

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

November 2013

All Saints, All Sorts

One thing you can say about our saints: they are a varied lot! Farmers and scholars, parents and popes, young people and old, nobles and paupers, patient and restless, people of many nations and times, men and women and children. How do you relate to them?

The saints can be intercessors. Close to God and experienced in everyday life, they are happy to pray for us when asked, and they surely know what to pray for.

The saints can be role models. When you have a decision to make or work to do, perhaps the memory of a saint can offer guidance.

The saints can be companions. When you are lonely or uncertain, reach out to one of them for fellowship.

The saints can give us hope. When life is difficult, remember that they too endured dark days, and still they lived lives pleasing to God.

The saints are to be celebrated. How many ways there are to live out our faith! How many are the ways God can act in us! How good God is, to call such different people to himself!

The saints are always, always, icons of God. What we admire in them are gifts from God and part of God's character too. They want nothing more than to lead us to God.



Carrie Otto takes on CREW

Carrie Otto is the new director of our parish's high school youth ministry. Her job is to facilitate the CREW classes and meetings, the Teen Mass and dinner, and Confirmation preparation. She is also responsible for coordinating child care by teens for the Great Dates program. Because her job entails extensive traveling, she will not be responsible for fundraising events for the CREW Mission Trip.

If you witnessed Carrie's self-introduction at Mass recently, you will remember her enthusiasm,



but there is much more to know about Carrie Otto. She grew up in Chillicothe, Illinois, with two younger brothers. Both of her parents are quite active in their parish church, St. Edward, and Carrie fondly remembers family prayers, retelling of Bible stories, and praying the Rosary together.

One of her younger brothers, Tom, was in the same seminary as Fr. Joel Phelps and has recently been ordained; Father Tom is now serving at Holy Cross Church in Mendota. (It probably would not surprise anyone that during Father Joe Hogan's two years as the pastor of St. Edward he became close to the Otto family.)

see **Carrie** on page 11

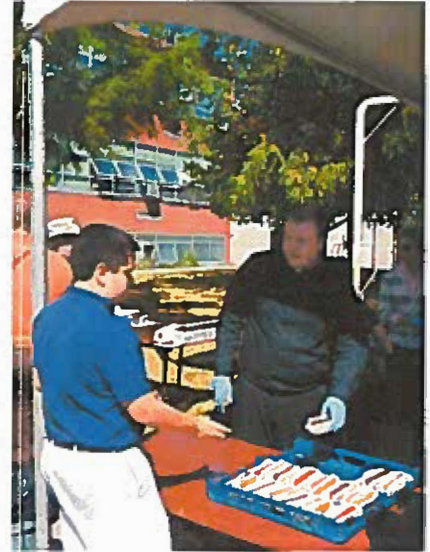
Holy Cross Happenings

Vocation Prayer

See, I am doing something new!
 Lord, your call often comes in ways that seem strange to me. That sometimes means I need to back up, rethink what I'm doing or am about to do, maybe even start off in a different direction than I'd planned. When I think I've heard your call and try to respond, be with me and guide me on my journey as you did with your friends on their way to Emmaus. Strengthen me for what lies ahead!

Hot Dog Day at Holy Cross School was held on September 13. This annual school tradition celebrates the start of the new school year and the Holy Cross Church feast week.

Father Phelps from St. Patrick's, together with Principal Ryan Bustle and Vice Principal Tracy Neitzel from The High School of St. Thomas More, handed out hot dogs to the students, staff, parents, and family members. Holy Cross School graduates from STM helped the younger students with condiments. The bands from STM and Holy Cross joined forces to provide entertainment during the festivities.



When do pancakes make repairs?

When they're Knights of Columbus pancakes, of course! Free-will donations from the Knights' recent pancake breakfast raised almost enough funds to keep work going on an Urbana house on Nevada, a project co-partnered by the Knights and Quest United Methodist Church. So those parishioners who enjoyed their breakfast of pancakes and sausage prepared by the Knights can be gratified to know that they painlessly helped the Knights and a homeowner who needed help with repairs.

The first workday went well. Although work was stopped by rain, tar paper was installed on the garage roof just in time—so the project seemed to be in good hands. Work continues on Saturdays, starting at 8.00 a.m., until the job is completed.

Participants from St. Patrick's include Richard Bronson, Mark Cousert, Jesus Hernandez, Richard Keane, Nicholas Koch, Chris Stohr, Linda Webber, and Chris Whippo. If you can help or would like more information, contact Richard Keane (rdkeane@illinois.edu).



Nicholas Koch, Richard Bronson, Marsha Gates (from Quest United Methodist Church), Rev. Eric Coulter, and Jesus Hernandez were idled by rain, but managed to have all under cover in good time.



Laying tar paper on the roof are Richard Bronson, Jesus Hernandez, and Rev. Eric Coulter.

Living Faith

By Nancy Olson

I grew up in a large, chaotic but loving Italian family. My parents made many sacrifices so that my siblings and I could attend our parish school from first grade through senior high graduation. I didn't realize it at the time, but looking back I see that my parents also modeled loving Christ-like behavior for us in their everyday lives. They weren't perfect, and perhaps they didn't even think about modeling behavior for us, but they did. Despite their very busy lives they always had time for others, and we always knew that our friends were welcome in our home and around our table. They were active in our parish, in the community, and among our extended family.

The one memory that is always with me is of my mother making a monthly visit to her sister-in-law, who was confined to a state mental hospital, the norm in the



50s and 60s for people with mental health issues. This didn't seem out of the ordinary to me then, but now I see what an act of love it truly was. It was quite literally the Corporal Work of Mercy of visiting the imprisoned. My aunt

was not only locked away in an institution but imprisoned by her mental illness. I was never allowed to go on these visits, but I know that the state mental hospital was not a pleasant place. Yet my mother was faithful to this gospel work, along with many other loving and giving activities.

When I came to St. Pat's in 2002, Sr. Charlene invited me to join the bereavement ministry (now called the Ministry of Consolation). After her retirement I moved into the role of coordinator of this ministry and have gathered a group of wonderful, loving people into ministerial roles along with me. I am not trained in dealing with the complexities

of grief, nor do I need to be. It is simply a case of doing what our loving Creator God asks of us, to walk with each other in love and compassion at difficult times. It is an arm around a shoulder, the words "I'm sorry for your loss," sending a card of remembrance at a death anniversary, or creating a welcoming environment for a funeral Mass or an Evening of Remembrance. To be prayerfully present in the moment, to meet the simple needs of families and friends, is all that is required. In this way we engage in the Spiritual Works of Mercy, giving comfort to the sorrowful and praying for the living and the dead, as well as the Corporal Work of Mercy, burying the dead.

My mother and dad are both gone now, at rest at last in God's heavenly kingdom. They would ask no more of me than to be present in this earthly "kin-dom" with those who are in need of kindness and compassion at a difficult moment in their lives.

"Thank you for bringing Christ to me"

Think about a time you were in the hospital. Even if the hospitalization was for something fairly minor--or even something joyful, such as giving birth—you may have felt vulnerable, powerless, lonely, or uncomfortable. If nothing else, you were away from home, sleeping (or lying awake) in a strange bed, stripped of familiar clothing, possessions, and surroundings, uncertain of exactly what each day would bring. If you were suffering from a serious illness or injury, you may have felt quite lost, afraid, or even hopeless in the grip of emotional as well as physical pain.

How much might it have meant for you to have a visitor to bring you Communion, to pray with you, to exchange a comforting word? This is what volunteer pastoral care Eucharistic ministers (EMs) from St. Patrick's bring to Catholic patients at Carle Foundation Hospital.

Individual pastoral care EMs are usually scheduled to visit the hospital just once a month. Depending on the number and needs of patients, a visit may take a couple of hours. When they sign in at the hospital, EMs receive a list of Catholic patients. They then check in at the nurses' station in each unit to see if the listed patients there may be visited and may receive Communion.

Some patients may prefer not to receive Communion, but they may still appreciate a prayer. Patients who are unable to receive Communion for medical reasons may have family members present who are able to receive Communion, and all are usually grateful for prayers. Many patients benefit from the chance to talk with a sympathetic listener or have a hand held. Sometimes EMs can provide practical help: giving a patient a



rosary or prayer booklet, providing phone numbers for the prayer line or parish nurses, passing on to the parish office a request for anointing or other service.

This can be a challenging ministry, but the rewards are vast. Now and then a patient makes that explicit, saying, "Thank you for bringing me Christ." More often, there is a simple "Thank you." Sometimes gratitude is expressed in the squeeze of a hand, a smile, or the subtle relaxation of tension. All EMs would agree that they leave the hospital feeling they have made some difference for the people they've visited.

There is currently a great need for more volunteers to serve as pastoral care Eucharistic ministers. If you would like to learn more about this vital ministry, please call the parish office (367-2665).

Vatican II: Getting to know one another

By Fr. George Remm

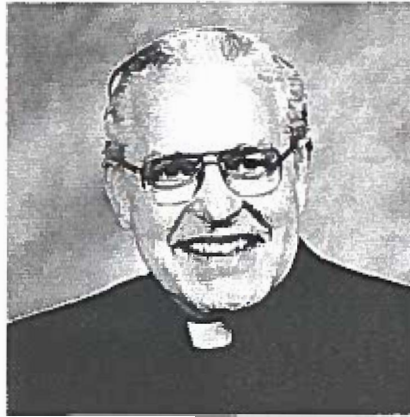
The Second Vatican Council began in 1963. The documents that evolved from that momentous event have challenged me and the faithful of the Church ever since. In this fiftieth anniversary year of Vatican II, it is important to reflect on that challenge and to rejoice in the growth we have experienced in our understanding of Church.

One of the documents of Vatican II was the "Decree on Ecumenism," promulgated on Nov. 21, 1964. (Ecumenism refers to the principles and practice of promoting cooperation or better understanding among differing religious faiths, often applied specifically to the unity or unification of Christian churches.)

The Decree begins: "Promoting the restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the chief concerns of the Second Sacred Ecumenical Synod of the Vatican" (art. 1). For decades before, Roman Catholics offered eight days of prayer for Christian unity each January. But the general idea behind those days of prayer was the hope that Protestants would "return" to the one true Church and that the Orthodox schism would end.

In this Decree, "the Council goes beyond the assertion that the Catholic Church is the true Church to assert that Jesus, in His Spirit, is at work in the Churches and Communities beyond the visible borders of the Catholic Church; the Council asserts that believers in Christ who are baptized are truly reborn and truly our brothers and that God uses their worship to sanctify and save them (The Documents of Vatican II, edited by Walter Abbott, S.J., p. 338). A Protestant observer at the Council said of the Decree: "This is more than the opening of a door; new ground has been broken. No Catholic document has ever spoken of non-Catholic Christians in this way."

I cannot begin to summarize all the directions taken by the universal



Church, by hierarchies, dioceses, and parishes, by theologians and experts, and by ordinary Christians since that time to promote ecumenism. But I can testify to changes that took place in me, and some of the ecumenical steps I have taken.

Many of you may not know that I was born of an interfaith marriage. My mother was born and raised in a Catholic part of Germany, my father in a Lutheran area. Both immigrated to the United States in the early 1920s. They met in Peoria, Ill., while studying for citizenship papers and were married in the rectory of St. Joseph's Parish, Peoria, on Oct. 7, 1933. I have few Catholic relatives in the United States, but many Lutheran and Apostolic Christian relatives.

Like most Catholics of my generation and before, I never entered a Protestant church, let alone ever worshipped with non-Catholics. My father simply did not go to church during my growing years, but he allowed my mother to be active and to send my brother and me to Catholic elementary and high school. Most of our neighbors and almost all of our friends were Catholic.

My understanding was that it was sinful to engage in any inter-religious worship or study with non-Catholics, and this belief continued even after I was ordained. As an assistant pastor at Holy Trinity Parish in Bloomington in the early 1960s, I was asked to come to a Protestant Church to speak to

their youth group and answer some questions about Catholics. At the end of the presentation the leader had us join hands in a circle and pray the Lord's Prayer together. I did so, but later had qualms of conscience that I had done something sinful, that I had engaged in interfaith worship in a Protestant Church. I am appalled today that I was once so naïve and prejudiced.

Fortunately, under the influence of the Second Vatican Council my attitude toward non-Catholics and my understanding of the Church's new emphasis on interfaith dialogue and ecumenical activities began to change. At the invitation of the YMCA, a Protestant minister, a Jewish rabbi, and I participated in a lunch seminar and dialogue each week during Lent. We were often called upon after that to engage in other ecumenical presentations, and we became friends. One of the happiest outcomes of that relationship was the invitation from the rabbi to the minister and his wife and to me to share in his family Passover meal in his home—an invitation we happily accepted.

During my first pastorate in Kewanee, I became an active member of the Kewanee Ministerial Association. We met regularly every month, coming to know and respect one another. Eventually this led to the planning of an annual Thanksgiving prayer service, held each year in a different church with a mixed choir, leadership of the host pastor, and participation by people of all denominations. Happily, this continues today. This association also led to a joint effort to aid transients, to give aid to the poor, and to give a weekly pastor's reflections on the local radio station.

After I came to Urbana, I was able to join a monthly discussion group with ministers and lay associates who read theological and other pertinent books. I grew to know and trust this group, and felt free to open my mind and heart to them. I participated in the Champaign-

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Urbana Ministerial Association with this group and others. Through our monthly meetings and some joint activities, I came to know many of the ministers of the area and felt free to call upon them when a need arose. Eventually this led some of us to establish contact with the Black Ministerial Alliance and to hold joint meetings to come to know one another and to participate in some joint efforts important to the community. For the first time, I came to experience the enthusiasm and spirit of Black worship.

The ecumenical thrust of those early years following the Second Vatican Council, now taken for granted, has lessened of late. I have found hope for a renewal of ecumenical concern in the words and example of Pope Francis. He has welcomed visits by the leaders of Protestant churches and the patriarchs of Orthodox churches, and he has stated in interviews that the goal of ecumenism is to listen to the other side and to try to understand the other: "Proselytism is solemn nonsense, it makes no sense. We need to get to know each other, listen to each other, and improve our knowledge of the world around us. ... This is important: to get to know people, listen, expand the circle of ideas. The world is crisscrossed by roads that come closer together and move apart, but the important thing is that they lead towards the Good. ... The Council Fathers knew that being open to modern culture meant religious ecumenism and dialogue with non-believers. But afterwards very little was done in that direction. I have the humility and ambition to want to do something" (dialogue between Pope Francis and La Repubblica's founder, Eugenio Scalfari, "Starting from the Second Vatican Council, open to modern culture").

In August, Pope Francis briefly greeted a group of 200 secondary school students visiting from Japan,



in a courtyard at the Apostolic Palace. He told the students about the importance of the "beautiful adventure" of entering into dialogue with other people, other cultures and other religions. He said it must be done in meekness and by listening to others.

"And if you don't think like me [and] don't convince me, we are friends just the same—because I've learned how you think and you've learned how I think," he said. "This is the dialogue that makes peace. You can't have peace without dialogue. ... I hope this trip for you will be very fruitful, because getting to know other persons and cultures is also very good for us and helps us to grow" (The Tablet, "Letter from Rome").

May the vision of Pope Francis guide us, not only in ecumenical endeavors, but in all our encounters with others.

Parish staff prayer hour

Once a year members of our parish staff go on a retreat together, but often they are engaged in tasks individually and may meet up with one another more in passing than as a group. If their "job descriptions" in the ministry booklet are any indication, one might wonder how they manage to keep a sense of common purpose and shared effort.

Recently the staff gathered for a holy hour on a First Friday. They took time for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar. Father Phelps led them in the readings of the day, prayer and song. It served so well as a shared time of renewal and refreshment that they plan to continue to meet once a month for prayer, hoping to overcome difficulties in scheduling because of the different ways each one serves our parish.

The staff holy hours will be reserved for staff only, but an exception will be made once at Christmas time and once in the Easter season, when a special invitation will be extended to the entire parish to join them. Watch for these opportunities to pray in concert with your parish staff.

Day of Reflection planned for the deaf/hard of hearing

On November 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Patrick's will host a Day of Reflection open to all deaf and hard of hearing within the Peoria diocese – whether they are Catholic or not.

Father Joseph Mulcrone, head of the Catholic Office of the Deaf for the Chicago Archdiocese, will lead the day and has selected this theme: "No one knows the day or the hour – no one!" This reflection, taken from the readings from the First Sunday of Advent, reminds us that however much we may think we can control death, we cannot.

There will be opportunities for sharing among participants during the day. All presentations will be done in Total Communication



(sign and speech). Lunch will be served and Father Mulcrone will celebrate the 5 p.m. Mass that evening at St. Patrick's in Total Communication. Participants of the Day of Reflection will be encouraged to attend – and

afterward go together to a local restaurant for dinner.

The fee for the day is \$10 to cover the cost of lunch, although no one will be refused due to inability to pay.

If you know someone who would like to participate in the Day of Reflection, have them contact Minette Sternke (cudeafministry@gmail.com) to register so that plans can be made for the correct number for lunch.

Breaking bread with our neighbors in need

The feast of St. Vincent de Paul is celebrated on September 27, so it was fitting that St. Patrick's fourth annual St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Friends Dinner took place on September 25 this year.

Dinner organizers Chris Whippo, Elizabeth Hendricks, and Joyce Wagner agree with Food Pantry coordinator Ellen Abell that this dinner was the best yet. There had been some big glitches with previous dinners, so they sought input from many of the people involved to figure out how to avoid those problems this time. Thanks to all that trouble-shooting, "I think we're figuring this out!" Chris says.

The big unknown this year was whether a new system for guests to give their RSVPs would work. Instead of volunteers taking RSVPs in person during food pantry hours, potential guests had to call a parish phone number and leave a voice-

mail message. Would people be less likely to RSVP if they had to make a phone call? How many might be reluctant to call or might forget? Joyce reported that ultimately reservations were made by phone for 160 guests, with 142 guests actually attending the dinner. As anyone organizing a large event can tell you, that's a great result.

Those 142 guests were greeted, hosted, and served by a number of enthusiastic parish volunteers. In addition to tasty fried chicken from Schnuck's and hams from Sam's Club, guests enjoyed a wide array of delicious hot and cold dishes and desserts donated by our generous parishioners and efficiently served by Kathy McKenzie and her accomplished crew of women who provide the funeral dinners.

Not only is the Friends Dinner a chance for some of the people who have need of the SVDP Food Pantry

to enjoy a delicious (and often much-needed) meal, it provides our parish with the chance to let the people we serve know who we are at St. Patrick's. The organizers hope parishioners take this opportunity to get to know the people we are serving through our food pantry. When we break bread together, it is easier to begin to see how much we have in common rather than what makes us different.

Chris, Elizabeth, and Joyce would like to thank the Women of St. Patrick and all of the wonderful people of the parish who made this SVDP Food Pantry Friends Dinner a success by giving of themselves, whether helping with pre-dinner planning and preparation, volunteering that night, cooking, baking, and donating food, or even just keeping in their prayers everyone who participated in the dinner and the neighbors we serve.

Help fill a Thanksgiving Basket

For a number of years, the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) at St. Patrick's has given the members of our parish the opportunity to share our blessings by helping to provide Thanksgiving baskets for people in need. Each November, volunteers fill and deliver 250 Thanksgiving baskets. Most go to people who have been referred by Community Elements (formerly Champaign County Mental Health) and Family Services, but SVDP reserves about 50 baskets to cover the needs of those who call the parish office or are referred by someone in the parish.

Money donated by parishioners is needed to fill these baskets. Each one—actually a cardboard grocery box—is packed with the makings of an easily prepared Thanksgiving dinner, including a canned ham, canned sweet potatoes and vegetables, canned fruit, margarine, dinner rolls, and a ready-made pie, together with a few additional items.

Last year donations fell \$2000 short of the full cost of the baskets

(approximately \$6000), and SVDP funds covered the difference. However, this year SVDP is struggling to keep up with paying bills (for food for hungry clients), so if there aren't

enough donations for Thanksgiving baskets, the number of baskets will have to be reduced.

Ellen Abell, coordinator of the SVDP Food Pantry, said that last year she considered reducing the number of baskets to be given out, but St. Patrick's has traditionally managed to give out 250 each year and she worked hard to keep up that number. With rapidly rising food prices, she is very concerned about finding enough money for baskets this year but is still hoping to maintain the current number. "I would hate to have to tell someone that we can't give them a basket," she says.

Can you help? A donation of \$30 will fill one Thanksgiving basket.



If that strains your budget, any amount you can contribute will be appreciated. Donations should be placed in an envelope clearly marked "SVDP Thanksgiving Baskets" and put in the Sunday collection or brought

to the parish office.

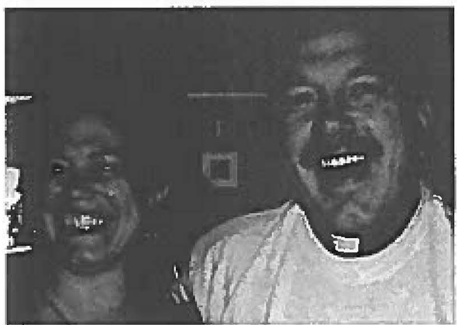
Help is also needed in other ways. Volunteers are needed to help pick up the nonperishable food on or around Saturday, November 23 and the morning of Tuesday, November 26. On Tuesday morning volunteers are needed at 8:30 a.m. to place perishable items into the boxes (the teen religious education classes will have already packed the nonperishable items). Volunteers, sent in teams of two, are then needed from 9:30 to 11 or 11:30 a.m. to deliver the baskets.

If you can help or if you have questions, contact Ellen Abell (ellen.abell@comcast.net) or call the parish office (367-2665).

All saints, all sorts

“There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.”
—Thomas Merton

You don't have to search far and wide for heroes and saints—just look around you! Some have been canonized; many haven't and may never be. What unites them? Love of God, love of neighbor, and willingness to sacrifice self for others.



Introducing the new Art and Environment Advisory Committee

In the October issue of *In Focus* (see www.stpatrickbana.org/infocus) we introduced the St. Patrick's Building Committee, a ministry team recently appointed by Fr. Joe Hogan. The committee will oversee the church renovation and expansion through to its completion. Two additional advisory groups will assist the Building Committee: the Art and Environment Advisory Committee and the Music Advisory Committee.

This month, we introduce the members Fr. Joe has appointed to serve on the Art and Environment Advisory Committee. This advisory committee has been charged with making recommendations for the design, artwork, and furnishings for the interior space of the renovated, expanded church.

Mary Karten, chair, talks about the work of the committee: "The most important challenges for us are to create a beautiful worship environment which represents the unique community that is St. Patrick's, and also to be good stewards of both the resources allotted to us and materials that respect the earth's resources." A parishioner at St. Patrick's church for almost a decade, Mary has served on the Parish Council, co-facilitated "Finding God in Daily Work," and headed the team that provides the Great Dates program for married couples.

Currently, Mary is on the leadership team for Worship Ministry, coordinates Eucharistic ministry for Mass and pastoral care to the sick and elderly, serves as lector, and assists with Mass setup. Mary has a degree in music education with an emphasis in choral music. She used her talents and education as a guitarist/singer for Masses while in college, later conducted children's and adult church choirs, and served as a cantor. Professionally, she taught in private and public schools in the St. Louis area and in Rantoul, until retiring in 2006.

Margy Palmisano has more than 30 years of interior design experience, in both residential and



Starting a new chapter in their history of parish ministry are Pat Mayer, Mary Karten, Angela Kneer, Margy Palmisano, and Tom Skaggs

commercial settings. She has been a member of the parish for over 45 years. During that time she served as a member of the Parish Council, the Social Committee, and the St. Patrick Presents... Committee, and as a volunteer with Vacation Bible School. Margy also served on teams for three parish renewal programs (Christ Renews His Parish, Renew, and WATCH) and has co-lead the Community Bible School Leaders group for ten years. Currently she is co-leader of the Catching Fire, Becoming Flame parish program. About the work of the Art and Environment Committee, Margy says: "I believe our most important task is to create a warm, welcoming environment that is conducive to worship."

Pat Mayer is a lifelong member of the parish. Professionally, she has worked as a graphic artist and art director for various ad agencies. Currently she has her own design studio, where the bulk of her work is for non-profit or educational entities. Pat has been involved in numerous aspects of ministry at the parish: 9 a.m. Mass choir, children's Mass, Teen Praise Band, CREW mission trips, RCIA, Baptism and marriage prep, and marriage enrichment, to name a few.

About the role of the committee,

Honoring Our Past

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

ST. PATRICK'S CAMPAIGN

Pat says, "I feel our job is to listen to, and represent, the ideas and concerns of our wonderfully diverse parish. I hope that, as a parish, we create a space that invites interaction and welcome, which builds on our strong sense of community. I so appreciate what those few families created for us 100 years ago and hope that our legacy will build on the history of our current space, capture the simplicity of the gospel message while creating a timeless beauty that will be appreciated 100 years from now. (Sounds easy, huh?)"

Thomas Skaggs has degrees in Fine Arts and Landscape Architecture with a minor in Historic Architecture, and more than 25 years of experience in planning, development, master planning, and project management; he is currently working as a planner for the University of Illinois. A recipient of two international awards (2007 and 2011 NICHE Awards) for his design in wood and furniture, Tom also has his own business designing and making unique furniture and lighting, with clients from as far away as New Zealand.

As a member of the parish, Tom has employed his talents in assisting the Liturgical Art Team. Last year he built the manger for our parish Nativity figures and has constructed bases for altar flowers, among other projects. About the work of the Art and Environment Committee Tom says, "Our committee will strive to oversee design of interior spaces that will not only be in keeping with the architecture, but more importantly, provide a spiritual environment that is comfortable and conducive for worship for our entire parish family."

Angela Kneer was a stay-at-home mom until the family moved to St. Joseph about seven years ago. Now she works for her parents with an on-line business that was started at the same time of moving back. At St. Patrick's Angela has

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What is GIFT, and what is our role in it?

In September 2011, Bishop Daniel Jenky initiated the program Growing in Faith Together (GIFT). The main goals include forming vibrant parishes and strengthening the presence and ministry of the Church in the city and rural areas of the Diocese of Peoria. Each parish in our GIFT Cluster (Holy Cross, Champaign; Our Lady of the Lake, Mahomet; St. Boniface, Seymour; St. Mary, Champaign; St. Matthew, Champaign; and St. Patrick, Urbana) is represented by four parishioners and the pastor. Those from St. Patrick's are Mary Long, Jerry Pijanowski, Stan Yachus, Tracey Johnson, and Fr. Joe Hogan.

During the first year, our GIFT Cluster met monthly, assessing current parish programs and resources, sending recommendations, and receiving directives from the Office of the Bishop. In 2012, our GIFT Cluster worked with the Office of the Bishop to develop an implantation plan.

Currently, our GIFT Cluster works to enhance ministries, avoid unnecessary duplication of services, and conserve resources wherever possible. It has consolidated the bishop's directives to four areas, and a short summary of goals and their current status are as follows:

Youth Ministry: Identifying a parishioner from each Cluster parish to receive training and form a TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) Board, which would establish a structure in our Cluster area for retreats for high school students. This is step 1 to enlivening the faith life of our young

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worked on the Capital Campaign, co-chairs the Parish Party Ministry, and serves as Eucharistic minister for CREW and as needed for parish Masses. She says, "Working in these groups I have heard concerns and comments about the expansion. We have lived in several different cities and states, have traveled to many



**GROWING
IN FAITH
TOGETHER**

adults and working toward the ultimate goal of identifying an area-wide youth ministry director and a central location for youth ministry activities.

Catholic Education: Recently hired Rose Costello, Vicariate Coordinator for Catholic Education, to assist our GIFT Cluster in increasing enrollment in our elementary schools and reaching out to families with school-aged children in our multicultural communities and all parishes within the Cluster.

**Combined Programs/
Evangelization:** Establishing concrete steps to meet the needs of parishioners by promoting evangelization; vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, and consecrated life; and lifelong faith formation for both youth and adults.

Cluster Website: Ready to implement a Cluster website to promote communication and collaboration between and among all Cluster parishes.

On Saturday, October 26, our GIFT Cluster will sponsor "Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz," a multimedia live production that dramatically illustrates the life of Father Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish priest whose courage in the face of attacks against his Catholic faith led to his imprisonment in the Auschwitz concentration camp.

places and seen many churches. So many churches have gone to a more modern feel. I feel it is important that we not lose what the original founders of our parish building wanted and built—that feel St. Patrick's has as a historic building."

Volunteers needed

There is real and present need for a parishioner or a parishioner couple to set up for the 5:00 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 mmenches@illinois.edu

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Drivers needed. Can you take someone to keep a doctor's appointment or to shop for groceries or to attend Sunday Mass? Several programs—St. Patrick's **Good Samaritans** (Carla Simmering, 328-4841), **Family Service** (352-0099), **Senior Support Services** (352-5100), and **Faith in Action** (337-2778)—are in pressing need of drivers. Call if you can help. (In last month's issue, the Faith in Action program was incorrectly presented as subsumed by Senior Support Services. In fact, it is a thriving program under the umbrella of Presence Covenant Medical Center. We regret the error.)

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The **Food Pantry** needs one or two people to **collect donated breads and bakery goods from Panera Bread** at closing time. One of the "regulars" has retired and another parishioner has stepped in temporarily but expects to have knee surgery soon. Can you help? Ellen Abell, 367-2665



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

From the High School of St. Thomas More

By Rose Costello

It is hard to believe that the first quarter has come to an end at The High School of St. Thomas More (STM). With 279 students from around the vicariate, much has been accomplished with a lot more to come. This year's freshman class numbers 67 students from many different schools – Catholic, private, and public. Sixty-five percent of the 2013 graduating class of Holy Cross School, many of whom are St. Patrick's parishioners, have chosen to attend STM for their freshman year.

We are especially proud of STM's 2013 graduating class. On the ACT test, this class as a whole performed above the 90th percentile in English composition and the 70th percentile in Math, Reading, and Biology, significantly above the state and national averages. Seventy-five percent of the 2013 graduates attend a four-year college, with 25 percent attending a two-year college. More detailed information about this can be found on our website (www.hs-stm.org).

In October, our Drama Club presented its fall performance, a series of short plays centered on

"The Twilight Zone." The 2014 spring musical will be "Bye Bye Birdie," to be presented on March

13-15. Several students from St. Patrick's are active in the Drama Club and participate in many of the performances: Jamie Simmering, Kyle and Annie Rasmussen, Meghan and Sean Kelly, Julia Welle, Gabby Wszalek, Elie Nyembo, Laura and George Pennacchi, Isabella Dallas, and Molly Smith.

St. Thomas More will host our annual Veterans Day program on Monday, November 11. Veterans related to our STM families are invited to join us at 1:45 p.m. at the school for a program and a reception. Please let us know by email (jmcdaniel@hs-stm.org) or phone (217/352-7210) if interested.

The music department will present the annual Madrigals Dinner on December 6 and 7. The Holiday Concert featuring the chorus, the band, the guitar group, and the a cappella singing group will be on December 11.

Of course, STM athletic teams continue, although many are winding down their season.



Several of our teams are headed toward regional and sectional tournaments.

Of special note,

STM soccer midfielder Dennis Freeman was selected to the All-State First Team by the Illinois High School Association Soccer Coaches Association. Kyler Jones and Daniel Shin were also honored by being chosen First Team All-Sectional by the IHSASCA. The boys' golf team has advanced to State led by St. Patrick parishioner Chris Tate.

STM is offering several opportunities for parents and students to learn about STM. Preview Nights I (Oct. 16) and II (Jan. 22) provide the chance to visit with teachers and coaches to learn about curriculum, clubs, and athletic teams. Students in the four partner schools (Holy Cross, St. Matthew, St. Malachy, and St. Thomas) visit STM during a school day in November.

If you are interested in learning more about STM, please contact Rose Costello (217/352-7210 or rcostello@hs-stm.org), or just stop by. We welcome the opportunity to talk with you about STM!

Rose Costello has new responsibilities in Catholic education

We are blessed to have an outstanding system of Catholic schools in our area. To help ensure the viability of these schools in the future, a new position has been created—Regional Coordinator of Catholic Education—and Rose Costello has been named to fill it. She



is responsible for coordinating collaboration between The High School of St. Thomas More and the area Catholic grade schools for certain events and projects, enhancing the visibility of Catholic education in our area, recruiting new families and students to STM, and

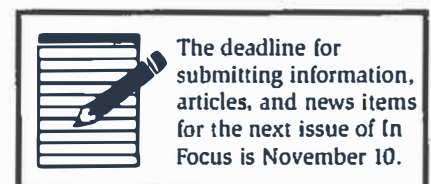
raising funds to support programs provided by area Catholic schools.

Catholic schools have a long and strong history in the Champaign County area. St. Thomas, St. Malachy, and Holy Cross have been educating young people for more than 100

years. We were blessed to be able to establish St. Matthew School 50 years ago and The High School of St. Thomas More 14 years ago. All this has been possible because of the generous support of our Champaign vicariate parishes. Mrs. Costello will be working with these schools

and the parishes of the vicariate to ensure that this commitment to Catholic schools continues for future generations of young people.

Information regarding our schools can be found at www.champaigncatholicschools.org. Those wishing to help with ideas or donations can contact Ms. Costello at rcostello@hs-stm.org, at 217/352-7210 (The High School of St. Thomas More), or at 217/352-8748 (Holy Cross Parish Center).



Carrie from page 1

While Carrie was earning her degree in political science at Illinois Wesleyan, she taught catechism at Holy Trinity in Bloomington. She spent a semester at American University in Washington, D.C., where she taught fourth grade catechism. She also spent a summer in Australia.

After graduation in 2008, she worked for The Tobacco-Free Kids non-profit organization in D.C. for two years. While there she taught Confirmation classes to the same children she had taught in fourth grade. Since then she has worked with the National Young Leaders Conference in D.C., traveling to major cities all over the country. She has also helped at a retreat center in Wisconsin and worked with boys and girls on Oahu, Hawaii.

Carrie moved to Champaign-Urbana in early August to work for The Prairie Rivers Network, a state-wide organization that protects Illinois rivers and waters. During the week she travels throughout the state for grassroots organizing. When she found out that she would be based here, she called Father Joe to see if he needed any help. God certainly works in mysterious ways—Peggy Loftus had just retired as CREW coordinator, and along came Carrie with just the right experience.

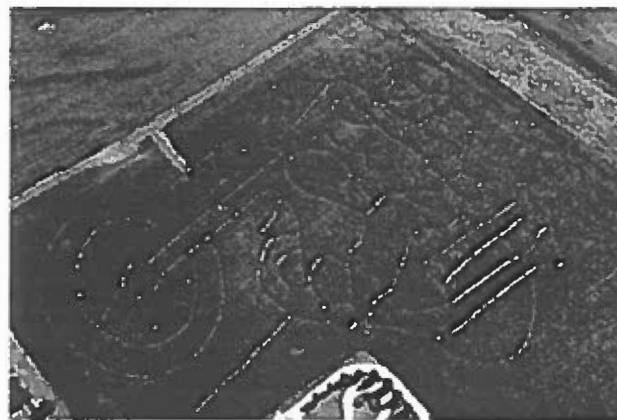
Carrie was very pleased that 34 teens came for the first CREW meeting in September. They spent time getting to know one another by playing games, sharing fellowship, and exploring why they came and what they wanted to get out of their meetings. She would like to see all teens in the area who want to live their faith on a practical, day-to-day basis join them.

She asks for everyone's prayers as she settles into this new responsibility and hopes for help from the teens' parents with extracurricular activities.

Welcome to St. Patrick, Carrie Otto!

Vivo members find fun by getting lost

Vivo, St. Patrick's junior-high youth group, enjoyed a slightly chilly October Sunday at Hardy's Reindeer Ranch, outside Rantoul. Undaunted, the 21 students, 8 University of Illinois catechists, 3 parents, and 2 soon-to-be Vivo students fearlessly trekked through the maze; one group actually locating all eight of the destinations there.



Newcomers to Vivo are always welcome. If you or your junior-high friends are interested in joining, please contact the parish office (367-2665). They meet three Sundays a month, 6:30-8 p.m., in the multipurpose room of the parish center. "Come join the fun!" invites Amy Schuele, coordinator of this lively group.

Did you know?

The SVDP Food Pantry sometimes offers other services to food pantry clients. For instance, parish nurses Diane Cousert and Lilia Peters arranged for a pharmacist from Walgreens to administer free flu vaccines to eligible people during food pantry hours on October 10 and 17. Food pantry coordinator Ellen Abell also tries to schedule Smile Healthy dental clinics in the parish hall several times a year.

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Some of the parishioners who go to 7:00 a.m. Mass on weekdays get together afterward in the parish hall for a light breakfast of coffee or tea with a bit of sweet roll and conversation. They call themselves the "Seven Alive" group. You're welcome to join them anytime!

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A few parishioners stay after their mini-breakfast to help repackage leftover bread loaves and sweet rolls from Panera Bread for distribution to the hungry people who come to the Food Pantry for food. You're welcome to join them as well—something to think about, with Advent just around the corner.

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New to St. Patrick's but not yet registered? You can do that by stopping by the parish office during regular office hours (8 a.m.-5 p.m.). You'll receive a friendly smile and a packet of information about the parish in return. Can't make it then? Call the parish office (367-2665) and register by phone. Or go to the parish's website (www.stpaturbana.org) and register online. Join the parish family—we look forward to getting to know you!



in our parish library

This month's review focuses on the concepts of thankfulness, family, and freedom, as well as the concept of child-like faith.

With Open Hands, by Henri Nouwen, offers inspiration to all ages, cultures, and religions. Within each chapter, Nouwen includes a collection of prayers and reflections to help readers relate the concepts in the book to their everyday life. 217 Nou.

The Path to Freedom, also by Henri Nouwen, is a spiritual guide in which he elaborates on the insight that true freedom comes to us when we grasp the truth that God loves us unconditionally and we are liberated from the personal need for affirmation and acceptance from others. 232.93 Nou.

Freedom & Man, by John Murray and Hans King Courtney, explores the concept of freedom as the core of the Christian experience. 233 Fre.

Family Prayer, by Dolores Curran, is a collection of prayers that

every Catholic family should know, from the Rosary to meals to morning and evening prayers. One of the biggest ways we can show God our thankfulness is through prayer. 242 Cur.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, by Michael Muller, presents scriptural proofs and prophecies regarding the Mass and relates true accounts of Eucharistic miracles. 265 Mul.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact parish librarian Megan Raab; she will be happy to assist you.

Please note that her e-mail address has been changed from mer1987@sbcglobal.net to raab4198@gmail.com. The parish library is available on weekdays during office hours—ask for a key at the parish office. It is also open on fourth and fifth Sundays between 8:30-10:30 a.m.



Q: What becomes of the money from the second collections taken up at Mass on third Sundays?

A: Some of those collections go to causes specified by the U.S. Bishops: in March, Catholic Relief Services; in June, Peter's Pence; in October, Mission Sunday; in November, Campaign for Human Development; and in December, Retirement Fund for Religious. In addition, a special collection is taken up on Ash Wednesday for the Churches in Eastern Europe and on Good Friday for maintenance of shrines in the Holy Land.

From the third-Sunday collections in January, May, July, August, and September, half is allocated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the remaining half is distributed to various causes. Last year, for instance, donations were sent in support of Dr. Susan Nagele, empty tomb, Eastern Illinois Foodbank, Beit Jala (our Sister Church in Bethlehem), Sr. Jackie Gitonga, seminarian Alex Millar, and the C-U Coalition for the Homeless.

So many worthy causes, such generous parishioners!

In addition to funds received from the third-Sunday collections, of course, the St. Vincent de Paul Society gratefully receives cash donations from individuals, checks made out to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and checks made out to St. Patrick's with SVDP written on the memo line.

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

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Carol Bosley

Turkey, Dill, and Orzo Soup



6 cups low-sodium chicken broth (or broth from your turkey)
4 small carrots, sliced 1/4 inch thick
1/2 cup orzo (rice-shaped pasta)
1-1/2 cups shredded roasted turkey (or chicken)
2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill

Bring broth to a boil in a large saucepan. Add carrots and orzo, and simmer until tender (12-15 minutes). Stir in turkey (or chicken) and dill, and simmer until heated through (about 2 minutes). Serves 4. Can be refrigerated for one day, frozen for up to 3 months.

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!

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Princess of the Poor

Elizabeth, the daughter of the king of Hungary, was born in 1207. When she was 4, following the custom at that time, she was betrothed to the eldest son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, a territory of Germany, and sent to grow up in that household.

The little girl was quiet, thoughtful, and prayerful. In her new home she found a kindly future mother-in-law and a magnificent castle, called the Wartburg, where she continued her prayers and small acts of penance. In 1216 the son whom she was to marry died, and her betrothal was moved to the next son, Ludvig (or Louis).

Ludvig succeeded his father at Landgrave and in 1221, when he was 21 and Elizabeth was 14, they were married. It was a happy marriage. He protected her acts of charity, penance, and prayer, and often held her hands as she knelt praying at night beside their bed. They had three children.

Once, when Ludvig had to be away, Elizabeth took control of



affairs, giving alms in all parts of his territory. She built a hospital with 28 beds for the poor and visited them daily to attend to their wants, at the same time aiding 900 poor. Returning, her husband confirmed all she had done. The next year he started on a crusade but died; the news reached her just after their third child was born. She was only 20 years old.

The followers of St. Francis had settled in Germany, and a Franciscan became Elizabeth's instructor. She helped them found a monastery and, according to her state in life, practiced chastity, humility, patience, prayer, and charity. Her brother-in-law became regent to her five-year-old son.

A local priest took on the responsibility of giving her spiritual direction. Strict, he gave Elizabeth some rules to live by, among which were to endure scorn patiently, abandon human comforts, dwell upon the shortness of life, and dedicate soul and body to God.

Elizabeth left her castle's worldly atmosphere, but she found no peace,

just a plan by her bishop-uncle to marry again, which she refused. She received her dowry in cash, and in one day divided one quarter of it among the poor.

She went to the Franciscan monastery she had founded, and in 1228 she and her maids renounced the world and received the dress of the Third Order of St. Francis, the precursor of today's Secular (lay) Franciscans. She built a Franciscan hospital at Marburg and nursed those with the most loathsome diseases.

Elizabeth died at 24, worn out from her work. Miracles began to be reported at her grave, and she was canonized in 1235. Her feast day is November 17. She is the patron of bakers and of Secular Franciscans.

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

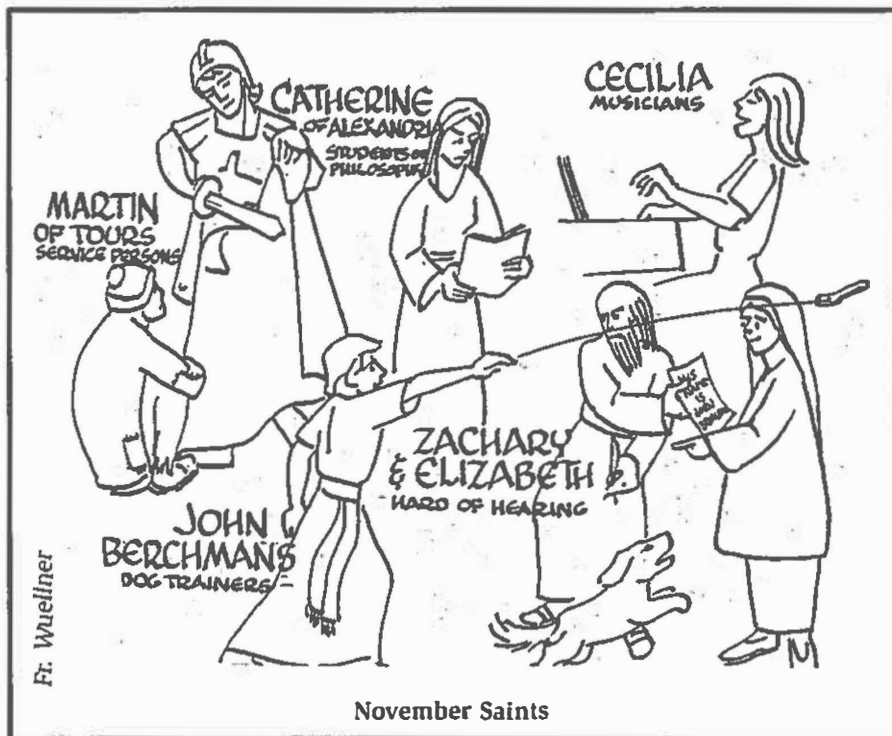
St. Patrick's Parish In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Ill. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Materials must include the name and telephone number of the person submitting them.

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); 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).

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Articles and information for this issue were provided by Carol Bosley, Rose Costello, Judy Fierke, Dianne Gordon, Elizabeth Hendricks, Richard Keane, Mary Lou Menches, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Megan Raab, Fr. George Remm, Dan Richards, Cathy Salika, Amy Schuele, Adam Smith, Joyce Wagner, and Peggy Whelan. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Kelly Skinner, page layout by Jim Urban.



November Saints

How can I know what my vocation is?

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

—Frederick Buechner, in *Wishful Thinking*

There seems to be a perception that God's desires often run counter to our own, that God calls us to pursue the path that is the least appealing to us.

It's true that God seems to have a penchant for working in bizarre ways, that our resistance toward a possibility may indeed signal that God is drawing us in that direction. Yet perhaps, far more often than we think, God works within our desires and our passions in life.

It is often difficult to discern which of our desires belong to God and which are merely our own. One of the signs that we've found our way to a core desire, or something that God desires for us, is that in following it, we feed not only our own hunger but that of others as well. When we pursue God's longing for our life, it never serves only us.

Vocation, with its ancient roots in the Latin *vocare* (to call), isn't merely about what job we have but about who God has created us to be in this world. Vocation conveys the notion that God has designs on us and has placed us within this world to work for its flourishing in concert with our own.

So what are you hungry for? What do you desire, and what desire lies beneath or within that desire? What does your wanting teach you about yourself, about what you love, what you fear, what is possible? How does your longing meet the world's longing? How do you pray with your desires?



What awakens your passion, your creativity, your sense of being true to yourself? That is your calling! Now ask yourself what you need to do in order to cooperate fully with that calling. Write the thoughts that come to you. Bring the matter to God and ask for guidance in living your vocation.

May you find yourself where the hunger of the world beyond you meets the hunger within you.

A time to remember

"Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'" John 11:26

St. Patrick's Ministry of Consolation invites you to an Evening of Remembrance on Wednesday, November 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the parish center. The Evening is a time to gather together family and friends to celebrate the lives of loved ones who have died, share memories of them, and pray together for them and for those of us who grieve their loss.

We will honor the memories of the following:

Mark Davito
Sophie Eighmey
Shafiq Handal
Robert Mangan
Robert Dodd
Stephanie Kempa
Mary Remesch Waller
Rhoda Hummel
Joseph Hanak
John Grabow
Masyl Brown
George Handal
Anna Vitosky

Bruce Warner, Sr.
Patricia Donze
Ron Chinski
Alex Vitalis
Wallace LaBerge
Wanchai Piyapaka
Jacquelyn Papreck
James Risatti
Wilfred Lancaster
Connie Osmond
Margaret Oakes
Wayne Oakes
Bruce Millsap

Everyone is welcome to join in remembering those who have died and in lending 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).

Deo gratias! Merci! Gracias! Thanks!

We are so grateful to the Lord and to all of you—our readers, photographers, writers, idea generators, editors, proofreaders, printer—to everyone who helps us to fulfill our committee's charge: to share with all parishioners information about parish members, activities, and events through the parish newsletter, *In Focus*. We try hard, but we can't succeed without all of you. So thank you!

—Communications Committee

