

www.stpaturbana.org September 2013

500 Miles in 34 Days!

ur Music Director, Laura Theby, took six weeks off this summer to make a pilgrimage on foot across northern Spain. "El Camino," literally, "the way," is a journey that



pilgrims have traveled for centuries, starting from various points in Western Europe, and ending at Santiago de Compostela, the traditional burial place of St. James the Apostle. Laura started her Camino at Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in France. On the way, she climbed the Pyrenees Mountains, passed through wine country, traversed the near-desert plateau called the Meseta, and crossed still more mountains. For the first two weeks, she hiked with parishioner Amy Jobin. After that, she was on her own with her fellow pilgrims.

Laura has wanted to make this pilgrimage for many years. It appealed to her as an adventure, a chance to meet people, and an opportunity for spiritual growth. To prepare, she crammed Spanish, studying books and practicing with friends. She squeezed every extra ounce out of her backpack to get it down to 18-20 pounds (more with water and snacks). It contained one change of clothes, shower shoes, a sleeping bag, small amounts of various toiletries, a journal and guidebook (with extra pages ripped out to save weight), a small camera/charger, and an iPhone/charger.

A wise person told Laura that one walks three Caminos: the physical Camino, the spiritual Camino, and the Camino of people and adventure.



Each day, she would get up early, have coffee, and hit the road. She averaged 17-21 miles a day. It was very hot, over 100 degrees on most days. Blisters, callouses, heat, and monotony are all part of the physical Camino. Late in the afternoon, she would arrive at her destination, take a shower, wash her clothes, get supper, and go to bed. She spent

the nights at albergues (hostels for pilgrims) or at monasteries along the way. She chose to walk alone most mornings to allow time for prayer and reflection. She went to Mass or Vespers whenever possible, but many of the tiny villages had no resident priest.

She met many wonderful people on the way. There was an Argentinian man (actually a young married couple) making a documentary about the Camino. He was going to work for the Vatican when it was done. In the village of Navarrete, she heard the organist rehearsing. She introduced herself and asked to try the organ, just reading through some of the music that was at hand. A few days later she met a man from Liverpool, who was interested to learn that she was an organist. He had heard such beautiful music when he passed through Navarrete. He'd even recorded some of it on his phone. It was Laura's playing!

Arriving at last at Santiago de Compostela, pilgrims enter the city through the Camino Gate and then go to the cathedral dedicated to St. James, Apostle. It is traditional to

see 500 Miles on page 11



How I Spent My Summer Vacation

By Peggy Loftus, Youth Minister Emerita

Like childbirth, mission trips are a labor of love. You sweat, toil, and prepare for them for nine months, and then once it's all over, you enjoy the fruits of your labor. In one case you have a child to cuddle; in the



other case, you sit back and watch the teens and adults serve Christ and his children here on earth. You forget about the pain, the toil, the fundraisers, and the labor it took to get to the finish line, and forgetting makes it all easier to start the next year fresh and new and ready to begin again.

St. Patrick's parish community is amazingly unique among our area Catholic churches because the parish enthusiastically supports the CREW's fundraisers. Did you know

that each year the CREW has to raise between \$20,000 and \$30,000 for each mission trip? Expenses vary based upon location, travel times. and the number of participants, but generally there needs to be a big influx of new funds each year. The parish supports

CREW in this labor of Christ's love by ordering Christmas evergreens at Halloween, buying Christmas ornaments in December, purchasing tickets to CREW Theatre, bidding

on items at the Service Auction, and participating in many other fundraisers over the years.

My experiences with ite things to teach. I also enjoy learning about God and our Catholic Chris-

One study that has worked very well over the years is called "Crossroads of the World." I take no responsibility for having written it (it comes from the archives of Youth Ministry Access by the Center for Ministry Development), but orga-

> nizing it and putting it into action is my favorite part. In this study, teen participants role play by choosing one of five countries to travel to: Sudan. the Holy Land, India, Zimbabwe, or Haiti. After an opening reading, they have to make decisions and choices that

further the scenario. Some of these decisions lead to unfortunate circumstances (death), others to better life circumstances.

After the teens complete their

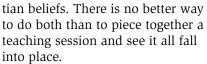
journey, they head over to a team of chaperones to "decompress" from their experience. They talk about the injustices, the choices, and the trials faced in their journey. On a side note, all the "stories" are taken from real-life accounts from Catholic Relief Services around the world. In Memphis this past July, we also offered the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Phelps. It was a fantastic evening filled with grace, new understandings, and eyeopening experiences.

Another of my favorite parts of the mission trip

is the actual mission work. On our mission trip to Washington, D.C. a year ago, I was on a team that repainted rooms at a men's transitional shelter run by Catholic Charities. This work deeply appealed to me—I love to make things new and clean and to restore order. Combine this with a healthy dose of prayer, giggles with Jamie Simmering and Natalie Hittmeier, and physical exhaustion at the end of a successful day, and it was an awesome experience.

Here is something you may not know about the physical labor on mission trips: the CREW provides superior workmanship and intense labor eight hours a day for four full days. CREW is known for their hard, superb work in the cities and organizations we have worked with over the years. Granted, much of this is because of the strength and expertise of our chaperones (thank you, thank you, thank you if you have ever served as a chaperone!), but also because the teenagers go into the







Returning is a process

The idea of returning can raise some powerful emotions. There may be unease or discomfort as we contemplate rejoining family members for celebrations or funerals, or meeting friends or classmates at a reunion.

We may have to face unfinished business, say what should have

been said years ago, or realize that we're in a different place in our relationships.

Returning is a process, a part of our lifetime journey and experience as human beings, a second chance to revisit and

re-evaluate ourselves and our thinking so we can move forward.

This lesson is especially true for those who weigh the decision to return to the Catholic Church. Even before accepting an invitation to a program, these Catholics have come to realize that a parish community and the Church in general, despite its imperfections—has much to offer. There's an opportunity for growth, a chance to correct where we can and change what we would.

With these goals in mind, St. Patrick's will offer a six-week fall series for returning Catholics, beginning

September 11. Each Wednesday, from 7:00-8:15 p.m., we will gather to support one another, recall the grace and power of the sacraments and the Mass, discuss the Church in the contemporary world, and look at ways to get involved with a local parish. If you know

someone who has expressed a desire to return, to reconnect with their baptismal roots, please share this information with them. Invite them to come on September 11, and consider joining them for an evening that can make a difference.

Planning underway for annual parish Fall Fest

Details of St. Patrick's annual Fall Fest were not finalized as of August 16, but you can be sure of this much:

- Who? All of St. Patrick's and St. Mary's parishioners are invited.
- When? Saturday, September 14, 3:00-8:00 p.m.
- Where? St. Patrick's parish grounds and parish center
- What? Fun! Food! Music! Mark your calendars today and plan to bring the whole family for a great time. Watch the bulletin for more details as plans take shape.

Run or walk to help support John Gremer's legacy

A parishioner at St. Patrick's Parish for more than 36 years, John Gremer was a regular at morning

Mass. For many years, he and his wife Norma helped to run the Cellarto-Garret Sale for the parish. John was a dedicated Catholic, husband, and father. He was also a hard-working and dedicated teacher and coach at Urbana High School, where he taught Health, Physical Education, and Drivers Education as well as coaching football, wrestling, and

baseball. He was honored by the Illinois High School Association and voted into the Coaches Hall of Fame for football and wrestling.

In memory of his dedication to his students and the school, Urbana

High School is raising funds for a weight room facility to be named the John Gremer Strength and Condi-

tioning Facility. Every student who attends UHS will use this facility, so this is a project that will ultimately impact the majority of children in Urbana.

For the last two years, proceeds from all UHS athletic department fundraisers have been dedicated to funding the new facility. This month, they will launch a new fundraiser for this

cause. The First Annual Sundae 5K run/walk and a children's 1K will take place on Sunday, September 29. All participants will receive a tee shirt before the run and ice cream afterwards. Prizes will be awarded

for top adult finishers in different categories, and children will receive a participation ribbon. More information can be found under the Resource tab on the Urbana High School Athletics webpage (http://il.8to18.com/urbana)

Bring the whole family, and consider running or walking. This is a great opportunity for St. Patrick's parishioners to help support the legacy of John Gremer in the wider community.



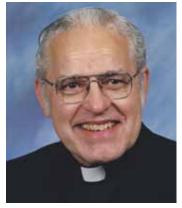
Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is September 15.

Vatican II: The Challenge of Change

By Fr. George Remm

At the end of my last article in the July/August 2013 issue of In Focus, I stated that the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the first document issued by Vatican II on Dec. 4, 1963, would transform my ministry as a priest for years to come. This was true not only in how I would offer Mass, but also in the work I was called to do after my first assignment as an assistant priest at Holy Trinity Church in

Bloomington, Ill.



On April 3, 1969, Pope Paul VI issued the General Instruction on the Roman Missal, which established changes in the official rites of the Western Church. The Diocesan Liturgical Commission, made up of pastors and volunteers, conducted workshops as early as 1964 throughout the diocese to prepare for the com-

ing changes. But the commission felt that they could not adequately instruct priests and people on the "new Mass" and other sacramental changes to come without the assistance of a full-time person to facilitate the work of the commission. Bishop Franz was reluctant to do this and asked, "What pastor would give up his assistant to have a priest assigned to this work?" My pastor, Fr. James Shaughnessy of Sacre Coeur Parish in Sacre Coeur, Ill., who was a liturgical expert in his own right and had published articles on the liturgy in national magazines, quickly said, "I will."

So in June 1969 I was transferred to Peoria to begin a Diocesan Office of Liturgy, Sacred Music, and Architecture with residence at Sacre Coeur Church. My office was my bedroom in the small rectory, but it was also my only living quarters with a common bathroom shared with Fr. Shaughnessy. Although not officially an assistant, I assisted the pastor with daily and weekend Masses. In fact, I ran the parish that summer while Fr. Shaughnessy was completing his studies at the University of Notre Dame for a degree in Liturgy. We maintained this arrangement for two years until Fr. Shaughnessy moved to Notre Dame in 1971 to begin the Murphy Center for Liturgical Research, and I transferred my residence to St. Mark's in Peoria for the next five years.

My first major work was to introduce the priests of the diocese to the new rite of Mass. I had no real office and no secretary. But with volunteer help from the people at Sacre Coeur and the generosity of a priest who allowed me to use his mimeograph machine, I prepared handouts based on the new Sacramentary (the priest's portion of the new Roman Rite). I used an excellent filmstrip produced by a couple of priests from the Diocese of Joliet and based on historical research, "Let Us Give Thanks: A History of God's People at Mass." It explored the reality of changes in the liturgy throughout the centuries, leading up to the rigid rubrics of the Tridentine Mass. I hope you may appreci-

ate the challenge about change confronting priests at that time! The period of adjustment was just beginning.

Here are a few of the changes that priests and people were to implement:

- The orientation of the altar: The altar was now to be free-standing away from the back wall of the church. Churches often had three or more altars; now there was to be one altar to symbolize Christ and our unity with him around which the priest and congregation were to be gathered.
- The language of worship: Worship was to be in the vernacular, the language of the people. The Roman Missal, the one book that contained all the prayers of the Mass, was now divided into a Sacramentary, containing prayers said by the priest, and the Lectionary, containing the readings for the Mass. Hymnals were gradually published, but monthly throwaway participation booklets were also introduced and in many cases never abandoned.
- The role of the priest as the leader of worship: Now facing the people and presiding from the chair, the ambo (pulpit), and the altar, as presider the priest was to gather and lead his people in the celebration of the liturgy. This fulfilled the intent of the Second Vatican Council: "Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy" (Article 14 of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy). What a change for the job description of a priest celebrating Mass!
- A three-year Lectionary: Cycles A, B, and C, ordinarily consisting of an Old Testament reading, a Responsorial Psalm, a New Testament reading (other than a Gospel) and a Gospel reading, would expose the faithful to much of the Bible. Priests were to open up the understanding of God's word through their homily (sermon), not merely preach on favorite topics.
- Recognition and utilization of liturgical ministries: Servers (boys and girls, men and women), greeters, lectors, sacristans, ushers, commentators, choirs, leaders of song, cantors, musicians, and of course all in the assembly, exercise important liturgical functions. The priest must coordinate and facilitate their participation.
- Communion in the hand (optional for the recipient) and distribution of Communion under both species (optional according to celebrant and circumstances):

 Both would require careful catechesis and adjustment from past experience for proper implementation.
- Renovation of churches: To implement the placement of the free-standing altar, the presiding chair, and the ambo, as well places for other ministers, and to lessen the separation of the sanctuary from the body of the church by the communion railing, most churches required extensive changes. Churches had been designed as places for Eucharistic adoration and quiet personal prayer. Now

Presenting the 2013-14 Parish Council

Every spring, with the completion of their three-year terms, three or four members of the Parish Council rotate off and create vacancies to be filled by new members. This spring three parishioners, their names selected blindly from those of a group of volunteers, filled those vacancies: Ken Horn, Solange Masweka, and Kelly Skinner.

At the May meeting of the Parish Council the new members were seated and officers for the coming year were acknowledged: Oscar Gonzales, president; Libby Stubbers, vice-president; and Ken Horn, secretary.

Council members meet on the

third Thursday of most months, with the agenda set by the Council officers in conjunction with the parish trustees and the pastor. Members also serve occasionally on ad hoc committees as the need arises.

All members except the officers also serve on ministry leadership teams for the six key ministry areas of the parish, and this helps keep the Council and staff abreast of the concerns, issues, and activities of parishioners in the ministries.

Here are the ten elected members and three ex-officio members (pastor and trustees) who make up St. Patrick's Parish Council for 2013-14. All will be grateful for your interest, communication on matters of concern, and (especially) your prayerful support.



Fr. Joe Hogan Pastor



Oscar Gonzalez 2011-14, president



Bridget McGill 2011-14



Ron Eagan 2011-14



Margaret Bronson 2012-15



Libby Stubbers 2012-15, vice-president



Mark Sweeney 2012-15



Delphine Mulamba 2012-15



Solange Masweka 2013-16



Ken Horn 2013-16, secretary



Kelly Skinner 2013-16



Bruce Rogers 2011-16, trustee



Ginger Timpone 2008-13, trustee



Q: Why does the Church require miracles for sainthood? A: A Catholic friar on a plane that made a dra-

matic emergency landing in Poland last fall clutched a lock of hair from Blessed John Paul II while praying for the safety of his fellow passengers. Would this be the second miracle needed for the late pope's canonization? Or would it be how a life-threatening tumor that almost completely blocked the throat of a woman in Mexico disappeared after she placed a picture of the late pope on her throat and prayed for healing?

The Vatican confirmed that the intervention of Pope John Paul II was responsible for at least one miracle, the inexplicable healing of a French nun suffering from Parkinson's disease. This paved the way for his beatification, but the final step for a declaration of sainthood required a second miracle. A Costa-Rican woman who suffered from a brain aneurysm was healed and recovered after prayers through the intercession of Blessed John Paul II.

Why does the Church require miracles for a declaration of saint-

hood—isn't evidence of a holy life or popular devotion enough?

The process used by the Church to name someone a saint involves an investigation into the person's life and writings for evidence of holiness and orthodoxy, a debate among a panel of Vatican theologians, and an examination of the person's body. But all these steps are human and, therefore, fallible. A divine sign is needed—a miracle, which is considered proof that the person is in heaven and can intercede with God.

For decades theologians have debated the need for miracles and what may be defined as an acceptable miracle. This has been especially important in light of seemingly inexplicable medical cures that deserve a second look because of advances in medical science.

At the urging of cardinals the world over, Pope Francis has agreed to waive the requirement for a second miracle in the case of Blessed Pope John XXIII—a papal prerogative, one might say. He is expected to canonize both popes by the end of this year.

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



For adults looking for an opportunity to deepen their faith, St. Patrick is offering a new and exciting study program for this fall and spring called, "Catching Fire, Becoming Flame." Father Joe has said that his favorite Bible verse is Luke 12:49: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" Our two priests and Mary Long will alternate as facilitators of this new program.

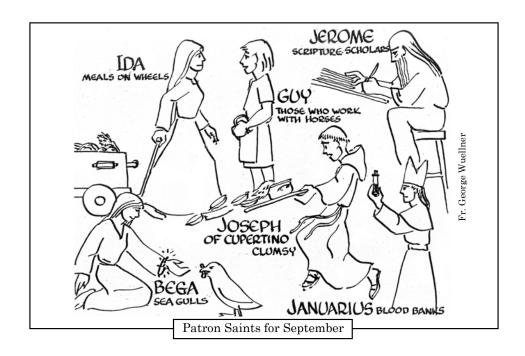
This series is based on a book and videos by Father Albert Haase, the Franciscan priest who led St. Pat-



rick's three-day parish mission during the week before Ash Wednesday. Anyone who attended his lectures remembers how down to earth he was with his Cajun accent—and how inspiring his words were.

Father Albert has written eight books on popular spirituality. He is also the co-host of "Spirit and Life," a radio show heard every week on the Relevant Radio Network. He was a missionary to China for more than eleven years. He also trains spiritual directors for the dioceses of Peoria and Springfield, Illinois.

This program explores spiritual transformation to help you grow more deeply in your spiritual and prayer life. We all need help as we are constantly beset and harried by



"Where's the restroom?"

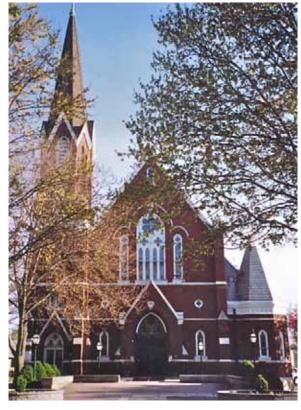
A quick guide to St. Patrick's help facilities

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Special volunteer opportunities

- 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
- **Drivers needed.** Can you take someone to a doctor's appointment, shop for groceries, or attend Sunday Mass? The parish's **Good Samaritans** (*Carla Simmering*, 328-4841), **Family Service** (352-0099), and **Senior Support Services**, formerly Faith in Action (337-2022), are in pressing need of drivers.
- Ushers for Saturday's 5:00 p.m. Mass are needed. If that's your Mass of choice, why not arrive a few minutes early to greet arriving parishioners, help take up the collection during Mass, and hand out the parish bulletin after Mass? Couples and families welcome! *Chris Billing*, 344-5407 or billing.chris@gmail.com
- Beginning this fall, the Food Pantry will need one or two people to collect donated breads and bakery from Panera Bread at closing time. One of the "regulars" has retired and another parishioner stepped in for the summer but expects to have knee surgery this fall. Can you help? Ellen Abell, 367-2665



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.

Fr. Luong Tran: In memoriam

In 2008, St. Patrick's needed a priest who could continue our outreach to the Vietnamese in our community, outreach that took on new emphasis began by Father Hua Pham in 1995. We also needed extra help due to Father Joe's growing responsibilities. The answer to our prayers was Father Luong Tran.



Father Tran's calling to the priesthood came later in his life. When he was 39 years old, he was ordained a priest in Vietnam in 1994. He came to the United States and to St. Patrick's in 2008. Although English was his third language after Vietnamese and French, he was able to communicate with us in many, many ways, especially through his warm smile, gentle handshake or hug, and his soft voice which proclaimed the word of God.

When he first arrived he didn't drive and was "chauffeured" by various parishioners to the nursing home to celebrate Mass, St. Joe for meetings, other churches for sacraments, or to the store to buy groceries. He was always willing to "be there" when we needed him.

After daily Mass, Father Luong often joined the 7-Alive group for coffee and afterwards helped to sort and repackage bread for the Food Pantry.

Father Luong was active in ministering to the local Vietnamese community, visiting homes, baptizing babies, hearing confessions, and presiding at weddings. He celebrated Mass in Vietnamese on the last Sunday of every month.

In 2011, Father Luong's visa to stay in the United States expired and he had to return to Vietnam. In a way this was propitious because his father had been very ill, and he was happy to be able to see him again. Father Luong later spoke of the many happy hours he spent with his parents during that visit at home. After a lot of hard work by Father Joe, who filled out many, many forms, Father Tran's visa was renewed and he was able to return to St. Patrick's for one more year.

In June 2012, Father Tran returned to his homeland. He sent many pictures of his family, his new parish church, and his new congregation. He was very happy. He continued to communicate with his St. Pat's family, and he continued to offer his prayers for us.

We miss Father Luong very much. We pray for him and also for his family and his parishioners here and in Vietnam. May memories of Father Luong lighten and bring comfort to all who knew him.

May you be blessed forever in heaven, Father Luong!



Father Albert from page 6

the demands of modern living. Father Albert has created thirty-minute video presentations on topics such as the spiritual journey as a process of transformation; our image of God; the examen and prayer practices; the challenge of forgiveness; and discerning God's will. One week will feature a video of Father Albert followed by discussion in small groups. The following week will be a Bible study to explore and apply the themes in the video. Each meeting will have input from Father Joe, Father Joel Phelps, or Mary Long.

Meetings will be on Thursdays. You may select afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. or evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. There will be an introductory session on Thursday, Sept. 26. There will be four sessions in October, two in November, four in January, and two or three in February. On Wednesday, Dec. 4, Father Albert will return to St. Patrick to share his insights from this new program.

Those of us who participated in last year's "Catholicism" series or previous years' Great Adventure Bible Study will be eager to take up this new series. Those of us who are standing outside the fire are invited to come closer and bask in the blaze of God's love. Just one little spark could set our whole spiritual life ablaze!

Vocation Prayer

Follow Me!

Jesus, you seem to be inviting me to try something new, something uncomfortable. It feels somehow scary and a little strange. I do want to follow, but I need help in seeing the way, the when and how of it. Please be with me while I try to figure this out. I do love you and want to be close to you, and I will continue to listen.

New pastoral associates ready for (almost) anything

This July, two parishioners, Ali Guna and Jim Urban, joined St. Patrick's staff and became part-time pastoral associates.

Ali Guna, originally from the province of Inner Mongolia, arrived in Canada in 1996 and came to the United States in 1997. She studied at God's Bible School and College in



Cincinnati, Ohio, and at the Cincinnati Bible Seminary. Then, she says, her life took a turn as God led her to Champaign-Urbana, where she earned a Masters in Accounting from the University of Illinois in 2002.

Ali credits her friends and neighbors, long-time parishioners Kathy and Dan McKenzie and Chris Langendorf, with bringing her to St. Patrick's, where she went through the RCIA program. Through Kathy and Chris, she quickly became involved in the parish, helping with Women of St. Patrick events.

Ali's son, Wei-Wei Su, recently graduated from The High School of St. Thomas More and is beginning his studies at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor this fall. Does she feel like an empty-nester because of this? "No, I'm very busy," she says. Wei-Wei is a wonderful son, but she admits she will enjoy having a little extra free time to do things just for herself.

What motivated her to take on

her new position as pastoral associate? Two words: Father Joe. She says that one day he asked her, "How's your Catholic faith?" After she spent two weeks worrying that she had shown some lack of faith or needed to embark on some additional study, Father Joe revealed what was behind his question: he proposed that she consider taking on the position of part-time pastoral associate. After a few days of consideration, she accepted.

Ali is one of the staff representatives to the Parish Community Life ministries. Because of her ease in talking to and getting to know people, she feels very comfortable with this area of parish life. She enjoys meeting new people and is particularly looking forward to welcoming newcomers and helping them to find their way around the parish.

Jim Urban will be recognized immediately by anyone who attends the Children's Mass on the first two Sundays of each month during the



school year. He and his wife, Anna Kasten, have coordinated the Children's Liturgy Ensemble for the past ten years. Their daughters Joanie (13) and Sophia (11) also take part in the ensemble.

A native of Romeoville, Ill., Jim is a lifelong Catholic. In his home parish of St. Andrew's, he assisted in liturgy planning and music ministry and served as parish council member and president. He and Anna were married at St. Andrew's in 1998 and then moved to Champaign where Anna, already a member of St. Patrick's, was teaching at the University of Illinois. Since attending graduate school at the Uofl, Jim has combined working part-time in private practice as an architect and landscape architect with being a stay-at-home dad to Joanie and Sophia. In addition to his music ministry in the parish, Jim is one of two parishioners who do the page design for In Focus.

As with Ali, Jim hadn't thought about becoming a pastoral associate until he was approached by Father Joe, who talked to Jim and Anna about considering the idea. The idea appealed to Jim because it was different way to serve the parish. As staff representative to the parish's Peace and Justice ministries, Jim looks forward to learning what each of the groups in that ministry cluster does, getting to know the people involved and working to facilitate their efforts, in particular their outreach into the wider community.

Our new pastoral associates will undoubtedly appreciate our prayerful support!



St. Patrick's Capital Campaign

We're getting closer!

Pledged: \$3,946,302 Cash in hand: \$2,374,538

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

St. Vincent de Paul, patron of charitable societies

The name of St. Vincent de Paul is familiar to most of us. De Paul University was named for him.

Our parish's St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is administered by St. Patrick's chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization dedicated to the service of the poor and suffering.

This patron saint of charitable societies did not set out to pursue charitable work. Vincent was

born in 1581 in France to a peasant farming family. He showed a talent for reading and writing, so his father sent him to school with an eye toward an ecclesiastical career, thinking that such a career would give his son financial security and enable him to help support the family.

Vincent studied humanities and theology and was ordained as a priest in 1600 at the age of nineteen. Five years later, his life took a turn that may have influenced his future. While sailing from Marseilles, he was captured by Barbary pirates who sold him into slavery. He spent two years as a slave before managing to escape and return to France.

After further study in Rome, Vincent was sent back to France where he served as a chaplain and then a parish priest. In 1612, he began to serve the illustrious Gondi family. While he was the spiritual director and confessor of the Countess de Gondi, she persuaded her husband to endow a group of missionaries to work among the poor tenant farmers and people in the small villages and towns. Declining to lead this group, Vincent instead went to work in Paris.

In Paris, he organized a group of wealthy women of his parish into "The Ladies of Charity." They founded hospitals and raised funds for missions, relief of war victims, and ransom for 1200 galley slaves from

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LET ALL THINGS

BE DONE WITH

Africa. Although these women could raise money, it was more difficult for them to do actual work among the poor, and they often sent servants in their place. Vincent began to direct young women looking to serve others to the ministry serving under the Ladies of Charity. Soon these young women had become the core group of what

then became the community established by Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac as the Daughters of Charity, "whose convent is the sickroom, whose chapel is the parish church, whose cloister is the streets

of the city."

Vincent was appointed chaplain to the galley slaves in 1622 and served among imprisoned galley slaves for a time before returning to the Gondi estate to take up the leadership position he had declined years earlier. He headed the organization now known as the Congregation of the Mission, or Vincentians. The priests of this mission served the people in the small towns and villages.

In addition to helping the poor and sick, Vincent did much in the way of combating ignorance, laxity, and abuse among the clergy of his time. He pioneered in clerical training, establishing seminaries, and conducting retreats.

Vincent de Paul died in Paris on September 27, 1660 and was canonized in 1737. Patron saint of the Sisters of Charity and the Brothers of Charity, Pope Leo XIII made him the patron of all charitable societies because he inspired many to work to

see St. Vincent on page 15

Did you know?

- For decades a cadre of longtime parishioners maintained a parish archive and updated historical records of parishioners, parish events and activities, parish groups, renovations of the church, the construction of the parish center and its expansion, etc. With a special push, these members of the parish Archives Committee also managed to produce A Celebration of Parish Families and recorded for future generations the special events marking St. Patrick's centennial observance of its founding and dedication of the church. With an upcoming major expansion of the church and parish center, it seems especially important to have an active group working on preserving information about the changes that will affect all of our parishioners for years to come. A new Archives Committee could help preserve today the heritage of future generations of parishioners. Interested? Leave your name and phone number at the parish office.
- Someone cleaning out her basement recently came across a carton containing several old missals, prayer books, and a Bible from a couple of generations ago. She wondered what to do with her discoveries. Fr. Joe suggested that these items be brought to Fr. Joel Phelps, who will see whether there is a possible use for them; if not, he will simply dispose of them. So now you know.
- The Community Parish Nurse Program is offering a fall training course Sept. 20 and 21, and Nov. 1, 2, and 3. Registered nurses of all faiths are invited to participate. Call 217/326-2583 for information or for a registration form.

"Share the Bread" by helping with St. Vincent de Paul's dinner for Food Pantry friends

It's a very warm, and humbling, feeling to be able to "share the bread" with the SVDP guests. They come from all sorts of backgrounds and circumstances. But by the grace of God, any one of us could be in need of what SVDP food pantry offers. It makes me even more appreciative of what I have.

Volunteer at a previous SVDP Food Pantry Friends Dinner

Many of us appreciate the chance to sit down, relax, and enjoy a delicious and plentiful dinner cooked by someone else. For many clients of our parish's St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, this is not an opportunity they have very often. This is one of many reasons that Food Pantry Coordinator, Ellen Abell, thought several years ago that it would be a wonderful thing for our parish to host a dinner for the clients of the Food Pantry.

Ellen shared her idea with Chris Whippo, who brought the Women of St. Patrick (WSP) on board. Father Joe needed little persuasion: when Chris brought the idea to him, he showed her a poster he has that depicts the luxurious Christmas Lunch held for the poor and homeless each year in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere, Rome. Thanks to the hard work of Ellen, Chris, the WSP and other parish ministries, the first SVDP Food Pantry Friends Dinner was held in January 2010.

There have been three dinners thus far, and although each has had its particular challenges, all have been greatly enjoyed by the guests who attended. At each dinner, both guests and volunteers exclaimed over the delicious and plentiful food. Lonely and isolated guests have found fellowship, struggling people

have enjoyed some relaxation and pleasure, and everyone has experienced moments of connection and understanding. Some comments from past volunteers:

- I talked about parenting challenges and joys with a woman at my table. Parenting is hard enough; I can't imagine how difficult it is when you're not sure you have enough food to feed your children.
- I reflected how in order to feed a soul you first need to feed the body. I reflected on the Christ-light each [guest] carried within. I rejoiced in the smiles that came as they finished their meal.
- I realized how much I take for granted every meal that I set before myself daily. It was a gift from the Holy Spirit to see how being fed from kindness differs from being fed from hunger.

The Fourth Annual SVDP Food Pantry Friends Dinner will take place on Wednesday, September 25. Organizers Eliza-

beth Hendricks, Joyce Wagner, and Chris Whippo are calling on everyone in the parish to consider becoming involved in whatever way fits your time, talent, or abilities. Volunteers are needed to make reminder phone calls, work in the kitchen, set tables, greet guests, serve food and beverages, act as table hosts, clean up, and wash dishes. Fried chicken and ham are purchased for the dinner, but organizers rely on the generosity (and amazing cooking and baking skills) of parishioners for the rest of the dishes.

Volunteer sign-ups will begin in early September. Watch the bulletin and ministry e-mails for more information and links to Doodle for sign-up. If you have questions, you can contact Elizabeth Hendricks (elihen@att.net) or Joyce Wagner (359-9546).



Christmas Lunch in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere, Rome

500 Miles from page 1

"embrace the Apostle," which one does by walking behind and above the high altar in the cathedral. One goes to the crypt to give thanks to St. James for a safe journey, and then to the pilgrim's Mass at noon. Laura was in Santiago for several days, so she was able to see the Botafumeiro more than once. This giant censer weighs 176 pounds and is hung on pulleys from the cathedral ceiling. Filled with another 80 pounds of charcoal and incense, it takes eight men to get it swinging the length of the nave and almost up to the ceiling of the cathedral, bil-

lowing thick clouds of incense.

Would she do it again? Yes indeed! She'd love to take the route along the northern Spanish coast, or perhaps up through Portugal. Laura comes back to us with a terrific tan, lots of callouses, many photos, and memories for a lifetime.

Budgeting for religious education

St. Patrick's places a high value on religious education of all our parishioners, from the very young to our parish elders. This fact is evident in the budget set by the Financial Affairs Committee and approved by the

Parish Council in the spring for the coming year. For the fiscal year 2013-14, which began July 1 of this year, the overall budget for religious education is \$286,350.

Let's unpack that a little. The budget for religious education

at St. Patrick's, \$45,350, funds Bible studies, sacramental programs (First Communion, First Reconciliation, Baptism, Marriage Prep, Confirmation) as well as the K-12 religious education on Sundays at St. Patrick's and on Wednesdays for our St. Joseph-Ogden parishioners. The budget also includes \$241,000 for religious education of our parishioners at Holy Cross and St. Thomas/Philo elementary schools and at The High School of St. Thomas More, as explained below.

Why is religious education so important? It's essential, really. Without it, youngsters grow into adults, who become future parish elders, without an adequate, even workable, knowledge and understanding the rudiments of our faith—you know, who made us and why. This knowledge—and understanding—is "the pearl of great price." Without it, life is lived without moral guidance or direction, without a compass for our life's journey to reach our goal: life with the God who made us and

loves us beyond imagining, a life of untold happiness in common with all God's family created with so much love.

And so we plan as best we can to instill Christian values, morals, and

the guidelines provided by our Church to help us on our way. At every level we hope to expand understanding of the basics taught in childhood so that as we grow in age we grow also in grace as we begin to realize just what it

means—who made us and why.

In recent issues of *In Focus* attention was given to religious education for our young parishioners enrolled at Holy Cross School and to our teens at The High School of St. Thomas

More. This issue focuses on how our parish supports this aspect of our overall goal for educating all our parishioners in the elements of our faith.

Years ago St. Patrick's established two funds intended specifically to provide support

for our children and teens enrolled in Catholic schools. Approximately 70 St. Patrick's youngsters are enrolled at Holy Cross School, three at St. Thomas/Philo, and about 30 parish teens at St. Thomas More High School. The capital in each fund is to remain untouched, with accruing interest made available for use as needed. Accruing interest, as you must realize, hasn't been a significant factor in recent years. Yet the parish and the Diocese of Peoria provide other means for defraying some of the basic cost of tuition and to assist our parish families needing help with the remaining cost due.

St. Patrick's pays a set portion of the tuition cost for every parishioner enrolled in Holy Cross and St. Thomas (Philo) elementary schools, and St. Thomas More High School. In addition, since the high school is a vicariate school, each parish in the Champaign vicariate pays an assessed amount (based on "ordinary income," i.e., income from Sunday collections) toward the operation expenses of the high school.

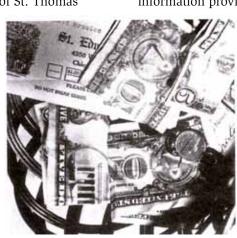
A family requiring help with the remaining portion of the tuition expense is asked to apply to an outside agency (FACTS), which reviews the information provided and forwards

its report to the Diocese of Peoria, where it is evaluated for a possible grant from the Spalding Fund. Our pastor also determines how much the parish can contribute.

Is all this expense for religious education really worth it? St. Patrick's

thinks so, and budgets for it as an investment in today's generation and the Church of tomorrow!

In the next issue of *In Focus*: parish programs in religious education for children, teens, and adults.



Winning CREW Service Auction Bid = Fun, Friends, Family, Fellowship

Most of us have seen the list of services CREW members offer up at their annual CREW Service Auction to raise money for their summer mission trip. But those of us who have not submitted the winning bid on items sometimes wonder: How did things turn out for the winning bidders?

At this year's CREW Service Auction, parishioner Maureen Elsbernd won the bid on an item offered by CREW member Bernie Arend. She shared with In Focus the result of that winning bid.

"I bid on Bernie's soccer camp because our 8-year-old daughter, Emily, loves soccer. She and some of her friends play on teams with the St. Joseph Soccer Club. Bernie's camp included five hours of lessons for up to three young kids. We broke that up into three sessions at our home in Ogden. Bernie included his two younger brothers, Jacob and Sam, and all three of them served as coaches to the younger kids. We could schedule only one friend for the first session, so the boys brought their sister Miriam, who is Emily's age. They brought pop-up soccer goals, orange cones for doing drills, and the correct size soccer balls for

and Sam, and another friend's little brother.

"The best part of the entire experience was that it involved almost



Bernie, Spencer, Sam, Jacob, and Miriam in action

the students. Bernie planned lots of

great drills and exercises for Emily and her friends. Emily especially enjoyed learning how to "juggle" a soccer ball with her knees and feet, something she'd never been taught before.

"Every session ended with a three-on-three scrimmage where the coaches teamed up with the kids in various combinations. But that's not all! Bernie's mom, Mary Kate, brought sports drinks and homemade treats for everyone at the end of every session. The final session ended in an epic super soaker battle that even included Emily's older brother, Nathan, who is in Vivo with Jacob

everyone in both of our families. It was great meeting and getting to know another family in St. Pat's parish. Not only did Mary Kate and I chat through all three sessions, the parents of Emily's friends joined us at various times adding to the fellowship. Kids and adults alike had a great time, thanks to Bernie and his whole family. They are a very special family, and Bernie went above and beyond to make sure that Emily and her friends had a blast and learned something, too!"

Bernie's mother, Mary Kate Arend, added that Bernie learned something as well: that he has talents and skills that are valuable to other people. He was able to raise money for CREW and help some younger children improve their soccer skills, all while doing something he merely thought of as fun.

When the next CREW Service Auction comes around, what will you bid on?



Tired but happy at the end of session #2. Back row: Coaches Jacob, Bernie, and Sam Arend. Front row: Emily Elsbernd in the middle, with friends Spencer and Hunter.

Living FaithBy Chris Billing

I grew up in a big family, and there were always countless things to be done. Contributing to fulfill a



need is just how I was brought up, so it seemed natural that I would

volunteer at church, starting as an altar boy and continuing through high school.

As an adult, I was a Eucharistic minister for more than thirty years in a former parish, but when I came to St. Patrick's I wanted to try something different. I answered a notice in the bulletin for usher assistance for a Christmas Day Mass more than ten years ago. Once I started ushering, it was easy to continue.

Ushers are sometimes referred to as "Ministers of Hospitality," which is an appropriate description of much of our activity. Ushers greet the congregation as they arrive and assist with seating when necessary. Ushers pass out handouts and bulletins, take up the collection, arrange for gift bearers, and help direct orderly processions for Communion and other rites like distribution of ashes.

I usher at the 10:30 Mass which is usually full or overfull. Performing all the duties and tasks of an usher can sometimes distract me from the liturgy, but my familiarity and awareness of this large St. Patrick's family has grown so that I view these duties as a part of worship itself. Worshiping in community is important to me. Yes, I give a little service, but so much more is given to me in return. As my faith journey continues, this liturgical ministry is part of what has carried me to this point.

If you can see yourself becoming a little more involved at Mass, consider helping as an usher. Training is quick and on the job. All ages are welcome, and you can usher at the Mass of your choice, weekly or even once a month. If you'd like to give it a try or find out a little more about it, just contact me (344-5407 or billing.chris@gmail.com).

Summer Vacation from page 2

trip with a servant's heart. If I had a dollar for each time a chaperone told me about how hard the teens worked, how they worked without complaining, or how they toughed it out in the heat—well, I wouldn't be rich, but I would have enough for a really great dinner for all my friends at a really great restaurant. I have either witnessed or heard about teens who clean bathtubs that would make you turn around and leave; chaperones who cleaned out areas of homes that had been neglected much too long; and participants of all ages who have withstood heat and humidity in jeans for eight hours a day that would make the rest of us want to go back to our blessed air conditioning.

There are two "Uggggh—not again!" parts to the mission trip that the teens mutter about under their breath every year. Both are tradi-

tions that date back to the very first mission trip in 2000: affirmation cards and the dreaded one-minute witness, reporting on the mission trip at Mass.

Affirmation cards are small note cards that participants have to write for everyone else on the trip. If there are 45 people on the trip, you have to write 44 affirmation cards (the real over-achievers write one for themselves too!). While this is cumbersome and is known to cause hand cramps, reading them on the way home or after the trip is truly heartwarming, funny, and again, amazing. They help to move the teens out of their own frame of reference, to dig deeper to find and give compliments to everyone on the trip.

The mission trip reports at Mass serve an important purpose as well. Again, the witness statement pushes the teens out of their comfort zone, forces them to "digest" their experience, and tell the parish about it in a meaningful and hope-filled way.

I want to thank all of you, the entire parish community of St. Patrick's, for your support of the CREW Summer Mission Trip over the past 14 years. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the CREW Mission Trip next year–through a fundraiser, general donation, prayer, or serving as a chaperone on a future trip.

Thank you also for supporting me as the parish's Youth Minister for the past nine years. Your prayers, generosity, and love were felt and appreciated over all these years. I look forward to being a chaperone myself on trips in the years to come and accompanying my own children through their mission trip experiences as well.

Vatican II from page 4

they were to be the gathering space for an active worshiping community and for communal celebrations of the sacraments of Baptism, Marriage, Communal Penance, and other sacramental needs. New understanding would often clash with memories and sentiment.

My work with priests and with parish liturgy committees through the diocesan Liturgy, Music, and Art & Architecture Committee would continue for seven years. My understanding and appreciation of the priesthood and of the role of the pastor was changing!

St. Vincent from page 10

alleviate poverty and suffering. Outstanding among these societies, of course, is the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, founded in 1833 by Frederic Ozanam.

St. Vincent de Paul's feast day, September 27, falls just two days after our parish's dinner on September 25 for St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry friends. A fitting way to celebrate and memorialize this charitable saint!



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 midmonth 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 Chris Billing, Amy Boscolo, Pam Donze De Ley, Maureen Elsbernd, Judy Fierke, Chris Freidhof, Dianne Gordon, Elizabeth Hendricks, Jeff Kneer, Peggy Loftus, Mary Lou Menches, Ellen Noonan, Maureen Reagan, Fr. George Remm, Cathy Salika, Laura Theby, and Peggy Whelan. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Kelly Skinner, page layout by John Colombo.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Maureen Reagan

Salsa Chicken

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
1 small package reduced-sodium taco seasoning mix
1 cup salsa

Place the chicken in a slow cooker. Sprinkle with taco seasoning and top with salsa. Cook on low for 6-8 hours. If desired, you can

- add a can of corn or black beans during the last hour or so of cooking.
- shred the chicken during the last hour or so of cooking.
- after cooking, thicken the salsa with cornstarch.
- after cooking, stir 1¼ cup sour cream into the salsa.

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

Crew on Mission 2013

Supplement Supplement

Reaching deeper in Memphis

by Chris Freidhof

"For one week each year the Mission Trip gives me the opportunity to be the best person I am capable of being." – A young adult's reflection

from Mission Trip 2013

Twenty-five teens, four young adults, and sixteen chaperones departed from St. Patrick's Parish on Sunday, July 14, for a weeklong mission trip to Memphis, Tenn.

This was CREW's fourth trip to Memphis, and so we had expectations of the type of work we would be doing there. It seems the elderly

could do with some assistance in this city. In the past, we had helped happy to aid them once again this year.

We met Mildred, an open and caring 78-year-young woman who

could no longer climb ladders to maintain the exterior woodwork on her 100-year-old home. Even as a CREW team repaired, scraped, painted, replaced screens, and powerwashed, they reached deeper and took the time to share stories with the homeowner. The highlight of the week came when our teens gifted Mildred with a signed angel

statue for her garden. Mildred gifted them back with hugs and tears.

removed old carpeting, fixed windows, washed exterior siding, and arranged for new flooring to be installed in her home. And their hearts were touched by



Lucy's kind heart. It was amazing watching the teens interact with her grandkids. Our young men joked and played with the little ones. Our young women let them braid their hair. Lucy told us that the depth of their compassion gave her hope—a hope she was afraid she was losing.



Chris Freidhof



them with home repair and general cleaning via the generosity of the Memphis Medical Center; we were We connected with Lucy and her grandchildren. The teens and adults patched, repaired and painted walls,

One group of our teens and young adults gutted and installed a laundry room in a house that was undergo-

ing complete renovation. Although they were not given the opportunity to interact much with the homeowner, they were forced out of their

was necessary. They pushed back the smell and feel of the squalor and the grime, and they began cleaning from floor to ceiling. Our wonderful

teens washed and tidied and organized each room without complaint. Their example inspired their chaperones to dig deeper emotionally, physically, and even financially to help Ondrea and Herbert. With the homeowners' blessing, we were allowed to rebuild complete



Peggy Loftus and Fr. Joel Phelps. At every available opportunity throughout the week these two were inviting us to dig deeper spiritually. In



addition to praising our efforts to perform Corporal Works of Mercy by providing shelter and food, they empower us to perform Spiritual Works of Mercy by instructing us in Catholic teachings on social justice and the inherent dignity of each person, and they encouraged us to comfort one another as well as our clients. Above all they inspired us through the celebration of daily Mass, offered forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and led us in morning and evening prayers. They even arranged for us to witness how others dedicated their lives to serve the poor each and every day by arranging a visit for us with the Missionaries of Charity. Aided by Fr. Phelps and Peggy, we were able to see Jesus in all we served—and in one another.

comfort zones and into the clutter and the heat. They dug deep and rose to the occasion by prepping, hanging, taping, mudding and sanding drywall, and laying subfloor and vinyl. Their efforts even inspired a caring local to renew her commitment of making her neighborhood a better place to live.

On CREW's fourth worksite, we expected to replace outdoor siding and repair doors and windows. But it took only one look at the interior of the home to know that we were being called to do much more. Water damage had rotted away the kitchen cabinets and floor, the bathroom walls and flooring had been dam-

aged, and the living spaces needed cleaning and paint. Witnessing abject poverty this closely and personally at first plunged our entire CREW

contingent



into shock and desperation. But the teens dug deep, stepped up with sympathetic spirits and able hands, and jumped right into doing what supplied with a livable home, fresh food, and household necessities.

rooms as we again intertwined

kindred hearts and gave of ourselves

to ensure that this family would be

None of this could have been done without the inspired leadership of















Mission Trip Participants, 2013

High School Teens

Bernie Arend Chandler Bollman Katie Brown Amy Crull Jesse Dankle Diego Gundersen Will Justice Nick Kneer Joshua Koerner Carly Langendorf Keith Lee Braxton Parisi Colton Parisi George Pennacchi Sally Pennacchi Megan Porter Matthew Ramaly Annie Rasmussen Anthony Scarborough Dan Schuele Jamie Simmering Abbi Simpson Molly Smith Piotrus Swiech Gabby Wszalek

Young Adults

Luke Cottingham Cora Freidhof Kyle Ritten Caitlin Schutz

Chaperones

Judy Crull Chris Freidhof Denise Freidhof Patrick Hatch Dick Justice Pat Justice Peggy Loftus Josh Nielsen Kai Nielsen Sam Noonan Dave Palmisano JR Palmisano Randy Pankau Fr. Joel Phelps Barb Schleicher Andy Wszalek