

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

March 2012

## Jesus fasted

Jesus kept the fasts of his Jewish heritage. He fasted for 40 days at the beginning of his ministry. The life of an itinerant preacher probably didn't include a reliable meal plan, so he may have gone to his rest hungry many times. He probably wasn't given anything to eat on the day he died.

Perhaps his greatest fast was the act of becoming human. For a time, the Lord of Creation became subject to creation, heat and cold, rain

and snow, pain and weariness. For a time, the all-knowing God took on a human intellect and struggled to understand the people and the world around him and how they related to God. Why?

He did it for us, to show us how deeply God loves us and to show us how God values our lives. He did it in solidarity with us, to show us how much God wants to be part of our lives. He did it in humility, setting aside the glory of heaven and the

praise of all creation. He did it in trust, because his human mind did not know everything that his Father was doing in him, yet he trusted and persevered.

Learn from Jesus that you can fast from food, or from things that keep you in your comfort zone, or from



things that keep you too busy to pay attention to others. Learn from him to fast for others, in a way that makes the world a little more just, or a little more loving. Learn from him to fast, trusting in God, even if you're not sure what the point is.

"Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather, he emptied himself" (Philippians 2:6-7). "Then go and do the same" (Luke 11:37).

## What is a Taizé prayer service?

If you remember any of the Taizé hymns we've sung at Mass—"Veni, Sancte Spiritus," "Jesus, Remember Me," "Jubilate Deo," are just a few—you'll know what to expect when you participate in the Taizé service on Tuesday, March 13 (7 p.m. in the church), planned by music director Laura Theby.

The prayer service is simple and meditative, with hymns punctuated by brief Scripture readings and silence. Visually reflective as well are the many candlelit icons, images of sacred Christian personages, placed on the altar.

This prayer service is named for the ecumenical Christian community in Taizé, France. Short, simple songs, composed by members of the Taizé community, are repeated many times over to allow their meaning to penetrate one's whole being and evoke a prayerful response to the readings from Scripture.

Take a break from the pace of everyday life and let your heart respond to the music of Taizé, the words of Scripture, and the pleas we make of our God. You will find it a renewing and prayerful preparation for the days to come.



### Zecharia and St. Ambrose on Fasting

In response to requests for interpretation of the laws regarding fasting, the prophet Zecharia invites fasting from injustice, oppression, and evil.

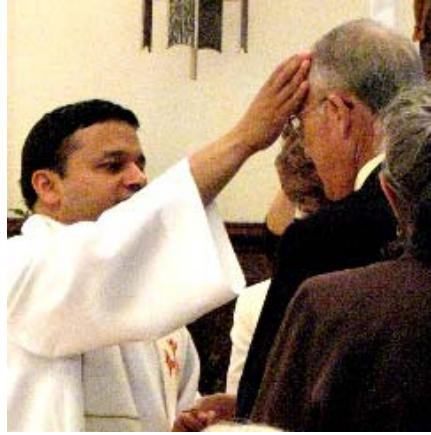
St. Ambrose provides a similar challenge (in *Populorum Progressio*, 23): "You are not making a gift of your possessions to the poor. You are handing over to them what is theirs. For what has been given in common for the use of all, you have arrogated to yourself. The world is given to all, and not only to the rich ... No one is justified in keeping for personal, exclusive use what one does not need, when others lack necessities."

## “Through this holy anointing...”

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated during Mass on Tuesday, Mar. 6, at 12:10 p.m. Like all sacraments, this is an occasion of grace and should be celebrated by anyone needing healing from physical, emotional, or spiritual distress, as well as those suffering from the infirmities of age or a chronic illness.

All present can also use this opportunity to spend time in prayer for those who are being anointed, uniting our prayers with those of the anointing priest and of the anointed. It may be the best gift we can give to one another as a parish family—praying for one another.

If you have any questions about the Anointing of the Sick, please speak with Fr. Joe or Fr. Luong, or with one of the pastoral associates on the parish staff.



*Through this holy anointing  
may the Lord in his love  
and mercy help you  
with the grace of the Holy Spirit.  
May the Lord who frees you from sin  
save you and raise you up.*

## A Christmas dream became a reality

He had a dream, an idea for St. Patrick's Christmas crèche. For a year or two he shared it with the Liturgical Arts Team, and late last fall it seemed to click with everyone. So Thomas Skaggs worked to make it a reality: a stable for Mary and Joseph and their newborn child.

Tom worked many hours to flesh out his dream. The stable had to be of a size appropriate for the figures it would house, and at the same time fitting within the space constraints of the church sanctuary, where it would be placed. It had to be well constructed, made to last, and easy to carry—the roof of wood slats suggesting shelter and at the same time rough, as befitting a stable. He spent hours looking at samples of other stables, and gave a lot of thought to the stability and longevity of the materials and the staining he would use. Then he got to work.

He wanted to get it right, and so he did. The result of his efforts graced St. Patrick's during last year's Christmas Season and will continue to do so for years to come.

Many thanks to Tom Skaggs for persevering in his dream and for his painstaking efforts in making it a reality, one that can inspire all of us.



**In the Kitchen**  
BY KILIAN MCDONNELL, OSB

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel....*  
Luke 1:26, NRSV

Giotto has it wrong.  
I was not kneeling  
on my red satin cushion  
in a beam of light,  
head slightly bent.

Painters always  
skew the scene,  
as though my life  
were wrapped in silks,  
in temple smells.

Actually, I had just  
come back from the well.  
Placing the pitcher on the table  
I bumped against the edge,  
spilling water on the floor.

As I bent to wipe it up  
there was a light  
upon the kitchen wall,  
as though someone had opened  
the door to the morning sun.

Rag in hand,  
hair across my face,  
I turned to see  
who was entering,  
unannounced, unasked.

All I saw was light,  
white against the timbers.  
I heard a voice; the light  
was greeting me  
in the strangest words.

I was elected,  
would bear the son  
of the Most High  
who would reign forever.  
I stood afraid.

Someone closed the door.  
  
I dropped the rag.

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The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is March 18.



## Scouting honors awarded

At the 10:30 Children’s Mass on Feb. 12, many parish boys and girls in the Scouting program received the awards they had worked for all year. At this special Scouting Mass several of them served as lectors, ushers, and gift bearers.

Medals went to Kylie Hopper and Sophia Solava in recognition of their completion of the “Family of God” program, which helps second- and third-grade Scouts discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of a family and a parish. In addition to other activities, the third-graders earned the medal by writing prayers for and participating in a family prayer service, discussing a Sunday liturgy, and reading about their favorite saint.

The “I Live My Faith” medal is for Girl Scouts in fourth to sixth grades. They are encouraged to delve deeper into their faith through hands-on

activities and service projects. The fourth-grade Girl Scouts who received this medal engaged in such activities as singing Christmas carols at a nursing home, making Birthday in a Bag packages for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, exploring the rite of Baptism with a deacon, and learning about Communion brought to the homebound. The following Junior Scouts received medals for completing the “I Live My Faith” requirements: Josie Kuenning, Lisa Altaner, Mikala Turner, Rachel Loftus, and Sarah Benson.

This is the second year the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois have honored a Young Woman of Distinction. Most people are aware of the Woman of Distinction Award, and the Girl Scouts have wanted to celebrate and honor young women



aged 15-21 who exemplify the Girl Scout mission by demonstrating courage, confidence, good character, and the making of her world a better place. It is a pleasure to announce that Jenny Crull, Holy Cross alumna of 2007, High School of St. Thomas More alumna of 2011, and four-year member of St. Patrick’s CREW Youth Group will receive the “Young Woman of Distinction” award on Mar. 15, 2012.

St. Patrick’s is happy to recognize Eagle Scout Will Justice, who has earned his Ad Altare Dei Catholic Boy Scout Medal. This award is the third in a series of Catholic Scouting medals. To earn his medal, Will participated in a five-month program in which he studied the Bible and the sacraments, completed a workbook, and passed a Board of Review.

Parishioners will remember that not long ago Will won his Eagle Scout award, the highest honor a Catholic Boy Scout can receive. In addition to managing the project, the large sign identifying St. Patrick’s at the corner of Main and Coler Streets, and gaining financial support for it, he helped with its construction.

Congratulations to all our Scouts for their achievements!

## Lenten Film Series opens our eyes to social justice

The Lenten Film Series, “Following in the Footsteps of Jesus,” continues in the multipurpose room on Friday evenings during Lent. Through our film study, we hope to gain a greater understanding of the social teachings of Jesus and the Catholic Church and, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to discover how each of us can serve the Lord in creating peace and justice in our world today. The schedule is as follows:

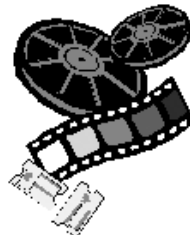
Date	Topic	Catholic Social Teaching
Mar. 2	Civil Rights	Rights and Responsibility, Solidarity
Mar. 9	Poverty	Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, Solidarity
Mar. 16	Immigration	Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers, Solidarity
Mar. 23	Ecology	Care for God’s Creation
Mar. 24	Citizenship	Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The award-winning documentaries that will be seen include *Waiting on the World to Change*; *Holding Ground*, *the Rebirth of Dudley Street*; *Dying to Live*, *a Migrant’s Journey*; *Destination America*; *Stewards of the Earth*; and *The Man Who Planted Trees*, and *Others*.

Participants will gather between 6:15 and 6:25 p.m. (you may finish your Lenten supper in the multipurpose room or bring snacks with you) and close with discussion of the film between 7:40 and 8:15 p.m.

While all the films will be thematically connected to Jesus as teacher and our Catholic social teachings, each film can be viewed independently. This film series presents you with a wonderful opportunity to examine some core Catholic beliefs about peace and justice.

Please come to watch, to learn, and to share your questions and thoughts about social justice.



## Adults are needed to mentor students!

You can make a difference in the life of a child.

Bottenfield and Carrie Busey Elementary Schools in Champaign are looking for mentors to develop a friendship with a student in need of a friend and in need of a responsible adult in his or her life.

What’s the time commitment? One hour per week, in the respective school, and during school hours only.

Please contact parishioner Paula Partin (partinpa@champaignschools.org or 351-3807) for more information or to volunteer.



## in our parish library

The following are representative books on the topics of Lent and Easter that can be checked out in the parish library.

### Adult Books for Lent and Easter.

Once you locate a book by the call number below, you should find other books about Easter and Lent close by.

- *Easter Vigil and Other Poems*, by Pope John Paul II. These are forty-two poems written during the pope's years as a parish priest and Auxiliary Bishop of Cracow on the topics of factory working, acting, children, love, and faith. Call Number: 891.8 Woj.
- *Lent for Families: A Time to Grow*, by Mary Carol Kendzia. Call Number: 263.2 KEN 2000.
- *The Little Way of Lent: Meditations in the Spirit of St. Therese of Lisieux*, by Fr. Gary Caster. *The Little Way of Lent* is an outgrowth of the promise Caster made as a seminarian to try to bring others to Thérèse so that she might bring them to Christ. All of the meditations are based on Lenten Mass readings and are real "little ways" to connect with God during Lent. Each

day's meditation is thought provoking and spiritual yet simple. Call Number: 242.3 CAS.

- *Of Fast and Festival: Celebrating Lent and Easter*, by Barbara O'Dea. Call Number: 263.2 Ode.
- *Renewed for Life: Brief Meditations to Help Catholics in Their Lenten Renewal*, by Henri Nouwen. Excerpted from the works of Henri J. M. Nouwen by James E. Adams. Call Number: 263.2 Nou.
- *Scripture, Thoughts, and Things to Do during All the Days of Lent*, by Colane Recker. Call Number: OSF 263.2 Rec.
- *Sower's Seeds of Encouragement: Fifth Planting 100 Stories of Hope, Humor, and Healing*, by Brian Cavanaugh. There are numerous sources of inspiration here for Lent and Easter. The book won an Honor in the Anthology Category at the 1999 Storytelling World Awards. Call Number: 251 CAV 1998.

**Children's Books.** The children's books have call numbers with a "C" or "CH" on the top; they are located

on the right side of the library. Below are just a few examples of books on Lent and Easter for children.

- *Arts and Crafts for Lent*, by Jeanne Heibert. Call Number: C HEI 1997.
- *Easter Is Coming! (Lenten Celebrations for the Family)*, by Mary Herb-Montgomery. Call Number: C MON 1973.
- *The Easter Story*, by Carol Heyer. Call Number: C HEY 1990.
- *The Jesus Garden (an Easter Legend)*, by Antoinette Bosco. Call Number: C BOS 2004.
- *Lent for Children*, by Alison Berger. Call Number: C BER 2000.
- *Passover around the World*, by Tami Lehman-Wilzig. Call Number: CH 296.4 LEH 2007.

*If you need help locating materials in the library, call Lori Mestre (365-9004), library team coordinator.*

*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 is the difference between fasting and abstinence?**

**A:** Fasting usually means fasting from food. It could mean fasting from all food for a short time, or it could mean living on a simpler diet for a longer period. Abstinence, when we're talking about Lent, means doing without meat. Both of these practices are shared by all the Christian churches as ways of drawing closer to God and serving others.

The Roman Catholic tradition gives us very simple requirements and encourages us to do more as we are able. The minimum is to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, which means taking only one full meal and two very light meals that add up to less than a full meal. We abstain from meat on those days, and also on the Fridays of Lent.

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

## Courtney Kneer: A "Kid to Know"

Her friend Mia, who lives in Missouri, wrote to Courtney Kneer, a 12-year-old parishioner of St. Patrick's, describing the terrible aftereffects of the tornadoes that destroyed so much of Joplin, Missouri. And Courtney saw homes and businesses reduced to kindling on the television news.

It was the thought of so many children rendered homeless, some without their parents, that led Courtney to take action. She gathered up her great collection of stuffed animals—even her very favorite, a large guinea pig named "Baby" after a real guinea pig she'd had that passed away some time ago—and sent them off via UPS to the fire department in Joplin, certain



that the fire fighters there would know the children most in need of comfort.

To each animal Courtney attached a note giving her name, where she lives, and why she was sending it—"because I wanted to help," she said. All her

stuffed animals were special and hard to part with because all had stories attached. Yet, as Courtney told the WCIA Channel 3 interviewer for "Kids to Know," she would do it all over again. She thought it was an honor to help. Courtney and her parents, Jeff and Angela, hope that by sharing this story others are inspired to give as freely and as lovingly as she did.

## From our Parish Nurses

March is recognized as National Nutrition month. Healthcare providers recommend a diet low in fat and full of grains, fruits, and vegetables—a diet, say, particularly appropriate for our Lenten observance! Such a diet may protect us from changes associated with aging, cancer, and heart disease, and often reduces obesity.



This month is a great time to reflect on healthy food choices and a holistic approach to nourishing our bodies, minds, and spirits. God has graciously provided food to nourish our bodies, invites us to share our food with fellow Christians and strangers, and offers us the ultimate food in the Eucharist. May the Lord bless our eating and strengthen our bodies, minds, and spirits for service to our Creator and the good of others!

Elsewhere in this issue of *In Focus* you will find a recipe from our Parish Nurses that may start you off well for Lent and good eating habits.

## Catholic teens plan a party

It's called "Catholic Teen Connection" because teens from all parishes in the Champaign Vicariate come together for Mass, good eats, and fun.

This is a social event, held quarterly, for all Catholic high school teenagers. On Sunday, Mar. 11, the teens will attend noon Mass together at St. Patrick's and then head over to the parish hall for party snacks (think lots of yummy finger foods). As a finale, they will form teams to compete for prizes in a trivia competition.

Cost for this event is \$10, to be paid at the door.



## It's time for Spring Cleaning at St. Patrick's

We all pray that we will spend eternity with God in heaven. When Christ arose at Easter, he opened the gates of heaven to his Father's house. But what about God's house here in Urbana? It needs to be prepared for Easter too. On Saturday morning, March 31, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, we will try to do just that.

In the church, the pews and kneelers will be washed, the woodwork and sanctuary furnishings dusted and polished, brass candle fittings brightened. Will there be men to carry and climb the tall ladder to wash the floor-to-ceiling glass walls? Everyone, young and older, is invited to help with these and other



tasks for any length of time that can be given.

The parish center also needs a thorough cleaning. Every chair and table in every classroom will be washed, the multipurpose room and lounge furnishings washed or dusted or polished, the windows and blinds cleaned, and the basement given a good scrubbing. As you can see there are lots of jobs that anyone can do.

Do you have an hour or two to help set God's house in order? Many hands make for light work, as the saying goes. All cleaning supplies (and refreshments) will be provided—just come along!

## Congolese rejoice: shipment arrived safely

The best news heard by our Congolese community recently is that St. Patrick's shipment of more than 100 cartons of clothing and bedding for the Congolese has reached its destination and will soon be in the hands of Father Nsimba Zephyrin in Kinshasa. Actual distribution to the people will be videotaped for us to see.

St. Patrick's Congolese parishioners from the Democratic Republic of Congo get together about once a month to share their experiences of fleeing brutal warfare and survival in a new country. They don't talk much, though, about the war. The past has given them the faith that

must solve the problems of today: who has a job, who needs one, where there is a good place to live, and school for the children. The women prepare food for the long Saturday afternoon gatherings, from 3-7p.m. They usually meet in one another's homes but may instead gather in the parish center or, in nice weather, in a park. They are glad to be Catholic, glad to be here.

Because they want to give something back, many will be planning the next rehearsal of their Congolese choir. You may have heard them sing at St. Mary's Christmas open house. When invited, they sing without charge and have performed in

Springfield and Peoria, at weddings and at church parties.

The language of Congo is French, and many Congolese are still most comfortable speaking French, but their hope is for the children to become bilingual. Our thanks to one who is bilingual, Cynthia Lubamba, a 17-year-old high school junior, who ably interpreted the comments of her dad, Clovis Nyembo, for this article.





## The "Wearing of the Green"

Our parish has planned a fantastic celebration in observance of St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, Mar. 17. There will be entertainment, food, and Irish lore for everyone, young and old. The only prerequisite is that you become Irish for the day.

The afternoon celebration, oriented toward children, runs from 3 to 5 p.m. There will be games, among them a cupcake walk. Skits will be performed by kids from our children's program. There will be a sing-along. A young group of Irish dancers will perform. There will be a display on Ireland, and Irish foods and treats. Finally, "St. Patrick" will pay a special visit and tell us all about himself.

Then St. Patrick will lead the parishioners from the parish hall to our church for the 5 p.m. Mass. To keep us in the Celtic mood, our Mass will have an Irish theme, with



Irish hymns and prayers. After Mass, St. Patrick will lead a procession back to the parish hall.

There an Irish dinner will be served from 6 to 7 p.m. Tickets for the meal may be purchased in advance. Even if you choose not to dine in, you can enjoy the fun offered for the evening. The Irish band, Emerald Rum, will

play from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by a tutorial in Irish Caeli dancing, then dancing to the Oldies. And St. Patrick will talk about his ministry in Ireland. A little something Irish for everyone!

Supervision for your children will be available from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the room behind the stage, where they can watch a movie.

So put on your green, become Irish for the day, and party with your fellow parishioners for as long as you are able.

## Volunteers needed

How can you help to make our observance of St. Patrick's Day special this year? Volunteers for setup, Irish goodies, cleanup, and more are needed for this all-parish annual event. *Mary Long, 367-2665 or mary.long@stpaturbana.org*

Our church and parish center are in need of spring cleaning, and we all know that many hands make light work. Can you give an hour or two on Saturday, Mar. 31, to spruce up our parish home for Easter?

*Kathy McKenzie, 328-2241*

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!



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.

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

Our Parish Nurses

#### Broccoli Lasagna Spirals

10 wide lasagna noodles  
2 10-oz packages chopped frozen broccoli, thawed and drained  
1 15-oz container reduced-fat ricotta cheese  
2 c shredded low-fat mozzarella cheese  
1/2 c grated Parmesan cheese  
4 green onions, chopped  
2 t dried basil  
2 t dried oregano  
1 32-oz jar spaghetti sauce, no sugar added

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil; add noodles and cook for 8-10 minutes. In a large bowl combine broccoli, ricotta cheese, mozzarella cheese, green



onions, basil, and oregano. When noodles are cool enough to handle, spread about 1/2 cup of the broccoli mixture along each noodle, and roll to form spirals. Place in lightly greased 9 x 13 inch baking dish. Spoon spaghetti sauce on and around spirals, and top with Parmesan cheese. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes.

+ + +

*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!*



Faithful God, help us to live out our mission in the Church. Help us to know our vocation in life and to prepare for it. Give those whom you call to be priests and religious the grace to respond generously and to persevere faithfully. We ask this in Jesus' name.

# Holy Cross Happenings



The Quality Assurance Review team from North Central / AdvancEd visited Holy Cross School on Thursday, Feb. 9. After

many months of work, the school has been granted accreditation status by their evaluation team. During this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, Holy Cross School is proud of this important designation.

This year's annual spring musical, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," will be performed on Apr. 13, 14, and 15. As always, a large cast of students and parent volunteers are involved in this production, many of whom are St. Patrick's parishioners. Stephanie Smith is producer, with Shelly Benson assisting. This great show is filled with lively and beautiful music based on the Bible story of Joseph and his 12 brothers. Please check the school's Web site ([www.holycrosselem.org](http://www.holycrosselem.org)) for more details.

Holy Cross School is in the process of accepting applications for the 2012-13 school year. Please call the school office (356-9521) to schedule a visit—the staff welcomes the opportunity to tell you about the many opportunities available at Holy Cross.



Over 100 St. Patrick's families with students at Holy Cross School and The High School of St. Thomas More observed the opening of Catholic Schools Week with a potluck dinner in St. Patrick's parish hall on Jan. 29. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.



**March for Life 2012.** More than forty students, parents and faculty of the High School of St. Thomas More traveled to Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life in January. Led by school chaplain Fr. Lampitt, these Sabers attended a rally on the National Mall, marched to the capitol building, and listened to speeches on pro-life issues. The March for Life was created to commemorate the Supreme Court decision Roe vs. Wade legalizing abortion.

Despite a delayed start due to weather, the students shared fellowship and the opportunity to participate in the political process. In addition to the March, our pilgrimage included a youth rally and Mass at the National Armory, a Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and a tour of the National Holocaust Museum. St. Patrick's parishioners participating included Jessica Elliott, Matthew Ramaly, Patrick Wagner, and Theresa Welle.

**Catholic Schools Week.** As part of Catholic Schools Week, ambassadors from The High School of Saint Thomas More traditionally speak at our parishes about their educational experience and the wholesome community that Catholic schools

provide. This year St. Patrick's parishioners heard presentations by Jessica Elliott, Sarah Johnson, Maddy Kangas, Theresa Welle, and Zack Smith.

**Success in Academics.** The Illinois Student Assistance Commission recognized 15 STM seniors as 2012 Illinois State Scholars. This prestigious award, given annually by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), recognized 17,515 high school students from across the state as this year's State Scholars. Illinois State Scholar winners rank in the top ten percent of high school seniors from 773 different high schools across the state. Selection is based on SAT, ACT, and/or Prairie State Achievement Exam scores, and/or class rank at the end of the junior year. St. Patrick's parishioners who were recognized include Matthew Tate and Michael Wagner.

**Success in Athletics.** The IHSA recently announced that all eight fall sports teams at The High School of Saint Thomas More received the IHSA Team Academic Achievement Award. This award is given to teams achieving a 3.0 GPA in classroom work while simultaneously participating in interscholastic athletics or activities. Teams honored are Cheerleading, Cross Country, Football, Golf/Boys, Golf/Girls, Soccer/Boys, Tennis/Girls, and Volleyball.

## "Death of a Doornail" a hit!

The CREW Summer Mission Trip teens would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank you!" to everyone who supported their performance of "Death of a Doornail" on Feb. 3-4. They hope you had as much fun watching as they had in putting it on for you. As Peggy Loftus, coordinator of the parish youth program, enthusiastically pointed out, "Those 12 cast members were handed their scripts just *one month* before the show date!"

With your support, the play brought in another \$2000 toward expenses for CREW's trip to Washington, D.C., in July.





## A tale of two parishes (Part One)

This is a tale of two parishes and of two Irish priests who possessed great vision, zeal, and dedication: Father Ryan and Father John Cannon.

As many St. Patrick's parishioners know, the foundation of our parish was announced by Father Cannon in 1901 at St. Mary's Church. Because St. Mary's Parish had grown beyond its capacity, Bishop John Lancaster Spaulding appointed Fr. Cannon to establish a church for Catholics in Urbana. As Fr. Cannon promised, the small wooden church for the new parish was built by the parishioners a week after his announcement, in time for Sunday Mass to be celebrated there.



St. Mary's Church

In 1853, Father Ryan ministered to the many Irish as well as German Catholic immigrant workers building the Illinois Central Railroad in Champaign County. Fr. Ryan celebrated Mass for these workers along the tracks at a place called Goose Pond. A year later, Fr. Ryan, noting that many of these workers had settled in the area, founded St. Mary's Parish, the first Catholic parish in Champaign County.

In 1855, the small brick church was built, but it was destroyed by a tornado that same year. Until the new church could be built, St. Mary parishioners offered their homes for worship services. At a cost of \$700, the



St. Patrick's Church

second church, a white frame building in the shape of a cross, was built in 1858. It had the first pipe organ in Champaign County. In 1888, the building of the third and current church was completed and was dedicated by Bishop Spaulding.

The original brick building housing St. Mary's school was completed in 1878 and opened with 250 students in grades 1-12. This first Catholic High School in Champaign-Urbana was operated from 1878-1932. The original teachers were Sisters of Notre Dame. A new school building was constructed in 1915. At a later date, Benedictine nuns taught at the school. Before the school closed in 1967, Dominican sisters and the late Pat Doebel, a St. Patrick's parishioner, taught there. At the time of its closing, St. Mary School was merged with Holy Cross. Many young St. Patrick's parishioners were enrolled at St. Mary's School.

More to come in the next issue of *In Focus*.

—Carole Rebeiz

### St. Patrick's 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, Shannan Fletcher, Peggy Loftus, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestre, Ellen Noonan, Parish Nurses, Paula Partin, Tyra Quinones, Carole Rebeiz, Nancy Roth, Cathy Salika, Stephanie Smith, Mary Welle, Peggy Whelan, and Stan Yanchus. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Rick Partin and paged by Jim Urban.

### Did you know . . . ?

- In the 1940s Nellie Krantz became the parish's first housekeeper for then-pastor Fr. McGinn. She reportedly slept on a cot in the downstairs bathroom. (Housekeepers were entered in the parish ledgers as "rectory maintenance.")
- In 1950 the Men's Club was established. Its most popular activity was the Coffee Shop, still in operation today—a great way for parishioners to get to know one another over a cup of coffee and a donut! The price is right (75¢ per item), the service is great, and the company is what you make of it. Come and see for yourself!
- Fr. Joe Hogan will lead a pilgrimage to Spain and France this fall. If you've participated in one of his trips, you know how special they can be! Informational material is available in the parish office.