

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



www.stpaturbana.org

May 2012

The Spirit lives!

The Liturgical Year revolves around the life of Jesus, his birth, his passion and resurrection, and his teaching, for Jesus is the most concrete expression of God's love for us and his desire to be part of our lives. The Church offers us no specific feast in celebration of God the Father, and only one of the Holy Spirit, but that doesn't mean that they are left out. We find them in the everyday-ness of our lives.

It's not hard to find the work of the Creator. The beauty of creation, the beauty of other people, and our own creativity show us that God created with great generosity and ingenuity, and that God continues to tend this creation.

Where do we find the Spirit in everyday life? The Spirit is in our *aspirations*, guiding our desire to make a difference in the lives of our family, ourselves, and the world. We find the Spirit in *inspiration*, helping us to solve a problem or meet a need. We even find the Spirit in *perspiration*, giving us the ability to work hard and the tenacity to stick with the good works that we have in hand. It's no accident that these three words have the Latin word "spiritus," meaning "breath," in

their roots. As people of faith, we see in them the action of the Holy Spirit, the breath of God.

We also find the action of the Spirit in the sacraments that we receive repeatedly to refuel our lives: Eucharist (Mass) and Reconciliation. Each of the Eucharistic Prayers of the Mass invokes the Spirit just before the consecration in words like

these: "Make holy these gifts by sending down your Spirit upon them, so that they may become the Body and Blood of our Lord." In the sacrament of Reconciliation, the words of absolution begin, "God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son, has recon-

ciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins."

Elsewhere in this issue, you will meet our neophytes, who have just received the sacrament of Confirmation. Very soon, our high school students will receive it as well. And in a few weeks, we will celebrate the feast of Pentecost. Pentecost reminds us of the gifts that the Spirit gives us every day, and Confirmation gives us the courage to accept them and use them well.

Come, Holy Spirit! Fill our hearts!



Living Faith: Negotiating the maze

Some years ago, the Diocese of Peoria began training laity to take on the role of Notary-Auditor to assist in the formal process of annulments. I responded to an invitation to participate in this program because, through my parish life and my experience with the Returning Catholics program, I thought I could be helpful to people seeking to set their marriage/divorce issues right.

Difficulties often occur when children are about to receive the Eucharist and Confirmation and the parent wants to share completely in their sacramental life. Some are completing RCIA and are now contemplating another marriage. Still others realize the healing effect of confronting their past as they prepare to move on with their lives both spiritually and practically. But to all, the annulment process can be intimidating.

My role, I learned, is to accompany these petitioners, offering them information, affirmation, and encouragement.

The annulment process offers the baptized and divorced a structured, safe, and confidential opportunity to reflect upon their past and be reconciled both with themselves and their Church. For many, the decision to marry in their youth was made without a fully formed sense of themselves or what a sacramental marriage entailed; for others, parental or social influences weighted heavily on their decision to marry, creating unanticipated

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For Suzanne D'Andria, St. Pat's is home

Retirement from her six years as coordinator of St. Patrick's Children's Program definitely does not mean that Suzanne D'Andria plans to disappear from our parish community. Active engagement in parish life is in her very bones, as you will see!

What have you enjoyed most about your work as Children's Program coordinator?

First, I should say that I was volunteering at St. Patrick long before I was working in children's ministry; I led the children's liturgy music ensemble, as a cantor I led our people in singing at Mass, and I sang in our parish choirs.

However, I have really enjoyed being on the staff at St. Patrick's. All the people who are on staff or have been on staff are like family to me, and probably are tops among the many assets of working at St. Patrick's. We have had such great fun together and amazing chemistry, we are absolutely family. My daughter, Ellie, has told me many times that she hopes to be able to work in a place like St. Pat's with such wonderful people.

I think I might miss the staff retreats most when I leave this position.



What have been some shining moments in your years as coordinator?

I loved most the times when I was able to interact with the kids. Vacation Bible School, First Communion, Reconciliation are wonderful. I have been thrilled to see the VBS program grow into an almost entirely kid-run program—I love seeing them all have such a great time together! First Communion ceremonies are beautiful; the kids are so proud and excited, and the looks on their faces are precious.

One memory that will stay with me for a very long time was the year when many Congolese families brought their children for First Communion. I invited some of the

girls to come up to sing a song in their native language. When they started singing, all of their families joined in and soon the entire church was filled with amazing singing. It was very powerful, a real example of how diverse St. Patrick's is!

What will you do after this?

What many people don't seem to know about me is that I love to sing. I actually have a degree in music education. It is probably the thing I have missed most, since I couldn't sing in the choirs or cantor when I had to be around for classes and children's Masses Sunday mornings. I am very excited to be singing again!

Also, my kids are getting older: John will be in CREW in the fall and Ellie will be in Vivo; I'd like to be helping with those programs as they get more involved. Maybe after a few years off, I might even teach in a Sunday school classroom. I really do love working with kids and have enjoyed the few times I have had to substitute in some of the classrooms.

One thing is for sure, St. Pat's is definitely not getting rid of me! This is my home, it's where my kids have grown up; it's my very foundation.



It doesn't have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones; just pay attention, then patch a few words together and don't try to make them elaborate, this isn't a contest but the doorway into thanks, a silence in which another voice may speak.

—Excerpt from *Praying*, by Mary Oliver



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

Pledged: 3.59M
Cash in hand: 1.29M

*What's needed before
we can break ground:*

Pledged: \$4.0M
Cash in hand: \$3.2M

St. Mary's Parish, Part Three

Before we were a parish, there was St. Mary's School

St. Mary's School was an ambitious enterprise: it opened in 1878 as the only Catholic school in the area, with 250 students in grades 1 through 12. A new pastor, Fr. Wagner, arrived at St. Mary's in 1888, during construction of the third and current church, which Bishop Spaulding dedicated on October 28, 1888.

Because most of the students came from poorer families, Father Wagner was particularly interested in promoting practical education at the school to increase the likelihood that the graduates could obtain employment. The curriculum emphasized mathematics and commercial courses, such as typing and bookkeeping; consequently the graduates had no trouble finding jobs.

In 1895, Fr. Wagner built the current rectory. Bishop Spaulding and 18 priests from the area attended a dinner there, and the school children presented entertainment in honor of the bishop.

Our own parishioner, Tom McDonough, and his two sisters, Connie McDonough Dillon of Tuscola and the late Bonnie McDonough Bready, attended the school from about the mid-1930s to the early 1950s. Connie remembers walking from their Grove Street home to Broadway Avenue to ride the bus to school. After eighth grade they attended and graduated from Urbana High School.

Tom recalls that Sr. Rose, the music teacher, and Sr. Loretta were "very kind, but Sr. Mary Brian, the English teacher, was kind of strict." The teachers were Dominican

Sisters, whose mother house was in Sinsinewa, Wisconsin, near Dubuque, Iowa. Sr. Cecelia was the principal, and Sr. Virginia taught first grade. Fr. Hogben was the pastor of St. Mary's at that time. When the school was closed in 1967 to merge with Holy Cross, the sisters were reassigned to several different locations.

According to Tom, "We had gym class and played basketball on the concrete floor in the basement. My sister Connie 'ruined' her knee in a high-jump competition."



The high school had closed by the time Connie started school. "I felt like part of one big, happy family at school. The sisters were very close to the students. It was fun to go down to the basement for gym class." The lunchroom and the

first-, second-, and third-grade classrooms were also in the basement. The auditorium, named Fr. Wagner Hall, and the fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade classrooms were on the first floor. The balcony, bathroom, and seventh-, eighth-, and ninth-grade classrooms were on the second floor.

Connie relates, "Good students were allowed to help out in the office, sometimes making mimeograph copies, messy hands and all. We had fun selling tickets to events in Wagner Hall. (I can't stand selling tickets anymore.) There were also paper drives as fundraisers. We would tie the bundles of newspapers in the basement." Connie's oldest daughter attended St. Mary's School.

Pam Donze De Ley was one of many St. Patrick's parishioners who were students at St. Mary's School during the 1960s. Fr. Dean was pastor of St. Mary's and Fr. Martell was pastor of St. Patrick's while Pam was a student there. Pam has such

fond memories of the School of St. Mary that one of the school desks holds a place of honor in her living room.

She remembers that the boys' gym classes were held on a field behind the church, where the Oscar Romero Center is currently located. The convent was on the northeast end of the block, surrounded by blacktop, where the girls' gym classes were held.

Pam's fifth-grade class was really grilled on the Baltimore Catechism, she said, in preparation for Confirmation. In eighth grade Pam was a cheerleader. "We always lost to Holy Cross. We were about even with St. Matthew's; we played in St. Matthew's gym and set up the chairs for Mass afterwards."

Every time an ambulance passed by, students stopped to pray for the patients. On January 20, 1961, the second-, third-, and fourth-grade classes were crowded into a classroom to watch the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy. On November 22, 1963, the gym coach told us the President had been shot. "We all knelt down and prayed for him. An hour later, we were told that he had died and we all wept."

The school won the Cheerleading Trophy for the Diocese of Peoria in 1966. As part of the graduation celebration that same year, the eighth-graders performed "The Sound of Music."

More about St. Mary's in the next issue of *In Focus!*

—Carole Rebeiz

"We felt at home at St. Patrick's"

The neophytes, or new Catholics, received into the Church at St. Patrick's this year inquired into Roman Catholicism because they were seeking a closer relationship with God. They chose to start the RCIA process here at St. Patrick's because of our warm welcome, our love of music, and their positive experiences with Father Joe.

"As a born and raised Catholic," **Hillary Anderson** shared, "I had always followed along at Mass but never truly understood what was going on. During my sophomore year in high school I made a decision to walk away from the Catholic Church and to explore other religious denominations, but I never felt at peace or satisfied." When Hillary met her boyfriend, the topic of faith came up; he explained that his Catholic faith was very important to him and a moving force in his life. "Without hesitation or even blinking, I turned to him and asked, so when are we going to Mass? We first attended Mass together at St. Pat's, and I am in the process of rediscovering my peace and satisfaction. St. Patrick's holds a special place in my heart: the parishioners, Fathers Joe and Tran, the music, RCIA... I am honored and blessed that St. Patrick's is where I came to know Christ again through being shepherded back."

Hillary came to Urbana via Italy and her love of singing. Because her instructor at a summer opera program in Italy is a Professor of Vocal Performance at the U of I, she auditioned and was accepted. Four years later, in May 2011, she received her M.A. in Vocal Performance. She is a teacher's assistant at the Pavilion foundation school, gives voice lessons, and sings in church. She looks forward to forming a choir and becoming a professional wedding



singer.

Mary Compton told us, "I had childhood Catholic friends whom I admired. We would attend each other's churches. I saw how devotion, importance of family, prayer and remembering Jesus every Sunday through communion helped strengthen their faith. I needed a more traditional and established religion to strengthen my faith. When my daughter, Ariel, married Zach Wells, a Catholic, I was thrilled. I encouraged her to become committed to one faith and be married in the Church. Father Joe conducted a very memorable wedding ceremony. Several wedding guests comment on how moved they were by the service. It was time for both of us to attend RCIA and convert." Mary is a former elementary and high school teacher and U of I employee.



Ariel Wells said, "My husband, Zach, is Catholic, and we knew we wanted to raise our future children in one religion. While we were dating, I went to several Masses with him and became very interested in becoming Catholic. Father Joe made our marriage preparation easy and such a joy to go to that it was an obvious choice to participate in the RCIA program here at St. Patrick's." In 2006 Ariel graduated from the U of I in Speech and Hearing Science and has been working at Carle Hearing Services for almost 4 years as a hearing aid technician. "My husband and I were married at St. Pat's on May 21, 2011. We have two cats, Sully and Trixie. We enjoy taking walks, going camping, playing



games and visiting with friends and family."

Tammie and **Martin Kirby** were married at Holy Cross Church 25 years ago. "I have been going to St. Patrick's for 27 years. We have four children: Ryan, 24, Adam, 23, and identical twins, Megan and Mandy, 22." All four children were baptized at St. Patrick's by Father Kinder, and all received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation at St. Patrick's. Martin joined the RCIA Program because "I had a calling for spiritual growth that I can share with my family." Martin now owns Kirby and Turner Masonry and has been with the company for 35 years.



Although **Megan Wolf** was raised in the Catholic Church, she was never confirmed. "I spent many years away from the Church and always felt something was missing. After my daughter was born, I discovered my relationship with God and felt a longing to join a Catholic community to continue my faith journey." Megan was drawn to the warm and welcoming feeling at St. Pat's and instantly felt at home here.

"Like many who grew up in the CU area, I have fallen victim to 'rubber-band syndrome,' having moved away and returned to CU several times." She is a lover of animals and feels blessed to work as the Development Director at the Champaign County Humane Society. "I am proud to have spent my entire

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career in the nonprofit sector. I am excited and honored to be a part of St. Patrick's Church and look forward to getting more involved."

Dathan Rivera stated, "I have followed the Catholic faith all of my life but had not been officially accepted into the Church. Many factors contributed to this, and over the years I discovered that my faith was being starved."



Dathan attended Mass at a few local churches, "but when I saw St. Patrick's, something clicked. I knew that this was the place where I can begin my journey with God anew."

A full-time student in atmospheric science at UIUC, Dathan is also an Eagle Scout, "with the help of my family and many friends." Both of Dathan's parents are veterans of the U.S. Air Force. "Through our travels, I have been able to enhance my knowledge and perspective of what life has to throw at me. But none of that really matters without God in



Dear Jesus, I know you have a plan for my life, and that you want my life to be a happy and fulfilling one. But I am so confused, and I'm kind of afraid of what you'll tell me when I ask you what you want me to do. So Lord, I'm asking you now to show me what you want me to do with my life—and for the grace to want that too.

my life. That is why I came here, and I am deeply honored to become a member of the family at St. Patrick's."

Katie Bermingham shared, "I was introduced to St. Patrick's by my husband, Ben Bermingham, the son of parishioners Bill and Bev Bermingham. He was baptized and grew up in St. Patrick's Parish. I began going to church with him when we were dating and always felt welcomed by parishioners. His strong commitment to the Catholic faith made me desire to learn more about it."



Before their marriage in September 2010, Katie and Ben met with Father Joe for their marriage preparation. "He was a delight to work with. RCIA has been a great way to understand more about the Catholic faith and be introduced to people with strong Catholic faith. The welcoming into the Church has been a wonderful and meaningful experience." Katie is a CPA and works as an audit senior associate. She specializes in auditing governmental entities, nonprofit organization, and employee benefit plans.



Mauricio Navarrete and Daisy Lopez became engaged last July. Daisy's family wondered about his religious beliefs and whether he understood the significance of marriage, both in the Catholic faith and before God.

"In our pursuit to find the answers, Daisy heard about the RCIA program at St. Patrick's." Since Mauricio is basically shy, walking into his first meeting was not easy. "Not knowing if I was going to look like a fool was very

nerve-wracking. But right away I felt welcome. The friendliness and understanding of people here has made me enjoy going to St. Pat's over and over again."

Mauricio's work as a salaried driver at Papa John's and as a Warehouse Manager at Denver Mattress fills up most of his week. "I have been working as hard as my body allows me just to make our wedding day on August 18 possible. I look forward to the time when I can enjoy much more time with my fiancée, her family, friends, and all those that love me and that I love." When his life becomes so full "that it's hard to notice everything, that's when I just give myself 100% to God."

Two others who journeyed into Catholicism via the RCIA program, **Molly Niesen** and **Ali Guna**, we



Molly Niesen



Ali Guna

leave for you to meet and learn a bit about their background as you see them at St. Patrick's. Their stories, too, are as interesting as those you've read about here.

Our new Catholics, by their own admission, have felt very welcome here at St. Patrick's. May this brief introduction move us to get to know them better by extending that welcome in person.

—Carole Rebeiz



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is May 13.

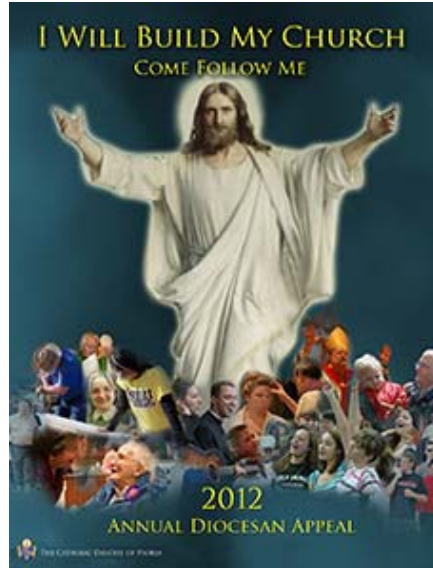
ADA 2012: "I will build my Church"

Once again our Most Reverend Bishop Daniel Jenky calls on us to support the Annual Diocesan Appeal. "I will build my Church. Come follow me." This call has special significance to us—especially this year, when we are in the process of rebuilding our own St. Patrick's Church. Our capital campaign is well on its way to reaching our \$4 million goal, thanks to the support of our present and past parishioners.

We are not in this alone, however. For example, some years ago, if the Diocese of Peoria had not supported us in the acquisition of the apartments just north of St. Patrick's, we would not have room for the expansion and rebuilding of our 100-plus-year-old church.

The diocese helps St. Patrick's community in many ways that would not be possible without our support in the annual diocesan appeals. Among these benefits are:

- Catholic Education: Holy Cross School, The High School of St. Thomas More, and our religious education programs at St. Patrick's
- Vocations: For the priests our parish will need for future generations of Catholics
- Office of Family Life: Marriage preparation classes, marriage enrichment, pastoral care, and



healing programs for widowed and divorced, to name a few

- Office of Divine Worship: Liturgical procedures for Mass, prayer, and music
- Catechetics: Providing six regional Directors of Religious Education
- Respect for Life & Human Dignity: Sanctity of life from conception to death by providing consultation and leadership to parishes
- Campus Ministry: For the 30,000-plus Catholic students at universities in our diocese
- Tec and Cursillo: Retreat weekends for youth and adults

Did you know ... ?

- In 1962 men of the parish were trained to serve as lectors, a direct result of changes initiated following the Second Vatican Council. It would be a few years yet before women were admitted to this ministry.
- On May 18, parishioner **Cliff Maduzia** will celebrate the tenth anniversary of his ordination as a permanent deacon. Congratulations, Cliff, and thank you for your many services to our parish! Also, parishioner **David Zola**, who has been studying and going to classes in Peoria for the last few years in preparation, will be ordained a permanent deacon for St. Patrick's in May. Congratulations to you as well, David! Be assured, both of you, of our prayers!
- The altar frontal gracing St. Patrick's this Easter Season was crafted by our Liturgical Arts Team, with special design attention by member **Marilyn Pollard**.

- Catholic Charities: One of the most effective social service organizations in the world (It was considered the most effective social service agency supporting the victims of Hurricane Katrina)

- Pastoral Services
- Marriage and Family
- Social Outreach

These benefits—and many more—would not be possible without the support of our parishioners and those of other parishes throughout the diocese. Please help! The Diocese of Peoria suggests a gift of one half of 1% of annual income. Only you know the level of support you can manage, given your family circumstances. Gifts can be spread out over 6 months, if that works better for you. Give this the prayerful consideration such decisions warrant. And be blessed for your generosity!

Volunteers needed

- **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!
- Help with the parish **end-of-year picnic**, May 6, will be greatly appreciated. Watch the bulletin as more information becomes available. *Mary Long, 367-2665 or mary.long@stpaturbana.org*



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

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circumstances that resulted in a civil dissolution of the marriage. Still others, contemplating another marriage, do not want to compound earlier mistakes.

The Catholic Church presumes that marriages are valid, uniting spouses for life. When couples separate and divorce, therefore, the Church—at the request of one of the parties—makes the charitable assumption that an essential element could have been missing right from the start. If that fact can be established, it means the spouses did not have the kind of marital link that binds them together for life.

The Notary-Auditor’s responsibility is to guide people through the initial stages of this formal process. I meet with the petitioner and together, in a voluntary exchange of information, we build a case that explains the petitioner’s actions and decisions. We identify and gather critical documents, testimony, and witnesses to establish or confirm particulars of the case.



Barbara Wysocki

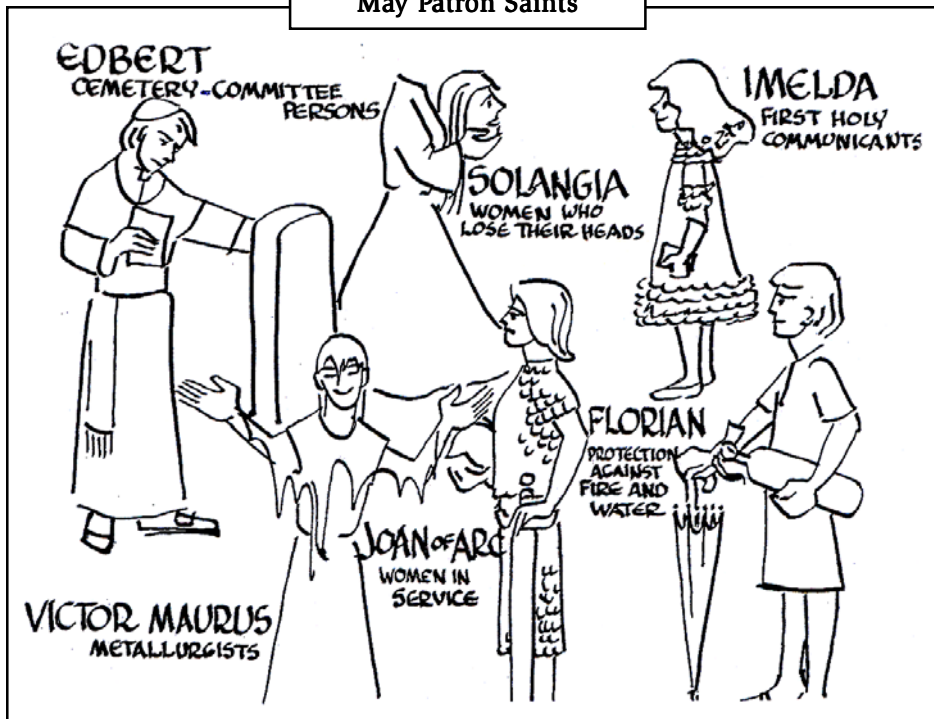
Most of all, I become an advocate for the petitioner: answering questions, outlining next steps, and interfacing with the Tribunal Office in Peoria on their behalf as their case moves forward.

I constantly marvel at the strength and courage people demonstrate when they’ve made the decision to seek an annulment. They’ve worked through some combination of pain, anger, guilt, and a myriad of other emotions to reach this point. They’ve reorganized their lives financially, embraced the needs of their children in a new role as a single parent, and reoriented their thinking about their real worth and dignity. Some have entered, or are about to enter, into new relationships and truly want to know peace and joy. I am blessed and honored to play a small role in facilitating their personal journey of growth and rebirth.

If I can assist you, please leave a message for me at St. Patrick’s parish office (367-2665).

—Barbara Wysocki

May Patron Saints



Christ said, “Go and give all you have to the poor and become the servant of all,” for if you do that, you’ll become a thousand times richer because your happiness won’t be made just of good food, rich clothes, satisfied vanity, and appeased envy. Instead it will be built on love, love multiplied by love without end. And then you will gain not just riches, but the whole world!

Today we amass material things without ever satisfying our greed, and then we madly squander all we have amassed. But a day will come when there will be no orphans, no beggars; everyone will be as one of my own family, everyone will be my brother or sister, and that is when I will have gained everything and everyone!

Will we choose to love, or not?

—Fyodor M. Dostoevsky, *The Adolescent*



in our parish library

This month's column includes some of the parish library's books related to Mary and Catholic devotions. Other books on these topics can be found near the call numbers of the books listed here.

▪ **Dictionary of Catholic Devotions**, by Michael Walsh. This dictionary is a comprehensive catalog of Catholic devotional practices, titles, saints, shrines, and confraternities, with explanations of their history and meaning. *It is shelved in the reference section of the library.* Call Number: Ref 203 WAL.

▪ **The How-To Book of Catholic Devotion: Step-by-Step Guidelines**, by Mike Aquilina. This book has mixed reviews due to the ambitious attempt of covering everything. However, it does provide guidelines to all the devotional rites and rituals of the Catholic Faith. Call Number: 248.3 AQU 2000.

▪ **Mary and Your Everyday Life: A Book of Meditations**, by Bernard Haring, CSSR. The author offers 31 inspirational meditations and prayers. Call Number: 232.93 Har.

▪ **Mary with Us: Readings and Prayers**, by Rev. Joseph A Viano, SSP. Call Number: 232.93 VIA.

▪ **Mary Mother of the Lord: Theological Meditations**, by Karl Rahner. Call Number: 232.93 RAH.

▪ **Meditations on Mary**, by Kathleen Norris. This illustrated book introduces a sequence of images of the Virgin Mary from the great tradition of Christian art. From Raphael to Leonardo da Vinci are images of the Virgin as Mother of God, Queen of Heaven, devout peasant girl, and anxious parent. These works are accompanied by the story of Mary from the King James Version of the Bible and Norris's words. Call Number: 232.9 NOR.

▪ **The Rosary and Devotion to Mary**, by Andrew J. Gerakas. Gerakas provides a history of rosary devotion, including an array of quotes from various popes on the efficacy and beauty of this devotion, an introduction to the discipline of meditation, and a simplification of St. Louis De Montfort's techniques and meditations for saying the rosary. Call Number: 242.7 GER.

▪ **True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin**, by St. Louis Marie de Montfort. From the book's description: "One of the greatest and most celebrated books ever written about Our Lady. Praised by popes, mystics, and theologians, this profound and powerful book presents Mary as the essential and infallible key to the heart of Jesus. Nowhere will you find a deeper and more life-changing book on that quintessentially Catholic doctrine: the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the life of the

Christian and the life of the Church." Call Number: 232.93 MAR.

This column is the last from our retiring parish librarian, Lori Mestre. We are grateful for her faithful and creative service to parishioners in recommending good reading on a variety of subjects of interest. Thank you, Lori, and blessings on you for all the time and effort you've given to increase our familiarity with the books and other materials available to us in our parish library.

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 a May Crowning?

A: A May Crowning is a centuries-old devotion in honor of Mary, celebrated in May. It has special resonance in the United States, where Mother's Day is also celebrated in May, and May is the month the Church dedicates to Mary, Mother of God. For us, then, this is the month we honor our earthly mother and our spiritual mother, Mary.

For the May crowning, a crown of flowers is fashioned and placed on a statue of Mary, which is sometimes carried in a procession around the inside or outside of the church, accompanied by the singing of appropriate hymns. (Remember "O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today, Queen of the angels, Queen of the May"?) The ceremony usually includes praying the rosary and/or the Litany of Mary.

This devotion was commonplace, especially in Catholic schools, in the forties, fifties, and into the sixties, but dropped off somewhat after that.

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

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Nancy Olson

3-2-1 Mini-Cakes

1 box angel food cake mix
1 box other flavor cake mix

Open cake mixes and put both dry mixes into a large zip-lock type of bag. Shake until thoroughly combined. When ready to make, put 3 tablespoons of the mix into a small microwave-safe bowl about the size of a ramekin or custard cup. Add 2 tablespoons of water and mix thoroughly.



Microwave for 1 minute, and enjoy! Store the mix in a cool, dry place to use when the hunger for a cake snack strikes!

+ + +

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!

Holy Cross Happenings

Field Trip to Washington, D.C. Eighth-graders at Holy Cross School left at 4:30 a.m. on Monday, Apr. 23, for their annual trip to Washington, D.C. They arrived around 14 hours later, ready for anything and everything.



Quarter Honor Roll at Holy Cross School: *Highest Honors:* Hannah Niccum; *High Honors:* Saanbe Some, Julia Welle, Van Gunderson, Jessica Hood, Ethan Smith, Maris Wszalek, and Shelby Turner; *Honors:* Nicholas

Jackson, Elie Nyembo, and Hans Herzog

Annual Musical. On April 13-15, Holy Cross School presented its annual musical. This year's musical was "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. The total cast included eighty-five students.

St. Patrick's parishioners involved as main cast members were Julia Welle as Joseph; Ethan Smith as the Pharaoh; Sarah Benson, Jessica Hood, Hannah Niccum, and Maris Wszalek as Joseph's brothers. Those in the chorus included Lisa Altaner, Luke Herzog, Justin Smith, Connor Whittington, Kyle Rasmussen, Grace Whittington, Hans Herzog. And those in the children's chorus were Aidan Beckett, Calum Beckett, Emily Goad, Kaleb Leininger, Noelle Ramaly, Parker Schroeder, Clara Sero, and Jasmine Waite.

They began with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery and the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, moved on to National Memorials, the Holocaust Museum, and the Smithsonian, and took an evening tour of the War Memorials and the Lincoln Memorial.

Bright and early next morning the eighth-graders left for Virginia to visit Jamestown, Mt. Vernon, and Colonial Williamsburg, and enjoyed dinner on the campus of William and Mary College. On Friday morning they made their way to Richmond, where they spent the afternoon touring Monticello. Then they set out on their journey home to Illinois, arriving at Holy Cross late Saturday afternoon.

Third-Quarter Honor Roll.

Congratulations to St. Patrick's parishioners who made the Third-



St. Thomas More offers a summer study skills course

The Study Skills course at The High School of Saint Thomas More aids in the transition from grade school to high school and prepares incoming students and current freshmen for academic and extra-curricular life at STM. Because over 92% of students at STM participate in at least one extra-curricular activity, a course that prepares students to use their time wisely and stay organized is in high demand.

The course covers a wide range of topics, including important information about student life at STM, orga-

nization, time management, note taking, listening for meaning, study skills, and writing. A major emphasis is placed on helping students adopt an organized approach to studying and reducing test anxiety.

Students who complete the summer course will receive a 1/2 elective credit towards graduation at St. Thomas More.

The 2012 course will be held June 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20, from 8:30-10:00 a.m. It will be taught by Krista Hinkley, an English teacher at The High School of Saint Thomas More.

The cost of the course is \$110, which covers all materials needed.

For more information, please contact Krista Hinkley. You can print a copy of the Study Skills Registration Form at <http://bit.ly/HRzcKB>.

Share your parish photos

Many of you take photos at parish events, and the Communications Committee would like to share these, when possible, with readers of *In Focus*. What kinds of photos are we looking for? Photos of parishioners having a good time together at parish events, people celebrating a baptism, a First Communion or Confirmation, a wedding, a fiftieth anniversary, an anointing; people in processions, dancing, visiting the sick, tutoring, carrying Communion to shut-ins, delivering Meals on Wheels; people clearing snow from church walkways, raking leaves on parish grounds, painting and cleaning parish facilities; people of all ages and all types, in small groups, at parish meetings, at socials.

We may not be able to use every photo received, but those that illustrate an article's theme or relate directly to a parish activity will have priority. Photo prints will be returned if requested; photographers of photos used will be acknowledged and persons depicted will be identified if possible, unless anonymity is requested. Send prints to the Communications Committee, in care of the parish office; digital photos may be sent to Mary Lou Menches (mmenches@illinois.edu). Please include your name and phone number so we can contact you if information is needed.

Do you remember your First Communion?

Your First Communion may well have looked pretty much the same as that of our children today, and even the basic teachings would sound familiar today to those of us who grew up in a different time and place. Yet, although the method of preparation may have been different then, we find it easy to relate to children's sense of the "specialness" of the occasion, their excitement at the prospect of receiving Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time, the loving care of family and friends who remember all too well the joy and fervor with which they received Jesus for the very first time.

Let the accompanying photographs recall that special day in your life and prompt you to pray for these youngsters of today.



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 Suzanne D'Andria, Shannan Fletcher, Peggy Loftus, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestre, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Carole Rebeiz, Bruce Rogers, Cathy Salika, and Barbara Wysocki. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by John Towns and paged by Jim Urban.