

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

December 2014

St. Patrick's celebrated a milestone on Sunday, November 16 – the groundbreaking for our church expansion. Parishioners gathered on the parish lawn after 9 o'clock Mass singing "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name." After a brief Scripture reading and a prayer of blessing, the ground was blessed with holy water and the groundbreaking took place in two rounds.

The first group included Fr. Joe Hogan, pastor; Fr. George Remm, pastor emeritus and honorary campaign chair; Fr. Joel Phelps, parochial vicar; Randy Pankau and Joe Vitosky, Building Committee co-



Honoring Our Past
BUILDING OUR FUTURE
ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH CAMPAIGN

chairs; Mary Karten, chair of the Art & Environment Advisory Committee; and Laura Theby, chair of the Music Advisory Committee. The second group, representing future generations of St. Patrick's, included these children and teens: Anthony Diaz-Stack, Abby Goad, Emily Hardimon, Austin McDaniel, Michael Mboyo, Paul Nguyen, and Molly Smith.

In his remarks during the ceremony, Father Joe reminded us to look back with gratitude to our ancestors in faith and to give thanks for all the blessings we share today as a parish family. "Today is about honoring our past and building our future. This is our legacy for future generations who will call St. Patrick's their faith community."



Holy Cross Happenings

The 6th through 8th grades at Holy Cross School participated in their annual Halloween party on Oct. 18. Bucking tradition, it was held at the school this year instead of at Kaufman Lake Park. There was dancing in the gym, pumpkin carving in the cafeteria, and even a spooky alleyway! Everyone had an eerily good time.

The preschool through 5th grades had their annual Halloween party on October 25. It was staffed by 6th through 8th grade students and a great bunch of parents!

The first quarter ended on October 24, and the school held parent-teacher conferences on November 6 and 7.

The following St. Patrick's students at Holy Cross School made the 1st Quarter Honor Roll. HIGHEST HONORS were awarded to Ellen Loftus, Maddy McCoy, Lisa Altaner, Rachel Loftus, Justin Smith, and Hannah Niccum. HIGH

HONORS went to Kaleb Leininger and Austin Ford. And HONORS were awarded to Kylie Hopper, Joyson Kakinga, Will Moore, Luke Herzog, Morgan Saunders, and Mary Agor. *Congratulations on your fine work this quarter!*

The 4th grade held their annual All Saints celebration by dressing in the mode of chosen saints for the day; some of them even showed up at St Patrick's during 10:30 Mass on Sunday, November 2.

The student body came together to honor our veterans on November 11. The Boy Scouts opened the ceremony with a color guard, which was followed by readings and songs by the school choirs.

All students are now looking toward December celebrations, time off for the holidays, and Christmas!



Remembering

As we begin the season of Advent, we find it a good time for remembering. The four patient weeks remind us of the state of the world before Jesus came. We remember that humanity needed a deeper understanding of how to live the life that God meant for us. We remember that we needed a Savior to make it possible for us to live that life.

Advent is also a time for remembering our present, who we are and where we are right now. Our days are shaped by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, but God isn't finished with us yet. We need to remember our place in our family, our parish, and society, and the work

that God has given us to do. We need to remember our strengths and weaknesses and the many ways that Jesus is with us to help us.

We can also remember to think about our future during Advent. We can ponder where we are heading, where God is leading us. Even though we don't know exactly what tomorrow will bring, we know what God intends for us—to be one with him and united with one another in heaven. He wants

to give us tremendous joy that will ease every pain and satisfy every need, because we are with him.

When we remember our past, our present, and our future, we're not thinking just about ourselves. We're remembering God's presence and that everything God does is for our good. God

has always been with his people and always will be.

We remember God's faithfulness from age to age.



Mmm! Christmas cookies and gift baskets!

If the mention of Christmas conjures up the fragrance of homemade cookies and the fun of shopping for unique gifts but the thought of the effort and time involved in these activities sends you into a panic – then panic no more! On December 14, the Women of St. Patrick will come to your rescue with their annual Christmas Cookie & Basket Sale.

A cadre of bakers and lifestyle decorators will showcase an amazing array of the

best Christmas cookies ever. And the creative “Basket Ladies” (Chris Langendorf, Kathy McKenzie, Sandy Pijanowski, Leslie Risatti, and Sandy Shaw) have corralled the most interesting baskets from the latest Cellar-to-Garret Sale, filling them with an enticing array of useful, fanciful, and frivolous gift items that will delight family and friends.

After all the Masses on Sunday,



December 14, the sale will be open to parishioners in the parish hall.

For those of us who can't or won't bake, it's hard to comprehend the number of hours, pounds of ingredients, and love that must go into the baking and decorating of special cookies for the sale. Kathy McKenzie estimates that, in addition, each WSP member will have contributed over 20 hours of work in preparation for the sale, a number

that “doesn't even take into consideration the time that will be spent in setting up and selling the Christmas cookies and the gift baskets.”

According to Kathy, \$1,900 was raised in 2013 by the sale. “The profits from this labor of love,” she said, “have benefited the parish as a whole.” She listed some of the many ways the profits have been put to good use for the parish, such

as the ice machine, dinnerware and silverware, operating funds, and stipends to speakers, as well as donations to support the work of Dr. Susan Nagele, our parishioner currently serving in Mombasa, Kenya. WSP recently presented a check for \$10,000 to benefit the parish's Capital Campaign.

The idea for the Christmas Cookie & Basket Sale was conceived about 12 years ago by Leslie Risatti and Ceil Weir; Leslie still is very much involved in the sale. At WSP's recent planning session for the sale, members mourned the passing of longtime member and previous WSP Board President Jolene McGrogan, reflecting on the fun and fellowship that she contributed to the group over the years.

There will not be a Christmas Cookie & Basket Sale in 2015 because the parish will be in throes of its renovation and reconstruction project. Certainly the 2014 cookies cannot be expected to last until next year's Christmas gift giving, but the baskets surely could—you might want to stock up now!

Above all, do come to this year's sale after Masses on December 14 in the parish hall!

Care Notes: Food for thought

Are you familiar with Care Notes? Perhaps you have seen the Care Notes rack outside the multipurpose room in the parish center and stopped to browse. Perhaps you have received a Care Note from the Consolation Ministry after the death of a loved one.

The St. Patrick's pastoral staff has carefully selected a series of Care Notes that you may find helpful. Care Notes are small pamphlets that discuss everyday issues from a Christian perspective. Written in a simple and straightforward way, they approach a variety of topics to offer food for thought and perhaps a solution.

There are helpful topics on a variety of issues for a variety of ages. From parenting a troubled teen to



dealing with bullying and fitting in, from assistance for families dealing with depression, Alzheimer's Disease, and final illnesses to caring for our good earth and strengthening marriage, there is a Care Note to read and ponder.

The Care Notes are free and available to anyone. Stop by the Care

Notes rack the next time you are in the parish center. You may find just the right note to address what you need.

Vocation Prayer

*Act justly, love tenderly,
and walk humbly with God.*

Dear God, help me to know how best to bring justice and love to a world desperately in need of you. Strengthen me, strengthen all of us, with the courage and generosity we need to respond to your call.



Q: Why do priests wear purple vestments at Mass during Advent?

A: Violet or purple vestments are worn during Advent (and Lent) as a sign of penance, sacrifice, and preparation. That's the long and the short of it.

We tend not to think of Advent as a time of penance and sacrifice—we think with joy of the coming of the Christ Child, the birth of our Savior. At the very least, though, Advent is a time of preparation of our hearts for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

How better to prepare than by reconciling with the Lord and by purifying our hearts through some selfless acts of generous service, of opening our hearts and purses to the needs of others in our midst—in other words, in acts of penance and sacrifice—as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child?

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

Boo-tiful!

The St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra presented a concert of spooky music just before Halloween, on Oct. 25. The 39 young musicians, all of high school age, were ably led by Conductor Jack Reeder and Assistant Conductor Noah Larson.

Among the selections were music from *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and the movie *Psycho*, as well as three movements from Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite*.

The music was well played and beautiful indeed – all treat and no trick! And as an added treat, the orchestra provided Halloween cookies afterward. It was a lovely evening. If you haven't heard the orchestra yet, mark your calendar for Saturday, April 25, at Holy Cross church for a concert featuring bass-baritone Ricardo Herrera.



in our parish library

Merry Christmas, ¡Feliz Navidad! It is definitely starting to feel like winter—there's a nip in the air, the leaves are falling or gone, and we've already experienced our first snow flurry of the season; Christmas is just around the corner! To offset the season's commercialism, one or another of the following books just might provide you with substance for reflection in preparation for the birth of the Christ Child.

Psalms for All Seasons, by John F. Craghan, is a collection of 55 psalms that can speak to everyone, from children to adults. Some speak in moments of peace, others in moments of disaster and disillusionment. This book is also great for bible study groups and prayer groups. 223 Cra

An Adult Christ at Christmas, by Raymond Brown, is a digest of his longer work, *The Birth of the Messiah*. Fr. Brown puts the adult Christ back into Christmas, treating the Infancy Narratives of Matthew and Luke as the entire Gospel story in miniature. 226 Bro

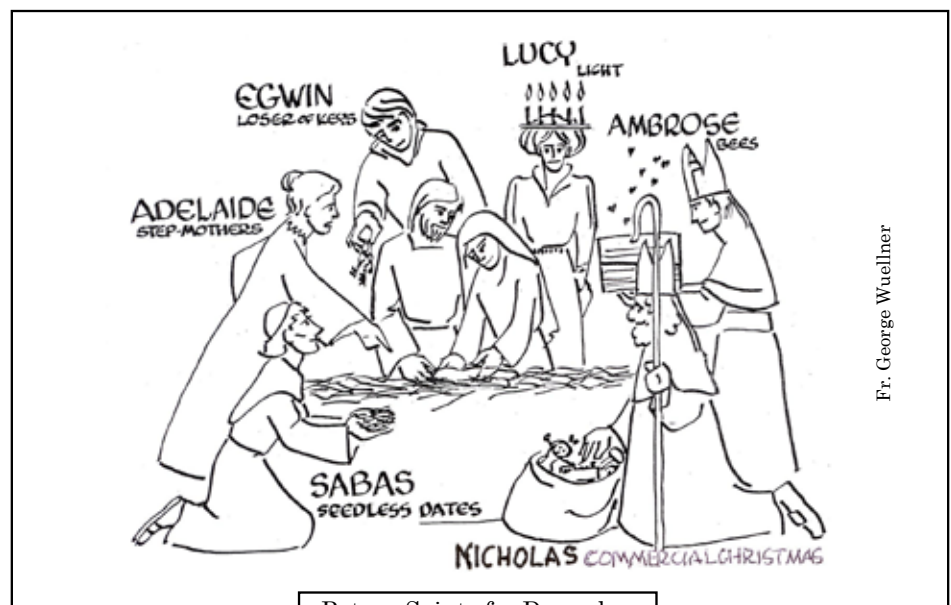
Spirituality of the Beatitudes: Matthew's Challenge for the 1st World Christmas, by Michael H. Crosby, presents the beatitudes as a summary of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, as well as a summary of his essential teaching. Crosby cuts to the heart of Matthew's Gospel, a spiritual message both personal and deeply social. 226 Cro

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship, by Thomas Hoffman, is a collection of songs written by Brian Wren that are based on Scripture. 263 Hof

Starlight: Beholding the Christmas Miracle all Year Long, by John Shea, is a collection of his reflections that bring together Bible, tradition, experience, culture, reason, and imagination, often in a surprising way. The author is a born storyteller whose works both inspire and instruct. 261.3 She

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As always, if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Library Coordinator Megan Raab (raab41987@gmail.com); she will be happy to assist you. The parish library is available on weekdays during office hours; ask for a key at the parish office.



Fr. George Wuelmer

Patron Saints for December

Thanks for a job well done!

On Saturday, Nov. 1, St. Patrick’s grounds crew held its fall cleanup day. Ten parishioners braved the early morning cold and wind to help clean out flower beds, unclog downspouts, clean debris from the roof of the parish center, and rake leaves. Their efforts really paid off; many leaf bags were filled and laborers were pleased with the results—until the next rainy, windy day brought down more leaves!

The choice of All Saints Day for the outdoor cleanup was copacetic: parishioners generously gave their time and energy as they worked together to accomplish the task at hand!



Did you know?

- A core group of three 90-year-olds repackage breads donated by Panera’s every Monday through Thursday. If you could spare an hour or so on a given day of the week—Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in particular—it would be a great help! Come for coffee at 7:45 a.m. and stay to repackage bread while enjoying companionship and conversation.
- An overflow of books in the parish library awaits processing. The call numbers are written on the spines, so what’s needed is to look up title, author, publisher, year, and brief synopsis and record these in the library database. Parish Librarian Megan Raab (raab4198@gmail.com) will help you get started; she would greatly appreciate your assistance!
- A memorial Mass for Sophia Zeigler will be held at St. Patrick’s on Thursday, December 4, at 10:30 a.m. A light luncheon will follow. Sophia, as many of you will know, founded the parish’s St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry some 40 years ago and worked tirelessly every day to feed the hungry who came for help. At nearly 90 years of age she retired, saying: “My legs just won’t let me do this any longer!” Come if you can.

The two volunteers who prepare the page layout for *In Focus* really need help from at least one more parishioner to prepare the page layout for a couple of issues a year. Templates, guidelines, schedules—all would be provided. Can you help? Cathy Salika, 367-7861 or csalika@illinois.edu



From Sr. Jackie Jean-Paul Gitonga

Daughters of St. Paul
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Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this note finds you well! I am delighted to share with you the happenings of the past year since I was with you in Aug. 2013 after my first profession of religious vows with the Daughters of St. Paul.

God is good and has continually showered on me every blessing and grace to grow in, deepen, and live fully my Pauline religious life with all its joys and crosses. Thanks for your ever-present and faithful prayers!



Sr. Jackie Jean-Marie Gitonga, FSP



Sr. Jackie renews her religious vows

In September 2013, I embraced my new mission assignment, to join our Sisters and serve the People of God in New Orleans, Louisiana. I bring the books and media we publish to various schools, parishes, and conferences. Like St. Paul, my Sisters and I traverse different cities in the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida to bring the Word of God through these modern means of communication. It is rewarding to see how much people thirst for God and

how a book, music, or a movie can become a channel of peace, an assurance of God's love and presence.

I have also been working with lay people (Pauline Cooperators) to teach and share our Pauline spirituality with them. Our founder, Blessed James Alberione, envisioned our spirituality and mission as encompassing all vocations – single, married, priests, religious Sisters and Brothers. Working with the laity has been a life-giving experience and certainly eye-opening, because the Holy Spirit is at work in every individual, inviting each to live out the call to evangelization in the Pauline spirit in different ways in the midst of their everyday life.

After my annual retreat in July (during which you were certainly in my prayers!), I was blessed with the opportunity to renew my vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience on August 7 at our local parish. It was a blessed and moving experience to renew my commitment to the Lord and receive his promise of grace at work in my life!

Our period of temporary religious vows lasts about five years and concludes with the profession of perpetual vows. In these years of temporary vows, I am learning how to integrate more fully the Pauline spirituality, mission, and community life so that in everything I can say with St. Paul, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."

Please continue to keep me in your prayers. I keep you all in my heart and prayers as well, thanking God always for the gift of God's love that you are!

God bless you,
Sr. Jackie Jean-Marie Gitonga, FSP

Whose Immaculate Conception?

On December 8 we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, Mary's conception without Original Sin.

Some think Mary was conceived without Original Sin so that she would not pass it on to her Son. The teaching of the Church is that the Immaculate Conception represents Christ's saving grace operating in Mary in anticipation of his redemption of humankind, and in God's foreknowledge that she would say yes.

It is interesting to note that the Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates Dec. 9 as the feast of Mary's conception by St. Anne. They believe that the Virgin Mary, from conception, was filled with every grace of the Holy Spirit and that she never committed a personal sin during her lifetime.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX issued the infallible statement *Ineffabilis Deus*: "We declare, pronounce, and define that the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception,

by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stains of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful."

Mary herself substantiated this belief, declaring, "I am the Immaculate Conception" when she appeared at Lourdes, France, in 1858.

Receive the gift of healing

Twice each year, in Advent and again during Lent, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is offered to the people of St. Patrick's. Prior to Vatican II this sacrament was called Extreme Unction, usually referred to as the Last Rites, and was given to Catholics at the end of life. Following Vatican II, the sacrament focuses rather on being a source of grace, strength, and healing for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit at any age or time of life.

The Catholic Answers website offers the following explanation: "The anointing of the sick conveys several graces and imparts gifts of strengthening in the Holy Spirit against anxiety, discouragement, and temptation, and conveys peace and fortitude. These graces flow from the atoning death of Jesus Christ, for this was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, 'He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.'"

On Thursday, December 11, at 11:00 a.m. in the church, the Sacrament of Anointing will be offered during the Mass, which will include Scripture readings and music provided by instrumentalists, cantor, and choir. Ushers will be available to assist as needed. Participants will be seated in every other pew so that our priests can confer the sacrament where each person is seated. Ministers of Holy Communion will also go to each individual in the pews. In this way, people with mobility difficulties may remain where they are comfortable, with the



ministers coming to them.

Anyone can attend the Mass. The Sacrament of Anointing is available to those with current or chronic physical or mental illness, impending surgery or chronic pain, infirmities of age, or simply in need of healing.

Immediately following the Mass, all are invited to a free luncheon in the parish hall, where they will be served at table. Every effort will be made to accommodate special needs. Anyone needing transportation to the Mass and luncheon should notify the parish office (367-2665) so arrangements can be made.

Ready for a getaway? Try this!

Many of us at St. Patrick's are familiar with some of the Catholic sites in the St. Louis area, such as the Old Cathedral, the magnificent mosaics of the Cathedral of St. Louis, and Our Lady of the Snows Shrine in Belleville, Ill. About 80 miles south of St. Louis, in the quaint Missouri town of Perryville, is the equally beautiful shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.

In 1830, on the Rue de Bac in Paris, the Holy Virgin appeared to Catherine Labouré, a Sister of the Vincentian order of the Daughters of Charity. The Blessed Virgin Mary requested that a medal be struck depicting her apparition. The medal shows Our Lady standing on a globe with rays of light coming from her hands, surrounded by the words "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." On the reverse are 12 stars encircling



an M overlaid with a cross, below which are two hearts, one crowned with thorns and the other pierced with a sword.

Millions of these medals have since been struck; the first 1500, issued in June 1832, came to be known as the "Miraculous Medal" because of its origin.

The original parish in Perryville was founded in 1827 by Vincentian Missionaries. The church, St. Mary of the Barrens, is modeled after the Vincentian motherhouse in Rome. It has numerous chapels and is filled with evocative art and architecture. A grotto, several statues, and a gift shop can also be found on the grounds.

The nearby parish church of St. Vincent de Paul is strikingly handsome, with a very active parish community and school system. Pride of place is held by the annual Mar-

ian procession in May, with seminarians, First Communicants, and parishioners participating.

The Shrine is the headquarters of the Association of the Miraculous Medal (www.amm.org). It is located 80 miles south of St. Louis off I-55, exit 129 to State Highway 51, in the rural and scenic Mississippi Valley. The area also has several wineries. The next time you need a getaway, why not make it a pilgrimage?

If you did not get a chance to sign up for a small group for study and discussion of Pope Francis's *The Joy of the Gospel*, please call the parish office (367-2665). Accommodation can easily be made for you at a time that fits your schedule. Don't miss this opportunity to join in the parish's Sabbath Renewal!

Queen of the Americas and her ambassador

We celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12 and that of her “littlest son,” Juan Diego Bernardino, on December 9. The two are inextricably intertwined.

Juan Diego was a humble convert to Catholicism, a recent widower. On December 9, as was his custom, he was on his 10-mile journey to Mass and catechism class. He was stopped in his tracks by the vision of a beautiful young woman standing in his path, enveloped in a luminous cloud. He knew immediately who she was—La Virgen, the Mother of God. She too knew him, calling him “my dear little son.”

La Virgen had obviously chosen to appear in this area, known as Tepeyac Hill, and to this Mexican Indian because she had an important message to give her indigenous children through him. He was to go to the bishop of Mexico and tell him that “I sent you to show him how strongly I wish for him to build me a temple here on the plain.”

Ever-obedient Juan Diego went to the bishop three times with La Virgen’s request, but with no positive results. On the third visit the bishop asked Juan Diego to return once again, this time with a sign from God. On December 12, when Juan Diego told La Virgen about this request, she told him to pick some wild flowers from the nearby hillside. She arranged the flowers in his tilma (cloak), wrapped the cloak around the flowers, and instructed him to return to the bishop.

Juan Diego confidently returned to the bishop’s residence. In the bishop’s presence he opened his tilma, revealing a magnificent bouquet of flowers. No doubt Juan Diego’s first reaction was to the miracle that the simple flowers he had picked on the hillside now appeared as magnificent roses. But as he watched the bishop kneeling in deep adoration, he realized that there was more to this sign than flowers, for miraculously imprinted on his simple and coarsely woven tilma, in exquisite and luminous colors, was a life-size portrait of the Lady he had been conversing with on

Tepeyac Hill for the past four days.

Juan Diego’s tilma and testimony have led many millions to the Catholic faith in the Americas and beyond. In 1737 Our Blessed Lady was proclaimed Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of Mexico; in 1910, Patroness of Latin America; in 1970, Queen of Mexico and Empress of All the Americas.

In 1990 Pope John Paul II beatified Juan Diego, saying,

“Juan Diego represents all the indigenous peoples who accept the Gospel of Jesus, thanks to the maternal aid of Mary.” At Juan Diego’s canonization in 2002, our Holy Father said, “Juan Diego discovered the profound truth of the new humanity in which we are all called to be children of God. Thus he facilitated the fruitful meeting of two worlds and became the catalyst of the new Mexican identity, closely united to Our Lady of Guadalupe.”



La Virgen, Queen of Heaven, gave this powerful message to the world through her words to St. Juan Diego: “Know for certain, least of my sons, that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of the True God through whom everything lives, the

Lord of all things near and far, the Master of Heaven and Earth. It is my earnest wish that a temple be built here to my honor. Here I will demonstrate, I will exhibit, I will give all my love, my compassion, my help, and my protection to the people. I am your merciful mother, the merciful mother of all of you who live united in this land, and of all mankind, all of those who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who seek me, of those who have confidence in me. Here I will hear their weeping, their sorrow, and will remedy and alleviate all their multiple sufferings, necessities, and misfortunes.

“Hear me and understand well, my son the least, that nothing should frighten or grieve you. Let not your heart be disturbed. Am I not here, who is your mother? Are you not under my protection?”

“The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church”

On Dec. 4, 34 years ago, the bodies of four U.S. church workers – Ita

Ford, Maura Clarke, Dorothy Kazel, and Jean Donovan – were exhumed

from where they had been clandestinely buried the day they were murdered.

Ita, Maura, and Dorothy were nuns in the Catholic Church and had been working in Central America for some time before they were killed. Jean Donovan was a successful accountant with Arthur Andersen, but in 1977 she decided to leave that behind and work for justice through



Ita Ford



Maura Clarke



Dorothy Kazel



Jean Donovan

see **Martyrs** on page 9

Do you remember your First Reconciliation?

When asked “What do you remember about your First Reconciliation?” an older teenager shrugs. A middle-aged man laughs and says “Are you kidding? That was more than 40 years ago!” An older woman recalls struggling to think what sins she may have committed as a young girl who tried very hard to be good. For an adult convert, the strongest memory is of the uncertainty about whether it was necessary to provide answers to every single question posed in an Examination of Conscience.

A younger teenager remembers mostly his nervousness and embarrassment. There was so much to remember, he says, so many words to memorize and prayers to remem-



ber. Would he forget? Would he say the wrong words? He also wasn't sure what he should confess and had to work hard to come up with a list of sins. He wrote them all down on a piece of paper and took it with him so he wouldn't forget any of them. His biggest fear that first time was about which priest would hear his confession. His regular parish priest would be fine but he thought

some of the unfamiliar priests helping out looked scary, and he was afraid that they would tell him how bad he was.

A three-year-old watching her older brother prepare for his First Reconciliation became convinced that she too would have to make a confession that week. She was terri-

bly worried. “I've been so naughty,” she told her mother mournfully. Years later, when she was a much better behaved seven-year-old facing her own First Reconciliation, it was a different story: she felt that she had little to confess.

That first experience of Reconciliation can be daunting, but once experienced, the worries and fears are dispelled. The boy who fretted about saying the wrong words or forgetting the prayers subsequently found that most priests would help with that part. Likewise, none has told him he is bad!

As you recall (if you can) your own First Reconciliation, remember to say a prayer for all those who have recently experienced theirs. And say a little prayer of thanks for this sacrament that makes it so easy for us to return to our forgiving Father with an “I'm sorry, I won't do it again!”

Martyrs from page 8

the lay religious order of Maryknoll.

The four women were invited to work with internal refugees in El Salvador by Archbishop Oscar Romero in 1979. They became good friends of the archbishop; after his assassination in March 1980, they were present at his funeral when Salvadoran soldiers opened fire on the crowd of mourners, killing approximately 30 people.

Jean Donovan had written that things were becoming more dangerous by the day and that friends of hers were being killed on a regular basis. When asked why she didn't leave, she said, “I almost could, except for the children, the poor, bruised victims of this insanity. Who would care for them? Whose heart could be so staunch as to favor the reasonable thing in a sea of their tears and loneliness? Not mine, dear friend, not mine.”

On December 2, Jean and Dorothy drove to the Salvadoran airport to pick up Ita and Maura. After they

left the airport, they were pulled over by Salvadoran security forces. The four women were raped and murdered, their bodies taken to a clandestine location and buried in a shallow grave.

The selfless love that these women demonstrated led to the beginning, in 1986, of the movement to provide sanctuary for Central American refugees. Their courage influenced the work and lives of countless others, and so it is that we honor their memory today. Because even today we read about the killing of yet another priest, another missionary,

another group of nuns and lay men and women who minister to the suffering members of their community. Martyrdom has become almost commonplace.

Not all of us are called to direct service of the poor. Very few of us are called to leave our homeland to serve neighbors far beyond our borders. But all of us are called to cultivate and incarnate our Catholic identity, to be and to become the church women and church men that the world needs now.

Ita, Dorothy, Maura, and Jean, pray for us!

Preparing our hearts for Christmas

Prepare for the celebration of Christmas by attending a Communal Reconciliation Service. There will be Scripture readings, hymns, a homily, and a brief examination of conscience, followed by an opportunity for private confession and absolution. Come to any nearby church at 7:00 p.m.:

- Monday, Dec. 15: Holy Cross
- Tuesday, Dec. 16: St. Patrick
- Wednesday, Dec. 17: St. Matthew
- Thursday, Dec. 18: Our Lady of the Lake, Mahomet

From your Parish Nurses: A note on advance directives



An advanced directive is a legal document that allows you to make your medical/healthcare wishes known to your family, friends, and medical personnel in the event you are faced with a serious accident or illness and are unable to speak for yourself. Injury, illness, and death are not easy subjects to talk about, but by planning ahead and describing your treatment preferences, you can ensure that you receive the type of medical care you want, and your loved ones may not have to face the burden of trying to guess what you would want done.

Advance directives include the following:

- **Living Will:** This document spells out the types of medical treatments and life-sustaining measures you do and do not want, such as mechanical breathing, tube feeding, or resuscitation.
- **Medical Power of Attorney** (sometimes called Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare): This document designates an individual to make medical decisions for you in the event that you are unable to do so. This is different from a power of attorney authorizing someone to make financial transactions for you.
- **Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order:** This is a request not to have cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) if your heart stops or if you stop breathing.

Advance directives aren't just for older adults. Unexpected end-of-life situations can happen at any age. Anyone 18 years or over may prepare advance directives. The website www.caringinfo.org has free state-specific advance directives forms and instructions. You may consult an attorney if you desire, although this is not required.

It is important to explain your feelings with your loved ones and discuss what you'd want done in regard to medical/healthcare in specific instances. It is generally best to approach the subject in a matter-of-fact and reassuring manner.

When you have filled out the forms, provide copies to your physician, your designated healthcare agent, and your family members. Periodically review your advance directives to see if you wish to revise any of the instructions. If so, fill out new forms, discuss changes with your loved ones and physician, and give them copies of the new forms.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Cathy Salika

Cranberry Orange Relish

- 2 c raw cranberries
- 1 orange
- 1 c sugar or equivalent sweetener



Remove seeds and center pith from the orange, but don't peel it. Grind cranberries and orange together in a meat grinder or food processor. Stir in sugar (add more if too tart).

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If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it to Mary Lou Menches (344-1125, mmenches@illinois.edu). The only requirement is that it is easy and quick to prepare!

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

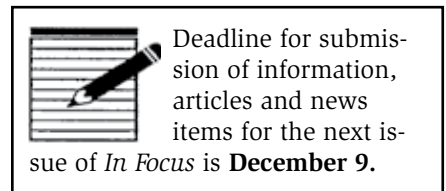
St. Patrick's Parish In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Materials must include the name and telephone number of the person submitting them.

Please send news items to a Communications Committee member, leave them in the committee's mailbox in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

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Articles, information, and photos for this issue were provided by Ellen Amberg, Judy Fierke, Sr. Jackie Jean-Marie Gitonga, FSP, Elizabeth Hendricks, Mary Karten, Mary Long, Chris Langerdorf, Mary Lou Menches, Susan Nagele, Nancy Olson, Megan Raab, Dan Richards, Nancy Roth, Cathy Salika, Patsy Schmitt, Katie Schroeder, Adam Smith, Minette Sternke. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Margery Kane, page layout by John Colombo.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **December 9**.

From Susan Nagele

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Christmas 2014

To all the good people of St. Patrick's,
It is getting hotter here in Mombasa, Kenya, and I am writing this on Nov. 9 to make the deadline for the December issue of In Focus. It's a challenge to think about Christmas in early November!

The first detail to confirm is that as of today, there is no person with Ebola Virus disease in Kenya. Many of you have been concerned about my welfare, and I want to reassure you all that I am just fine—along with everyone else in the country, at least regarding Ebola. The epidemic continues to rage in West Africa, which is about as far away from us as New York is from California. The stories of suffering and death are heart wrenching; it will be a very long time before those people see some improvement. The lives of countless children left without family, however, are forever changed.

Christmas speaks to me about family and God's love for us. To come into our world as a little baby born in a stable amidst the straw, the cattle, and the odors they produce is something to ponder. It certainly wouldn't be my idea of a safe delivery! We are trying our best to provide better than that for even the most needy in the villages and the slums of Mombasa.

This morning on my way to church, I found Alice and Priscilla selling their vegetables under a tree in the church compound. We first met about a year ago when one of the priests asked me to see them for a medical problem. Priscilla had



Susan with Priscilla (left) and Alice

been abused by her father, and Alice, or Mama Priscilla as she likes to be called, was very distraught and anxious to make sure that her daughter would be all right. The father was removed from the family, so there was safety on that level. Priscilla had no serious physical ailment from the trauma, but she was quite shy and cautious. Alice was the one who needed reassurance and support so they could

move on with their lives. Once their medical needs were addressed, they were left with the question of survival. The priest offered to have Alice bring vegetables to sell at the variety sale held by the church each week. With zest and hard work, they have made a start with their little "business." I had to help Priscilla with her math as she counted up how much I owed her, but she is eager and much more confident and outgoing than she was last year.



Open for business!

There is nothing like the love of parents for their children to give us an image of how God loves each one of us. This morning I saw that image and asked Alice if I could share their picture and story with you. I hope the waiting of Advent will give birth to this same kind of love, peace, and joy in your own lives and families.

Many thanks to each of you who contributed to our retirement fund in the last few months. I am planning to work as long as I can and will sign another three-year contract with Maryknoll Lay Missioners next June. Still, it is helpful to know that when I am no longer able to work, there will be something to live on.



Alice and Priscilla set out their vegetables

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year!

Susan

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

Ladies Knight Out was a simply splendid affair!

On a Saturday night in November, about 150 ladies of the parish and their guests were wined and dined and shown a good time by the Urbana Knights of Columbus and The Catholic Boys at St. Patrick's parish center. The occasion was Ladies Knight Out, the annual dinner and show put on by the Knights to show their appreciation for the women of the parish.



As always, dinner was an elegant affair with cloth table covers and napkins, candles, and a rose for each guest. Solicitous Knights circulated with carafes of wine and pitchers of water. There were appetizers, salad, a choice of chicken or steak, and delicious cheesecake for dessert. The door prizes included gift certificates from Bunny's Tavern and bottles of wine.

After dinner, it was time to see what The Catholic Boys were up to with their Special Fall Edition show, "Filling the Pews." Taking to the stage were Jim Mayer, Terry Bosley, Gary Bosley, Gary Wszalek, Sam Reese, Chris McDonald, Dave Madden,



John Miner, Joseph Youakim, Chris Freidhof, Fr. Joe Hogan, and Fr. Joel Phelps. Tony Schutts took good care of the technical side of things. The backup band included Rick Murphy (occasionally channeling Jerry Lee Lewis) on the piano and Joe Rasmussen on the drums.

This year's show thematically highlighted St. Patrick's church expansion. The Catholic Boys started out by appealing to Bishop Jenky (to the tune of "Mr. Sandman") for a bigger church: "Give us a big church and we'll fill the joint," they sang.

They then got busy with Operation Fill the Joint. They gave a spirited appeal for the masses to attend the Masses with "Y'all Come," supported by a band complete with Chris McDonald "playing" a jug, helped out by Fr. Joe playing the skillet and Fr. Phelps on the bluegrass trombone. After some consideration, though, the Boys decided to narrow their appeals to specific groups, offering various rewards to Mass attendees. They proposed free oil changes ("Greased Lightnin'") or spa days ("Everything's All Right") for women; Yoga to the Oldies ("At the Hop") and free flu shots ("I've Got You under My Skin") for Baby Boomers; a "Big Rock Candy Moun-

tain" church camp for the kids; a "Margaritaville" stag night or Monday Night Football party ("Pass the



Football") for men; and free passes to a haunted house ("Spooky") and a mission trip ("If I Had a Hammer/Drill/Paint Roller") for teens.

Along with their trademark silliness and outrageousness, the Boys kept up their tradition of including one poignant ballad in the show. The lovely rendition of "Harvest Moon" was a reminder that in addition to their comedic gifts, The Catholic Boys possess some serious musical talent. Not only do the singers span the range of vocal styles, some of them played instruments \as well, including guitar, bass, banjo, mandolin, harmonica, steel drums, washboard, and jug (and the aforementioned skillet and bluegrass trombone).

Once again, the Knights and The Catholic Boys gave the women of the parish a splendid night out!

