

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



[www.stpaturbana.org](http://www.stpaturbana.org)

July/August 2012

## Many vocations, each a gift

As we bid “Godspeed” to Fr. Luong Tran and “Welcome” to Fr. Joel Phelps and Fr. Dennis Spohrer, it’s an easy time to reflect on ministry and calling. Each of them brings different strengths and talents to their ministry. Each has a distinctive personality. We are blessed indeed by the diversity of gifts that they and Fr. Joe Hogan share with us!

What do these men have in common? A deep faith, a love of God, a desire to serve his people, a great respect for the wisdom and traditions of the Catholic Church? Yes, all these things. But if you look into your own heart, don’t you find these there? Of course you do! It’s definitely *not* true that the most faithful and loving people become priests and everybody else is less faithful and loving. A vocation is much more creative and resilient than that.

We all have vocations, sometimes more than one, sometimes different ones as we age. Some vocations have to do with where we are in life: of a young child, or a spouse, or a young adult, or the child of an aged parent. Some vocations involve what we do: a nurse, a building contractor, a law-maker, a janitor. Some touch on our talents: a person of prayer, a good listener, someone with time to share with others. There are three signs that these are vocations. First, they do good things, things that meet the needs of

others, things that build up the church and civil society. Second, they meet some need in oneself: the need to develop a talent, the need to share life with others, the need to be part of something larger than oneself, such as family, church, or community. And third, they are done in response to God.

God has given gifts to each of us. He has made it a pleasure for us to explore them and use them.

We give him glory by acknowledging that they come from him and by using them for good. As we come to recognize our gifts, and as we come to recognize the needs of the people and communities around us, we begin to see that God

has made us dependent on one another and able to support one another. Needs and talents weave together to form strong and joyful communities.

We know that we need the sacramental life of the Church to help us grow closer to God and one another. We know that the Church needs leaders who are wise, patient, and gentle. We know that preachers who are faithful to the gospel can teach us to live lives of justice and holiness. These are the needs that a priest steps up to meet, using all his talents, training, personality, and energy.

August 4 is the feast of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish

## When life gives you lemons (or lemonade) . . . help our children!

The young people in St. Patrick’s Religious Education Program will be selling lemonade, coffee, and treats after all the Masses on Saturday, June 30, and Sunday, July 1. They are raising funds for a very special purpose.

You probably know that St. Patrick’s has a capital campaign underway to raise funds to expand our parish facilities, particularly the church. Some people are giving undesignated gifts to the campaign, and others are contributing toward a particular aspect of the project. Our children have also decided to make a contribution; their gift will be designated for one of the Stations of the Cross in the church. They’ve chosen the 12<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus dies on the cross.

For this purpose they are trying to raise \$10,000 during the four years of the campaign. Think of it! For years to come, they will know that they helped to make our church a place of beauty and prayer. Is that awesome or what!



See **Gift** on page 3

## Fr. Joel Phelps — now at home in C-U



As a deacon he served at St. Philomena's while Fr. Joe was pastor, so Fr. Joel Phelps probably thinks he knows what to expect while serving here with Fr. Joe. (But we know, don't we, that Fr. Joe can be full of surprises!)

Fr. Joel Phelps was ordained on May 21 and celebrated his first Mass on Sunday, May 27, at the parish where he grew up: St. Philomena's, in Monticello. He celebrated (with Fr. Dennis Spohrer) his first Mass at St. Patrick's on June 14, having been coached the day before by Fr. Joe in all the ins and outs of being an assistant to the pastor at St. Patrick's and St. Mary's. He has settled in at St. Mary's rectory, where he resides with Fr. Joe and Fr. Dennis. He has met the staff at St. Patrick's, found his office and his mailbox in the parish center, and received his keys to the Kingdom in Urbana-Champaign. He has even met many of St. Patrick's "7-Alive" parishioners, who enjoy conversation over a bit of breakfast after weekday Mass.

Fr. Joel (we hope to avoid audible confusion with "Fr. Joe") started out life in a small town in Indiana but moved to Illinois in second grade when his dad got a job in Champaign. He spent third grade through high school in Monticello, where he worshiped at St. Philomena's Church. (Fr. Joe was pastor there from 1998 to 2001.) Then it was on to the U of I to major in accounting while living at the Newman Center. And it was there that Joel Phelps started thinking about becoming a priest.

He began giving serious attention to prayer, he got to know the priests there, he made some good friends with other students who were thinking about a vocation to the priesthood, and eventually—prayerfully, thoughtfully, with God's help—he made his decision. He entered Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, Minn., in 2005, and went on to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis in 2007, where he studied theology. And now here he is, ready as can be for his ministry at St. Patrick's and St. Mary's.

Fr. Joel admitted to having some acquaintance with the Spanish language, which will serve him well at St. Mary's, and he likes to sing some parts of the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass (may that give some encouragement to our pastor!). He says he's excited at the prospect of being involved with the parishioners of St. Patrick's and St. Mary's—and so are we.

Welcome, Fr. Joel Phelps, to your first priestly assignment and to the Kingdom in Urbana-Champaign!

## Fr. Dennis Spohrer — "native son"



He grew up in Urbana-Champaign, so the area holds few surprises for Fr. Dennis Spohrer. He was born in Urbana, went to grade school and high school in Champaign, studied engineering at Parkland, and earned a bachelor's degree in cinema and photography from

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, in 1991.

He served as an assistant photographer here in town, and as a photographer for various diocesan functions; his photos have been published in *The Catholic Post* and elsewhere, and he still pursues photography as time permits. He earned a master's degree in public history from the University of Illinois at Springfield in 1998.

All this tells you a good bit about Fr. Dennis Spohrer, but there's more. He has a long-standing interest in scouting, which he credits with helping him develop leadership skills. Our local scouts will be interested to learn that he became an Eagle Scout in 1981—his project was renovation of the barn at Kaufman Lake. He hopes to become involved somehow in scouting here.

It seemed natural for him to be thinking about the priesthood as he was growing up. Some of his cousins were in religious life, so the idea of becoming a priest was never far from his mind and not surprising for his family. He kept thinking about the priesthood but setting it aside; then he explored religious life as a Dominican for a short time, but that wasn't "it." He eventually entered the Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, where he earned a master of divinity degree.

Fr. Dennis was ordained by Bishop Daniel Jenky, with whom he feels a certain affinity, and so he is happy to be serving in the Diocese of Peoria—for him it's "home."

Since his ordination on May 24, 2003, Fr. Dennis has served as parochial vicar at St. Vincent de Paul, Peoria (2003); St. Matthew's, Champaign (2004); and Holy Cross, Champaign (2005-2009). He was named administrator of St. Theresa's in Alexis and chaplain of OSF Holy Family Medical Center in Monmouth in 2009,

and was pastor of St. Theresa's in Alexis 2010-12, while continuing to serve at OSF Holy Family. He still enjoys caring for those in hospitals and has great respect for hospice work.

He arrived at St. Patrick's and St. Mary's on June 13 to take up his ministry here, and concelebrated (with Fr.



## Fr. Dennis from page 2

Joel) his first Mass at St. Patrick's the very next day. He has moved into residence at St. Mary's rectory with Fr. Joe and Fr. Joel, and into his office at St. Patrick's, where he has a desk, a telephone, and a mailbox. He's pleased to be here, and he's ready for most anything.

Fr. Dennis, we pray that you are happy in your ministry here; your interests in pastoral care, scouting, and photography should stand you in good stead. Welcome to St. Patrick's and St. Mary's!

## Gift from page 1

priests. He was a man of little learning but tremendous holiness and spiritual insight. No one ever worked harder for the spiritual good of his parishioners and the people who came to him for the sacrament of reconciliation. Why not keep his feast this year by doing something nice for a priest that you know? A word of encouragement, a note of thanks, or a prayer is always appreciated. This, after all, is how we support one another.

### Vocation Prayer

*Before I formed you  
in the womb  
I knew you, and before  
you were born  
I consecrated you. (Jer. 1:4-5)*

Dear Father,  
I pray that I may be of service  
to you and your people.  
I ask for courage in times of  
uncertainty and self-doubt.  
I surrender to you  
my old notions of who  
I thought  
I should be or could be.  
I trust in your plan.  
Lead me safely on this journey  
so that I may be your  
instrument.

## Returning is a process

To most of us, the very idea of returning can hold some very powerful thoughts and emotions. There may be unease or discomfort as we contemplate rejoining family members for celebrations or funerals. For others, returning evokes feelings of confusion or fear as we anticipate meeting friends or classmates at a reunion.

We may have to face unfinished business, say what should have been said years ago, or realize that we're in a different place regarding relationships.

Returning is a process, a part of our lifetime journey and experience as human beings, a second chance to revisit and re-evaluate ourselves and our thinking so we can move forward.

This lesson is especially true for those who weigh the decision to return to the Catholic Church. Even before accepting an invitation to a program, these Catholics have come to realize that a parish community—and the

Church in general, despite imperfections—has much to offer. There's an opportunity for growth, a chance to correct where we can and change what we would.

With these goals in mind, St. Patrick's will offer the six-week summer brown-bag series for returning Catholics, beginning July 11. Each Wednesday over the noon hour we will gather to support one another, recall the grace and power of the sacraments and the Mass, discuss the Church in the contemporary world, and look at ways to get involved with a local parish. Bring your lunch; we'll start promptly at 12:10 p.m. and have you on your way back to work or to class, or other events of your day, at 12:50 p.m.

If you know someone who has expressed a desire to return, to reconnect with their baptismal roots, please share this information with them. Invite them to come on July 11, and consider joining them for a different kind of lunch hour.



## Join St. Patrick's CREW on mission!

You've been supporting CREW's fundraising effort for the mission trip to Washington, D.C., all year. Now it's time to offer your moral and spiritual support during their trip.

Why not come to see them off? The 36 teens, 11 chaperones, and their families will be attending the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday, July 7. There will be a photo session and a blessing of the bus and participants immediately after the Mass. After a quick dinner, the bus will leave at 7 p.m.

You can follow the CREW Mission trip through the CREW Web page: [crew.stpaturbana.org/](http://crew.stpaturbana.org/); click on Mission Trip in the right-hand gray box. You will find pictures and a journal entry each day of the trip. You can also download a copy of CREW's prayer journal and see what and how they will be praying/studying each day of the trip.

Best wishes to everyone going on the mission trip—we're proud of you! Work hard, enjoy helping others, make new friends, stay safe!



## From St. Mary's to St. Patrick's with love: More founding families

"When I was three years old," (Teresa) Jo Ann Butler shared, "I was so naughty in church that my dad took me outside with the clear intention of paddling me. An assistant priest came by and offered to take me to the rectory, where he gave me some ice cream." When the Leonard Butler family arrived home, Jo Ann received the promised and memorable paddling.

Thus begin the stories of four of St. Patrick's founding families. The Butlers, the D'Ursos and Palmisanos, the Aries, and the Pauls can trace their roots back to St. Mary's Parish at the time of, or shortly after, the founding of St. Patrick's.

Leonard Butler's grandfather, Nicholas, along with his two sisters and two brothers, came to Champaign County from County Meath, Ireland, in the mid-1860s. Nicholas married Mary Ellen Halberstadt in St. Mary's church in 1877. Leonard Butler's father, Paul Vincent, was the youngest of their seven children. Only our long-term parishioners know that many current members are descendants of Nicholas Butler. Nicholas's daughter, Mary Ellen, married John Reynolds; they had ten children, including Martha Reynolds Miebach, the mother of Louise Miebach Lawhead and Wanda Miebach Sturdyvin. Fourth-generation parishioners include Sharon Lawhead and Carla Sturdyvin Simmering. Nicholas's son Tom married Jacqueline Lewis, better known as Jacqueline Reynolds-Lincicome.



*John Reynolds, Lynda Reynolds-Wirth, and Jacqueline Reynolds-Lincicome*

The late Leonard and Clara Butler were very active in the service and social aspects of our parish. Len and other parishioners set up the first Sunday Coffee Shop, held in the basement of the rectory. Whenever the parish hall was rented for a wedding, the Butlers, Mary Sleeter,

and Irma Wait, among others, made the beverages, served the food, cut the cake, and cleaned up. For fun, the family would spend a weekend camping at the Sadorus Sportsman's Club with the Donze, Wait, and Gremer families.



*Leonard, Damian, Kathy, Clara, and Jo Ann Butler*

Can we talk about Italian families without getting romantic? Lorenza Palmisano was born in 1891 in St. Joseph, Mo. When she was a teenager, her mother took her back to Sicily and then returned to the States in 1907, when a marriage between Lorenza and Anthony D'Urso had been arranged. Born in 1878 in Sicily, Anthony had immigrated to the States through Ellis Island in 1898 and settled in Hartford, Conn. He traveled to New York to greet his bride and her mother, and was both surprised and impressed that his new bride spoke English. And so the romance began.

In 1909 the D'Ursos moved to Champaign, where Anthony opened his first shoe repair shop in a house on Neil Street. They were members of St. Mary's until they moved their residence and their shop to Urbana in 1912 and joined the still new St. Patrick's Parish. Their last shop, at 118 S. Race St., closed in 1979, concluding 70 years

of repairing shoes.

Anthony and Lorenza had two daughters who died in infancy or childhood. Their sons Joseph, born in 1910, and Lucius, born in 1917, helped their father in the shoe repair shop after school at Urbana High and on weekends. Joe attended the University of Illinois. Their sister Margaret, born in 1914, entered the Sinsinawa Dominican convent in Wisconsin in 1936, taking the name Sr. Laurianus. She spent 56 years as a teacher of third- through sixth-graders, in Chicago and in many other parts of the country. Her most rewarding post was in Tuskegee, Ala., during the time of segregation. Her students there have become doctors, lawyers, business owners, and a mayor.



*Anthony, Joseph, Toni, and Larry D'Urso (August 1965)*

Joe D'Urso served his country in World War II from 1941 until 1945; he married Toni Bonavia in 1950. In 1941 Joe's younger brother Louie married Ida Buttita, an Urbana native who was baptized at St. Patrick's by Fr. Cummings. Louie served in the Signal Corps with the Air Force in Europe from 1943 to 1945.

Lorenza Palmisano was the connection between the D'Ursos and the Palmisanos. Lorenza was the first cousin of John Palmisano, Sr., who

See **Families** on page 5

## Families from page 4

married Champaign native Augusta Gentile in 1924; their seven children included John Jr., Catherine, and Theresa. All seven children grew up in St. Mary's Parish.

John, Sr., was the owner and operator of Palmisano's Market. John, Jr., spent over 50 years in the produce business at both the campus location, at University and Goodwin Ave., and on Washington St. in Urbana.

It is a credit to the faith of the D'Urso and Palmisano families that Sr. Laurianus D'Urso, as well as Catherine and Theresa Palmisano, elected to serve the Catholic Church and Catholic education as Sinsinawa Dominican sisters. John, Jr., and Ina Palmisano had five children: their sons, David and Johnny Ray, are St. Patrick's parishioners. Dave and his wife, Margy, are well-known and very active members of our parish.



Sr. Catherine Palmisano, O.P.

Nicholas Arie was four years old in 1855 when the Arie family arrived in the United States from Prussia. The Arie family first settled in Ohio. Nicholas married Eliza Roney of Covington, Ky., in 1870 in Cincinnati. Shortly afterward they moved to and settled permanently in Urbana. Nicholas signed the donor list for the construction of the first St. Patrick's church building: "Nick Arie - \$100."

Of the Aries' six children, only Gertrude and Charles Thomas married. Gertrude Arie was born in 1884 in Urbana Township. In 1909 Gertrude and Charles Jacobs were

married at St. Patrick's, Fr. John Cannon presiding. Charles farmed east of Urbana with his sons, Chuck and Joe. Their daughter Gladys married Julius Reinhart, and Dorothy married Ralph Douglas.



The Aries: (back) Gertrude, Margaret, Elizabeth, and Charles; (front) Nicholas, Edward, and Eliza

Charles Thomas Arie and Martha Aegar Arie had eight children, including life-long parishioners Mary Margaret Wood and Tom and Jim Arie. Current St. Patrick's parishioners from the Arie family include Jim and Joanne Good Arie's daughter, Jill Blanck, and Tom and Betty Hurley Arie's daughter, Deborah McCartney.

George Paul moved from Michigan to Piatt County, where he worked as a farm hand. In 1891 George found employment in the repair shops at the Big Four Railroad in Urbana. After buying four lots on West Main St. in Urbana, George sent for his boyhood sweetheart in Indiana. George and Mary were married in 1891 at St. Mary's Parish in Champaign. They were involved in the founding of St. Patrick's and moved to the parish once the church was built.

Their son, Austin Steven Paul, and Austin's son Norman Austin Paul and daughter Sheila Paul Claybaugh were baptized, confirmed, and married at St. Patrick's. It has been a family tradition that every newborn

child is baptized in the gown worn by Austin Stephen Paul in 1902, covered by the baptismal gown worn by George Paul in 1862.

The following account is a testament to the Paul family tradition of dedication, mutual respect, and love. In 1921, Austin's grandmother Mary suffered a paralytic stroke. From that time until her death in 1930, Austin carried his grandmother to Mass every Sunday.

This final account of the relationship between St. Mary's and St. Patrick's parishes, although far from complete, can be the starting point for interested parishioners to delve

into the rich family stories found in *In Celebration of Parish Families*, published to celebrate St. Patrick's Centennial in 2001. As a parish, St. Patrick's owes much to the generosity of the St. Mary's parishioners who took on the challenge of building up St. Patrick's in Urbana!

—Carole Rebeiz



Austin Stephen Paul, First Communion at St. Patrick's (circa 1908)

## Volunteers needed

Who sets out hosts and wine for Sunday Mass—the priest? No! Parishioners just like you do this! Currently there is real need for a parishioner (or a parishioner couple) to set up for the noon Mass once a month, and to put things away afterward. If you've ever wanted a very special way to serve your parish priests and people, this is it!

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry needs help on the following dates from 4:00 p.m. until 5:15 or 5:30 p.m., depending on how many people are in line:

*Mondays:* July 23 and 30

*Tuesdays:* June 26 through Aug. 7

*Thursdays:* June 28 and July 5

Please call if you can work any of these times rather than just showing up. Space in the pantry is limited and gets extremely tight if too many people just show up to work on a particular day. And knowing that volunteers are coming as scheduled avoids panic. *Ellen Abell, 367-5648, 840-3839 (cell), or ellen.abell@comcast.net*

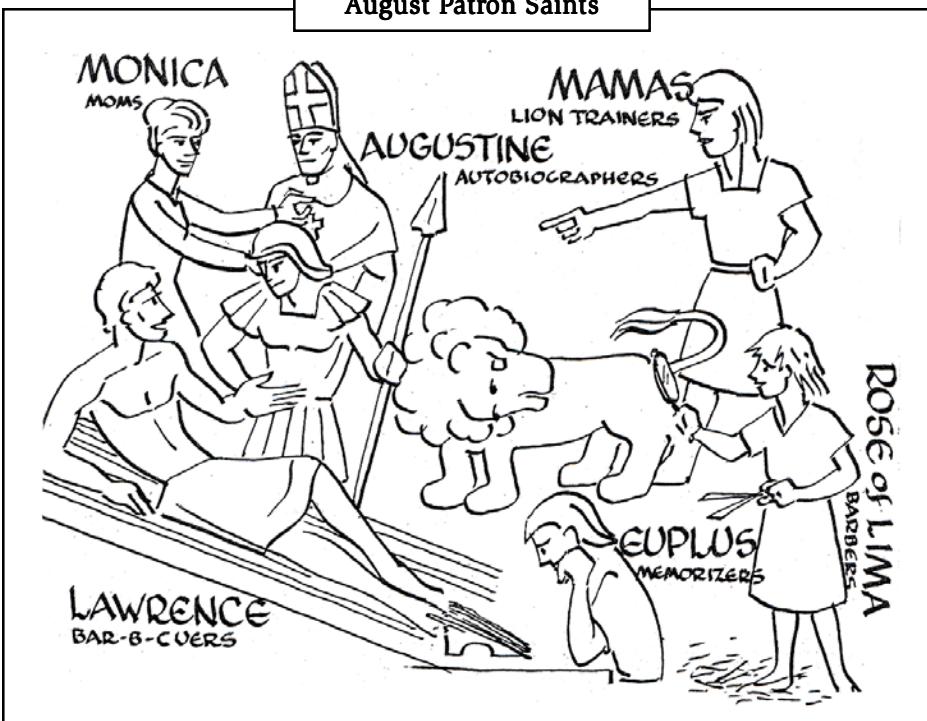


Parish groups or individuals can submit entries for this column to the Communications Committee or contact Mary Lou Menches (344-1125 or [mmenches@illinois.edu](mailto:mmenches@illinois.edu)). Provide your name and telephone number or e-mail address with a brief description of the kind of help being sought.

### July Patron Saints



### August Patron Saints



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



## Something old becomes something new at the Cellar-to-Garret Sale

The Cellar-to-Garret sale has been a tradition at St. Patrick's for some years now. It is the Women of St. Patrick's most important fundraiser; the money raised helps the WSP to do things that benefit the parish as a whole—for example, buying the ice machine in the parish center kitchen. Amy Boscolo and Katie Leininger have once again bravely taken on the task of organizing this big event. This year, they have made some changes to the preparation process.

The biggest change is that donations cannot be dropped off until the week of Aug. 6. The limited donation period this year means that the parish center will already be reserved for the sale so that when you

come to drop off donated items, you can bring them directly to the rooms and areas designated for each category. You can put clothing in the clothing area, household goods in the household goods area, electronics in the electronics room, books in the book room, and so on. This will streamline the sorting, pricing, and sales preparation process, saving a lot of volunteer time and energy.

Donations accepted include clothing, shoes, household goods, working electronics, books, toys, furniture, and assorted other items (bulletin notices will be more specific). When donating, "Remember that this is your parish family's garage sale," says Amy Boscolo, "so please donate only those items that

you would be comfortable selling at your personal family garage sale." Items that are soiled, damaged, broken, or otherwise unusable can't be sold, and it costs money to throw them away, especially in the case of broken electronics or hazardous waste that requires special-

ized disposal, so please don't even think about bringing them in!

Because of the more limited donation period, volunteers will not be needed until Aug. 6, when they will help after the noon Mass to set up sales areas in the parish center. From then until Aug. 15, volunteers will be needed for accepting donations, sorting, pricing, and other preparations. During the sale, Aug. 16-18, people are needed for all sorts of positions, from cashier to cleanup. Food donations are also needed for workers' lunches and suppers.

This year volunteers are asked to sign up electronically via Doodle, which will show what shifts are available on what days. (If you're not "into" electronics, the telephone will certainly be an adequate substitute!) More information on that is to come.

The Cellar-to-Garret Sale is an event that everyone in the parish can take part in, whether by donating items, volunteering time, preparing food for the workers, or simply coming to shop for bargains.

Mark your calendars! The sale will begin Thursday, Aug. 16, from 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m., with an entrance fee of \$2.00. On Friday, Aug. 17, hours are 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. The bag sale is on Saturday, Aug. 18, 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., with a price of \$2.00 per bag.

Volunteers are needed from Aug. 6 through Aug. 17. Watch the weekly bulletins for up-to-date information!



*You too can find something special at a Cellar-to-Garret Sale!*

### Did you know ... ?

- In 1965 the first parish newsletter was published by the Urbana Knights of Columbus and distributed to parishioners as an insert in the parish bulletin. Over time it went through many hands, lodging in 1983 with the Communications Committee under the leadership of Frank Nasca. It was renamed "St. Patrick's Parish in Focus" (now commonly referred to as "In Focus") as the result of a parish survey.
- When you're on vacation this summer, you'll find it easy to locate a Catholic church. Just go to [masstimes.org](http://masstimes.org) or call 1/734/794-2100 and enter a zip code to find nearby churches. With today's cell phones, smartphones, ipads, and gps devices, it's a piece of cake to get to Mass on Sunday, no matter where you are!



**Q:** What are we celebrating on the feast of the Assumption?

**A:** In general when we say we're "making an assumption," we mean we're taking something for granted. Or we may "assume," or "take up," a debt or a new position. In this case, however, we are referring to the "assumption," or "taking up," of Mary into heaven.

The feast of the Assumption of Mary (Aug. 15) celebrates her passage to heaven at the end of her life, a recognition of her fidelity and her role as mother of the Son of God. The idea that Mary was assumed into heaven is not affirmed in any direct way by the New Testament, but rather developed over several centuries out of the Church's life of prayer, biblical reflection, and

tradition. As early as the fourth century the feast of the Dormition ("falling asleep") of Mary was celebrated on Aug. 15; a couple of centuries later it was renamed the feast of the Assumption—Mary had been taken up, fully, into heaven.

The question of whether Mary was assumed "body and soul" was not finally defined by the Church until 1950, when Pope Pius XII, after consultation with the bishops of the world, officially defined the dogma of the bodily assumption of Mary into heaven. It was considered fitting that the body which gave birth to Jesus be spared any bodily corruption.

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



## in our parish library

The parish library is open on weekdays during office hours; ask for a key at the parish office. Directions for using the computer are posted to help you search for specific books by title or author name, or by subject of interest. Scanning the shelves and looking for subject labels may also prove fruitful in finding just exactly what you want to read next.

When Lori Mestre's successor is in place as the parish's next parish librarian, we hope to introduce you to yet more of the books and other materials in our parish library. Meanwhile, browse to your heart's content—you never know what wonders you may come across!

## A prayer for wisdom

God of love and mercy,  
you call us to be your people,  
you gift us with your abundant  
**grace.**

Make us a holy people,  
radiating the fullness of your  
**love.**

Form us into a community,  
a people who care,  
expressing your  
**compassion.**

Remind us day after day  
of our baptismal call to serve  
with joy and courage.

Teach us how to grow in  
**wisdom**  
and **grace**  
and **joy**  
in your presence.

Through Jesus  
and in your Spirit,  
we make this prayer.

## Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Maureen Reagan

### Salsa Chicken

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
1 small pkg reduced-sodium taco seasoning mix  
1 c salsa

Place chicken in a slow cooker. Sprinkle with taco seasoning and top with salso. Cook on low 6-8 hours. If desired, you can

- add a can of corn or black beans during the last hour or so of cooking
- shred the chicken during the



last hour or so of cooking

- after cooking, thicken the salsa with cornstarch
- after cooking, stir 1/4 cup sour cream into the salsa

+ + +

*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!*



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

Pledged: \$3.5 million  
Cash in hand: \$1,352,383

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



## Living Faith: Helping empty tomb

When I was a graduate student in 1986, a friend from the University Baptist Church, Trace, invited me to work on home maintenance projects with an organization called “empty tomb.” I knew nothing about empty tomb, but I was curious about its enigmatic title. Although my practical tradesman skills were not particularly evident, I was told that this was no handicap, so I accepted the invitation to a workday where the job was to strengthen the foundations and basement of a house that needed repair.

On that first workday, I found myself working with folks of all skill levels and various Christian backgrounds, united by the single purpose of serving others as Jesus commanded us. The very first day I volunteered was a little daunting even before it started, but once there, I worked with such a generous, friendly group of coworkers that it has become a regular feature of my Saturday morning schedule and



quite often is the highlight of my week.

I work on home maintenance projects, which are designed to help low-income homeowners to make renovations and to repair damage that would make a home otherwise unlivable.

Each Saturday I meet with some volunteers for breakfast and then go to work on all manner of home repairs, such as roofing, furnace and air-conditioning repair, plumbing, carpentry, foundations, electrical repair. Sometimes I’m asked to help with delivering donated furniture to needy households using empty tomb’s furniture truck.

While the commitment may sound impressive, I would not do much on Saturday morning other than sleep in, and the workdays are a very enjoyable time because they are such a change from my regular weekdays. I meet many new people, and over several workdays I learn more about who they are and what their lives are like. The purpose of

empty tomb is as much about helping families by showing them that someone cares for them as it is about the physical repair of homes.

Another reason I volunteer to work on empty tomb projects is the enjoyment that comes from working with Christians of all denominations united in their enthusiasm to follow the Gospel and sharing the good news of Jesus, as well as from meeting a particular need. The Second Vatican Council document on Christian Unity, *Unitatis Redintegratio*, and Pope John Paul II’s encyclical *Ut Unum Sint*, on the commitment to ecumenism, emphasize the call to Christian ecumenism and I feel that empty tomb is an excellent vehicle for such common Christian commitment. In addition, Matthew 25:31-46 leaves no doubt for me about the need for people like me, who are blessed with all kinds of worldly possessions and opportunities, to assist those in need.

Finally, it is very important to me to work as a volunteer for folks in need without having any expectation that they can return the favor in any way except to know that all the work is done free in Jesus’ name.

Other St. Patrick’s parishioners also volunteer on empty tomb projects, among them Chris Stohr, Mark Cousert, Chuck Shaw, and Dave Palmisano. And St. Patrick’s Parish has taken on two empty tomb adopt-a-projects, in which a church provides all the material costs of the project.

The reasons for working at empty tomb are multiple, because we work free in Jesus’ name, interact with volunteers of all Christian denominations, help people in need—it just seems the right thing to do.

—Richard Keane

## St. Patrick’s Seniors enjoy summer luncheon

St. Patrick’s Seniors met Wednesday, June 13, for their summer potluck. June 13 was also the wedding anniversary of Howard and Margaret Erlandson – their 42<sup>nd</sup>! (The Erlandsons have been to 46 of the 50 United States!) The group participated in a quiz activity to get to know Howard and Margaret better.

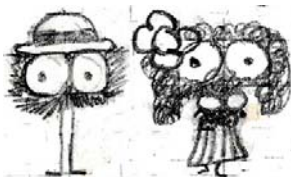
Fr. Hogan led the blessing for the meal. Much of the luncheon conversation centered on likes, dislikes, activities, hobbies, and benefits of married life for parish seniors.

Because the group had not recently updated its

roster, members decided to contact each member or family on their list to determine if they still wish to be on the roster. Mary Jo Thomsen will then become the calling committee to contact members who do not have email. Shirley Splittstoesser will email those with current email addresses. They thanked Betty Blanco, who has been the calling committee for a number of years.

Next on the agenda was Bingo. All who participated won at least one white elephant prize.

The next meeting of St. Patrick’s Seniors will be the cookout on Tuesday, Oct. 30.



## A Prayer for Frustrated Catholics

Dear God, sometimes I get so frustrated with your Church.

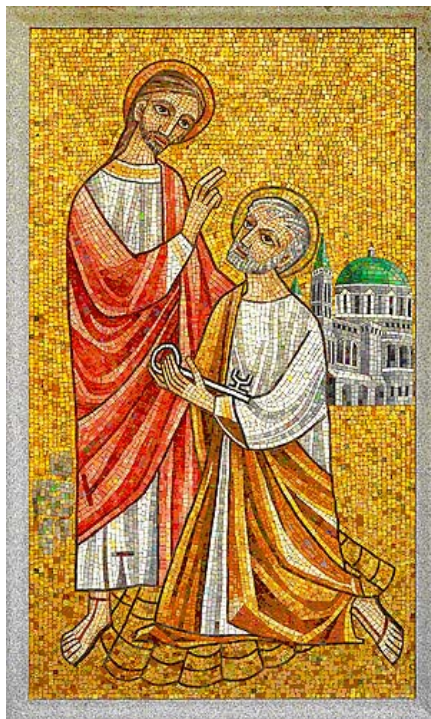
I know that I'm not alone. So many people who love your Church feel frustrated with the Body of Christ on earth. Priests and deacons, and brothers and sisters, can feel frustrated, too. And I'll bet that even bishops and popes feel frustrated. We grow worried and concerned and bothered and angry and sometimes scandalized because your divine institution, our home, is filled with human beings who are sinful. Just like me.

But I get frustrated most of all when I feel that there are things that need to be changed and I don't have the power to change them. So I need your help, God.

Help me to remember that Jesus promised that he would be with us until the end of time, and that your Church is always guided by the Holy Spirit, even if it's hard for me to see. Sometimes change happens suddenly, and the Spirit astonishes us, but often in the Church it happens slowly. Help me know that the seeds that I plant with love in the ground of your Church will one day bloom. So give me patience.

Help me to understand that there was never a time when there were not arguments or disputes within your Church. Arguments go all the way back to Peter and Paul debating one another. And there was never a time when there wasn't sin among the members of your Church. That kind of sin goes back to Peter denying Jesus during his Passion. Why would today's Church be any different than it was for people who knew Jesus on earth? Give me wisdom.

Help me to trust in the Resurrection. The Risen Christ reminds us that there is always the hope of something new. Death is never the last word for us. Neither is despair. And help me remember that when the Risen Christ appeared to his disciples, he bore the wounds of his Crucifixion. Like Christ, the Church is always wounded, but always a carrier of grace. Give me hope.



Help me to believe that your Spirit can do anything: raise up saints when we need them most, soften hearts when they seem hardened, open minds when they seem closed, inspire confidence when all seems lost, help us do what had seemed impossible until it was done. This is the same Spirit that converted Paul, inspired Augustine, called Francis of Assisi, emboldened Catherine of Siena, consoled Ignatius of Loyola, comforted Thérèse of Lisieux, enlivened John XXIII, accompanied Teresa of Calcutta, strengthened Dorothy Day, and encouraged John Paul II. It is the same Spirit that is with us today, and your Spirit has lost none of its power. Give me faith.

Help me to remember all your saints. Most of them had it a lot worse than I do. They were frustrated with your Church at times, struggled with it, and were occasionally persecuted by it. Joan of Arc was burned at the stake by Church authorities. Ignatius of Loyola was thrown into jail by the Inquisition. Mary MacKillop was excommunicated. If they can trust in your Church in the midst of those difficulties, so can I. Give me courage.

Help me to be peaceful when people tell me that I don't belong in

the Church, that I'm not a good Catholic for trying to make things better. I know that I was baptized. You called me by name to be in your Church, God. As long as I draw breath, help me remember how the holy waters of baptism welcomed me into your holy family of sinners and saints. Let the voice that called me into your Church be what I hear when other voices tell me that I'm not welcome in the Church. Give me peace.

Most of all, help me to place all of my hope in your Son. My faith is in Jesus Christ. Give me only his love and his grace. That's enough for me.

Help me, God, and help your Church.

—James Martin, S.J.

St. Patrick Parish  
**IN FOCUS**

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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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