish.



Margaret Bronson (left) has served her parish in a number of ways over the last 15 years or so. She looks forward to learning more about the inner workings of St. Patrick’s and meeting even more of its members.

Delphine Mulamba (right) came to St. Patrick’s with other French-speaking Congolese families and hopes to serve as a voice for them as they struggle to maintain their Catholic faith in this new language.



Libby Stubbers (left) values education and views St. Patrick’s as a vital component academically, mentally, and spiritually in regards to education. She would like to see educational opportunities here continue to grow.

Mark Sweeney (right) tends to look for and find ways to help at St. Patrick’s. Seeing the need for people willing to get involved to make this a better community for our families, he volunteered.

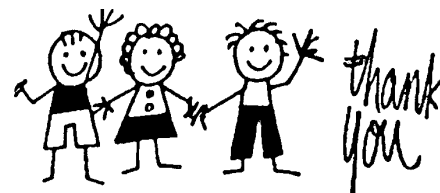


Special volunteer opportunities

- **The Food Pantry** needs more help with repackaging breads from Panera Bread Company on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (8-9 a.m.); unloading and shelving food items delivered by the Eastern Illinois Foodbank on Tuesdays (8:30-9 a.m.); and packaging nonperishable food items on Thursdays (6-7 p.m.) for distribution to clients on Monday. An hour once a week would be a terrific gift! *Ellen Abell, 367-5648 or ellen.abell@comcast.net*

- **Collection counters** needed, Monday mornings, 8-9:30a.m. Two teams alternate months, each counting for a month at a time. Help the parish keep track of donations that pay the bills and maintain our facilities. *Dianne Gordon, 367-2665 or dianne.gordon@stpaturbana.org*

- **Recipes! Recipes for In Focus!** Our readers have asked for low-calorie recipes with few ingredients and easy to prepare. Share those special recipes that have made you the envy of family and friends! *Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu*



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 April 15.



in our parish library

Following are a few of the recently catalogued books donated by parishioners.

Regular Circulating, Reference, and Fiction Books. For a short time these books may be shelved in the “New Book” section of the library (on the right-hand side) or on display. Otherwise, they will be shelved according to their call number.

- **444 Surprising Quotes about Jesus: A Treasury of Inspiring Thoughts and Classic Quotations**, by Isabella Bunn. (This book will be shelved in the Reference section on the left-hand side of the library.) The author has drawn on many antiquarian and academic sources, including her personal library of more than 400 quotation books and spiritual anthologies. Call Number: REF 232 BUN 2006.
- **The How-to Book of Catholic Devotion: Step-by-Step Guidelines**, by Mike Aquilina. This ambitious attempt to cover just about everything does provide step-by-step guidelines for devotional rites and rituals of the Catholic Faith. Call Number: 248.3 AQU 2000.
- **The Inspirational Writings of C. S. Lewis: Four Bestselling Works**. The selections are *Surprised by Joy*; *Reflections on the Psalms*; *The Four Loves*; and *The Business of Heaven*. Call Number: 291.42 LEW 1994.
- **Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist: Unlocking the Secrets of the Last Supper**, by Brant Pitre. This book looks at the Last Supper by through Jewish eyes. What was the Passover like at the time of Jesus? What were the Jewish hopes for the Messiah? What was Jesus’ purpose in instituting the Eucharist during the feast of Passover? What did Jesus mean when he said, “This is my body... This is my blood”? Call Number: 234.1 PIT 2011.
- **Rediscover Catholicism: A Spiritual Guide to Living with Passion and Purpose**, by Matthew Kelly. The author addresses some of the most important questions we face today both as individuals and as a Church and dispels dozens of myths surrounding the practice and rejection of Catholicism today. Call Number: 282 KEL 2010.
- **The Shelter of God’s Promises**, by Sheila Walsh. The author searches Scripture for what God has promised us, what God’s promises mean, and how encounters with Christ are the eternal fulfillment of his unrelenting commitment to us. Call Number: 248.8 WAL 2011.
- **The Strangest Way: Walking the Christian Path**, by Robert Barron. Fr. Barron sets out three paths by which to walk “the strangest way”: finding the center (making Christ the center of our lives), knowing you’re a sinner, and realizing that your life is not about you. Call Number: 248.4 BAR 2002.
- **Unplanned**, by Abby Johnson. Unplanned is a heart-stopping personal drama of life-and-death encounters, a courtroom battle, and spiritual transformation that speaks hope and compassion to the political controversy surrounding the issue of abortion. Call Number: 363.4 JOH 2010.

Children’s Books. Children’s books have call numbers with a “C” or “CH” at the top; they are located on the right-hand side of the library.

- **Passover around the World**, by Tami Lehman-Wilzig. Call Number: CH 296.4 LEH 2007.
- **Sammy Spider’s First Haggadah**, by Sylvia Rouss. Call Number: CH 296.4 ROU 2007.

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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.



Q: What does the word “Easter” mean?

A: Most scholars believe that “Easter” has the same source as the word “east.” The rising sun is often used as an image of Jesus rising from the dead. Some churches schedule the Easter Vigil so that the gospel of the resurrection is proclaimed at dawn. Also, Easter comes shortly after the equinox, at the time of year when we have more daylight than darkness. So there are good reasons to associate Easter with the east.

There’s another possibility, though. St. Bede, writing in eighth-century Britain, says that the Anglo-Saxons worshiped a pagan goddess named Eostre. Her feast, which was in the springtime, was replaced by the Christian feast of the resurrection of Jesus. St. Bede is usually a pretty reliable source and it doesn’t seem likely that he would have invented a pagan goddess to explain the name of the Christian feast. With no other record of this goddess, however, it’s not possible to confirm his views on this.

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

Vocation Prayer



Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd; you never leave your flock untended. May the nourishment we receive from the Easter sacraments help us to share our faith with others. Do send more generous and committed men and women to serve as priests, deacons, and religious, and help all of us to be faithful to you as we try to live out our lives in response to your call.

From Dr. Susan Nagele

Box 84425-80100
Mombasa, Kenya
nagelesusan@gmail.com
susannagele@yahoo.com
March 2012

To all the good people of St. Patrick,

Greetings to all of you from hot and humid Mombasa. The seasons here on the coast of the Indian Ocean at the equator are opposite from Illinois. While all of you are welcoming the warmer weather of spring we are steaming, sweating, and looking forward to the cooling rains that usually come in April.

In February I attended a medical conference about cancer in the capital, Nairobi. In my last letter I mentioned that we are seeing more cases of cancer and are trying to educate our staffs about diagnosis and treatment. Even though Mombasa is the second largest city in Kenya with a population of over 500,000 there is no oncologist (cancer specialist) or radiotherapy. An oncologist comes from Nairobi one day a month to see patients. A few people are treated with chemotherapy.

One of our patients, a 23-year-old teacher, died in January of a muscle tumor. We were able to help him get morphine to control his pain during his last days. Attached is a picture of Kennedy, a 14-year-old boy who is also dying of cancer of his neck. He was able to go to Nairobi to get radiotherapy to decrease the tumor mass. Now he and his family will need care and support to make his last days comfortable and dignified. We are providing all of his care free of charge, using your donations.

On a happier note, in February we held a seminar for epilepsy to educate our staffs about this illness. Over 600,000 people in Kenya live with this disease. There is a lot of



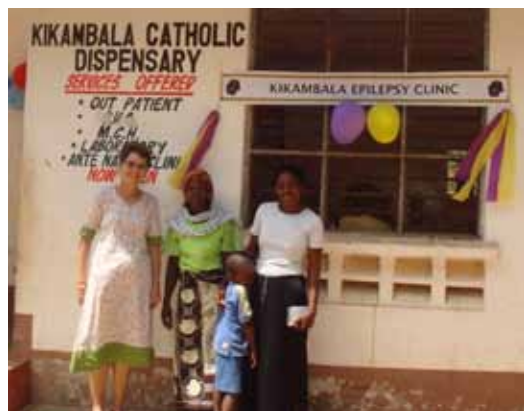
Kennedy with his father in March

stigma for these patients; over 90% believe it is caused by curses, witchcraft, and punishment from God. It can be caused by low oxygen at birth, head injuries, and infections with meningitis and cerebral malaria. People seek treatment from local doctors, and children are prevented from going to school. This month we started a new clinic in Kikambala parish for people with epilepsy and saw 22 patients on the first day. We hope to find people with this illness, educate them about the causes, and treat them so that they can live better lives.

The health care that is provided by the churches in Kenya is very important because the government of Kenya really isn't functioning

much at all. According to the new constitution, elections for the President are supposed to be held in August. The electoral commission says it can't be ready by August. No one knows when the elections will be held. Since the Ministries of Public Health and Medical Services aren't able to meet the many health care problems, we continue to try to provide good care for those who are most in need. The frustrations and challenges of lack of decent health care have made Lent much more real for many people.

I am planning to return to Illinois in October and spend the holidays with my family. I look forward to seeing many of you then. In the meantime, I hope that Lent helps each of us open our hearts ever more tenderly to the love of God and the joy of Easter.



Susan at the epilepsy clinic



With epilepsy patients

*Peace + God Bless,
Susan*

We are grateful for your prayers and financial support. If you would like to know more about Maryknoll Lay Missioners, log onto our website (www.mklm.org) or call toll free 1-800-867-2980.

Old saint, new calendar

St. Drogo of Sebourg (1105–85) held a place in some older, local liturgical calendars, but he hasn't been given a role in Roman calendars—until now. For some reason, this obscure saint has been added to the calendar in the third edition of the *Roman Missal* as an optional memorial on Apr. 16.

Commentators have been speculating about the addition of this Flemish hermit, focusing on aspects of his life and some of the groups of people for whom he is considered a patron. Supposedly, Drogo was able to bilocate (a useful skill in any age, not just in today's busy world): he was spotted working in the fields at the same time that he was at Sunday Mass.

Drogo was born into Flemish nobility but at 18 years of age he rid himself of all his property and became a penitential pilgrim, traveling several times to Rome. He later lived as a shepherd in Sebourg for about six years.

During a pilgrimage he was

stricken with an unsightly bodily affliction. He became so terribly deformed that he frightened the townspeople. In his twenties a small hermitage was built for him; it was attached to a church, with

a small opening into the church through which he received the Eucharist during Mass, and another opening to the outside through which he dispensed advice to the townsfolk and received their grateful donations of food.

It is said that the church once caught fire and Drogo's hermitage burned to the ground, with Drogo inside but miraculously unharmed. He died in 1185, after forty years of life as a hermit. When his family came to take his

body back to their family graveyard, it became too heavy for even many strong men to lift, so Drogo's body was buried in the church.

St. Drogo is the patron of, among other people, the unattractive, those with hearing challenges, the mentally ill, and, most mysteriously of all, coffee house owners.



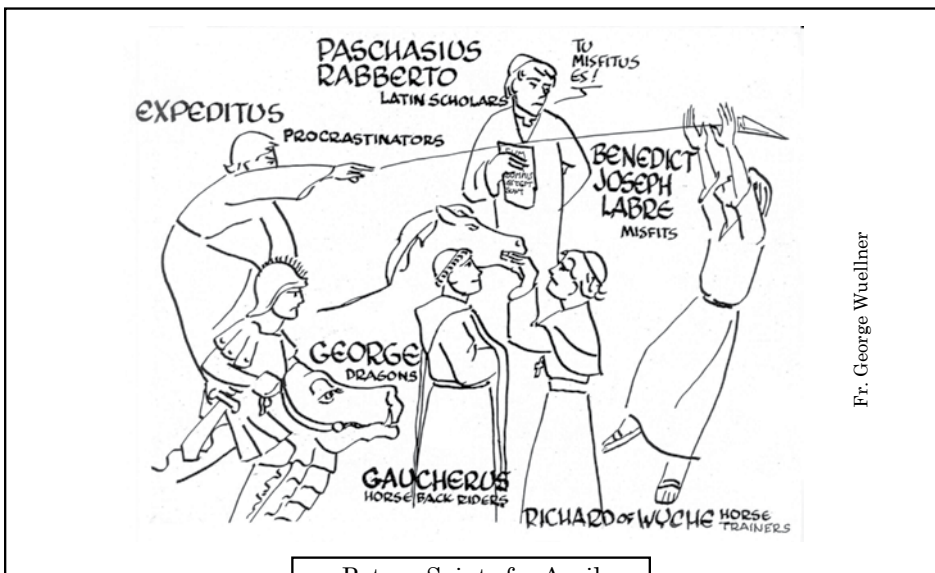
Great Three Days

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the Exodus, and the many ways that God has acted on our behalf. The gospel proclamation of resurrection is a thing of great joy and beauty. We celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist with our catechumens and candidates. The joy of resurrection and new life continues to overflow in the liturgies on Easter Sunday.

No one of these days is celebrated in isolation from the others. The water that Jesus tenderly poured on the feet of his disciples on Thursday is the water that poured from his side after his death on Friday and the water poured on our catechumens on Saturday. The bread that we break with joy on Thursday is his body broken on the cross on Friday, and by Saturday we are able to return to the blessed and broken bread with new joy and understanding. Jesus' example of service on Thursday leads to his giving of himself on Friday and his gift of life to us on Saturday.

On these days we celebrate who we are as the creation of God and as people of faith. Try to come for as much of the three days as you can, to remember who you are and to remember what God has done for you!



Patron Saints for April



St. Patrick's Capital Campaign
We're getting closer!

Pledged: \$3.58M
 Cash in hand: \$1,152,377

What's needed before we can break ground:
 Pledged: \$4.0M
 Cash in hand: \$3.2M

On pilgrimage with Father Joe

Time is running out to sign up for Father Joe's pilgrimage through historic Spain and southern France. This is a hassle-free, ten-day tour, Sept. 16-25. All you have to do is get yourself to St. Patrick's, where a bus will pick up parishioners for the trip to O'Hare Airport, where you will board a KLM flight ending in Madrid, Spain. At the Madrid airport you will be met by a tour manager of Passages by Peter's Way, who will lead you to an air-conditioned luxury motor coach, which will take you to your hotel. Each day a professionally licensed bus driver will drive you and your companions to inspiring destinations, while the tour guide will enlighten you on everything you see.

Father Joe is looking forward especially to three destinations. One of these is Avila, Spain, the birthplace of St. Teresa, one of the greatest mystics and a Doctor of the Church. You will walk in her footsteps through the Convent of St. Teresa and the Monastery of the Incarnation, where you will celebrate



St. Teresa's monastic cell

Mass. Another is the Convent of St. John of the Cross in Segovia, Spain; the group will celebrate Mass at the Tomb of St. John of the Cross. The third is in southern France, where Mary Magdalene is said to have spent her last years and where her body was discovered in an ancient crypt. The group will celebrate Mass there, at the Basilica of Mary Magdalene.

In addition to these holy destinations, you will visit Montserrat, where you will celebrate Mass at the Benedictine Shrine of the Cherished

Black Madonna, said to be carved by St. Luke. Then to Barcelona; you will tour the city and visit Gaudi's famous, as yet unfinished, Church of the Holy Family. That night you will enjoy a Catalan dinner.

At each city you visit, you will receive an orientation drive to see all the outstanding attractions. For example, on day three, in Madrid, spend the morning at the Royal Palace, the most beautiful palatial complex in all Europe, celebrate Mass at the Basilica of San Miguel, and spend the afternoon at the spectacular Prado Museum viewing beautiful art by Spanish, Italian, and Flemish Masters.

Other historical destinations to be visited are the world-famous 16th-century Escorial Monastery, the burial place of Spanish kings and queens; the Valle de Los Caidos,

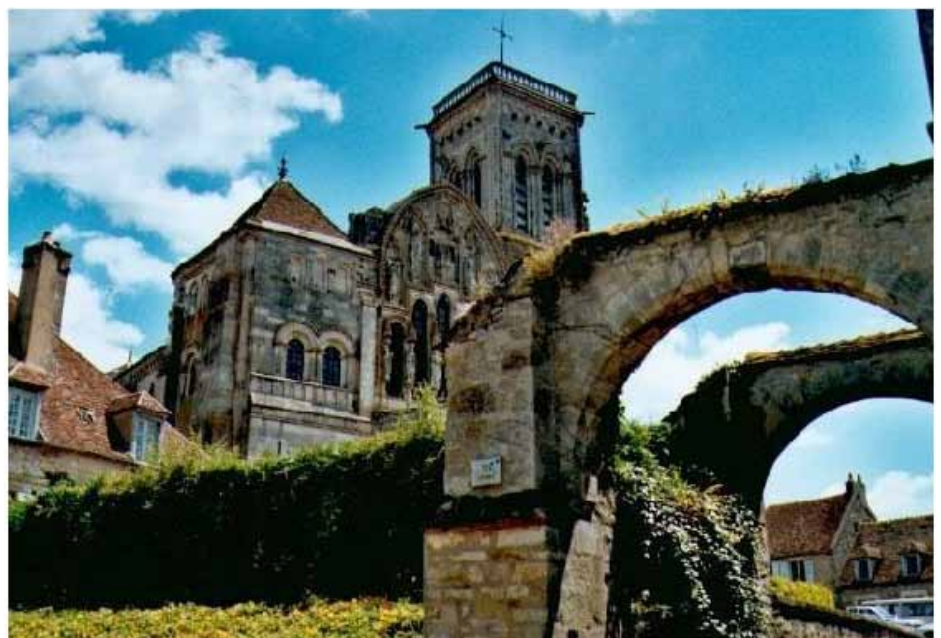
memorial to soldiers who died in the Spanish Civil War; one of the best-preserved of the Roman aqueducts (still in use); the Alcazar fortress of the great Queen Isabella; and, finally, one of the most visited pilgrimage spots in Spain, the Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillars, where Mary appeared to St. James.

These are just a few of the special places you will visit. At the parish office you can pick up a brochure that describes the complete itinerary. Everything is included in the one price (\$3470): round-trip air flights; departure taxes; transfers; 8 nights' accommodations; daily breakfast and dinners; entrance fees; portage of one piece of luggage; and all gratuities to tour manager, driver, and guide.

This will be a deeply spiritual and educational trip. Are you coming?



Gaudi's Church of the Holy Family



Basilica of Mary Magdalene

GIFT: What is it?

When you read or hear “GIFT,” do you tune out because you don’t really understand what it’s all about? What is it, why is it, when is it? Well, here’s the scoop.

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) is a major new initiative involving all parishioners in all the parishes in the Diocese of Peoria, undertaken to assist Bishop Daniel Jenky and his team in planning for the future of the diocese.

“This process is about how we can be the Catholic Church in Central Illinois in the coming decades,” Bishop Jenky said. “It’s about how we can continue to grow and reorganize ourselves to do what we already do in parishes, but do it better.”

Parishes were gathered into “clusters” with neighboring parishes to suggest ways of working together, making the most of available resources to better serve the needs of all parishes in the cluster. St. Patrick’s Parish is in a cluster with St. Mary, St. Matthew, Holy Cross, St. Boniface, and Our Lady of the Lake parishes.

Each parish established a core team consisting of the pastor and four parishioners to coordinate the local process and to represent the parish in conversations with other parishes in its cluster. Our parish’s core team is made up of Fr. Joe, Mary Long, Tracey Johnson, Jerry Pijanowski, and Stan Yanchus.

The local process included many steps; the first was a survey last winter that all parishioners were asked to participate in, assessing the parish’s strengths and weaknesses in four major areas: Sacramental Life; Evangelization, Catechesis, Catholic Schools; Stewardship and Justice; and Effective Administration.

Our core team compiled a report of the survey responses from our pa-

rishioners and met with core teams of other parishes in our cluster to discuss ways our parishes could collaborate to make the most of the strengths available and to see how best to address weaknesses. A report from the cluster was then prepared for submission.

For this report, each parish completed forms that gave the parish survey data; information about the parish, e.g., number of parishioners, sacraments received, staff and ministry positions, etc.; the cluster’s identification of ways its parishes can collaborate; and the cluster’s suggestion to the Planning Commission. (The chart



summary of our surveys, along with a few other copies of what our core team sent to the diocese, are posted on our Web site: www.stpaturbana.org.)

The suggestion that our cluster submitted to the diocese was a linkage between St. Patrick and St. Mary (which already share the same pastor), and a new linkage of St. Boniface with St. Matthew. (Currently St. Boniface and St. Joseph in Ivesdale share the same pastor, but these two parishes are within different clusters.)

When will we see the results of all this work? Well, the diocese is processing the reports and forms from all the parishes and clusters. By the end of March the Planning Commission will submit its preliminary recommendation, followed by “conversation and response,” with a final recommendation submitted to the bishop by June 22.

At the end of August Bishop Jenky will announce the decisions he has made based on the Planning Commission’s recommendation. Planning for implementation of these

directives is to be completed by the end of September. The final step, of course, is implementation itself, scheduled to begin with the New Year, January 2013.

So what remains for any of us to do? If we’ve filled out the survey, we’ve already done something. Our core team has compiled the survey data, met several times with cluster core teams, filled out many forms, and sent in a cluster report. While the cluster core teams wait for a response to their reports, we can pray for the Holy Spirit’s aid in the discernment and decision-making process.

Mary Long says, “Now we wait to see how the diocese processes the myriad forms from around the diocese, and how they respond to our cluster. Our cluster core team is very excited about beginning collaboration!”

Dan Schuele from page 1

and Bob Miller washed and waxed the floors (that was on his schedule in any case, he said). Dan’s parents, Amy and Alan Schuele, were very supportive and even lent a hand on occasion.

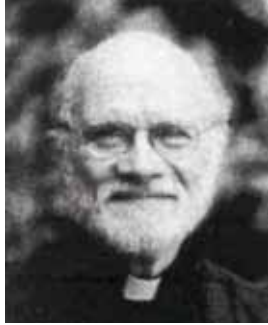
The work was finished over two weekends, Jan. 14-15 and 21-22. If you didn’t take advantage of the open house on Mar. 25 to see the transformation of the parish center basement, you might explore it on your own sometime soon. The atmosphere is bright and cheery, there are colorful photographs on the walls—and everything is so clean!

Asked how he felt about the project, Dan said that he really liked having the opportunity to make an improvement that would last for a while. It would gain in significance, he felt, as the basement becomes part of the planned expansion of the parish facilities. It was good to know that what he’d done would have a noticeable effect on the parish.

Good job, Dan, well done—thank you!

St. Mary's Parish (Part Two): Fr. Tom and the Church of St. Mary

Fr. Tom Royer served as pastor of the Church of St. Mary from 1973 to his retirement in 2011, when our own pastor, Fr. Hogan, was named pastor of St. Mary's while remaining pastor of St. Patrick's. From the time of his ordination in 1960, Fr. Tom has served in many locations in the Diocese of Peoria, including Holy Family in Peoria, St. Paul in Danville, St. Matthew in Champaign, and at Mercy Hospital.



In his reflection on his fifty years as a priest, Fr. Tom quoted Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador: "The people are my prophet."

"That has been true for me," Fr. Tom said. "The people I was supposed to serve in parish work have served me as my teachers and guides. Surprisingly and in special ways, it has been the needy who have shaped my pastoral efforts: in the parish, in hospital work, in my solidarity work with immigrants in the Sanctuary Movement, and with the poor in the mountains of El Salvador."

During his tenure at St. Mary, Fr. Tom's parishioners have embraced his solidarity with the poor and downtrodden. Some have accompanied him on annual summer mission trips to the Calavera province in El Salvador. Many others have donated goods and money for that trip. The group brings clothing, medicines,

and other needed supplies in suitcases that are sent back to Champaign full of handmade products from the women of Calavera. The sale of these items as well as handmade jewelry, St. Mary note cards, and the St. Mary Choir CD supports the small women's co-ops in El Salvador.

The connection between St. Mary Parish and El Salvador began in the early 1990s, when parishioner Kathy Fries traveled to Calavera and brought the plight of the campesinos (peasants) to the attention of her parish and Fr. Tom. The annual trips have been organized and planned from A to Z by the CEBES-FUNDAHMER, a coalition of Christian base communities in El Salvador and the HNO Mercedes Ruiz Foundation.

The people of the villages in Calavera Province eagerly await the visits of Fr. Tom and his team, both for the medical assistance and for the Baptisms and First Communion celebrations and Masses that accompany these visits. Last year the organizers advised that St. Mary's delegation not go to El Salvador because of heightened violence.

The relationship between St. Mary's and Calavera remains, however, and there are still many handmade items for sale in the church vestibule after weekend Masses.

More about St. Mary's next time!



Baptism in the settlement of Guachipilin, El Salvador, 1995

Planning for transformation

Catholic Connected—Beyond the Pew will take place this year on Apr. 29. But if you head out toward Krannert, as last year, turn around! The High School of St. Thomas More



is the site where representatives of all 19 parishes in our vicariate will gather for this year's meeting. The word "vicariate" may not be a familiar one, but it just refers to parishes in a geographic area, in our case Champaign County. The evening provides an opportunity for St. Patrick's parishioners to build a stronger connection with our Catholic neighbors.

In addition to the recognition that we are a part of a larger group of Catholics from throughout our county, we are sure to find spiritual enrichment in the talk by Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio on this year's theme: "Transformation: (through) GIFT." GIFT is the acronym for "Growing in Faith Together" (see article about GIFT on page 8).

The transformation St. Patrick's parishioners are encouraged to work for is to live closer to Jesus through St. Patrick's partnership with St. Mary's, with whom we share our pastor, Fr. Joe Hogan, and where our former pastor, Father George Remm, celebrates a Mass in Spanish every Sunday. It shouldn't be hard to follow these leaders!

Tickets to Catholic Connected for 2012 will be available at the parish office and perhaps outside church after Mass. Tickets are free but needed for admission. Be sure to get yours so you can take advantage of this opportunity to meet and greet Catholics from other parishes and to hear more about new things to come through GIFT.



What can you do for Earth Day?

On April 22 more than a billion people around the globe will participate in Earth Day 2012. People of all nationalities and backgrounds



will voice their appreciation for the planet and demand its protection. Together we will stand united for a sustainable future and call upon individuals, organizations, and governments to do their part.

Together we can elevate the importance of environmental issues around the world. What can you do for Earth Day?

- Attend an Earth Day event in our local community.
- Plan an Earth Day event and advertise it in our community.
- Participate in a day of service to clean up the environment or help improve it.
- Learn more about recycling, global warming, air and water pollution, energy efficiency, renewable energy.
- Plant a tree, a bush, flowers.
- Take a walk in the woods or a park. Pack a picnic.

Enjoy nature in whatever way is open to you, and look for ways to preserve it. God created it for you!

Celebrating 30 years of service

The East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center (ECIRMAC) is celebrating 30 years of service to the refugee and immigrant population of Champaign County.

Since January 1982 the Refugee Center has assisted thousands of refugees and immigrants from every corner of the world, from Africa, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Many arrive here having fled their homelands to escape war, persecution, and fear. Others seek to be reunited with their family members here.

In a major talk on immigration reform on Friday, Mar. 16, Cardinal Roger Mahony stressed Scripture's mandates to all Jews and Christians to welcome the migrant or stranger

in their midst as an equal, with hospitality, kindness, and justice. The first migrants, he noted, were Adam and Eve. He also mentioned other notable immigrants in the Bible:

Abraham and Sarah, Moses, the Israelites fleeing from slavery in Egypt, and Mary and Joseph with the child Jesus, who first fled to Egypt and later returned to their homeland—but to Nazareth, not their original hometown. "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me."

The agency, located in Urbana at 302 S. Birch St., is holding its Fifth Annual Fundraiser at St. Patrick's on Saturday, Apr. 14, beginning at 6:15 p.m. The admission price of \$60 includes a fine dinner with wine, entertainment, and a silent auction.

If you'd like to participate in this worthy cause, helping the organization to continue its work on behalf of their clients, call 344-8455 (or visit www.ecirmac.org) for information. And come to dinner, where you are sure to meet many area residents who are active in providing this needed service.



Did you know?

- In 1959 St. Patrick's Altar and Rosary Society organized a small group of women who volunteered to visit the Champaign County Nursing Home on a weekly basis. (For several years the women took cookies along for residents to enjoy during their visits.) This good work continues to this day in the form of Mass for the Catholic residents on most Fridays.
- In 1963 a 926-pipe organ was installed in the church (the one we use today), replacing the organ that was donated in 1907. (Earlier we erroneously reported that the 1907 organ is still in use; *mea culpa!*) Occasionally one can hear mysterious wheezing and moans and groans emanating from the near-60-year-old pipes! Are there any organ donors (no pun intended) among our readers?
- Fr. Joe Hogan will lead a pilgrimage to Spain and France this fall. If you've participated on one of his trips, then you know how special they can be! Informational material is available in the parish office—and in this issue of *In Focus* (see page 7).

Women filled the hall for Ladies Knight Out

Knights welcomed women of the parish to a candlelit hall for their annual treat, Ladies Knight Out, on Feb. 18. The Catholic Boys had rehearsed and rehearsed and *rehearsed* their production, billed as “CSI: A Musical Suspense-Thriller,” getting it all word- and melody-perfect. Chefs did their best to prepare succulent beef and chicken for their customers. Waiters filled wine glasses, red or white as requested, and served the three-course dinner with

aplomb. After dessert and coffee, everyone settled back to enjoy the Catholic Boys’ production of “CSI.”

What draws the women? Good food and drink and good entertainment, seasoned with good conversation—how could it fail to please? If you missed Ladies Knight Out this year, watch for announcements of this event early next year—you won’t want to miss it again!



Congratulations to Holy Cross on its 100th anniversary!

With 75 St. Patrick’s students enrolled this year in Holy Cross School, our parish shares a bit in the heady atmosphere of the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of Holy Cross Parish and School.

Contributing to the celebration in grateful acknowledgment of this long-standing relationship between St. Patrick’s and Holy Cross, Father Joe presented a framed reproduction of The Rising Christ to Fr. Willard, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, and Rose Costello, principal of Holy Cross School.

The reproduction includes the following text: “In celebration of 100 years of Catholic Education at Holy Cross School with gratitude to all the people of Holy Cross Parish for enriching the faith and lives of our children.”



Last Chance



They had walked all day.
The arrangements were last-minute.
Someone forgot the water and
towels at the door.

Now, his own feet dirty,
he moves from one to the next,
foot by foot.
Head bowed,
he heals their dirt and calluses,
comes to Judas;
one head raises, the other bows.
Eyes meet, washing hands pause.
A wordless question posed.

Fingers touch the purse,
rub its satisfying roundness.
Judas looks away.
Jesus dries his thin feet tenderly,
tenderly,
then nods and moves on.

—Mary S. Sheridan
Used with permission

From Your Parish Nurses



Come to the Apr. 22 Blood Pressure Screening sponsored by the parish nurses, and you can participate in a free medical screening by the Illinois Medical Screening Society. You can learn your “good” and “bad” cholesterol numbers, your blood sugar level and other valuable health information used to determine your personal risk for heart disease and diabetes.

The Illinois Medical Screening Society (IMSS) is a non-profit organization at the University of Illinois devoted to preventing disease through the process of medical screening and health education. The screening tests are performed by undergraduate pre-health students sponsored by licensed healthcare professionals.

Take charge of your health and learn how you can live healthier and longer by visiting the parish nurses on Apr. 22 from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the parish lounge!

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 Judy Fierke, Dianne Gordon, Ha Ho, Tracey Johnson, Pat Justice, Mary Long, Mary Lou Menches, Susan Nagele, Ellen Noonan, Carole Rebeiz, Nancy Roth, Cathy Salika, Dan Schuele, Peggy Whelan, and Barbara Wysocki. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches and paged by John Colombo.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Cathy Salika

Easy Chocolate (or Spice) Cake

1.5 c flour
1 c sugar
1/4 c cocoa*
1 t baking soda
1/2 t salt
6 T oil
1 T white vinegar
1 t vanilla
1 c cool water

*For spice cake, substitute the following for the cocoa:

2 t cinnamon
1/4 t ground cloves
1/8 t nutmeg

Mix dry ingredients. Add remaining ingredients and stir. You can prepare this right in the baking pan, 8- or 9-inch, round or square. Bake at 350° for 30-35 minutes. Frost or dust with powdered sugar.

* * *

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!

