

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

June 2013

A father's gift

By Chris Freidhof



Never underestimate the consequences of giving a child a blessing.

I have been blessed with a terrific father. Like all good fathers, my dad protected and provided for me and my mother and brother and sister. He was the wage earner in the family, toiling in a job that he often did not like to "bring home the bacon." Like his father before him, my dad worked as a printer but, like his father before him, my dad knew that his true vocation was being a husband and a father.

When I was a kid I sometimes acted up and mom would give me a "wait 'til your father gets home" as a dire warning, but in actuality I most often just couldn't wait until my father got home. Even after a hard day's work my dad always seemed to go out of his way to find time for my siblings and me. It just came naturally to him to be our Sunday school teacher, Scout leader, baseball coach, and homework checker. In our teen years he

taught us how to drive and how to respect others. He would often awaken me early on Saturday mornings, and I would roll out of bed and follow him to work on yet another home repair project for one of several widows in our neighborhood. Through his example he blessed me by passing on the better parts of himself, which of course became the better parts of me.

Sometime around my 19th birthday I thought I had become smarter and my father dumber. I left home and started a life on my own - I was going to do things my own way. I would occasionally call or visit my parents, but I ended up sharing more with my mother than with my father. Yet my dad would never wave goodbye or let mom hang up the phone without telling me that he loved me. Sometime around my 29th birthday, married and with our first child on the way, I was amazed to realize how very much smarter my father had become in those few short years. He told me how very proud he was of the man I had become.

This last May 14 was the fifth anniversary of my dad's death due to ALS. He

Invite God along

For many of us, the tempo of life slows down a bit during the summer, or at least, the rhythm changes. There are fewer meetings and activities around St. Patrick's. School is out. Other organizations take the summer off. If you find yourself with a little extra time, why not spend some of it with the person who loves you best? You could take some time for personal prayer or spiritual reading. Sometimes these can be pleasant and relaxing, although at times the going is tough. But whenever you share some of your time with God, you can be sure that God is sharing himself with you. What a bargain!



Of course, there are lots of extra things to do in the summer: gardening, vacations, time out of doors, time with family. When you are busy with these things, why not invite God along? When you experience the beauty of nature or the joy of family and friends, remember to give thanks. When nature rains on

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Carolyn McElrath: Looking back and looking ahead

Pastoral Associate Carolyn McElrath is retiring this month after 30 years of serving St. Patrick's parish. If you have participated in RCIA, had children receiving First Communion and/or Confirmation, taken part in a Bible study, or been involved in the Peace and Justice Ministry, then you know, and will miss, Carolyn.

"I've basically been a teacher," she says of her work at St. Patrick's. She was originally hired as the Adult Education coordinator, teaching adult Bible studies and church history. After receiving her M.A. in Religious Education at Mundelein College, her duties expanded to include working with RCIA, confirmation classes, baptism preparation, and other sacramental education.

One of the highlights for her has been working with RCIA candidates. "I've seen more than 200 people come into the Church over these years," she says. Working with the teen confirmation classes was something else she enjoyed, especially the retreats. She adds that she likes seeing the young people grow up and then come back to the parish or keep in touch.

Carolyn's doctoral studies at Loyola were in the field of social justice, so when Father Joe became pastor, she was given the task of developing the peace and justice ministry. She found it rewarding to put her studies to use in this way. "The Church's tradition of social justice is an area of Church teaching little known to most Catholics," she says. Though this tradition is neglected, she finds it to be a rich one that is sorely needed in today's world, where we struggle to deal with war, environmental damage, greed, and poverty.

Carolyn has particularly enjoyed leading the JustFaith programs, including JustFaith, Engaging Spirituality, and JustMatters, because they use a different mode of learning from the traditional teaching she had done before. The JustFaith groups are interactive; participants learn from one another,



sharing knowledge as well as experience and discussing the challenges of living out their faith and the values of social justice. By being involved in these groups, Carolyn says she has made new friendships and come to know more people in the past five or so years than in all her previous years in the parish.

After all this, how will Carolyn fill her newly free time? One aim is to work on improving her health. She is already doing water aerobics, and she and her husband of 43 years, Dale, have begun bicycling. She looks forward to having time to "mess around" with her clarinet and piano for her own amusement, as well as the leisure to linger over the morning newspaper, read at the library, listen to opera, or simply sit in her backyard watching birds at the feeder. She and Dale also plan more frequent trips to Michigan and Colorado to visit family members.

As well as going on a retreat, Carolyn plans to spend time in discernment of what she might do next. Her lifelong love of animals might lead her into volunteering at an animal shelter. She might find something that uses her Spanish language skills. She sees many possibilities open to her.

A celebration of Carolyn's years of service will be held in the parish center on Sunday, June 30, after the 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. Masses. Please come to wish her well and to let her know how much we appreciate all she has done for the parish!

CREW Service Auction silent but fruitful

Table upon table provided enticing items for bidders: gift baskets, fruit baskets, pies, cupcakes, candy (would whoever donated the chocolate truffles *please* get in touch—they were to die for!), cheesecake, and of course services. Teens and adult relatives offered babysitting, yard work, power washing, pet sitting, Italian home-cooked meals, car detailing, tutoring...and *ever so much more!*

The Service Auction was a silent one this year, but bidding was active—and competitive. Some bidders returned again and again to up their bids for items they had their hearts set on. Some simply paid a higher "take it now" price for chosen items. Altogether, \$2615 was raised by the Service Auction. If you were a successful bidder on service, don't forget to collect on your bid—the teens are waiting for your call!

CREW heads for Memphis, Tenn., on July 14, stopping for lunch at Lambert's Café in Sikeston, Mo. (Home of the Throed Rolls) for a down-home lunch. The group of teens and chaperones will work with the Memphis Medical Center, a nonprofit arm of the local hospitals, Monday through Thursday. Friday is Fun Day, at Golf and Games Family Park in Memphis. After exploring downtown Memphis in the early evening, they will board the bus for their return to Urbana.



As always, parishioners will be able to find real-time updates on the mission trip on the CREW website: www.crew.stpaturbana.org.

WSP brings inspiring speaker to St. Patrick

Jolene McGrogan, the chair of the Women of St. Patrick, arranged for Father Joe's sister, Mary Hogan, to speak to the women of our parish on Saturday, May 4. Nearly 60 women of all ages came together to listen.



mandala, a Sanskrit word for "circle." (A mandala is used to achieve self-organization and identity and is conducive to mystic exaltation.)

Mary Hogan gave each participant a program with inspiring pictures on the front and back and a large colored mandala in the centerfold. Mary often referred to scriptures to introduce a larger concept. She began by reading Luke 10:38-42 about Martha working hard in the kitchen to make the company comfortable, while her sister Mary was sitting at the feet of Jesus. Then she asked the group which of the two women they identified with.

In the outer circle of the program's centerfold mandala, everyone was told to write words describing who they were. It soon became apparent that women are multi-taskers. On the second circle of this mandala, everyone was instructed to list their gifts, passions, and the barriers within themselves to using these gifts and passions. Mary, who works with men and women living in shelters in Chicago, told us that many women who live on the streets have a deep self-loathing. As the center of the mandala was approached, Mary selected readings from the Gospels of St. Mark and St. John extoling love, the love of God, of self, and of neighbor.

The object of this day was for each to uncover their special gifts and then to combine all the gifts for

a unified purpose. Mary asked the women to break into groups of four or five, each sharing her special gift with the others, and figure out how these gifts could benefit the community. One of the ideas suggested was to write a history of all the women of St. Patrick to be published at the dedication of the new addition to St. Patrick. Another suggestion offered was to submit stories and poems for publication in *In Focus*, our parish newsletter.

By the end of the morning feelings of love and happiness prevailed, together with the women's desire to use their gifts to create something. Father Joe's mother was so impressed that she said the participants were an amazing group of women.

The final activity of the morning was for everyone to select a rock from the perimeter of the mandala. After holding this stone and praying with it, many marveled at how evocative and perfect their stone was. These stones will be saved by the participants and later placed in a rock garden when construction of the church expansion is completed.

This inspiring morning began with 8 a.m. Mass, followed by a simple breakfast of muffins, bagels and cream cheeses, fresh fruit, and juice and coffee in the parish hall. The women sat at long tables covered with white, lacy tablecloths and festooned with potted flowers.

Father Joe introduced the attendees to his parents and his other sister, Robin, before going off with his father. Mary then called everyone to the chairs arranged in two large circles open to the stage. This proved to be the perfect configuration for sharing with each other. In the center of the inside circle of chairs was a large, deep blue, round cloth with 60 softball-sized rocks lining the perimeter. There were smaller circles of colored cloth and finally a large candlestick in the middle of all with a lit, white pillar candle. At its base was another rock with LOVE printed on it. These cloth circles were a symbol of the

The Notary-Auditors of
Holy Cross Church (Champaign), St. Patrick's Church (Urbana),
and St. Malachy's Church (Rantoul)
under the auspices of the Tribunal Office of the
Diocese of Peoria

Invite you to an informational meeting regarding the

CATHOLIC ANNULMENT PROCESS

Saturday, June 15, at 9 a.m.
St. Patrick's Parish Center
708 W. Main St., Urbana

No Obligation • No Reservations • No Cost



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

As of May 19, we have:
Pledged: \$3,921,117
Cash in hand: \$2,166,880

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

End-of-year picnic drew a happy crowd

Jon McCoy and his assistants trusted in God to hold off the rain on Sunday, May 5, and their faith was rewarded. Although the sun didn't shine, and there may have been an occasional drop of rain, the children had a wonderful time outside on the huge inflatables. The younger children jumped in the Bounce House. The older kids stood in line again and again to enjoy the Obstacle Course, where they dodged obstacles, climbed up a wall, and whooshed down the other side.

Everyone's appetite was whetted by the aroma of grilled burgers and hot dogs. Hungry families succumbed and crowded into the parish hall to eat. The hall was set up with tables of hamburgers, hot dogs, sides, chips, desserts, and drinks.

Inside the parish hall there were yet more activities: a station where children could get their faces painted—turning them into beasts

or butterflies—a balloon artist who could create almost any animal, and a raffle table of summer fun that included trips to St. Louis and baskets of summer goodies. In one of the classrooms was a Washer Game, where almost anyone could win a piece of candy.

It was certainly a happy place to be on a dreary Sunday afternoon!



Springtime is quilting time

St. Patrick's quilting crew is hard at work on a quilt to be raffled off at this year's Cellar-to-Garret Sale. The hand-stitched quilt top, with the Friendship Star pattern, is 91 x 62 inches, designed for a double bed. It was donated by Irma Wait's long-time friend, Betty Martin of Tuscola.

The hand-quilting to complete the quilt is being done by an ad hoc group of St.

Patrick's parishioners: Susan Reese, Elaine and Tom Grimes, Judy Hummel, Norma Kite, Janet Althauer, Sarah Gertner, and Shirley Splittstoesser.

If you would like to help with this project, please phone Shirley (367-3330) or just come when you can. The group meets every Monday and Friday

morning from 10 a.m. to noon and on Tuesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Liturgical Arts room in the parish center basement. Experienced quilters and those who would like to learn how to quilt are welcome.

Irma and Betty have also donated two other quilt tops, which should keep quilters busy completing them for future raffles.



Tom and Elaine Grimes have fun helping to complete the quilt begun by Betty Martin. The finished quilt will be raffled off at this summer's Cellar-to-Garret Sale.

Gift from page 1

did not like being saddled with the disease, but even as his body gave out on him he was able to share with me wisdom, warmth, dignity, and an unceasing faith in God. I was able to tell him how much I loved him and how proud I was to be his son. Then ALS took him. I was there when he passed, and I am sure he is here with me now.

It is my turn to try my best to be a good father.

The joys of watching my two children grow are immeasurable. Holding them as newborns, assisting their mother patch up skinned knees and broken hearts, teaching them skills that were not necessarily learned in school, and long and meaningful hugs are many of the highlights of my life.

Since my dad was a printer, it might have been nice if he'd left me a "How To" manual on child raising. There have been days when it would have been much easier to thumb through a book and look under "What To Do When..." for chapters such as "Missing Homework," "Lost Cell Phone," "It's 2 a.m. and We Haven't Heard Anything Yet," or "We Need You To Come to the Emergency Room Immediately." Like any parent, I try my best to grit my teeth and trust that with lots of tenderness and lots of patience we can get past these bumps in the road and move on to better, healthier, and more loving relationships.

I have been blessed to see the good parts of my dad develop in my children as well. Their ability to go out of their way to help people less fortunate, their eagerness to try new experiences, their kindness, their leadership abilities, their devotion to family and friends, and their basic yearning for life are shining reflections of their grandfather.

When a gift, a kindness, or a blessing is given, it must be passed on. I encourage all our blessed fathers to take the time this Father's Day to pass on their dad's blessings to their children. The outcome will amaze and bless you in return.

Holy Cross Elementary is our school, too



If you're relatively new to St. Patrick's, or if you don't have school-aged children, you may not be aware of the relationship between our parish and Holy Cross Elementary School. But one does exist, and all parishioners—parents of school-aged kids or not—should be aware of it.

Craig Gunderson, a professor in the U of I Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, is a member of the parish's Financial Affairs Committee, and a parent of current and former Holy Cross students. He describes the relationship this way:

"Children who are in families of parishioners at St. Patrick's are charged 'in-parish' tuition if they attend Holy Cross. St. Patrick's is charged a certain amount for each child from our parish who attends Holy Cross."



The upshot is that if you have school-aged children, they can get a "tuition break" to attend Holy Cross. This also means that, whether you have little ones or not, you help support Holy Cross financially through your weekly offering.

The Holy Cross Elementary website lists the actual cost of educating a child during this past school year as \$5,400. By contrast, Holy Cross and St. Patrick's parishioners were charged \$4,000 for one child, \$7,200 for two children, \$10,200 for three children, and \$13,200 for four children to attend.

Families who feel that the cost is still too great should be aware that additional financial assistance may be available to families wishing to send their children to Holy Cross Elementary School (contact our parish office, 367-2665, for more detailed information).

Craig and wife Lisa have three children; sons Van, an incoming freshman, and Diego, a senior, will attend University Laboratory High School, and daughter Faith, a sophomore, attends the High School of St. Thomas More.

Does the investment in Catholic education at Holy Cross pay off? Craig said, "Holy Cross was a wonderful experience for our children. The education there ensured that they were very well prepared for high school, and the students there are a

well-rounded, nice group. Most important, the faith-based education there serves as a wonderful basis for our children as they grow in the faith."

He added, "Catholic education is one of the best deals around. We cannot think of a better way to direct our money to ensure that our children grow up well in the faith and in building their academic futures."



Seniors visit Timbuktu!

Sarah Gertner and Chuck Milewski were welcomed as new members of St. Patrick's Seniors Group. After some discussion, the Seniors decided to continue their potlucks in the parish center instead of dining at a restaurant. Future potlucks will have suggested food dish themes and an activity appropriate for the season.

Walt Splittstoesser showed slides of Timbuktu, Mali, Africa. In the 12th century there were two universities in Timbuktu. Many of the hand-written books used for teaching were kept by the families of the descendants of the university faculty. In 2009 a climate controlled library was built to house these books. They were being translated from local languages into English; some of them were put on the Internet for translation.

A year ago, Islamic terrorists from the Sahara Desert occupied Timbuktu and used the library as their sleeping quarters. The library caretaker secreted books in a straw-covered wheelbarrow and returned them to the families who had donated them, thereby saving many of the books.

The Mali government pleaded with France to drive the terrorists out of Timbuktu, which France did. As the terrorists retreated, however, they burned the library and any books that remained in it.

In gratitude for France's intervention, the president of France was given a camel, which was kept at Timbuktu. Starving local residents; however, made and devoured a hearty stew made from the camel. Subsequently, the Mali government gifted France with a "much nicer looking camel" as a replacement.

The Seniors enjoyed the slide show and the potluck meal (camel stew was not on the menu!).



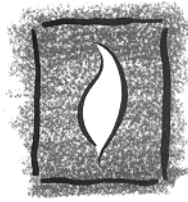
Sarah Gertner



Chuck Milewski

From our Parish Nurses:

St. Patrick's to host training program



The Parish Nurses are looking forward to the next Community Parish Nurse Training Program, which will be hosted by St. Patrick's! The Carle Foundation initiated the program in this area in 1997 to draw a closer link between churches and healthcare communities. Since 1997, 465 nurses have completed the course; they came from 228 congregations in 31 counties.

The classes will be on Sep 20 and 21, and Nov 1, 2, and 3. A dedication service will be held on Sunday, Nov 3. Nurses interested in taking the course may contact the program director, Faith Roberts, RN, MSN at (217) 326-2683.

Parish nurses are registered nurses who have completed the Parish Nurse training course, which prepares nurses for roles as educator, counselor, and advocate in their faith family. Parish nursing services

are designed to involve individuals, families, and congregations as active partners in their personal health.

Currently there are nine registered nurses from St. Patrick's who have completed the parish nurse training: Lilia Peters, Carolyn Stahl, Marie Horn, Phyllis Rogers, Roxane Lowry, Rica Saligan, Teresa Krassa, and Nancy Roth. These volunteer parish nurses have been involved in a variety of activities at St. Patrick's; they conduct monthly blood pressure screenings and put on health fairs, and assist with finding resources and making referrals to agencies, organizations, and support services to meet the health needs of the parishioner.

Parish nurses do not provide any direct medical care, but are a wonderful resource for preventative and restorative care. They can help reinforce the strong tie between faith and health.

If you would like to speak with one of our parish nurses, please call 367-2665, ext. 130, to reach the parish nurse voice mail. The messages are checked regularly, and a parish nurse will contact you.

Did you know . . . ?

- In preparation for celebration of St. Patrick's centennial in 2001 an ancestral history of parish families was published. The church underwent its third renovation (red and beige and brown gave way to multiple shades of green with gold trim). And a pictorial directory of parish families, with focus on the historical as well as the present day, was prepared.
- Father Joe has been tapped to head the Champaign Vicariate. What is a vicar, and what does a vicar do? We hope to find out for the next issue of In Focus.
- Minette Sternke was notified that she has been nominated for induction into Theta Alpha Kappa, the national honor society for students of theology and religion. It requires a 3.5 GPA in her major; as a member, she will receive a medal that she can wear over her gown when she graduates and a certificate that she can frame. Minette enrolled in a Master of Arts program with an emphasis in Deaf Ministry; course assignments are completed online, with three weeks each year spent on campus. Since 2010 she has completed 21 of 36 required course hours, with a projected graduation in May 2015. For her major project, Minette hopes to work on a census of the deaf in the Diocese of Peoria: where they live, what their experiences of Church have been, what their needs are. An ambitious undertaking, but one that Minette seems disciplined enough to manage well!

Catholic Connected, 2013: Encountering Christ through the sacraments

What are your plans for Saturday evening, June 1? What you *could* be planning is an evening at The High School of St. Thomas More.

Why? Well, you'd enjoy the concert and sing-along with a choir made up of choristers from all the parishes in our area (the Champaign Vicariate); the keynote address given by Elizabeth Ficocelli on coming to appreciate even more how you have encountered—and hopefully will continue to encounter—Christ



Elizabeth Ficocelli

through the sacraments; and mingling with parishioners from our several parishes during the reception that concludes the evening.

But you already know the sacraments, you say. Over your life span, however short or long, you've surely encountered Christ in so many ways.

Think of it: your baptism, given new life in Christ; your confirmation, receiving the Holy Spirit, sent to be our Companion and Guide; fed by the Body and Blood of Christ in the

Eucharist; forgiven and reconciled over and over again, redeemed by Christ's life-giving sacrifice; Christ, the third party in your marriage; Christ, the Healer in the Sacrament of the Sick. Christ with us and in us as we journey through our days and years. There is much more to understand and appreciate that will enrich that journey.

Come to hear Elizabeth Ficocelli, who will open up these mysteries for us. She is a best-selling, award-winning author and a frequent guest on Catholic television and radio. You can learn more about her at .

The evening begins at 7 p.m. and admission is free, but you need a (free) ticket/nametag, which you can pick up at the parish office through May 28. So you still have time—do come!

Leisure

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like stars at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her fee, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

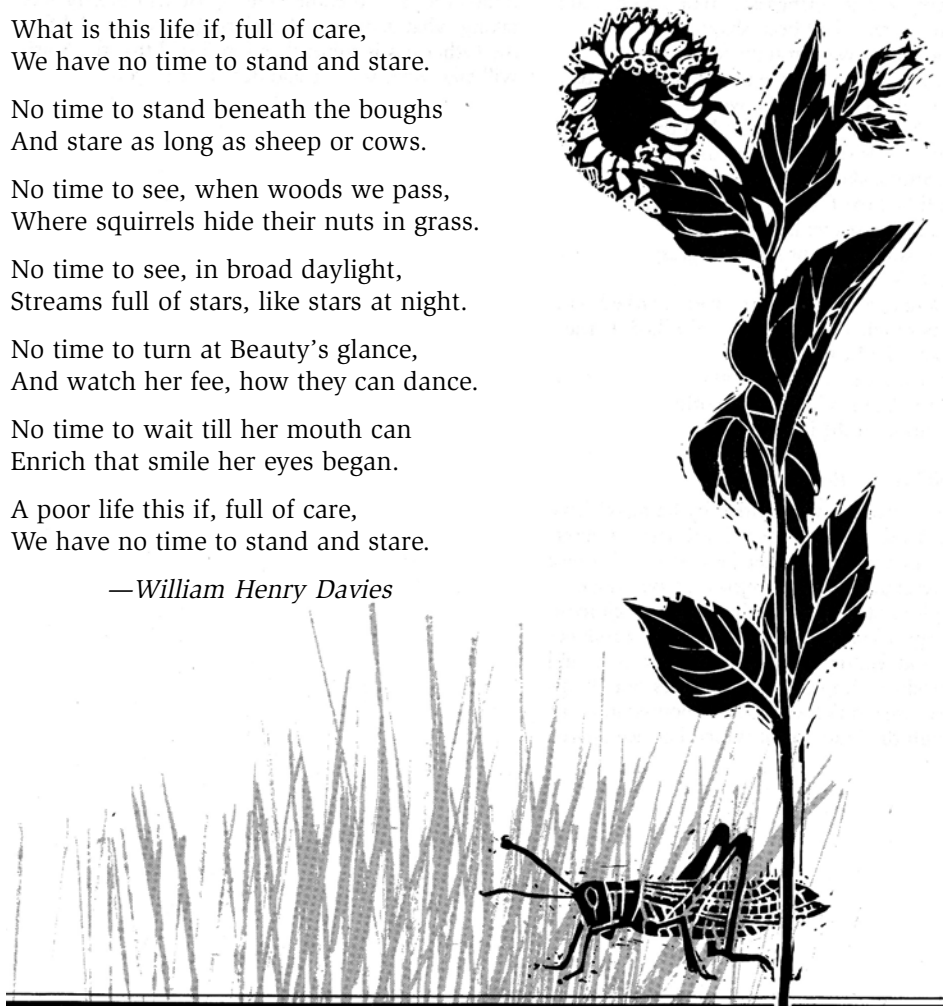
—William Henry Davies

Invite from page 1

your plans or family and friends fray your nerves, remember to give thanks—or ask for help. Either one gives glory to God!

If you are traveling, take the opportunity to experience more of the Church than we meet at St. Patrick's. Worship on Sunday with another Catholic community or visit places that have special meaning in our faith. Whatever you are doing, invite God along. He'll be there!

To help you find a church or special events when you're traveling, go to masstimes.org or call 1/858/207-6277.



Parish graduates look to the future

At a special Mass and dinner with families on Saturday, May 11, St. Patrick's graduates were honored for completing their studies either in grade or high school.

Graduating 12th-graders:

Louis Acklin: Graduating from St. Joseph/Ogden High School; will attend Illinois Wesleyan and will play baseball for his college. He is currently an undeclared major.

Amy Elizabeth Crull: Graduating from Centennial High School; will attend Parkland Community College in the fall.



William S. Justice; Graduating from the High School of St. Thomas More; will attend the University of Illinois, studying graphic design.

Alejandro (Alex) Mestre: Graduating from University Lab High School; will be attending Indiana University in the Kelley School of Business, majoring in accounting with a minor in business administration.

Mark Plunk: Graduating from Blue Ridge High School; will attend Purdue University, majoring in crop sciences.

Matthew Ramaly: Graduating from the High School of St. Thomas More; will attend Creighton University, studying chemistry.

Daniel Schuele: Graduating from St. Joseph/Ogden High School; will attend Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, majoring in business and marketing.

Zack Smith: Graduating from the

High School of St. Thomas More; will attend Parkland Community College for one year and then move to the Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California in the fall of 2014, majoring in Urban Planning and Public Policy.

Freddie Stavins: Graduating from University Lab High School; will attend the University of Notre Dame and major in biology.

Du Su: Graduating from the High School of St. Thomas More; will attend the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor this fall to study finance and business. He will be traveling to China this summer to visit with his grandparents and relatives.

Graduating 8th-graders:

Bryant Boyer-Killion: Graduating from Edison Middle School; will attend Central High School. Bryant is looking forward to all the different kinds of classes he will be able to choose from.

Hans Herzog: Graduating from Holy Cross Grade School; will attend the High School of St. Thomas More. Hans is looking forward to new classes and new experiences.

Jenna Lynn Keefer: Graduating from Urbana Middle School; will attend Urbana High School. Jenna is looking forward to new classes and new challenges.

Synthyche Nzeza: Graduating from Edison Middle School; will attend Centennial High School. Synthyche is looking forward to her English classes.

Selena Olson is a homeschool graduate; she will continue her studies at home and is looking forward to earning her driver's license.



Xochitl Quiroz: Graduating from Jefferson Middle School; will attend Centennial High School and is looking forward to all the new classes.

Kayleigh Ritten: Graduating from Franklin Middle School; will attend Central High School and is looking forward to classes and marching band.

Maritza Rodriguez: Graduating from Urbana Middle School; will attend Urbana High School and is looking forward to continuing her education.

Keely Smith: Graduating from St.



Joseph Middle School; will attend St. Joseph High School and is looking forward to eating off-campus and cross-country running.

Hannah Sweeney: Graduating

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Graduates from page 8

from Urbana Middle School; will attend Urbana High School. Hannah is looking forward to joining the swim team.

Fr. Charles Martell Scholarship Winners:

Four St. Patrick's students have earned their Fr. Charles Martell scholarships by giving service hours to events sponsored by the Urbana Council of the Knights of Columbus at St. Patrick's. In appreciation, the Knights have granted scholarships to **Amy Crull, Will Justice, Dan Schuele,** and **Freddie Stavins.**



Congratulations to all our graduates, with our prayers and God's blessings on your endeavors in the coming years!

New Parish Council members? Yes!

Following a new procedure this year, the names of three parishioners were recently drawn from a collection of nominees, those who had agreed to serve on the Parish Council if selected. The three new members were seated on the Council at the May 23 meeting, filling the vacancies created by the departure of members whose terms had expired.

The three new members—**Ken Horn, Solange Masweka,** and **Kelly Skinner**—begin at a time of transition, with the expansion of parish facilities that will link the expanded church with a modified parish center, and a change in staffing following the departure of pastoral associate Carolyn McElrath. They will be grateful for the prayerful support of all of us! We hope to introduce them to you in the next

issue of *In Focus*.

The outgoing Council members who have completed their terms are **Amy Fahey, Mark Cousert,** and **Judy Altaner.** They too will welcome our prayers of grateful appreciation for the years they spent in service to the parish. They will surely watch with special interest the pursuit of goals they furthered while members of the Council.

Thanks to all the parishioners who agreed to have their names submitted for service on the Council. Welcome to those whose names were selected to serve as new Council members. And thank you, *thank you,* to those who gave so faithfully and so generously of their time and individual talents on behalf of all of us during their terms on the Council!



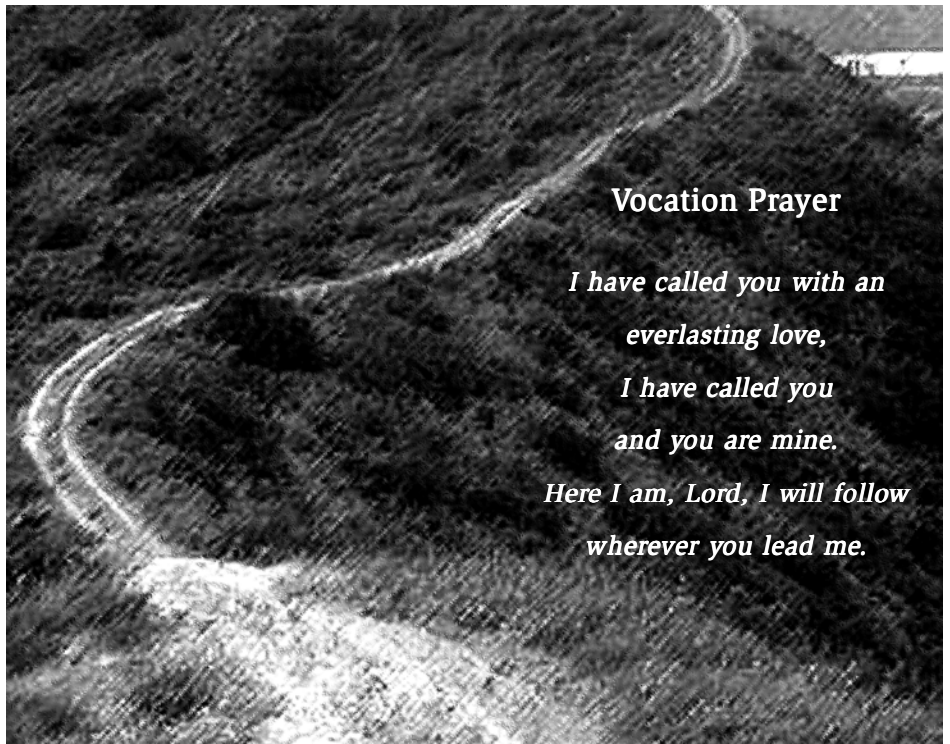
Ken Horn



Kelly Skinner



Solange Masweka



Vocation Prayer

*I have called you with an everlasting love,
I have called you and you are mine.*

Here I am, Lord, I will follow wherever you lead me.

Q&A

Q: Do priests have an obligation to celebrate Mass every day?

A: Yes, or else he loses his paycheck (just kidding)! Actually, the surprising answer is that a priest does NOT have the obligation to celebrate Mass every day. The daily celebration of Mass is certainly very appropriate, as Vatican II calls it the “root and center of the whole life of a priest” (*Decree on the Life and Ministry of Priests #14*). However, for daily prayer the Code of Canon Law requires only that the priest pray the Liturgy of the Hours (although it “earnestly invites priests to offer the Eucharistic

sacrifice daily,” can. 276).

The reason for this is that the Code is written for the universal Church, and therefore respects the practical difficulties that may come from circumstances, poverty, sickness, or even persecution. So, generally a priest will celebrate Mass every day, either a scheduled Mass with other people or “alone” with the angels and saints. In this way, he lifts up the needs of all people and is strengthened by the pastoral charity of Christ to serve ever more whole-heartedly.

—Fr. Joel Phelps

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

Volunteer opportunities

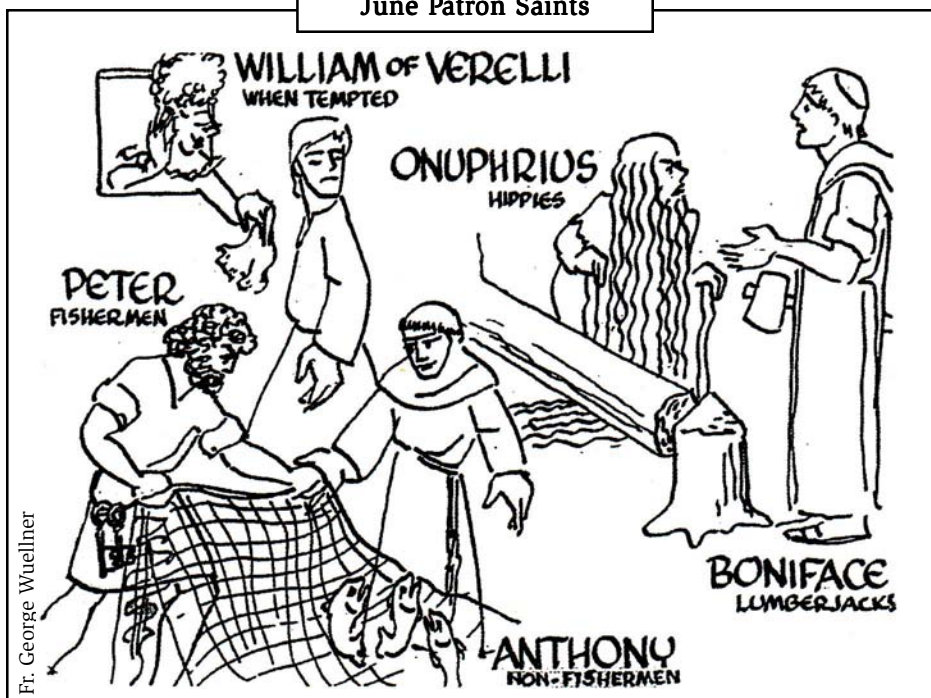
- Who sets out hosts and wine for Sunday Mass—the priest? No! Parishioners just like you do this! Currently there is real and present need for a parishioner (or a parishioner couple) **to set up for the 7:30 Mass** once a month. If you’ve ever wanted a very special way to serve your parish priests and people, this is it! *Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or*

- Shutterbugs** needed for the parish newsletter, *In Focus*. Photos, whether prints or in digital format, of parish events are always in great demand. Please send yours along, with a note identifying the event and/or the specific person or persons shown. If you’re willing to be an “official” photographer of parish events 2 or 3 times a year for *In Focus*, even better! *Cathy Salika, 367-7861, csalika@illinois.edu*

- The **SVDP food pantry** needs someone to help on Mondays with food distribution, arriving between 3:45 and 4 p.m., and helping until the pantry closes between 5 and 5:20 p.m. *Ellen Abell, 367-2665*



June Patron Saints



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.



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **June 16**.



in our parish library

June marks Father's Day, a time to demonstrate our love and appreciation for our fathers and to renew our faith in our Father in heaven. It is also a time to recognize our spiritual Fathers—the pope, bishops, and priests. The following books are just teasers of a sort on this subject, but they will help you make a good start.

The Angels and Their Mission According to the Fathers of the Church, by Jean Danielou. Danielou submerges us in Christian reflections on God's heavenly hosts, beginning in the pages of Scripture itself and stretching through the fifth century, a reflection which focuses not on their natures but rather on their saving mission to humans, a topic far more robust and theologically satisfying. (235.6 Dan)

Desert Wisdom: Sayings from the Desert Fathers, by Yushi Nomura. Each Christian who seeks God through prayer is continuing a tradition that began with the Desert Fathers and Mothers of the fourth and fifth century—simple peasants whose spiritual progress was marked by inner peace, self-control, poverty, patience, humility, and hospitality. *Desert Wisdom* contains some hundred sayings of the Desert

Fathers, each accompanied by playful illustrations by Japanese artist Yushi Nomura. Bridging East and West, the simple truths of *Desert Wisdom* remain as fresh and vital to Christians today as they were to the disciples who first heard and recorded them. (248 Nom)

The Spirituality of the New Testament and the Fathers, by Louis Boyer. This work (in 3 volumes) covers the history of Christian spirituality in a very thorough and well-organized fashion. It is great for those who want to devote serious study to the subject. (248.2 Boy)

The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming, by Henri Nouwen. Henri J.M. Nouwen presents his reflections on Rembrandt's painting "The Return of the Prodigal Son." Three stages correlate to the three main characters in the painting of this biblical story. The book is a relatively simple read while maintaining the depth and salience of Nouwen's intimate insight and personal journey of spiritual homecoming. (248. Nou)

12 Council Fathers, by Walter Abbott. This book presents a

compilation of interviews, conducted by the author, of twelve of the most significant leading figures of the Vatican Council. (262.5 Abb)

To browse through these materials or to locate *many* others on the subject of fathers, visit the library on Sunday mornings or, on weekdays, during office hours when you can ask at the front desk for a key to the library. As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our parish librarian, Megan Raab (mer1987@sbcglobal.net).



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 Teresa Brown, Judy Fierke, Chris Freidhof, O'Dianne Gordon, Elizabeth Hendricks, Peggy Loftus, Mary Long, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Ellen Noonan, Fr. Joel Phelps, Megan Raab, Fr. George Remm, Nancy Roth, Cathy Salika, Shirley Splittstoesser, Minette Sternke, Peggy Whelan, and Barbara Wysocki. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by John Towns, page layout by Jim Urban.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Teresa Brown

Grilled Veggie Combo

Take advantage of fresh veggies available at your market—asparagus, green peppers, onions, green onions—to prepare a tasty combo for grilling. Make up a basting liquid of olive oil, 2 pinches of Italian Seasoning, Sea Salt, and black pepper, and brush it on veggies (you may want to quarter the peppers and onions). Cook on the grill for 10-15 minutes. The same basting liquid would be excellent for grilling kabobs; skewer peppers, onions, cherry tomatoes, etc., and baste as you turn the skewers for even cooking.

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!



The Catholic Mass before Vatican II

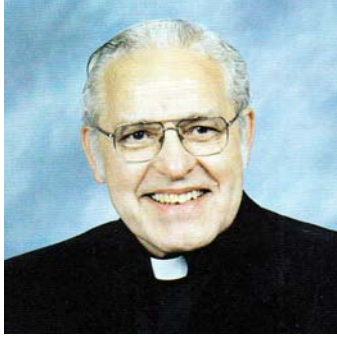
By Fr. George Remm

I am sometimes asked if I would want to celebrate Mass as I did for the first nine years of my priesthood (1960-1969). My answer is: No! Please do not get me wrong. I am grateful for the faith and worship that formed me as a child and young man. I probably would not be a priest if it were not for the wonderful example of faith that I experienced in the life of my mother, the priests and sisters who served in the parish, and the neighbors who went to Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's in Peoria.

I began to serve Mass at an early age and learned the Latin responses and the proper gestures and behavior of an altar boy. I began my first week by serving the 6:30 am daily Mass. Everything went well the first two days because I had an older experienced boy as a helper. But he did not show up on the third day and I had to wing it on my own. I had never rung the bells yet for consecration and communion. After Mass a parishioner came back to the sacristy and said to the priest: "We sure had a lot of bells today." I think I rang the bell every time the priest genuflected, and in those days he genuflected often.

The Mass I grew up with was the Tridentine Mass, which became the standard Mass of the whole Roman (Western) Catholic Church following the Council of Trent in the sixteenth century. That Mass was celebrated in Latin by the priest, at the altar that was against the back wall of the sanctuary, with the tabernacle in the center of the altar. All the prayers of the Mass were said by the priest, often in a low or inaudible voice. Since his back was toward the congregation, most participants could neither see his actions nor hear his voice.

During my last year in the seminary, my deacon year, my classmates and I spent a considerable



time learning how to "say Mass." We had to learn the rubrics of the Mass very carefully. The rubrics were the instructions printed in red in the Missal. Every detail had to be observed exactly as designated in the Missal, under the pain of sin, if deliber-

ately passed over. We learned exactly how far to extend our hands at shoulder height when we offered the orations. Our thumb and first finger had to be held together once we consecrated the host. Our eyes had to be turned down when we faced the people to say "Dominus vobiscum" ("The Lord be with you"). We entered the sanctuary, the space beyond the communion railing that only the priest and male server could enter, from the sacristy (vesting room), which was to the side or in back of the sanctuary. When Mass was over, we went directly to the sacristy so as not to encounter anyone who might disturb our time of thanksgiving.

I took three years of Latin in high school and another year in pre-seminary, but Latin never became a second language for me. I could read and pronounce the words, but understanding came only through the process of translation. My mind did not grasp immediately the meaning of the words I was saying. Perhaps that is why the expression "read" or "say" Mass rather than "pray" the Mass was common.

In the 1950s and 1960s many people in the pews began to follow the Mass with the aid of the St. Andrew's Missal, which contained an English translation beside the Latin text. But the priest still had to read the Epistle and Gospel in Latin before he read them in English, followed by the sermon, which did not have to be based on the readings. Sometimes a layperson in the pews would lead the congregation in the responses usually made by the server, a so-called *Missa recitata*. For the most part, however, people

attended Mass with the aid of a rosary or a devotional prayer book. I believe this probably nurtured their faith and private prayer life very deeply, but this was not communal worship—except for the fact that they were in the same building while the priest was saying Mass!

I know that many people, including me, were nourished in faith by the solemnity and "mysteriousness" of the Tridentine Mass. It is a part of our heritage, and it is to be respected for that. But I do not want to return to that form as the ordinary way for our Sunday or daily worship. I believe marvelous things have happened that have led us to the new Rite of Mass.

This is the beginning of a series of reflections by Fr. Remm, former pastor of St. Patrick's, on the Second Vatican Council, which began its work 50 years ago.

Dear Lord! Kind Lord!
Gracious Lord! I pray
Thou wilt look on all I love
Tenderly today!

Weed their hearts of weariness,
Scatter every care
Down a wake of angel wings
Winnowing the air.

And with all the needy
O divide, I pray,
This vast treasure of content
That is mine today.

—James Whitcomb Riley