

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

September 2012

On Being Welcoming and Being Welcomed

Especially at this time of year we welcome newcomers to our parish. Sometimes the one welcoming simply means, "It's nice to see you," and the one being welcomed simply feels, "This seems like a good place to be." But what if our welcome meant more? What if it meant, "Thank God, you're here. I need you!"

Because we do need each other. To be a community created in the image of God, we need a great variety of people, people of many lands and classes, talents and abilities, preferences and perceptions. It is as a community, not as individuals,



own life. We are all sinners with a capacity to forgive and be forgiven. Knowing this gradually chips away at the selfishness that makes us value our rights and our tastes



ahead of those of other people.

The community that we become part of is not just the community of St Patrick's, or the whole Church, or all Christians. As we learn to see ourselves as part of the worshipping community, we start to see ourselves as part of all humanity, God's people in every

that we can best be the image of God.

It's not enough that we gather in one place, as we do at Sunday Mass. We also need to be made one, and the liturgy can help that to happen. Week by week, year by year, the message gradually sinks into us that we are all loved by God and cared for by God, not despite our differences, but because God sees in each of us a spark of his



time and place. It's not an easy journey, to go from seeing ourselves as individuals to seeing ourselves as one with all people. But as food for

this journey, Jesus gives us himself. Thank God for that! And to all who gather at St. Patrick's, be it lifelong or for the first time: Thank God, you're here—we need you!

Supplement



**Report on CREW's
Mission Trip Inside!**

Catholicism: It's your story!

How long has it been since you have studied the faith? Do you have a desire to learn more about Catholicism than you can glean from Mass and the Sunday homily? Fr. Joe understands; he has arranged for St. Patrick to offer a premier study program about the Catholic faith.

This program, "Catholicism," has been created by acclaimed author, speaker, and theologian, Fr. Robert Barron, who will guide participants through more than 50 locations in 15 countries to reveal the mystery of Catholicism. He is the Francis Cardinal George Professor of Faith and Culture at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary near Chicago. Ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1986, he received a Master's Degree in Philosophy from the Catholic University of America and a doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Institut Catholique de Paris.

The Catholicism series is made up of 10 hour-long videos in which the mysteries of our faith are explained. The first video is called "Amazed and Afraid - The Revelation of God Become Man." The description: "The strange and dangerous words of Jesus of Nazareth set up a drama that will culminate in a surprising battle between two kings, and in the wake of this conflict an empire will be defeated and the world will be changed." Fr. Barron shows how Jesus fulfills the four tasks of the Messiah according to the Old and New Testaments, and how the living legacy of Christ, God and Messiah, is proclaimed by the Church. Traveling through the mysterious and sacred places of the Holy Land of Israel and the Eternal City of Rome, he addresses some controversial questions about the life and identity of Jesus Christ.

In each session the video will be presented, and then Fr. Joe will dis-

cuss how it relates to Scripture. Afterward, participants will break into small groups to respond to questions about the content of the video. All are encouraged to prepare for each session by studying the material and answering questions, but have the option of attending without having completed the backup preparation.

Each session begins at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and is expected to last approximately two hours. The sessions will be held on Oct. 9, 16, and 23; Nov. 6, 13, and 20; Jan. 8, 15, and 22; and Feb. 12, 19, and 26.

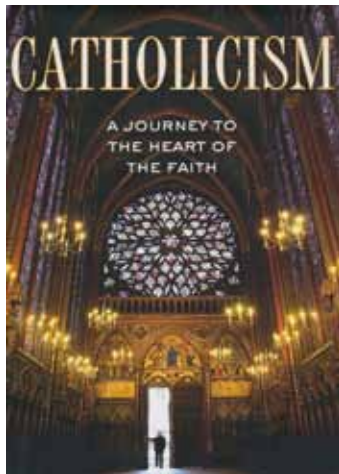
This program is open to all adult parishioners from St. Patrick's and St. Mary's. RCIA participants will also take part. "Catholicism" is available in Spanish and may be offered for Spanish-speaking parishioners if there is a demand.

While acquiring a better understanding of the faith, parishioners from both St. Patrick's and St. Mary's may come to know one another better and form new friendships—in itself, a desirable outcome. If possible, don't let other commitments keep you from attending these sessions!

Vocation Prayer

As Jesus was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me."—Mark 2:14

The question is not whether you are a calling God, but whether we are a responding people. Continue to call us, for the sake of a world that needs the gifts you've planted within us. And when we're slow to respond, keep nudging, whispering, prodding, inviting, until our hearts are quieted and open to your guiding Spirit.



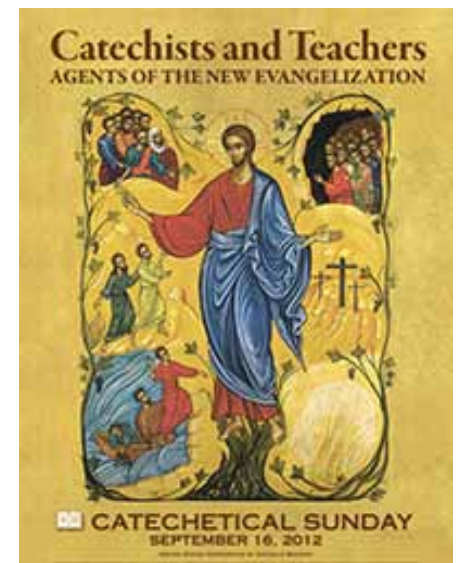
Why celebrate Catechetical Sunday?

In 1935 the Vatican asked that every country acknowledge the importance of the Church's teaching ministry, and honor those who serve the Christian community as catechists. Since 1971 the U.S. bishops have been producing materials to help parishes celebrate this event, and they have designated the third Sunday in September as Catechetical Sunday.

This year the Church observes Catechetical Sunday on Sept. 16, focusing on the theme "Catechists and Teachers as Agents of the New Evangelization." Traditionally, St. Patrick's catechists are commissioned for their ministry on this day.

Parents, truly the primary catechists of their children, prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. On Catechetical Sunday we not only highlight the work of catechists in parishes and schools, but we also affirm and commend parents in their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is lovingly passed on to the next generation.

Indeed, Catechetical Sunday provides a wonderful opportunity for all of us to reflect on the role that each of us plays, by virtue of our Baptism, in handing on the faith and witnessing to the Gospel—an opportunity for us to rededicate ourselves to this mission as a community of faith.



Cellar-to-Garret as big as ever ... and organized too!

The Cellar-to-Garret Sale remains the most successful fundraiser in parish history. Parishioners' support in terms of donated items and volunteered hours spent setting up, assisting browsers, and cleaning up afterward—as well as finding new “treasures” they just can't pass up—brings in from \$7,000 to \$10,000 per year.

Last year's sale was a great one, and we expect this one to be also. The Cellar-to-Garret committee (a.k.a. the Women of St. Patrick board, Katie, and I) made a few changes for this year's sale. In the past we collected items for several weeks during the summer and came in one day a week to sort items, sort them into categories, and put them in the garage. Then during the week of the sale we moved items to the parish center and into their several areas, un-boxed them, hung, and folded. We were moving the same items 3 or 4 times, which made for a lot of work.

This year we asked that items be delivered pre-sorted, and donors have done a great job! This has been the most organized Cellar-to-Garret I have ever seen. We were far ahead of the game with donated items and sale preparation.



All of the donors and workers have been wonderful. We have been lucky to have St. Thomas More teens assisting us this summer. They've worked hard along with our volunteers while earning service hours for STM!

—Amy Boscolo, Co-chair of C2G 2012



Special volunteer opportunities

- 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! *Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu*

- Eucharistic ministers are needed for the 7 a.m. weekday Mass. Will you give yourself the gift of an extra-special start to your day and give others the gift of your service as well? *Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu*



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



St. Patrick's Capital Campaign

We're getting closer!

Pledged: \$3,604,904
Cash in hand: \$1,454,486

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



in our parish library

The parish library has several small books in the series “30 Days with a Great Spiritual Teacher.” In keeping with this month’s spotlight on Hildegard of Bingen, about to be declared a Doctor of the Church, we start with the book based on her visionary spirituality, *Let There Be Light*, edited by John Kirvan.

Let There Be Light collects passages of spiritual wisdom from many different places in Hildegard’s writings for reflective reading and meditative prayer. “This is not a book for mere reading,” the editor notes. “It invites you to meditate and pray its words on a daily basis over a period of thirty days, and in a special way to enter into prayer through the unique doorway of Hildegard’s visionary experiences, and your own imagination.

Each book in this series is based on the spirituality of an individual saint. They vary as much as do the saints themselves, yet each provides a real avenue to a deepening of spirituality. Suggestions are offered for different ways of using the books, leaving to the reader the choice of the way found most helpful on the journey to a closer relationship with God.

Each of the thirty days has a brief reading developed from the saint’s writings, a meditation in the form of a mantra for reflection throughout the day, and an end-of-day prayer. The reader is advised to proceed slowly, to savor each word, each phrase, each image. “There is no predicting, no determining in advance, what short phrase, what word, will trigger a response in your spirit,” writes Kirvan. “Give God a chance.”

Books in the series that are in our parish library:

- *All Will Be Well*, based on the spirituality of Julian of Norwich
- *God Awaits You*, based on the spirituality of Meister Eckhart
- *Let Nothing Disturb You*, a journey to the center of the soul with Teresa of Avila
- *Peace of Heart*, based on the life and teachings of Francis of Assisi
- *True Serenity*, based on Thomas A Kempis’s *The Imitation of Christ*
- *Simply Surrender*, based on the Little Way of Therese of Lisieux
- *Where Only Love Can Go*, a journey of the soul into *The Cloud of Unknowing*
- *You Shall Not Want*, a spiritual journey based on the Psalms
- *Living in the Presence of the Lord*, based on the everyday spirituality of Brother Lawrence

* * *

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!



Q: What is a Doctor of the Church?

A: The saints of the Church are a diverse group: kings and shepherds, lay women and popes, scholars, reformers, and martyrs. Among them, some have been recognized as a Doctor of the Church because their lives and their writings help us all to know our faith better. Some are scholars who help us understand the faith, such as St. Thomas of Aquinas. Some are spiritual guides who help us live the faith, such as St. Therese of the Child Jesus.

All told, 33 saints have been recognized as a Doctor of the Church. For some, the title has been handed down to us by tradition. Others have been designated a Doctor of the Church by one of the popes. Here they are; how many of them do you recognize?

Albert the Great, Alphonsus Liguori, Ambrose, Anselm, Anthony of Padua, Athanasius, Augustine, Basil the Great, Bede the Venerable, Bernard of Clairvaux, Bonaventure, Catherine of Siena, Cyril of Alexandria, Cyril of Jerusalem, Ephrem of Syria, Francis de Sales, Gregory I the Great, Gregory of Nazianzus, Hilary of Poitiers, Isidore of Seville, Jerome, John Chrysostom, John Damascene, John of the Cross, Lawrence of Brindisi, Leo I the Great, Peter Canisius, Peter Chrysologus, Peter Damian, Robert Bellarmine, Teresa of Avila, Therese of the Child Jesus, Thomas Aquinas—and soon to be so designated, Hildegard of Bingen (see story on page 6 of this issue).

* * *

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

Where there is love there is courage,
 where there is courage there is peace,
 where there is peace there is God.
 And when you have God, you have everything.

—Source unknown

There is always a way back

The New Testament contains many moments that focus around homecomings, personal restorations, healing of body, mind, and spirit. Jesus restores the centurion's daughter to life; he casts out evil spirits; he



tells us the story of the prodigal son. Each of these moments exemplifies God's gracious love and longing for each of us. They are also reminders that no matter how far we move away, be it physically or emotionally, there is always a path back—back to the warm embrace of family and community, where seeing the absent person is a joy, where judgment is not necessary, where reconciliation is possible.

For those absent from a Catholic community, RETURNING CATHOLICS can be that path for those seeking to reconnect with their Catholic roots. Through a six-week session, Catholics seeking a way to a Catholic environment can meet with a team of parishioners to review the Mass and the sacraments and to discuss items of importance to them. Some may want to learn about St. Patrick's activities, programs, or ministries and how to get started as a volunteer. Others may need to work through a marriage situation that has complicated or ruptured their relationship with the Church.

Whatever your circumstances, RETURNING CATHOLICS can assist and guide you. The fall session starts on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center. Call the parish office (367-2665) for more information or to speak with one of the team members.

"Where's the restroom?"

A quick guide to St. Patrick's help facilities

For families visiting or new to St. Patrick's, "Where is the restroom?" may be the first and most pressing question. But there is more to know about the church's help facilities.

Emergency telephone:

In the room to the right as you enter the church from Main Street. (Press 9 before entering the telephone number.)

Defibrillator: For use when someone seems to be having a heart attack, an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is in the rear of the church, beside the Marian shrine. Several staff members and ushers are trained in its use.

Restrooms: There are two. One is to the right as you enter the church from Main Street, inside the room with the telephone. The other is in the room behind the baptismal font; take the side exit near the baptistry and turn left, without going downstairs

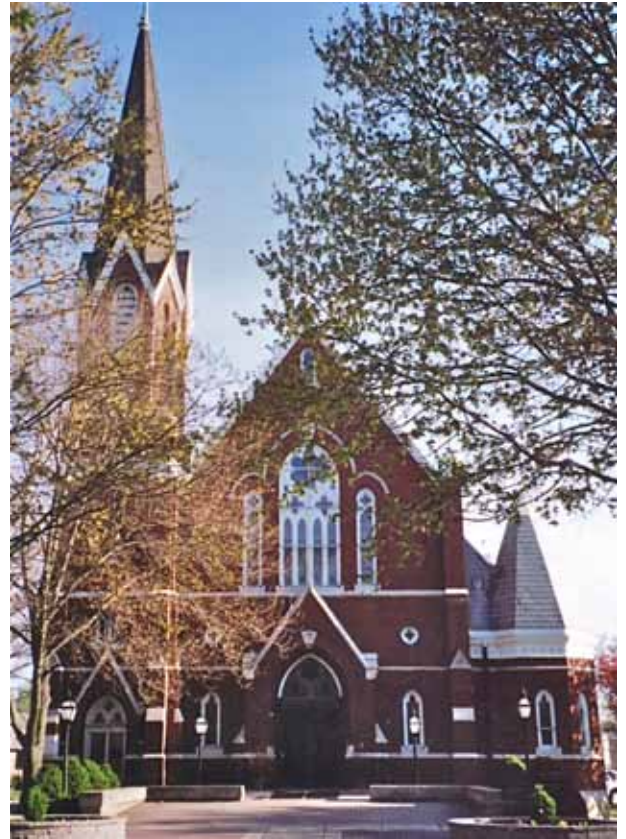
or outside. The restroom is on the left at the top of the ramp. This restroom provides better access for those with mobility impairments. You can get a drink of water in either restroom; plastic or paper cups are in the medicine cabinets.

Holy water: You can fill your own container from the crock of holy water in the room behind the baptismal font (see above).

Seating for the handicapped or infirm: The front pew on each side of the church is reserved for the infirm or handicapped. If you remain in the pew, Eucharistic ministers will bring Communion to you there. Room for wheelchairs is at the ends of the two front pews and the two back pews.

Crying area: Take small children who are fretful or need to stretch their legs to the vestibule, where they won't disturb others. Copies of the hymnals used at Mass, which also contain the day's Scripture readings, are shelved in the lectern there, and the sound system feeds into the area to help parents participate in the Mass.

Reconciliation room: The reconciliation room is to the left as you enter the church from Main Street. You may kneel at the screen just inside the door, or walk around it to sit face to face with the priest. Two lights outside the room tell you when you may enter. When a priest is present, the upper light is green. The lower light is red when another person is with the priest, but will turn green to tell you when you may enter. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered every Saturday before Mass from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m., and after Mass until 6:30 p.m. or until all have been served. To make an appointment for a different time, just call the parish office (367-2665).



St. Hildegard of Bingen, God's Messenger—and Doctor of the Church

By the standards of any age, St. Hildegard was a remarkable figure: abbess and foundress of a Benedictine community, author and theologian, prophet and preacher, musician and composer, poet and artist, doctor and pharmacist. She had visions in which the word of God—both in Scripture and in the book of nature—was revealed to her.

Hildegard was born to nobility in Germany in 1098. At the age of five she began having visions, and at eight years of age her parents placed her in the care of a holy anchoress named Jutta. At 18, Hildegard was given the habit of a Benedictine nun. A monastic community had gathered about Jutta, and when she died, Hildegard became prioress.

Her visions pressed upon Hildegard with greater urgency until she eventually described them to her confessor, who told her to write them down. The text was presented to the archbishop of Mainz, who read it and had it examined by a team of theologians, who certified its

orthodoxy. Eventually Pope Eugenius III himself read it and authorized her to continue to write.

As knowledge of Hildegard's goodness and wisdom spread, many came to the abbey for prayer, medi-



cal attention, and guidance from Hildegard, and other abbeys were built to accommodate the growing numbers of her followers. When the abbeys were running smoothly, Hildegard began a series of preaching journeys through Germany and France that continued into her seventies—a great age, in the twelfth

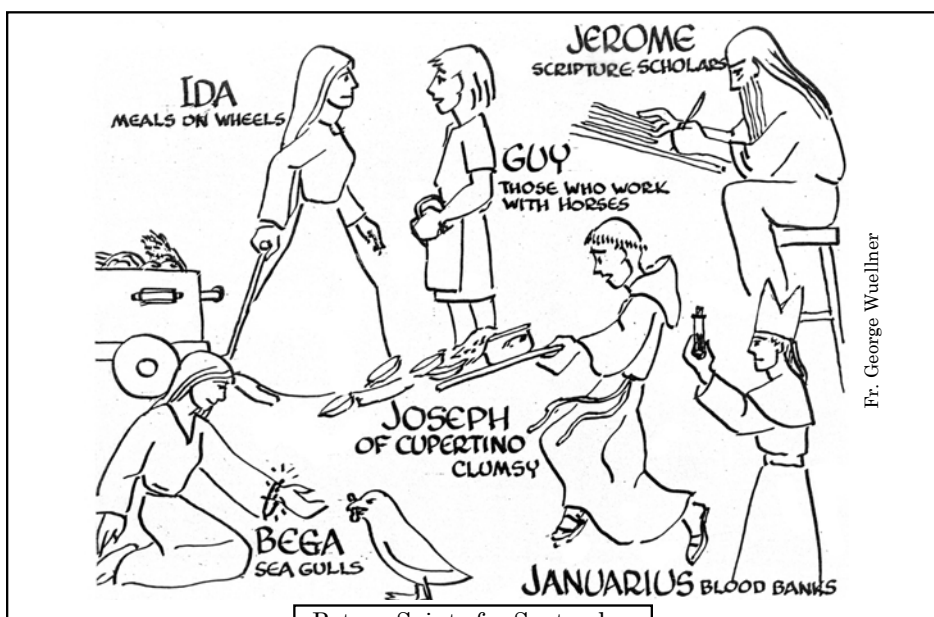
century!

Her authority as a holy preacher was widely recognized. She corresponded with kings and popes, sharing her spiritual insights and freely dispensing criticism where she felt it was needed. She was a physician, writer, poet, preacher, musician, playwright, and environmentalist. She wrote *Book of Simple Medicine and Scivias* (Know the Ways), along with four books on animals, two on herbs and trees, and three on gems and metals.

Most significantly, Hildegard was a messenger. Her powerful spiritual visions were wide-ranging and authoritative. She viewed heaven and earth, their history and their future, expressed these visions in images, and then decoded the images to tell with great confidence and painstaking detail many things, from the fall of angels to understandings about God. Her writing constantly refers to God as “Living Light,” and employs the word “greenness” to describe the animating energy or grace of God that shines forth in all living things.

After being revered as a saint for many centuries, on the feast of Pentecost in May 2012 Pope Benedict XVI formally added Hildegard to the roster of saints for the universal Church. Her feast day, Sept. 17, marks the day of her passage to eternal life in 1179. Pope Benedict also announced that on Oct. 7, at the beginning of the 2012 Synod of Bishops in Rome, he will declare both Hildegard and St. John of Avila as a Doctor of the Church. This title is bestowed upon a saint whose writings are discerned to be of universal importance to the Church. The pope must also declare the individual to be of “eminent learning” and “great sanctity.”

St. Hildegard, pray for us!



Patron Saints for September

Nancy Roth on mission in Ethiopia

On June 8 this summer, I left my family and the comforts of home to travel to Debre Zeyit, Ethiopia. For two weeks I worked alongside the staff of Blessing the Children, International (BCI), ministering to impoverished orphans and widows. I accompanied a small mission team from Windsor Road Christian

Church in Champaign.

BCI is a non-profit organization founded in 2001 that does Christian missionary work in Ethiopia. The organization works through and equips local churches in Ethiopia to carry out their mission to improve the lives of children and families living in extreme poverty, illness, and

desolation.

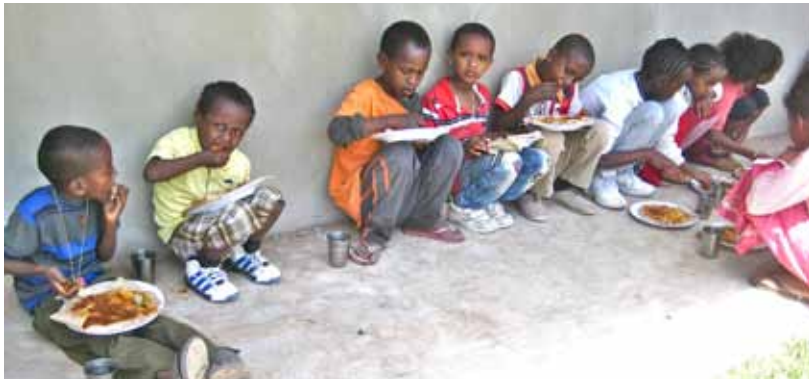
During this life-changing two weeks, I had the opportunity to visit and play with children in the foster home operated by BCI, and to accompany BCI social workers on visits with children out in the community. The families I visited often consisted of one woman caring for several children in a one-room mud hut. Many children didn't even have a bed.

I assisted with the feeding program and activity day at a local church and taught an art class at a school. We managed to fit over 150 pairs of shoes in our luggage to give out to the children. We also brought about thirty soccer balls and an air pump, so we enjoyed many spirited soccer games with the kids.

Some aspects of life in Ethiopia were difficult to get used to. In the guest house where we stayed, it was not uncommon to lose power for days. We had to be careful about what we ate or drank—and there weren't toilet or bathing facilities



Nancy enjoyed her time with the children, especially Bereket (right), sponsored by Nancy and her family.



Children having lunch at a local church, part of the activity day/feeding program.



In Nancy's art class, children prize stickers!

Did you know?

- In 1968 the Parish Council was formed to provide greater involvement in parish matters by the laity. The first parish mission statement was also developed at that time; its current formula has expanded on it, but retains the original wording.
- Fr. Joe Hogan has been named president of the Pastors' Board of the High School of St. Thomas More; Fr. Steve Willard, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, serves as vice president.
- Our next Parish Mission will be facilitated by Fr. Albert Hasse, OFM, Feb. 2-5, 2013.
- Next spring a new religious order will arrive, to minister to Hispanics.

like those in the United States. The mattresses were flea-ridden, and the bugs seemed to be resistant to nearly toxic levels of DDT. Cows, donkeys, goats, and chickens roamed about freely. At night, wild dogs and hyenas came down from the mountains and fought noisily.

Despite all, I knew this was where God wanted me to be, and I cherished every minute there. I have fallen in love with Ethiopia and its people, and I look forward to returning someday.

—Nancy Roth

A hundred children!

The children of St. Patrick's returned to SONTREASURE Island this summer for Vacation Bible School June 25-29. The parish hall and classrooms were transformed into a tropical paradise (with musical pirates!) for singing, crafting, snacking, playing games, and learning all about the treasure of God's Love.

This year, over 100 children aged 4 to 10 participated. Thanks to the forty preteens, teens, and adults who volunteered their mornings to make VBS such a resounding success!



STM announces new principal

The High School of Saint Thomas More (STM) has hired Ryan Bustle as its new principal. Mr. Bustle had served since 2009 as principal of St. Mary's Catholic School in Metamora. Before that, he taught and coached at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Bloomington.

"I'm delighted to join the Saint Thomas More family," said Bustle. "STM has an excellent team of faculty and staff. The students here are bright, talented, and college-bound. I look forward to further improving the environment, allowing them to achieve their academic and personal goals."



Bustle holds a master of science degree in educational administration and a bachelor of science in education, both from Illinois State University.

Women supporting women in spiritual growth

Are you a woman who is seeking to make her spiritual development a priority? Are you looking for a supportive faith community? Would you like to support and be supported by other women seeking to live Gospel values? Then you might be interested in helping to begin a Theresian community at our parish.

When Vicki Schmidt, the executive director of Theresians International, spoke here in June, she came to talk about Blessed Mother Teresa, her personal encounters



with her, and her experiences working with Mother Teresa's mission. But she also talked about the Theresians, which are not related to Mother Teresa but named after St. Thérèse of Lisieux. This inspired several parishioners to approach her about beginning a Theresian community here.

Theresians International is a Catholic organization open to all Christian women. It was founded in 1961 in Pueblo, Colorado,

by Msgr. Elwood C. Voss. He envisioned an organization that would let laywomen in the church pursue intellectual and spiritual enrichment in community. He named the organization for St. Thérèse both because she was the patroness of his diocese, and because of her straightforward approach to spirituality.

Theresian communities are small faith groups where women seek to live Gospel values through spirituality, education, community, vocation, and ministry. Members commit to practices such as participating in monthly gatherings, spending regular time in daily prayer, studying to deepen their understanding of the Gospels, supporting each other in spiritual development, pursuing educational and spiritual opportunities, responding to the call to serve and making an annual Covenant commitment to their community.

Organizers hope to find at least ten women interested in exploring what it means to be a Theresian community, so that they can request a mentor and begin the formation process. If you would like to be part of this, contact Jolene McGrogan at jmcgrogan1@comcast.net or through the parish office (367-2665).

More details about the Theresians can be found at www.theresians.org.

Come to the (Health) Fair!

Please visit the St. Patrick's Health Fair on Sunday, Sept. 30, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the main hall. This annual event, sponsored by the Parish Nurses, will have multiple booths that can increase awareness of health status and community resources:

- Flu shots
- Lipid profile testing
- Blood pressure screening
- Balance testing
- Exercise/nutrition information; Body Mass Index calculation
- Demonstration of the Automatic External Defibrillator
- Learn the Heimlich Maneuver to prevent choking
- Cancer awareness education
- Winter health/safety preparation
- Questions for the pharmacist – a registered pharmacist will answer questions and provide information about your medications
- Blood donations
- Healthy smiles



If you plan to attend the noon Mass on Sept. 30, you might come a little early and visit the health fair beforehand. Hope to see you there!

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Karilyn Sonka

Easy Apple Crisp

- 4 c apples, sliced thinly
- 1 T lemon juice
- 1/3-1/2 c flour
- 1 c rolled or quick oats
- 1/2 c brown sugar
- 1/2 t salt
- 1/3 c melted butter
- 1.5 t cinnamon

Place apples in 9x9- or 9x11-inch pan. Sprinkle with lemon juice. Combine dry ingredients, add butter, mix until crumbly, then sprinkle over apples. Bake 30 minutes at 375.

* * *

If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it to Ellen Noonan (403-0979 or eknoon@comcast.net). The only requirement is that it be easy and quick to prepare!



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.

Editorial board: Judy Fierke, 352-7670 (j-fierke@comcast.net); Shannan Fletcher, 799-9393 (shamarbol@aol.com); Elizabeth Hendricks, 328-2184 (elihen@att.net); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 (mmenches@illinois.edu); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@illinois.edu); and Peggy Whelan, 367-3668 (margaretwhelan@att.net).

Associates: Carol Bosley, John Colombo, Joe and Nancy Costa, Frances Drone-Silvers, Mary Fonner, Camille Goudeseune, Mary Karten, Rachael McMillan, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Rick Partin, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika, Sue Schreiber, Stephanie Smith, John Towns, Jim Urban, Naneera Vidhayasirinun, Mary Welle, and Joseph Youakim.

Articles and information for this issue were provided by Amy Boscolo, Judy Fierke, Elizabeth Hendricks, Dianne Gordon, Peggy Loftus, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Ellen Noonan, Kay Reiser, Nancy Roth, Cathy Salika, Stephanie Smith, Karilyn Sonka, and Barbara Wysocki. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Camille Goudeseune and paged by John Colombo.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **September 15.**

CREW ON MISSION 2012

Supplement

Another successful CREW mission trip in the books!

This year, members of CREW (St. Patrick's youth group, Christ Renews Everyone's World) traded their sun-screen and heavy-duty home-build-

of this year's mission trip, enabling the group to help more families during their stay. ISU sophomore Luke Cottingham agreed: "There was a

also found CREW members soaking up the sights of D.C. and getting a good dose of education in American history. Even their "last supper" was



ing equipment for paint and cleaning supplies. As luck would have it, they had decided to take their yearly mission trip indoors for what would turn out to be one of the hottest summers on record.

Members divided their time among four different Washington, D.C., area non-profit organizations:

- S.O.M.E (So Others Might Eat), a soup kitchen serving breakfast and lunch to all who come seeking a meal;
- The Homeless Children's Play-time Project, which provides a clean, safe space for children of families in transition to spend some quality time;
- Mulumba House (named after Ugandan martyr St. Mathias Mulumba), a Catholic home for men in transition;
- A Wider Circle, which provides low-cost home furnishings to those in need.

Centennial High junior Alyssa Kaiser enjoyed the change to the nature

level of instant gratification that I hadn't experienced before. It was amazing to be able to change the



lives of so many families in the four days that we were there."

This was the second trip to our nation's capital for CREW; the first time around was CREW's very first mission trip. The group took advantage of the setting by holding a Bible study at a different national monument every evening. The Friday "Fun Day" component of the trip

at a Hard Rock Café located a short four doors down from Ford's Theatre.

For the duration of the trip, the group called the Catholic University of America their home away from home. CREW leader Peggy Loftus noted that the food served on their trip was delicious; she raved especially about the make-your-own yogurt parfait at the breakfast buffet.

Fr. Joel Phelps accompanied CREW on their trip and earned the



nickname “Fr. GPS” by trip’s end for his smartphone proficiency in finding routes for the bus driver.



That bus trip, by the way, had a pretty significant hitch. On Sunday, July 8—after 5 p.m. Mass and a delicious pizza and mini-potluck send-off (according to Peggy, good eats were a theme throughout the trip)—CREW boarded a Peoria Charter bus to head east. At 4:30 a.m., they found themselves stranded roadside with a broken transmission.

Six hours and one emergency mechanic’s diagnosis later, they boarded a rescue bus that carried them the rest of the way to D.C. Peggy praises Peoria Charter Service for their excellent service in the past and for the way they saw CREW through this temporary glitch at the start of their journey.

Every day, a bus loaded up the teens, young adults, and chaperones, and dropped them off at their various work locations. By far the largest group, around 30 people, cleaned, sorted, and moved donated home furnishings at A Wider Circle.

CREW member and rising Urbana High junior Grace Rogers sums up A Wider Circle’s philosophy: “We should not throw away things that people



just around the corner are in need of.” She returned from the trip with a t-shirt which reads, “Ask me about 33,” but she is willing to save us some suspense by explaining that this is how many dollars it takes for A Wider Circle to completely furnish a family’s home, including overhead costs.

St. Joseph-Ogden High junior Nick Kneer noted that helping at A Wider Circle made him more grateful for what he had.



Smaller groups worked at the other sites. CREW members sent to work at the Homeless Children’s Playtime Project renovated a room inside a hospital-turned-homeless-shelter as a space for children to learn and play. Urbana High sophomore Anthony Del Granado found this eye-opening. He learned that not all children have a safe space to play and plenty of toys to play with. “I realized how privileged we are, and that we shouldn’t always take these things for granted.”

Concordia University sophomore Cora Freidhof, who also worked at the Playtime Project, enjoyed the spiritual benefits of helping parents provide for their children: “I felt the joy that the parents would

feel to have a safe environment for their children.”

CREW members spoke of learn-



ing to treat with dignity those whom they helped. Those who were assigned to the S.O.M.E. soup kitchen worked the most directly with D.C. area citizens in need, serving breakfast and lunch to nearly 600 people every day.

For St. Thomas More sophomore Molly Smith, this actually made her more mindful of the scope of need they faced. “It felt amazing that we got to help so many people in just four days.

But, on the other hand, I can only imagine how many more people there are to help.”

Of the clients who benefited from CREW’s efforts this year, youth group member Jo Ellen Machesky says, “I think I had a stereotypical view of people in need, and really interacting with the clients gave the trip a whole new meaning.” She adds, “I’ve seen strength and dignity





Chapel on the university campus; one evening, Fr. Phelps heard confessions. Those waiting their turn prayed the rosary.

One thing is clear: CREW members resoundingly love this

before, but not like I did in D.C.”

Uni High sophomore Sally Penacchi came away with an appreciation for the scope of the causes they worked with, noting that while the organizations CREW helped had plenty of donations, volunteers seemed to be lacking. “Although donating food, clothes, money, and furniture is important, walls won’t be painted, food won’t be cooked, and furniture won’t be distributed without people donating their time to get these jobs done.”

Catholic teachings on social justice highlighted the Bible study in the evenings. Some of the themes the group explored in detail included being a citizen and a person of faith, non-violence, and conscientious consumerism. For the latter discussion, the group sampled Fair Trade chocolates.

Morning Mass was celebrated daily in the St. Vincent DePaul



annual opportunity to work hard, pray hard, and play hard. Seven CREW members currently attend college, and have achieved pseudo chaperone status. One of them, UI sophomore Caitlin Schultz, explains her commitment: “This trip was my fifth, not because I should go, but because I love to go.” She adds, “Peggy is going to have a hard time getting rid of the group of seven young adults who plan to keep coming back!”



Now that the 2012 mission trip is history, it’s time for us as a parish community to be aware of ways we can help plan for and support next year’s mission trip. Fundraising opportunities such as the sale of greenery at Christmas time and the CREW service auction in the spring enable parishioners to support this vibrant ministry. If you are interested in helping CREW, contact Peggy Loftus (peggy.loftus@staturbana.org).





Mission Trip Participants, 2012

Teens

Chandler Bollman
Amy Crull
Anthony DelGranado
Kristin Hammel
Natalie Hittmeier
Will Justice
Alyssa Kaiser
Peyton Kaiser
Nick Kneer
Jarred Koerner
Joshua Koerner
Carly Langendorf
Keith Lee
Louisette Lukusa
Jo Ellen Machesky
Colton Parisi
George Pennacchi
Sally Pennacchi
Megan Porter
Annie Rasmussen
Kyle Ritten
Grace Rogers
Dan Schuele
Jamie Simmering
Abbi Simpson
Molly Smith
Freddie Stavins
Patrick Wagner
Gabby Wszalek

Young Adults

Luke Cottingham
Cora Freidhof
Kelsey Kaiser
Sam Noonan
Betsy Schuele
Caitlin Schutz
Andy Wszalek

Adult Chaperones

Judy Crull
Pam Donze De Ley
Patrick Hatch
Dick Justice
Pat Justice
Missy Kaiser
Peggy Loftus
Randy Pankau
Beth Rogers
Fred Stavins
Person X