

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

April 2013

We Sing Alleluia!

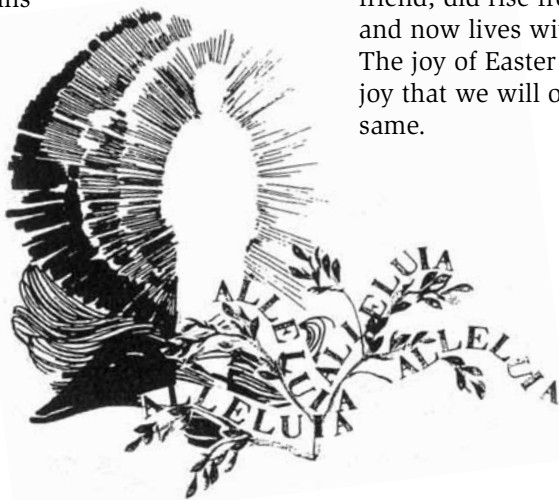
When the Church gathers in darkness for the Easter Vigil, we hear the story of creation. In it, we remember that humanity was made in God's image. With the dawning of Easter, we find out why God did so.

Jesus walked the earth to show us how to live life in a way pleasing to his Father. Everything that we experience in life, he experienced. He knew all kinds of people—friends, adversaries, those who understood him, those who misunderstood him, cheerful people, grouchy people, humble people, self-satisfied people, people ambitious, lethargic, cruel, kind—he knew them all. We know all these people too, and we can read in the gospels how he treated them. He knew life's pains and pleasures, hunger and feasting, cold and

comfort, birth and death, sickness and strength, doubt and faith. You can never complain to Jesus that he doesn't know what "real" life is like.

Jesus didn't stop with showing us how to live; he showed us the why of life. He died, as surely each of us will, but he showed us that death is not the end that God intends for us. As Jesus rose from the dead, so too we will rise to a life that is truly one with God and one with all God's people, filled with joy deeper than we can imagine. Although God allows us to accept or reject his gifts, this is the life that God intends for us and the reason we live our lives on this earth.

The joy of Easter is partly our joy that Jesus, our love, our hero, our friend, did rise from the dead and now lives with his Father. The joy of Easter is also the joy that we will one day do the same.

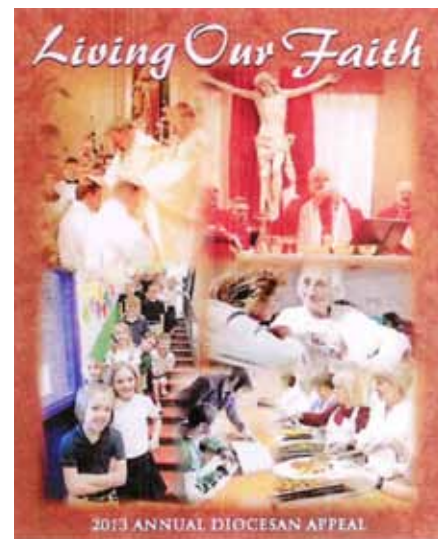


*Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Foll'wing our exalted head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!*

—Charles Wesley

Spring is here, and so is the ADA!

The clarion call of the Annual Diocesan Appeal rings out each springtime, reminding us once again of our responsibility to support diocesan programs which benefit us all in so many ways. They're familiar, we hear about them every year, but



perhaps we don't see just how *our* parish benefits.

Education of our seminarians and deacons is a sure benefit, eventually providing parishes with needed priests—in fact, St. Patrick's benefited very directly in the past year in the persons of newly ordained Fr. Joel Phelps and Deacon David Zola. *Deo gratias!*

Support of retired clergy enables former pastor Fr. George Remm, along with other retired priests of the diocese, to live in a modicum of comfort while growing in wisdom, age, and grace—and to respond to

see **ADA** on page 10

Living Faith: Feeding the hungry

Many of us know that bread from local sources is packaged up and distributed to people who apply for food from the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry at St. Patrick's. But not many of us realize that the bread isn't delivered to the food pantry, it must be picked up and dropped off



at the parish center. One parishioner who does this is Joe Costa.

Joe says that he volunteered to be a "bread courier" some time ago when the former manager of the food pantry, Sophia Zeigler (now retired in Pennsylvania), asked for help. Leon and Patricia Mayer had helped with collecting leftover food items for many years, so a precedent had been set. Joe figured that if Sophia needed help, he could step up, and he did.

Joe picks up boxes and bags of Panera's leftover bread loaves,

bagels, and sweet rolls at 8 p.m. on Sundays and at 9 p.m. on Wednesdays and drops them off at St. Patrick's parish center. There volunteers sort them and repackage them for distribution with other food items to those who come later in the day.

Why does Joe do this? Well, he wanted to help Sophia—and now Ellen Abell—when she asked for help.

He pointed out that there is a lot of stress on people who take leadership roles in providing ministry, so if we're asked for help, we should respond. He also feels strongly that food shouldn't be thrown away; rather, it should be made available to those who need it.

In his own way, Joe helps to feed the hungry in our community.

Holy Cross Happenings



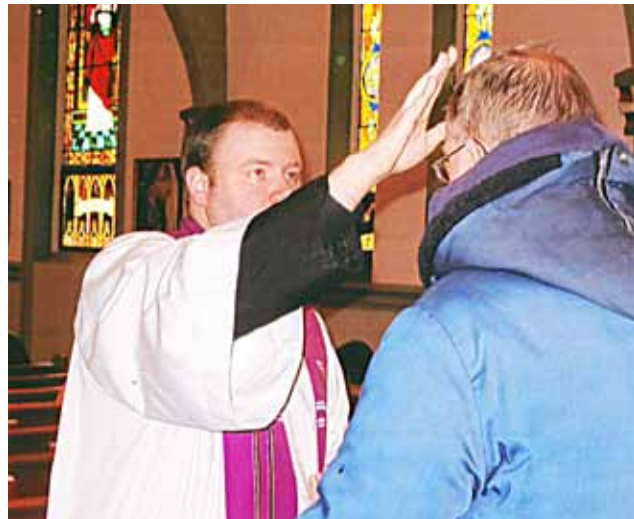
This year, Holy Cross School presents the musical "HONK!" (book and lyrics by Anthony Drewe, with music by George Stiles), starring more than 80 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, including many from St. Patrick's.

Based on Hans Christian Andersen's *The Ugly Duckling*, "HONK!" is the funny and thoughtful story of Ugly, whose odd, gawky looks instantly incite prejudice from family and neighbors. Separated from the farm and pursued by a hungry Cat, Ugly must find the way home. Along the rollicking and harrowing journey, Ugly not only discovers true beauty and glorious destiny, but also finds love and acceptance in all its forms.

Directed by Angela Marcum and musical director Phil Coleman, the students have been rehearsing since January to present this amazing musical in the school auditorium.

Mark your calendar for performances at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, on Friday, April 12, and on Saturday, April 13, with a matinee at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 14. Tickets will be available at the door one hour before show time. *No advance tickets will be sold.*

Hope to see you there!



At the Healing Mass on March 14, Father Joe was assisted by Father Joel in anointing those present.

Informational meeting on annulments June 15

You may have heard these statements said of Catholic annulments. Which are true?

- A person who obtains a divorce cannot receive the Eucharist without an annulment.
- An annulment is the same as a civil divorce.
- A person cannot receive an annulment until ten years after the marriage.

Actually, none of these statements is true. The fact is, no Catholic practice is apt to be more misunderstood than annulments.

The Catholic Church presumes that all marriages are valid, binding spouses together for life. When a couple divorces, one of the partners request the



Church to examine the circumstances of the marriage to determine whether an essential element was missing at the beginning of the marriage. This request is made by initiating a legal process commonly called an annulment.

What might an essential element be? Perhaps one or both of the individuals were too immature to understand or take on the responsibilities of a marriage. Perhaps one party suffered an addiction, was unable to be faithful, or

was not open to having children. Pre-nuptial signs such as cold feet, pre-marital jitters, or second thoughts might have been markers pointing to some deeper personal problems or developmental issues that eventually led to serious problems in the marriage and its dissolution.

The Diocese of Peoria has identified and trained lay women and men as Notary-Auditors whose call is to assist individuals who desire to raise critical questions: Were all the essential elements present at the time of the engagement and marriage? Was this a valid marriage as defined by the Catholic Church? These advocates for the petitioner are well versed in the proceedings that inform and shape a case, they can advise and make suggestions, and they offer emotional support as a case evolves.

The legal process enables the diocesan Tribunal Office to conduct research through an investigation involving the main principals and witnesses and their recollections. This process, with the benefit of hindsight, can inspire reflection on the part of those most involved. While the process may be emotionally painful, it also affords an occasion and a grace to address the past, rather than ignore it, as one seeks to move forward as a baptized person. Perhaps a new relationship now offers an opportunity for personal and spiritual growth, or age and maturity provide a new confidence and strength to become truer selves.

To that end, the Notary-Auditors who serve Champaign-Urbana and Rantoul parishes are hosting an informational meeting on Saturday, June 15 at St. Patrick's from 9:00 a.m. till noon. At that time, Notaries will outline the options currently available under Canon Law. Following a question-and-answer session, people are encouraged to talk privately with a Notary regarding their specific circumstances and the possibility of initiating a case. Future appointments to begin a case can also be arranged.

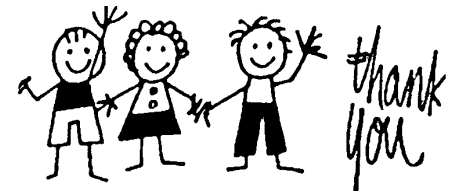
Some of the notaries who currently serve this area include Deacon Ed Mohrbacher (649-5083 or LauraJean8@juno.com), Toby Stortz (tis.gazella@gmail.com), and Barbara Wysocki (367-5014 or b-wysocki@hotmail.com).

If you are considering the possibility of applying for an annulment, reserve the date now. If you know someone else who may be, please share this information. The session is free, no reservations required. Private consultation with a Notary following the session may be arranged in advance by calling St. Patrick's parish office (367-2665) or by contacting one of the notaries listed above.

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 and present need for a parishioner (or a parishioner couple) to **set up for the 7:30 Mass** once or twice a month. 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*

• Can you assist with **funeral liturgies** by greeting family and friends of the deceased as they arrive, providing worship aids, perhaps helping those unfamiliar with our church to find the restroom? These are very simple things, but it takes someone to do them. *Nancy Olson, nancybolson@gmail.com or 359-6424*



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: \$3,777,756

Cash in hand: \$2,064,956

What's needed before we can break ground:

Pledged: \$4.0M

Cash in hand: \$3.2M



Q: How do you manage to hang the banners so high over the altar?

A: Although hanging banners

above the altar may seem like one of the great mysteries in our church, it is accomplished by using a simple pulley system that was installed long before anyone can remember—perhaps at the church's beginning? On the ceiling above the cross are two weighted hooks connected to a rope pulley system with controls in the west sacristy. Unwinding the ropes



lowers the weighted hooks that suspend whatever is to hang above the altar.

For the Lenten banners, members of the Arts and Environment Team attached a homemade crossbar made from PVC pipes in four sections. To each of the four sections they attached a total of eight pieces made of material. For the pieces, they chose many different textures and types of material, ribbon, and yarn. Each finished piece ranges in length between 230 and 250 inches long (approximately 20 feet).

The hardest part of installing the hangings is pulling the twin ropes of the pulley system evenly to raise the two weighted hooks to the ceiling



in our parish library

There are many rituals associated with the spring season. The practice of marking the first day of spring is just one symbol of our shared craving for the beauty we are looking for in the tiniest of examples in our environment as the season approaches. The snow melts away, flowers will soon bloom, trees will bud, and there will be new life all around us.

Every year we wait patiently for the promised beauty to come, and with spring comes Easter, the principal feast of the Church year. Spring and the Easter season remind us of the resumption of life and give us reason to reflect on the gift of sacrifice and the promise of new life. The following resources (some especially for children) carry out these themes:

- **Three Days: Parish Prayer in the Paschal Triduum**, by Gabe Huck (263.2 Huc)
- **Days of Glory**, by R. Murphy (232.96 Mur)
- **Easter Vigil**, by Gail Ramshaw, illustrated by Linda Ekstrom (232 Ram)
- **Beyond the Mirror: Reflections on Death and Life**, by Henri J. Nouwen (236 Nou)
- **Joy**, by Louis Evelyn (242.3 Eve)
- **Just for the Kids: Painted Easter Eggs**, by R. Albrecht (C262.2 Alb)
- **The Very First Easter**, by M. Elizabeth Tebo and Patricia E. Jablonski (C232 Teb)
- **The Jesus Garden: An Easter Legend**, by Antoinette Bosco (C380.Bos)
- **The Story of Easter**, by Alice J. Davidson, illustrated by Victoria Marshall (C232.9 Dav)

* * *

As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact parish librarian Megan Raab (mer1987@sbcglobal.net), and she will be happy to assist you. Scanning the shelves and looking for subject labels may also prove fruitful in finding something you'd enjoy reading. The parish library is available on weekdays during office hours—ask for a key at the parish office. It is also open on the fourth and fifth Sundays between 8:30-10:30 a.m.

at an equal height. One person goes into the west sacristy and uses some muscle power with the pulley while another stays under the hanging material to guide it. The results are usually quite dramatic; the team hopes they enhance the worship space for our parishioners.

The team reviewed the readings for Lent to create their interpretation of what the hangings represent. We have committed many different kinds of sins, represented by the various types of fabric. Although God is always with us, those sins may be hiding God from us. With repentance for sin, we turn once again to Christ, our savior, present to us in his risen glory. What is your interpretation of the hangings?

Vocation Prayer

*The place God calls you to
is the place where your deep gladness
and the world's deep hunger meet.*

—Frederick Buechner

You are a calling God—you call, invite, inspire, and challenge me. Am I open to your guiding Spirit? Continue, calling God, to gift and equip and nurture and challenge me, for the sake of a world that needs the gifts you've planted within me.

From seminarian Alex Millar

To all of you at St. Patrick's,

Greetings from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in this blessed Lenten Season. It is good to be able to communicate with you. While my ability to spend time with you in person is very limited, I am at least able to be present through this letter. All of you are in my daily prayers, and I am always grateful for the prayerful support that I receive from you. Because my ability to visit the parish is limited by school and other seminarian activities, I have been asked to share a bit about the seminary program this year.

Currently, I am in my second year of the theologate program in seminary formation. For those of you who have been counting, this means that I am in my fourth year of seminary formation and have completed two years of philosophical studies and one year of theology. This also means that I have one year, God willing, before ordination to the diaconate and two years until ordination to the priesthood. Although six years of seminary formation seems like a long time, I have been astounded at how the past three and a half years have flown by and can only imagine that the next two will go quickly as well.

My classmates and I have entered into our theology studies in earnest. This year we have completed our study of Church history, covering the early Church through the contemporary period. We have also had our introductory moral theology courses and have had a foray into Canon Law (i.e., Church Law). We will continue our studies in these last two areas for the next two years. We have also completed our study of the Old Testament and have begun our study of the New Testament with the Gospels of Matthew and Mark.

This year we are also able to begin the pursuit of an M.A. in Theology or a Bachelors in Sacred Theology (STB). I am pursuing an M.A. with a concentration in Sacred Scripture; last semester I wrote a significant term paper on the mystery of the Transfiguration, and I'm now writing another on Psalm 17. These papers have been a great opportunity to dive into the infinite well of Scripture, and they

have affirmed in my mind the adage, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

In addition to our academic studies, we spend our second year of theology working with the poor, the sick, or the imprisoned as part of our pastoral formation. I am currently assigned to a state-run nursing home where I work on a regular basis with six residents. While these assignments can be very challenging at times, they offer many chances to grow in ministerial



skills and, more importantly, chances to bring Christ to people who might otherwise never get to meet Him. Our liturgical participation as lectors also complements the chance to proclaim the Gospel message offered by our pastoral assignments, preparing us for the liturgical role we will serve as deacons and priests in proclaiming the Gospel.

We are to be installed as acolytes this April, further preparing for our service of the altar by being authorized to purify and care for the sacred vessels. Please keep all of us in your prayers as we continue our preparations for this ministry and for our ultimate goal of serving you in the ordained ministries.

I hope this brief summary has provided you with at least some insight into seminary life. I also hope that it may encourage some of you to seek a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. I was happy to hear recently that others from St. Patrick's have already done so.

May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you all throughout the Easter Season, such that none of us may shy away from serving Christ, whose yoke is easy and burden light.

As always, you are in my prayers.

Sincerely,
Alex Millar

Did you know?

- In 1980, the anointing of the sick took place during Mass for the first time. St. Patrick's was no doubt the only parish in the diocese that had a three-year-old riding a tricycle to celebrate this event.
- Marriage banns were announced for the last time in June 1983.
- In 1983, the parish sponsored two Vietnamese families. The father and daughter of one family stayed at the rectory until he was able to learn English and provide support for his family. In 1988, the parish aided a refugee Laotian family who moved into an Urbana apartment; parishioners provided clothing and furnishings and helped with their resettlement in many other ways.
- Since 2007 St. Patrick's has received a surprising amount of money from the Diocese of Peoria in the form of grants used in support of special parish programs and for purchase of updated equipment. See ADA article on page 1 of this issue.

St. John Baptist de la Salle, Patron Saint of Teachers

April 7 is the feast day of Jean-Baptiste de la Salle. He was born in Rheims, France, on April 30, 1651 and died on April 7, 1719 (Good Friday). In 1950, Pope Pius XII named him the Patron Saint of Teachers. What did this French priest do to receive such an honor?

De la Salle was the eldest son of a wealthy and noble family. He had a scholarly bent and was handsome with intense large blue eyes. He displayed kindness and affability. At the early age of eleven he began preparation for the priesthood. He seemed destined to lead a life of dignified ease and a high position in the Church.

God, however, had other plans for de la Salle, plans gradually revealed to him over several years. As a young priest, de la Salle helped establish a new order, the Sisters of the Child Jesus, and served as their chaplain and confessor. The Sisters' work was the care and education of poor girls. In 1679, de la Salle helped establish a school for the poor in Rheims. Later, a wealthy woman said that she would endow another school, but only if Monsieur La Salle would help.

De la Salle soon realized that the teachers in Rheims needed leadership, training, and purpose. First, he brought them into his own house. Then he established the Institute of the Christian Schools, also known as the De La Salle Brothers in Europe and Asia and the Christian Brothers in America. These were the first Roman Catholic teaching institutes that did not include any priests. They also could be considered the first normal schools.



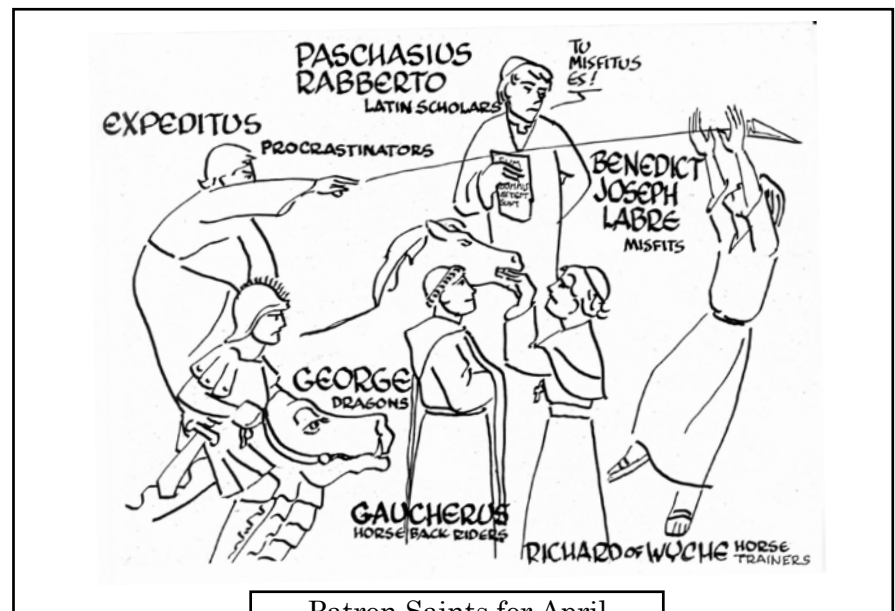
At first, he found the work with the poor youth of Rheims extremely distasteful, but he soon realized that this work was the divinely appointed mission of his life. He was moved by the plight of poor children who had little hope for the future. He determined to put his own talents and advanced education at the service of these children, who were often left to themselves and raised poorly.

A pedagogical thinker who was among the founders of a distinctively modern education system, de la Salle was one of the first to emphasize classroom teaching over individual instruction. More of his innovations included instruction in the vernacular rather than Latin, students grouped according to their ability and achievement, integration of religious education with secular subjects, well-prepared teachers with a sense of vocation and mission,

and the involvement of parents. He also introduced Sunday classes for working young men, one of the first institutions in France for the care of delinquents, technical schools, and secondary schools for modern languages, arts, and sciences.

Even with his successes, de la Salle faced bitter opposition from secular schoolmasters who resented his methods. There was heart-rending disappointment when some of his disciples defected. He also faced persistent opposition from the Jansenists, who were morally rigid and pessimistic about the human condition.

It's easy to understand why so many schools are named after St. John Baptist de la Salle. He was beatified on February 19, 1888, and canonized on May 24, 1900. He was proclaimed the Patron Saint of Teachers on May 15, 1950, by Pope Pius XII. Currently there are 6,000 Brothers and 75,000 lay and religious colleagues worldwide who serve as teachers, counselors, and guides to 900,000 students in more than 1,000 educational institutions in 84 countries.



Patron Saints for April

For Returning Catholics: How may we assist you on your journey?

I have wandered freely in mystical traditions that are not religious and have been profoundly influenced by them. It is to my Church, however, that I keep returning, for she is my spiritual home.

—Anthony de Mello, S.J.

All of us have images of God formed by our life experiences and our journeys of discovery. Sometimes we've traveled alone, and sometimes we've been eager to try exotic philosophies to demonstrate our independence or to protest a shortcoming or failure of our Catholic tradition.



Whatever your story, the Catholic Church, and St. Patrick's Parish in particular, offers a way to reconnect with your Catholic roots through a program called Returning Catholics. Our six-week sessions begin on Wednesday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center.

A team of parishioners will meet with you to review the Mass and the sacraments and discuss items of importance to you. You may want information about

the ministries, programs, and opportunities available to continue your faith journey. You may need to work through a marriage situation that has complicated or ruptured your relationship with the Church. You may be looking for companions in faith to journey with as you seek a better understanding of God.

Whatever your circumstances, the Returning Catholics team can assist and guide you.

We're eager to meet and talk with you on April 3. For more information or to speak with a team member, please call the parish office at 367-2665.

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If you know of someone considering a return to their spiritual home, please share this invitation with them. Perhaps offer to accompany them on their first visit with the Returning Catholics team.

From our Parish Nurses: The health benefits of volunteering

Every U.S. president since 1974 has signed a proclamation designating a "National Volunteer Week" during the month of April. National Volunteer Week is April 21-27.

The intent is to recognize those who dedicate their time to helping others and encourage all of us to look at how we can impact the lives of others and improve our communities.

There are many reasons to volunteer. It is no surprise that helping others makes us feel good, but did you know that studies have shown that volunteering provides benefits to your health as well? Volunteering has been shown to enhance the immune system, reduce the risk of depression, and even lessen the symptoms of chronic pain or heart disease.

The parish nurses encourage you to look at how you can put your passions into action and volunteer to help others, which in turn helps protect your own health.



A time to remember and to celebrate

St. Patrick's Ministry of Consolation invites you to an Evening of Remembrance on Wednesday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the parish center. We will honor the memories and pray for parishioners and family members who have died in the past six months.

The Evening of Remembrance is a time to gather together family



and friends to celebrate the lives of our loved ones who have died, to share memories of them, and to pray together for them and for those of us left behind to grieve their loss. Everyone is welcome to join us to remember

those who have died and to lend prayerful support to their loved ones.

If there is anyone you would like to remember that evening, you are encouraged to attend. For more information please contact Nancy Olson (359-6424, evenings, or nancybolson@gmail.com).

*Praise to you, God of all consolation.
Give us comfort and hope at the death of your faithful ones.
In you, O God, life is not ended, but transformed.
Death is swallowed up in victory.*

Meager Meal provides food for thought

Approximately forty parishioners came to share in the Meager Meal at the St. Patrick's Parish Center on March 6. The Peace and Justice Ministry and the St. Vincent de Paul Society co-sponsored the event to raise awareness about hunger and poverty in Champaign County. A free-will offering was collected and divided between the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and the Eastern Illinois Foodbank.

After a not-so-meager meal of soup, bread, and raw vegetables, Jim Hires made his presentation. Some years ago, Jim Hires was a cable TV executive. One day he was sent to take the company's donation check to a nearby food bank. After making the photo-opportunity presentation, Hires says, "I made the fatal mistake of asking, 'So, what is it you do here?'" Though the process was gradual, seven years later he serves as the director of the Eastern Illinois Foodbank (EIF). The EIF serves more than 220 food pantries and other agencies that distribute food in a fourteen county area. It also sends out mobile food pantries to rural areas, runs the Backpack program for schoolchildren, and has set up food pantries in several high schools.

"Hunger is the outgrowth of poverty," Hires said. As he began to relate statistics about poverty in Champaign County, he added that he hoped those who hadn't heard them before would be startled, in particular by the fact that Champaign County has the highest percentage of people living in extreme poverty of any county in Illinois. Extreme poverty is defined as people living at 50% of the poverty level, or a family of four living on \$10,000 or less per year. This statistic is particularly startling because Champaign County might be expected to have less poverty due to having a lower unemployment rate than the state of Illinois as a whole, as well as a higher high school graduation rate and a significantly lower teen pregnancy rate.

One audience member suggested that the statistics likely reflected the large number of college students living in the county. This is a common assumption, Hires said, but the study he cited (from the Social Impact Research Center of the Heartland Alliance) excludes college students from its data on household income. In fact, the high poverty rates are likely the result of a disparity between the county's high housing costs and low wages. For example, the average renter makes about \$9 an hour, but the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in this county is \$802, almost twice what that worker can afford. The situation for workers making minimum wage is even worse.

Even when people can afford housing, they may have almost nothing left over for food. Hires told of a woman who is an Iraq War veteran, has a college degree, and works full-time as a teacher's aide, yet she must rely on SNAP benefits (food stamps) and food pantry assistance to feed herself and her two children. Although dismayed to be needing assistance when she feels she "did everything right" by serving her country, pursuing her educa-

tion, and working full-time, she takes the view that the situation is only temporary. "This is a season in my life when I need help," she says, and she expects that in time she will move beyond it.

Hires also talked about circumstantial poverty, defined as when a single event financially devastates an individual or family. A job is lost, a spouse leaves, the individual or a family member suffers an illness or medical crisis, there is a death or a disaster, such as a house burning down—and suddenly people who believed they would never need assistance find they can't survive without it.

Hires praised our parish's SVDP Food Pantry and spoke glowingly of the dedication and caring of Food Pantry coordinator Ellen Abell. In particular, he noted that the SVDP Food Pantry treats clients with integrity just as the EIF staff strives to do.

How can we help our neighbors who are struggling and in danger of going hungry? The most immediate ways are to donate money and time to the SVDP Food Pantry and the EIF. Hires stressed that while can drives are good for educating children and raising awareness about hunger, money makes a much bigger difference. The EIF can purchase in bulk for slightly above wholesale prices. While an individual might pay \$3 to buy a box of cereal to donate, EIF could use that \$3 to buy as much as a case of cereal. Monetary donations can also be more useful to the SVDP Food Pantry.

We can also help by advocating for the poor and the food insecure. Our society tends to make the poor invisible. As part of his job, Hires helps keep elected officials aware of the reality of poverty and hunger in the areas they represent.

The meal may have been meager, but there was plenty of food for thought. The sponsoring ministries hope that the information provided and awareness raised will help our parish to expand our Catholic commitment to serving the poor.



Jim Hires, director of the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, and Ellen Abell, coordinator of the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

From Dr. Susan Nagele

Box 84425-80100
Mombasa, Kenya
nagelesusan@gmail.com
susannagele@yahoo.com
15 March 2013

To the good people of St. Patrick's,

Greetings from hot and humid Mombasa, Kenya. We are sweating with the least little activity, like breathing, while you have had snow early this month!

We are very grateful to all of you for your prayers during the elections held in Kenya on March 4. In the early morning hours of voting day, 11 people were killed in Mombasa, 6 of whom were police officers transporting voting materials to polling stations. It seems this was an attempt to prevent voting in this part of the country.



Certainly some people were afraid, after this violence, to participate in the elections. However, about 70% of registered voters stood in the blazing sun for an average of 4 to 5 hours; some as long as 11 hours. The polling stations opened late and the electronic voting machines failed to work after only a few hours. Voting was extended up until late at night for those who were in the stations at the close of voting at 5 p.m.

The tallying of votes had to be done manually, so it took 5 days to announce that Uhuru Kenyatta had been elected with 50.07% of the vote. The main opposition, led by Raila Odinga, received 44% and has gone to court to contest the results, claiming rigging and fraud. The case will be heard before the inauguration scheduled for March 26. Despite all of these challenges the process proceeded without any other major violent episodes, and to this day the country has remained calm.

The President Elect and his Vice President have both been indicted by the International Criminal Court in the Hague for crimes against humanity involving post-election violence in the last election, in 2007. The trial will begin in July. These men were elected because people were enticed to vote along ethnic lines for a variety of reasons.

The country is deeply divided, and there are still many problems that need to be addressed. We continue to encourage peaceful means to resolve differences, which are sure to

be big challenges in the future. If you are interested to read more details, I have begun a blog at the following link: <http://healthministryinkenya.blogspot.com/>

I will try to keep you updated through the blog on what is happening here and with our ministry. Please pray!

In practical terms, the country was shut down for a week; schools, shops, and some health facilities were closed. In the health department we have not been able to travel to outlying health units since the beginning of February due to safety concerns. The Health Coordinator does not want to resume these trips until April, when the judicial challenges will have been completed. I have been able to assist at nearby clinics and have been in contact with units by phone and email to give advice and support.

I have completed my financial report* for 2012 to show how we used the donations we received. Thank you for continuing to reach out to others who are very far away from you and very much in need. Now that we have a new Pope, we continue our journey of Lent listening as best we can to the Spirit, grateful for the promise of resurrection and new life.

Happy Easter,

Susan

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

*Ed. note: This report has been posted on the bulletin board in the staff wing of the parish center.

Interpreters provide invaluable service

Ministry for the deaf and hard of hearing is greatly blessed with interpreters who are willing to help. We first started providing interpreters at Mass more than ten years ago. In recent months, interpreters have served at several parish events and programs: the Catholicism series (by Janet Fros, an outside freelance interpreter), the parish mission with Fr. Albert Haase, the recently celebrated Seder, and at Masses on the first and third Sundays of the month. Another freelance interpreter, Cathy Heneghan, also interpreted the morning presentation of ValLimar Jansen, and interpreters are provided at Catholic Connected events when possible.

Aimee Black is the newest addition to our interpreter group; she normally interprets on the first Sunday of each month. She is a life-long member of St. Patrick's parish, was a member of CREW for all four years of high school, and served on mission trips both as a student and as a junior leader after high school graduation. She currently serves as an usher at the 10:30 Mass. She graduated from MacMurray College's interpreter degree program, and now works at a local elementary school with their deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Theresa Rear normally interprets on the third Sunday of the month. She is a member of St. Matthew's parish and is the mother of three grown children, two granddaughters, and one grandson. Her husband, Steve, coaches baseball at The High School of St. Thomas More. Both of Theresa's parents are deaf, so her choice of interpreting as a career was a natural outgrowth of that experience. As Disability Specialist for deaf and hard-of-hearing students at the University of Illinois, she coordinates all requests for accommodations for them and



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calls for assistance from pastors. Before the advent of two priests last summer, we too were blessed by the occasional services of senior (retired) priests.

And so it goes. Diocesan offices supported by our contributions to the ADA also include Catholic Charities, Catholic Schools, Evangelization and Family Life, Campus Ministry (Newman Centers), the Divine Worship Office, Hispanic Ministry, the Family Resources Center, Tec, and Cursillo.

Perhaps least recognized is the financial assistance given to parishes, including our own, from special funds administered by the Diocese of Peoria. St. Patrick's has received grants amounting to several thousand dollars since 2007. Here is just a partial list:

- Canopy for our booth at Urbana's Market-at-the-Square, \$100
- Sound System upgrade, parish center, \$666
- Lady Bug concert, \$400
- Jim Healy's Marriage Enrichment Day, \$1,300
- St. Patrick's Presents... (Space Painter), \$1,500
- St. Patrick's Presents... (Fr. Pat McGrath), \$800
- New LCD projector, \$499
- "Catholicism" series, \$550
- "Epic" (new Great Adventures program), \$840
- ValLimar Jansen, \$2,300
- Parish Mission (Fr. Albert Hasse), \$3,500
- Totus Tuus (substitute for Vacation Bible School this summer), \$850
- Lighthouse Media display stand, \$1,101
- Spirit and Song books for the Praise Band, \$425
- Theology of the Body (for teens; included attendance at 2 conferences), \$340
- New speaker bar, DVD player, and LCD projector, \$999

As if that were not enough, we also received grants for the parish's deaf ministry and the kickoff of the Great Dates program. In addition, the diocese has provided more than \$7,000 each year for the Catholic Connected program of our vicariate with 19 parishes (including ours) benefiting.

You can see that St. Patrick's has much to be grateful for, and our parish is just one of 184 parishes in the extended family that is the Church in Central Illinois. The ADA goal for our parish this year is \$109,123. What can you contribute to the ADA this year in support of a diocese that accomplishes so much for so many?

also serves as freelance interpreter. When not busy working, she enjoys decorating her house, shopping for antiques, and spending time with family and friends. She also enjoys fishing and reading a good book in the summer.

In addition to Aimee and Theresa, Lauren Bonse and David Quinto-Pozos have assisted as interpreters through the years.

If anyone else has the skills and desire to interpret the liturgy or other events for the deaf and hard

of hearing, please contact Minette Sternke, Deaf Ministry Coordinator (mksternke@gmail.com). If members of your family are deaf or hard of hearing and are planning an important celebration such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals, let Minette know if you'd like to have an interpreter.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **April 14.**

Fr. Joel Phelps survives CREW/Vivo ski trip

As part of the ever-interesting assignment of being the youngest parochial vicar, I had the pleasure (and possibly leg-bone-threatening) mission of joining some of our youth from St. Patrick's on the CREW/Vivo ski trip in February. After the hard-to-top start of 7:30 a.m. Mass and a four-and-a-half hour car ride, the trip began to pick up speed [sorry, obligatory pun].

Arriving on the slopes about an hour before our scheduled lesson, we all took at least one initial try at the bunny hill. Thus began our discovery of our natural skiing abilities (or lack thereof), and my discovery of how to fall down a mountain as gracefully as possible.

After a relatively injury-free first day (barring a few tough falls on

the slopes and one in the treacherous parking lot), we began the next day with a Mass to give thanks for the first day and pray for a blessed

second. Having already developed our snow-legs, the youth continued to manifest great skill and to yell encouragingly at me from the ski lifts, as I learned how to fall down bigger hills even less gracefully! All joking aside, the trip was great fun and it was wonderful to be with our young people on the hills as they grew in comfort and camaraderie.

The resort was nicely organized around a central hub so that it was

easy to check in with those tackling different hills, organize races/combined runs, and provide each other with encouragement and laughter.



What's more, "lodge-captain" Andy Loftus kept a nice refuge for us to return to when we were in need of a snack or rest.

Finishing just as a light rain was starting up, we turned in our gear and headed home for St Patrick's. Tired and a little sore, we also shared a sense of accomplishment at having tackled Chestnut Mountain and returning to tell the tale.

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, Fr. Joel Phelps, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika, Sue Schreiber, Kelly Skinner, Stephanie Smith, John Towns, Jim Urban, Mary Welle, and Joseph Youakim.

Articles and information for this issue were provided by Joe Costa, Judy Fierke, Dianne Gordon, Elizabeth Hendricks, Peggy Loftus, Mary Long, Mary Lou Menches, Alex Millar, Susan Nagele, Ellen Noonan, Jon McCoy, Nancy Olson, Fr. Joel Phelps, Susan Reese, Nancy Roth, Cathy Salika, Stephanie and Adam Smith, Karilyn Sonka, Minette Sternke, and Barbara Wysocki. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Kelly Miller Skinner with page layout by John Colombo.

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

Easy Apple Crisp

- 4 cups apples (I like Jonathans), sliced fairly thin
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice (bottled or fresh)
- 1/3 cup to 1/2 cup flour
- 1 cup rolled or quick oats
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 1-1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Place apples in 9 x 9 or 9 x 11 pan and sprinkle with lemon juice. Combine dry ingredients, add butter, and mix until crumbly; sprinkle over apples. Bake at 375° for 30 minutes.

* * *

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!

