

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

January 2014

The youngest teacher

The world changed completely that night, and hardly anyone noticed. Oh, yes, there were shepherds and angels and magi. How many? Dozens? But what was that compared to the thousands in Palestine or the millions spread across the earth? The world changed from a place created and tended by God to a place where God lived.

Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-Us, came to return us to a right relationship with God, correcting the effect of sin, and to teach us how to live that relationship. Months before Jesus began to speak, years before Jesus would preach, his mere presence began to teach.

He taught us that it is no disgrace to be dependent and needy. We all go through times of depending on others. But even more, in our lives with God, we always depend on God for life, guidance, forgiveness, and our daily bread.

He taught that it is good to be human. Made in God's image, we can live so as to keep that image shining clearly to all the world. But our humanness and the seed of that image is a gift from God.

He taught that the support of family and community makes the work of the gospel easier.

He taught that we are deeply loved by God, worthy of God's love and attention, pain and hunger, diligence and weariness, because God has chosen to love us.

As you stand before his cradle this year, listen, see. What else is he teaching you?



Lorraine Kim, a person on a mission!

Meet our new pastoral associate, Lorraine Kim. She oversees many different parish programs, including the Women of St Patrick's, St. Patrick's Presents, MP, and Coffee Shop—to name a very few.

I grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, in the inner city. My home parish is St. Therese Little Flower Parish, where my folks still attend. It has such a great spirit of inclusiveness. Because of the economic needs of my home parish, in high school I joined the Peace and Justice group at church and volunteered at Catholic Charities and the soup kitchen. I continued similar interests in college at the University of Missouri, Columbia, received my bachelors in social work, and began working in community mental health in a residential program in St. Louis. After a year, I went back to school at the University of Kansas for my Masters degree, focusing on Mental Health and Administration.

For the years following, I worked in two in-patient hospitals: Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh, and University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, with people who have schizophrenia mostly, but also some people with bipolar disorder or depression. I educated them and their families about the illness and worked with the doctors and nurses and therapists on the unit in a team approach to diagnosis, treatment, and planning for management of

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Living Faith: Small things...

By Frances Drone-Silvers

"Food insecurity grows in East Central Illinois." "More than 1 in 5 American children live at risk of hunger." Startling headlines in this land of plenty, but I have seen people line up at the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and heard their stories. I volunteered for the Food Pantry two summers ago and observed the needs that the pantry fills. Right now my work schedule doesn't coincide with that, but I've found other ways to help. The pantry has a table from which clients may select an item—something that doesn't typically go into a sack of groceries and is not covered by SNAP ("food stamps"). It could be diapers, toilet paper, pet food, candy, shampoo, body wash, or specialty foods. I noticed that each week someone excitedly asked for a bottle of vegetable oil. I knew that, in general, it's better to donate money than cans of food—through the food banks, Ellen Abell can buy several cans of tuna for the price of one can that I might buy at the store. But these "extras"



are not usually available, so now when I make my weekly grocery run, I add something extra to my cart to place in the SVDP basket at the back of church when I come for Mass. I remember the smile on people's faces when they can get a bottle of cooking oil to use at home.

Weekday Mass has become a blessing for me in the past few years. I have an odd work schedule on Mondays and so have some time in the mornings. I go to 7 a.m. Mass, have coffee with the "7 Alive" group, and then help package bread and sweets from Panera to go into the Food Pantry grocery bags. You can always tell when Panera overbaked, or what wasn't so popular. Some days very little is donated and other days it's almost overwhelming. We package everything equita-

bly and add bread to the grocery sacks. Sweets are packaged individually and are given out as clients arrive. Helping with this is a small thing that doesn't take much of my time, but I believe it's part of my call to feed the hungry.

Ever wonder how the articles in *In Focus* come about? A couple of times a year, I find a message on my voicemail from a member of the Communications Committee, asking if I have time to write something for this newsletter. Over the years I've written about a number of topics, from saints to feast days to special parish events. It's usually a short article that I can fit in around my other daily tasks; I'm given a deadline and off I go. There have been times I've said no because I knew I just couldn't fit it in, but I try to remember how much I enjoy reading this newsletter, and I know it takes many hands to make it happen. I play a small part in it occasionally and find it a way to serve our parish community.

St. Patrick's offered Christmas goodies for sale

Sunday morning, December 8, was the much anticipated, festive Christmas Cookies and Baskets Sale. Donna Rinkenberger and Ruth Ann Kingery headed up the preparation, sponsored by the Women of St. Patrick. Parishioners were encouraged to come prepared for this Christmas shopping opportunity.

All kinds of home-baked goodies tempted the unwary: sugar cookies, special Christmas cookies, Grandma's favorites, gluten- and sugar-free cookies, candies, fudge, and Christmas breads.

Also for sale were many beautiful Christmas baskets created by Jolene McGrogan, Kathy McKenzie, Sandy Shaw, Chris Langendorf, Leslie Risatti, Sandy Pijanowski, and Marcia Raab. There were Christmas baskets with yuletide placemats, plates, and mugs; baking baskets with bowls, tea towels, and oven mitts; bath

baskets with tub and shower products; baskets with bottles of wine and wine glasses, one with eight Italian wine glasses, another with four fancy glasses; a basket with mugs and gourmet coffee; a lovely Japanese basket with two sets of chopsticks in

wooden containers and tea cozies; several doll baskets, one with hand-made doll clothes; and Illini baskets for the many Illini fans among us.

The CREW's supply of Christmas greens sold out, with just enough for everyone who wanted one. The proceeds will support next summer's Mission Trip.



The women behind the tables were gracious, friendly, and truly helpful for parishioners completing their choices (it was hard, with so many tempting goodies to choose from!) and needing help with packaging. It made Christmas shopping a toothsome and

happy experience.

Thanks to all who contributed: the bakers, the gift-basket preparers, the setup crew, the take-down crew, the unobtrusive helpers—and all who stocked up on Christmas goodies and gifts!

On a mission from page 1

symptoms. I really loved the people I worked with. The illnesses people faced and their suffering made it really easy to connect with them.

Back in college, I was part of the National Association of College Students, where I was impressed by two men: Bishop Rosazza, who spoke very eloquently about the bishops' pastoral letter on economic justice, and Thomas Kim, a medical student who raised his hand and stood up in front of hundreds of students, speaking so rightly and clearly that I wanted to follow him. On Valentine's Day I sent little candy hearts and letters to both of them. Only the bishop responded; however, since he was married to God and an old man too, I married Thomas instead, in 1989.

In December 1994 we had our first child; I quit my job as a social worker and stayed home for the next 18 years, raising our four children. Peter is 19 years old and in his first year of college, studying biomedical engineering at Wash U. Louis is 15 and goes to Uni. He is preparing for his Confirmation this year and is full of questions. Caterina is 13, and Joey is 10; they both attend Countryside School.

How I came to be hired at St. Patrick's is a little interesting. I had volunteered to teach 5th grade religious ed and spent the class time challenging the kids to think about people mathematically, using the greater than (>) and less than (<) signs. It went like this: Even though 9 > 3, is it true that a tree > a lake? What about people? Is a mentally disabled person < a genius? Is an old person < a young person? Is a black person > a white person? Is a straight person > a gay person? Is a murderer < a law-abiding citizen? Is a Christian > a Jew? Or a Jew > a Muslim person?



Lorraine Kim

I challenged them that if you believed any of these math sentences were true, it would lead down the world's dark history of dehumanizing people, which in turn leads to sin. We talked about how God sees us through the eyes of love, and how our challenge

was to do the same.

Anyway, I thought the class went well, but I did worry a little about possible negative reactions from parents or staff since I was pushing the envelope a little. After 10:30 Mass that morning, as I was leaving the church and Fr. Joe shook my hand, he said he wanted to meet with me. I walked away, hearing my kids behind me saying, "Whooooaaa! You're in trooooooble, Mom!" So I did worry a little bit that I might be fired as a Sunday school teacher. But instead of firing me, Fr. Joe offered me a job—even after I told him that I am someone who really likes to stir the pot. Now, that was a surprise!

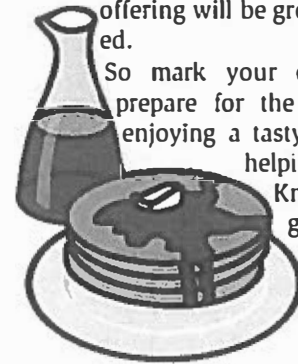
I really like that my job is very open. There is time to brainstorm and problem solve, which I think is essential to prayerful creativity, and I have a great group of people to work with—they are compassionate and tender, non-judgmental, funny, and earnest.

I have a lot of ideas that I am interested in developing. I really want to help St. Patrick's be as welcoming as it can be, which I think is a challenge for a parish as big as we are and with as many different Masses as we have. We are blessed with a great diversity of people, talents, and interests, and I aim to pull advice and feedback from as many people as I can about what they would like to see in our parish, how we can change or adapt or grow to meet changing needs. I need people to help me stir the pot!

Let the Knights of Columbus cook breakfast for you!

Wouldn't you like a break this Christmas season? If your answer is yes, then come on over to the parish center after the 7:30 and 9:00 Masses on Sun., Dec. 29, and let the Knights make your breakfast.

That day is the fifth Sunday of the month, and on the fifth Sundays the Urbana Council of the Knights of Columbus can be counted on to host their pancake breakfast fundraisers. They'll be serving fresh hot pancakes and sausage, with your choice of coffee, juice, or milk. A free-will offering will be greatly appreciated.



So mark your calendars, and prepare for the New Year by enjoying a tasty breakfast and helping to fund the Knights' many good deeds.

Be Still

I searched for God
in my avalanche of
emails and voicemails,
IMs, CDs, TVs and MP3s,
but the Lord was not in the
electronics.

I searched for God
in the drone of endless
conversations
that permeate the hurried pace of
my daily routine,
but the Lord was not in the clatter.

I could not find the Lord,
though I searched in vain
through all that surrounded me!
And then, I heard a gentle voice,
"Be still."

There, within the silence
of my own inner peace,
I found God.

Fr. Albert Haase on ten characteristics of spirituality

On December 5, Father Albert Haase, OFM, was once again welcomed to our parish. You may remember that he led our Parish Mission last spring. Of course, many parishioners now feel that they personally know Father Albert through his book and DVD,



"Catching Fire, Becoming Flame," a program offered to the parish over the course of several weeks in the fall and again in the coming spring.

The evening began with "The Hymn of St. Patrick." After Fr. Joe's introduction, Fr. Albert told us that spiritual life is a process of being transformed by the Spirit of God into a "little Christ," or a Christian, and then presented the ten characteristics of what the Spirit does in our lives to make us saintly. The first way we know that the Spirit is active in our lives and that we are be-

coming little Christs is that we become relational to the whole world. Christian spirituality drives us into the world. Anything that drives us away from the world isn't Christian. Even hermits and monks, living apart from the world in their her-

mitages and monasteries, spend their days praying for the world.

Another characteristic of a saint is self-giving love. When Blessed Pope John Paul II named St. Thérèse, the "Little Flower," a Doctor of the Church, he based his decision on six words that she wrote about the secret of holiness before she died, a mere 24 years old: "It is love alone that counts." John Paul said that those six words capture the essence of the Gospels.

The fifth characteristic of a saintly life is to live in the present moment

like an innocent baby, neither stuck in the past with guilt nor anxious about the future. *Jesus said, "You have to become like a child to enter the kingdom of heaven."*

The last characteristic of a saintly life is gratitude: as we grow in spirituality, we become people of gratitude—we have no worry or anxiety because everything except sin is a gift from God. We learn that God can be trusted.

The evening fittingly concluded with the hymn "Send down the Fire" and a reception in the parish hall. Fr. Albert mingled with parishioners, answering questions and signing autographs, as all enjoyed delicious desserts and savory munchies donated by ever-generous parishioners.

A recording was made of Fr. Albert's presentation, so if you missed it, you can watch the DVD to find out what all ten of the characteristics are! Apply to Mary Long (367-2665) if you'd like to check out the DVD.

Vivo's many hands make quick work of filling Thanksgiving baskets

For quite a few years at Thanksgiving, the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Patrick's has provided about 250 baskets to people in need referred to them by Community Elements, Family Services, and through the parish office. Each basket contains a ham, a dozen eggs, sweet potatoes, green beans, soup, cranberry sauce, fruit cocktail, Jello, rolls, margarine, crackers, apple juice, and pumpkin pie.

Each year, St. Patrick's junior high youth group Vivo takes on the huge task of packing those baskets—actually cardboard grocery boxes—with all of the non-perishable items. Thanks to their work, only perishables need adding on the following Tuesday morning, after which the baskets are delivered by agency workers and volunteers from St. Patrick's, Holy Cross, and St. Matthew.

With food pantry volunteer Sally Czapar supervising, Vivo members worked cheerfully and with good cooperation to quickly and accurately pack 260 boxes—ten more than usual, thanks to parishioners' especially generous response to SVDP's request for donations. Food pantry coordinator Ellen Abell says

everything went smoothly and Vivo did a great job.

Many thanks to all whose donations helped to pay for the Thanksgiving dinners, as well as everyone in the parish and community who gave generously of their time to make Thanksgiving more cheery for those in need!



Day of Reflection offered for the deaf and hard of hearing

On Nov. 16, eight members of the Deaf community came together for a Day of Reflection. Fr. Joseph Mulcrone, head of the Catholic Office of the Deaf for the Chicago Archdiocese, used the readings from the First Sunday of Advent for his theme of "No one knows the day or the hour—no one!"

In the morning, he reflected on the Old Testament stories of Job and others who had endured suffering and yet persevered in their faith. Participants then gathered into two groups and discussed Bible verses or other quotes that helped them get through situations in their own lives. Afterward, one person remarked that the same event can sometimes impact people in different ways, as with the country's experience of the tragedies of 9/11 or the JFK assassination. Fr. Mulcrone closed with what he called the eleven most important words of life: "Please forgive me. I forgive you. I'm sorry. I love you." If we all made a conscious effort to use these words more, our lives would become closer to God.

Fr. Mulcrone segued from that reflection into a discussion of the Gospels. All the Gospel writers had experienced in some way the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, but they wrote with different emphases and purposes. He also discussed some of the letters written by Paul, who experienced Christ in a different way, and the book of Revelation. Again, small groups discussed their favorite Bible verses

and stories. Some were the Prodigal Son, one was Paul's statement "When I am weak, it is then I am strong."

Fr. Mulcrone then discussed the fact that Jesus said no one knows the day or manner of his return, and no one knows the day or manner of their own death. He encouraged us to have those hard discussions with families about our wishes for funerals or wakes, and to write down those decisions. For Catholics, those plans can be shared with parish offices. One resource that he shared was the "Five Wishes," (www.fivewishes.org), a document that helps people go through different decisions that come up towards the end of life.

The day closed with a prayer service, where three candles were lit. The first memorialized those we love who have died—family, friends, community members. The second was for those we know who are currently suffering, and those who might die today. The third was for those who have died or have no one to pray for them—the homeless, the mentally ill, the people on the margins of our society. Those who wished then had an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of



Reconciliation.

Father Mulcrone concelebrated the 5 p.m. Mass with Fr. Joe Hogan, who rendered the prayers of the Mass orally while Father Mulcrone prayed them in American Sign Language. Father Mulcrone also preached the homily, both orally and in ASL.

All in all, it was a wonderful day for the deaf community to come together, to remember loved ones, and to reflect on Advent and its meanings. Special thanks are due to the Women of St Patrick, who helped serve lunch, and the St. Patrick's bakers, who provided excellent desserts.

Vocation Prayer

Oh Lord, I was never a quick scholar but hunched over my books past the hour and the bell; grant me, in your mercy, a little more time. Love for my family and love for you are having such a long conversation in my heart, your calling is hard for me not to hear. Who knows what will finally happen or where I will be going, yet already I have given a great many things away, expecting to pack nothing, except the prayers which, with this yearning for you, I am slowly learning.

—Adapted from a poem by
Mary Oliver



News from area Catholic Schools

By Rose Costello

Several of our Catholic school families were affected by the recent tornadoes in Gifford and Washington, Illinois. Students at Holy Cross School and St. Matthew School collected bottles of water to be sent to the two areas. Together with St. Thomas School, Philo, they also collected money for relief programs. One teacher at St. Malachy lost her home, and that school community has generously helped her family. The parish will continue to help the many parishioners who were affected by the Gifford tornado. Students at The High School of St. Thomas More (STM) donated over \$1000 to the cause.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of STM's fall play, *An Evening in the Twilight Zone*: they will perform at January's Illinois State High School Theatre Festival! "Theatre Fest" is the largest national gathering of high school theatrical performers and technicians, and hundreds of schools across the state submit their fall productions. Because only a handful of schools are chosen, it's a pretty big deal for STM



to be chosen on its first submission. The Diocese of Peoria was blessed to have a relic of Blessed Pope John Paul II on display at the Spalding Center in Peoria on November 19. About a hundred students from local Catholic schools were invited to join other students from the diocese in venerating the relic.

The annual Catholic Schools Week celebration begins January 26 and extends throughout the entire week. There will be many activities at each school, and some events in which all the schools will participate. Details are in the parish bulletin and the schools' websites.

STM's sports program has had an exciting few months. Storm Joop, a Holy Cross School graduate and STM senior, was named Athlete of the Week for the State of Illinois by the Chicago Bears organization. He

was named the News-Gazette football player of the year and recently signed with the University of Indianapolis to play baseball in college. Storm Joop, Mike Plecki, and Chase Kangas, all Holy Cross School graduates, were named First Team All Area in football. Chase, Mike, Storm, Sean

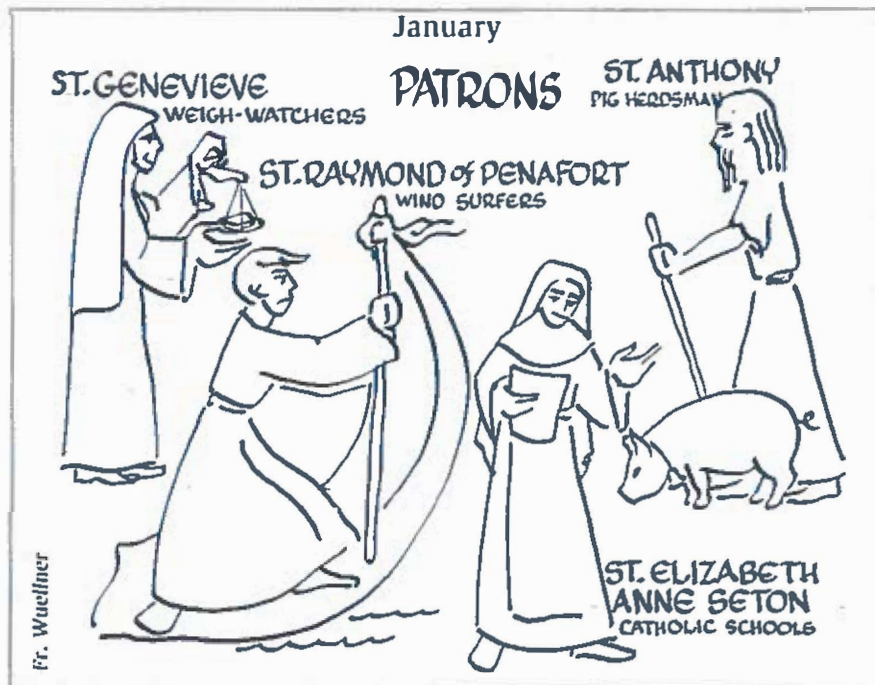
Sullivan, all Holy Cross School graduates, and Cam Diedrich, a St. Matthew School graduate, were named to the All State Football Academic Team, indicating that they carried a GPA of at least 3.5 during the football season. Nick Hess, a St. Malachy School graduate, placed second in the State competition in cross country. Lexi Wallen, a St. Matthew School graduate, was named to the First Team All Area in volleyball.

Congratulations to the St. Matthew's seventh-grade girls basketball team—they have earned their way to the state championship! They join the St. Matthew cross country teams and the baseball team, who also competed at the State level this fall.

If you are looking to get into the Christmas spirit, attend one of the many Christmas concerts performed by our Catholic schools: Dec. 8 at St. Matthew, Dec. 11 at STM, Dec. 12 and 13 at Holy Cross, Dec. 18 at St. Thomas, and Dec. 19 at St. Malachy. Times and details are on each school's website.

The annual STM raffle is underway. The grand prize is \$25,000 with only 1000 tickets to be sold. There will also be prizes of \$5,000, \$2500, \$1000, and \$500. Tickets can be purchased from families in the STM community as well as on the STM website (www.hs-stm.org). The drawing will be at the Mardi Gras Party on March 2.

To learn more about what is happening in our area Catholic schools, visit the Champaign area Catholic schools website (www.champaigncatholicschools.org), which lists individual schools' websites.



Benefiting from spiritual direction

Have you ever felt that something was missing in your spiritual life, or that God was calling you to a closer relationship? You might look for answers on the Web or in books. But have you ever heard the term Spiritual Direction? Just what does that mean?

According to pastoral associate Mary Long, it is an ancient tradition of being fully present to another person as they explore their spiritual journey. The spiritual director engages in "holy listening" and keeps the sessions confidential. Both the director and the seeker benefit from this process. Both come to realize that the presence of God is an essential part of the process. Indeed, God is in the room.

One generally looks to a priest for such help in making one's way, and certainly Fr. Joe Hogan makes himself available to those seeking spiritual direction. Three of St. Patrick's parishioners have also received training as spiritual directors: Mary Long, Eileen Unander, and Patricia Fettig—in addition to Sr. Charlene Cesario, a former pastoral associate at St. Patrick's. Pat Fettig received her training with the Benedictines at Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Indiana. Sr. Charlene received a M.A. at the Institute for Spiritual Leadership in Hyde Park and another M.A. in Pastoral



Studies.

This year Eileen Unander completed a two-year program initiated and sponsored by the Diocese of Peoria, Office of the Permanent Diaconate. Our diocese may have been the first in the country to initiate a spiritual direction training program.

The first class included seven deacons, some with their wives, and three Franciscan sisters. The office partnered with Fr. Albert Haase and Jessie Vicha, a layperson of the Presbyterian faith, to found and direct the program. Fr. Haase and Ms. Vicha had previously started an ecumenical training program in Chicago.

Eileen was influenced by her aunt (a school sister of Notre Dame) and by a pilgrimage to Italy that provided time for personal reflection and contemplation. She has found

that spiritual direction complements her work as a Licensed Clinical Therapist and social worker.

Mary Long has spent many years studying the Bible and leading Bible study groups. For several years she and parishioner Margy Palmisano led the Community Bible Study in Champaign-Urbana. After she completed her M.A. in Religion at the Urbana Theological Seminary, Mary enrolled in The Art of Spiritual Direction, a one-year internship at the Claret Center in Chicago. Mary Hogan, Fr. Joe's sister, and Ron Stua facilitated the weekly classes, which included people of different faiths. Mary graduated this past May.

When Sr. Charlene was preparing to become a spiritual guide and seeking a parochial position, she learned that St. Patrick's Parish was looking for a pastoral associate whose first responsibility was to be available to parishioners who were seeking spiritual guidance. Sister was pleased and delighted that, with the prayerful support of the pastor and his staff, she would have the opportunity to help bring parishioners into a deep and loving relationship with God and one another.

People learn about the value and availability of spiritual direction through word of mouth, through a connection with one of the directors, or just by serendipity. After an initial meeting with a spiritual director, monthly one-hour sessions are usually scheduled, at an appropriate and convenient meeting place. The usual donation, which may be waived, is \$25 to \$50.

Sister Charlene shared this observation: "The art of spiritual direction is to accompany an individual by being present to, and listening for, the whisperings of God's longing and hunger within every human encounter." If this possibility speaks to your heart, call St. Patrick's office at 367-2665 for more information.

—Carole Rebeiz



St. Patrick's Capital Campaign

We're getting closer!
Pledged: \$3,962,124
Cash in hand: \$2,491,611
Number of donors: 747*

What's needed before we can break ground:

Pledged: \$4.0M
Cash in hand: \$3.2M

*This number represents parishioners and friends (by household) who have made a gift or pledge to the campaign or given a memorial gift to the building fund.

Catholic School Education – Our heritage and our future

By Peggy Loftus

Every fall the fourth-graders at Holy Cross School choose a saint to study. They investigate and research the saint, write a two-page report, and create a homemade costume to depict their saint. Their hard work is celebrated on All Saints Day, November 1.

This year my second child, Ellen, is in fourth grade. She chose St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born person to be canonized. I learned a lot from Ellen's oral and written reports. Elizabeth Ann Seton, after the death of her husband, poured herself into the Catholic faith. She founded the first orphanages, the first Catholic grade schools, and the American parochial school system with its long tradition of Catholic schooling. For the past 40 years Catholic Schools Week has been celebrated starting on the last Sunday in January, this year on January 25.

This year's theme for Catholic Schools Week is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service." The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) states: "The theme encompasses several concepts that are at the heart of a Catholic education. First, schools are communities—small

families in their own right, but also members of the larger community of home, church, city, and nation. Faith, knowledge, and service are three measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged." Those with children attending Catholic Schools can nod their heads in appreciation. Students at all Catholic schools in the area take part in service projects throughout the school year. For example, in just the week preceding Thanksgiving, students at Holy Cross took part in monetary donations for those affected by the tornados in Washington and Gifford, Illinois; food for the Eastern Illinois Foodbank's Food for Families drive; fresh fruit and milk for the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen; and donations for the annual Kris Kringle Shoppe in December. It would take paragraphs to list all the services that these schools do for the community at large.

Catholic schools also celebrate and educate our children in their faith. They learn the faith not only through book knowledge and tests, but also in the lived and worshiped faith through adoration, communal prayers, school Masses, and shared sacrifices.

The amount of complaining in my house betrays the rigor of Catholic

education. Even my first-grader, Anna, finds something to complain about: "I have to study my math facts *again!*" Also, Holy Cross School's lesson plans have begun to adopt the Common Core Standards that we've read about in the newspapers, and its students are living up to the challenge.

As we move into Catholic Schools Week at the end of January, you can help celebrate and support the area Catholic schools: First, pray for the safety and education of our Catholic school children. Pray that they continue to grow in their faith, service, and knowledge.

Second, consider a monetary donation to a Catholic school of your choice or to the St. Patrick's Catholic Education Foundation. Benefactors are the lifeblood of Catholic schools. Holy Cross students pray for the alumni and benefactors of the school every day during their morning prayers.

Third, if you have children or grandchildren who may thrive and flourish in a Catholic school, make a date to tour the schools during Catholic Schools Week. You may find a new community where faith and education merge to everyone's benefit.

Area churches celebrate life on Jan. 22

The public is invited to join eight local church groups at a prayerful ceremony on Wednesday, January 22 at 7:30 p.m., in a celebration of life and to encourage respect for life. The annual ecumenical vigil will be held this year at Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church in Champaign. (The church's name commemorates three saints in both the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox traditions: Sts. Basil, Gregory Nazianzen, and John Chrysostom.)

St. Patrick's has a long association



with the Respect Life movement, providing a place for local groups to meet and organizing city-wide walks for life. A prayer vigil on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion grew from a proposal made

by parishioner Lu Pillar.

This year's theme is "United in Love on Our Walk for Life," practicing the virtues of faith, hope, and love in our efforts to promote the celebration of life. The evening's speaker is His Grace Bishop Demetrius, Chancellor of the

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago. The one-hour service will include a Scripture reading, communal prayer, a candlelight service, the traditional rose procession, and intercessory prayer offered by the clergy. Refreshments will follow in the Community Hall.

All are welcome to join this annual ecumenical vigil to pray for life. Come to the main sanctuary of Three Hierarchs Church, at 2010 Three Hierarchs Court in Champaign (south on Neil St., right onto Devonshire for a quarter mile, then right onto the street of the church).

“Miraculous meals”

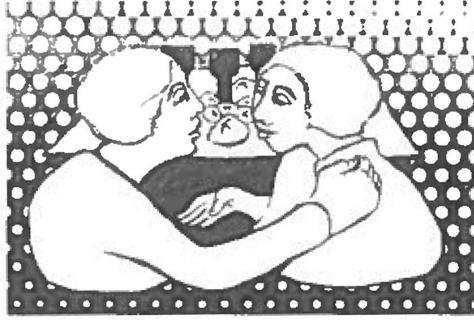
If you have ever attended a funeral dinner at St. Patrick, you were impressed by how lovely it looked, how delicious it tasted, and how attentive and helpful the servers were—those wearers of the distinctive pink T-shirts.

So far this year The Women of St. Patrick have served 21 meals for families and friends of the deceased following a funeral Mass. They have prepared meals for as few as a dozen, as many as 250, sometimes two in one day, sometimes three in one week. They have even served dinners twice during the Cellar-to-Garret Sale, using the multipurpose room for one and St. Mary’s parish center for the other.

How do these dinners come together, and who makes them possible? Someone from the parish office calls Kathy McKenzie to tell her that a funeral dinner is needed in two or three days. After learning how many are expected at the dinner, she alerts Marcia Raab, who sets up an e-mail Doodle form on which parishioners sign up to prepare side dishes or desserts for the dinner. Parishioners have been unfailingly generous: this summer they once fed fifty on a single day’s notice.

Once Kathy knows how many are coming, she shops for supplies. She orders fried chicken from Schnucks and buys hams (the family of the deceased pays for the meat). She buys boxes of scalloped potatoes, butter and rolls, fresh flowers for the tables, and napkins.

On the day of the funeral dinner, the helpers (wearing their distinctive T-shirts) arrive a few hours before dinner. They set the tables in the parish hall with lace-like tablecloths, crystal vases with fresh flowers, china, and silverware. They accept the side dishes from parishioners and either warm or chill them, and they plate the desserts. They prepare the coffee, tea, and lemonade and fill the water pitchers. They cook the hams and scalloped potatoes, and cut the rolls. Someone



picks up the fried chicken.

Kathy usually asks seven to ten women to help, depending on the number of diners. This core group of volunteers includes Sandy Anderson, Claudette Basham, Anna Connor, Toni D’Urso, Norma Gremer, Chris Langendorf, Jolene McGrogan, Marcia Raab, Leslie Risatti, Monica Ritten, Sandy Shaw, and Sandy Pijanowsky. Both Toni D’Urso and Norma Gremer have helped with the meals for decades and are an immeasurable source of experience and advice for others.

Several men, some of whom are spouses of the helpers, also pitch in. Among these are Dan McKenzie, Don Ritten, Don McGrogan, Joe Costa, Chuck Shaw, Dick Justice, and Kevin Kingery. Cleanup takes a few hours. While the men clear the tables and take care of the dishwasher, the women wipe and fold the tablecloths; put away the tablecloths, washed dishes, serving trays, vases, silverware, pitchers, and coffee makers; and scrub the kitchen spotless.

The noteworthy result of all this work is that the bereaved family, relatives, and friends have been nourished both spiritually and physically. The family has had an opportunity to gather, break bread, and reminisce about the departed, lessening their shared grief. And the volunteers have such a positive attitude about their service that they enjoy the whole day.

St. Patrick is blessed to have such a self-giving and capable group of parishioners.

We awaken in Christ’s body
as Christ awakens our bodies,
and my poor hand is Christ,
He enters
my foot, and is infinitely me.

I move my hand, and wonderfully
my hand becomes Christ,
becomes all of Him
(for God is indivisibly
whole, seamless in His Godhood).

I move my foot, and at once
he appears like a flash of light-
ning.
Do my words seem blasphemous?
Then
open your heart to him

and let yourself receive the one
who is opening to you so deeply.
For if we genuinely love him,
we wake up inside Christ’s body

where all our body, all over,
every most hidden part of it,
is realized in joy as him,
and he makes us, utterly real,

and everything that is hurt,
everything
that seemed to us dark, harsh,
shameful,
maimed, ugly, irreparably
damaged, is in him transformed

and recognized as whole,
as lovely,
and radiant in his light
we awaken as the beloved
in every last part of our body.

—Eleventh-century meditation by
Simeon the New Theologian

Holy Cross School Happenings

On December 7, Holy Cross School and Parish presented the Sacrament of Confirmation for all eighth graders, including eight St. Patrick's parishioners. Fr. Hogan and Fr. Phelps joined the priests from Holy Cross Parish in assisting Bishop Jenky at this celebration.

The 2013 Confirmandi from St Patrick's: Jessica Hood, Maria Lukusa, Ethan Smith, Maris Wszalek, Brianna Hopper, Yasmine Lubuzya, Nicholas Roseman, and Lucas Simpson. Congratulations!

Catholic Schools Week will be observed at Holy Cross School January 26 to February 1, 2014. Activities that week will include an Open House, Kindergarten Roundup, Talent Show, and All-School Mass. Please call the school office for specific dates and times, or for information on enrolling your children.



A busy day for Seniors

During their December 4 meeting, St. Patrick's Seniors wrote out 70 Christmas cards to send to home-bound Catholics. Mary Grace Bowen organized the project, for which many parishioners donated Christmas cards. Extra cards were given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society to share with their clients. The Seniors then participated in the Mass of Anointing at 11 a.m. and afterward joined others for lunch in the parish hall.

The Seniors will next meet on Monday, April 28, for their Spring Potluck. If you plan to come, please bring an Irish or American dish to pass, and an Irish joke, poem, or story to share!



Mary Grace Bowen (left) and Toni D'Urso had their pick of beautiful cards to send Christmas greetings to parish shut-ins.

Did you know?

- The church floor at the foot of the steps in front of the sanctuary is 15 inches lower than the floor at the last pew in the back of the church. Reorientation in the church expansion would put altar, ambo, and pews on a distinct lean to the side! Consequently, the plan is to level the floor to the present height of the back of the church, thereby eliminating the lower two steps in front of the present sanctuary.
- One of the joint programs in the planning stage for our GIFT cluster of parishes is a large public marketing outreach to inactive Catholics. Watch for it in the spring!
- The annual search for new Parish Council members will take off after the holidays. Don't wait for a phone call, volunteer! If you don't know much about the Council, make your own phone call to the Council president (Oscar Gonzalez, 898-6761) or vice-president (Libby Stubbers, 390-2784), and ask away. The unique ministry of a Council member is important to the development of the parish itself; do you know how and why?

Help is on the way

Unemployment is a painful pilgrimage

Trying to find a job isn't easy. You don't have to do this journey alone! Meet with other unemployed people on a regular basis while looking for work. Shared experiences and solutions can reduce the threat of:

Eviction or loss of access to email or phone, which are essential to a job search;

Not having enough money to pay for food and for daily necessities like clothing or making repairs to a car or for prescription drugs;

Feeling isolated, rejected or hopeless because people no longer treat you like you have any worth.

To get started, contact Cliff Maduzia (217/791-1264 or cmaduzia1@sbcglobal.net).

Employment network and support group

Receive help with your job search from human resource professionals Eric Ferguson (217/352-8051) or Donna Rinkenberger (217/220-0301).

They will be available at the next meeting, January 15 at 7 p.m., St. Patrick's parish center. Questions? Contact Cliff Maduzia (217/791-1264 or cmaduzia@stpaturbana.org).

Respond to God's call

Help feed the hungry and protect the environment. In 1996 I started approaching owners and employees of restaurants, cafeterias, and other food businesses to respond to God's call to help others by finding ways to avoid throwing good quality food away simply because there was no easy way to donate it. I showed how partnering with the C-U Coalition for the Homeless made donating easy and legally safe. The people who volunteer to pick up the food donations really care about what they are doing; they have responded to God's call to feed the hungry and protect the environment.

Gordon Food Service Marketplace, Urbana Garden, the Ribeye restaurant, Lil' Porgy's BBQ, and Starbucks are some of the food businesses that we have partnered with over the years that donate regularly, but there are still many other businesses who may answer this call if asked.

Would you help to spread the word? Would you consider responding to God's call to help pick up and deliver food donations? We have grown from 4 pickups per day in 2011 to 16 pickups per day in 2014. With your help we can continue to collect as much as 500 lbs. of food per week and deliver this harvest to local shelters. Try one or several pickups to see firsthand the impact of this effort and how much it is appreciated by donors and recipients alike. Please contact me, Cliff Maduzia (217/791-1264 or cmaduzia@stpaturbana.org), for more information.

Volunteers needed

There is real and present need for a parishioner (or a parishioner couple) to set up for the noon 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 keep a doctor's appointment or to shop for groceries or to attend Sunday Mass? Several programs—St. Patrick's Good Samaritans (Carla Simmering, 328-4841), Family Service (352-0099), Senior Support Services (352-5100), and Faith in Action (337-2778)—are in pressing need of drivers. Call if you can help.

A volunteer from St. Patrick's drives his own truck to the Eastern Illinois Foodbank every other Tuesday morning to pick up the week's order and deliver it to our Food Pantry. He needs someone to help load the truck and unload it at the Food Pantry. Can you help? *Ellen Abell, 367-2665*



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



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is January 12.



in our parish library

The beginning of a new year may compel us to examine our spiritual life more closely. The following readings may provide such enrichment.

Consider Jesus: Waves of Renewal in Christology, by Elizabeth A. Johnson. A succinct overview of middle and late 20th-century Roman Catholic Christology (the study of Christ's person and qualities), this book presents a wide body of diverse theological speculation in a form that clarifies the ongoing need for new Christologies and anticipates further developments. 232 Joh.

Each Day a New Beginning: Daily Meditations for Women, by Karen Casey. These meditations speak to the common experience, shared struggles, and unique strengths of

women, especially those seeking support and spiritual growth in recovery. Each day's message begins with a quotation from such exceptional women as Agatha Christie, Annie Dillard, Beverly Sills, Helen Keller, Maria Montessori, Adrienne Rich, Katherine Hepburn, and Amelia Earhart, and ends with an affirmation, marshaling the feminine courage and spirit, wisdom, and wit that make every day count. 242 Eac.

Peace Like a River: Devotional Thoughts of Comfort, by Daniel Partner. This author takes 45 classic hymns of peace and makes each one the basis of a devotional reading, accompanied by Scripture and a prayer. Whether familiar or not, each hymn has a marvelous, timeless message of comfort. 242 Par.

Centering Prayer: Renewing an Ancient Christian Prayer Form, by Fr. Basil Pennington. Pennington combines the best of the Eastern spiritual exercises (such as the Jesus Prayer) with a spirituality for today's world. He explains how to relax for prayer, how to listen to and be directed by the Spirit, and how to handle the pain and distractions that can stifle attempts to communicate with God. *Centering Prayer* has sold a quarter million copies since it was first published in 1982. In this eminently practical book, simple, inspiring instructions help readers find the comfort and the guidance they seek through prayer. 242 Pen.

The Charismatic Renewal, by Fr. John Healey. Reflections on the author's journey through faith, with insights thereon and other resources for enriching one's spiritual life. 260 Hea

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Mayo Ewanowski
(*St. Patrick's Sampler*)

Rum Cake

Cake:

1 pkg yellow cake mix (18.5 oz)
1 4-oz pkg instant vanilla pudding
4 eggs
1/2 cup white rum
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup vegetable oil

Glaze:

1 cup sugar
1/2 cup white rum
1 stick butter or margarine
1/8 cup water

Preheat oven to 350°. Generously grease 10-inch Bundt pan with solid shortening. Combine dry cake mix, pudding mix, eggs, rum, water, and vegetable oil in a large bowl. Mix at low speed until moistened, then beat 2 minutes at highest speed. Pour into pan. Bake for 50 minutes.



Ten minutes before cake is done, combine sugar, margarine, rum, and water in small saucepan and bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Drizzle glaze evenly around inside and outside edges of cake as soon as it comes out of the oven. (Whillazing, it helps to pull cake gently away from the pan edges with a knife.) Cool to touch. Remove from pan by turning onto platter. If cake sticks in pan, loosen by heating for 5 minutes at 300°.

+ + +

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



Q: I'm divorced. Can I receive Holy Communion?
A: Divorced? Spouse deceased?

Yes, of course, in both cases. Divorced and remarried without an annulment of your first marriage, and your previous spouse still alive? Well, at least for now the Church says no. But circumstances vary, so it's well worth discussing yours with a priest friend or a knowledgeable confidant. Also, listen to your heart, pray for guidance, place your need before the Lord, who loves you more than you can imagine, and let your (informed) conscience be your guide.

+ + +

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

Celebrating Simbang Gabi

Simbang Gabi, a Filipino Christmas tradition, is a novena that prepares for celebrating the birth of Christ. *Simbang Gabi*, literally going to Mass in the evening, is also known as *Misa de Aquinaldo*, or Mass at dawn.

This practice began during the early years of Christianity in the Philippines some four hundred years ago, and is still widely practiced throughout the country. Filipino immigrants in the United States continue to uphold this tradition.

Originally, the *Simbang Gabi* was held before dawn to accommodate farmers. In recent years, however, *Simbang Gabi* Masses in the Philippines have been celebrated both in the morning and the evening to accommodate the volume of churchgoers and those living in urban areas.

The Masses will be celebrated at 7 p.m., except for the Mass on Dec. 24, which will be at noon:

- Dec. 16, Monday, St. John's
- Dec. 17, Tuesday, St. John's
- Dec. 18, Wednesday, St. John's
- Dec. 19, Thursday, Holy Cross
- Dec. 20, Friday, Holy Cross
- Dec. 21, Saturday, St. Patrick's
- Dec. 22, Sunday, each in one's own parish
- Dec. 23, Monday, St. Mary's
- Dec. 24, Tuesday, St. John's (at noon)

After Mass, churchgoers typically have a light breakfast, a tradition observed here in East Central Illinois. Everyone is invited not only to attend the Mass but also to partake of the light snack brought by sponsors.

This is the ninth year the Filipino community of East Central Illinois (Champaign-Urbana and Danville) will celebrate *Simbang Gabi*. Join our Filipino friends in this traditional novena before the birth of the Christ Child!



Parish celebrates communal Anointing of the Sick

Twice each year, usually in Advent and Lent, the Worship Ministries Team, Consolation Ministry, and Pastoral Care Eucharistic Ministers prepare for a Mass for Anointing of the Sick and assist those who have come to receive the sacrament.

This sacrament is available to anyone with current or chronic physical or mental illness, impending surgery, or infirmities of aging. It can be received as often as necessary. This year approximately 50 parishioners participated in the Mass on Wednesday, December 4, and received the sacrament of anointing. Many stayed for the light luncheon that followed, in the parish hall.

St. Patrick's Seniors provided the luncheon, which was caringly served by attentive parishioners. Diners appreciated the warm, homemade soups, breads, side dishes, and desserts—as well as the chance to mingle with others rarely seen because of travel difficulties.



Update on St. Patrick's Building Project

The Building Committee for the church expansion project has been meeting weekly since September. The committee includes Project Manager Tim Kerestes, Co-Chairs Randy Pankau and Joseph Vitosky, At-large Member David Palmisano, Parish Council Representative Mark Sweeney, and Fr. Joe Hogan.

Architectural Firm Selected. Stauder Architecture, of St. Louis, has been selected. Stauder is a fourth-generation firm that has specialized in religious and institutional architecture since the 1920's. The current generation alone has designed over a hundred churches and related facilities. More information on the company profile, philosophy, and portfolio can be found on its website

www.stauderarchitecture.com. This fall, architect Dan Stauder met several times with the Church Building Committee, the Art and Environment Advisory Committee, and the



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ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH CAMPAIGN

Music Advisory Committee. Stauder also represented St. Patrick's at a neighborhood meeting and a City of Urbana council meeting.

General Contractor Selected. Broeren Russo Construction, of Champaign, is the general contractor, who will provide preconstruction and construction services, working cooperatively with St. Patrick's and Stauder Architecture throughout the project.

Expansion Project. The proposed floor plans, developed by Stauder Architecture during the parish's master planning process, are the basis for moving the project forward. Architectural renderings of the building plan can be viewed at the parish center and on the parish website www.stpaturbana.org. The areas are:

- Existing church: 4400 sq. ft.
- Church addition: 4150 sq. ft.
- New gathering space: 3100 sq. ft.
- New lower level: 5436 sq. ft.

Outdoor plaza: 2600 sq. ft.

The plan is to first construct the new church addition and then remodel the existing church. We are now in the preconstruction phase, which includes schematic design, design development, construction documents, and bidding.

Planning for Future Parking. Urbana City Council has approved the parish's \$30,000 purchase of Sassafras Alley, the alley immediately north of the church and parish center. The Council has also approved the plan to demolish all buildings north of the alley to prepare the site for parking.

St. Patrick's Parish IN FOCUS

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

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

Editorial board: Judy Fierke, 352-7670 (jfierke@comcast.net); Elizabeth Hendricks, 328-2184 (elihen@att.net); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 (mmenches@illinois.edu); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@illinois.edu); and Peggy Whelan, 367-3668 (margaretwhelan@att.net).

Associates: Carol Bosley, John Colombo, Joe and Nancy Costa, Frances Drone-Silvers, Mary Fonner, Camille Goudeseune, Mary Katen, Rachael McMillan, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Rick Partin, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika, Sue Schreiber, Kelly Skinner, Stephanie Smith, John Towns, Jim Urban, Mary Welle, and Joseph Youakim.

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St. Patrick's Presents . . . an Evening of Wisdom

Many cultures have a tradition of revering their elders and seeking their wisdom. St. Patrick's is giving us the opportunity to sit at the feet of our elders for a "fireside chat" on Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. Five retired priests and nuns will share their stories and answer questions about the call to vocation, spiritual challenges, and the joys of the religious life.

Everyone is welcome to come and listen to Msgr. Albert Hallin (former pastor at Holy Cross and St. Boniface, and a newly named writer of scriptural reflections for *The Catholic Post*), Sr. Agnes Cunningham (scholar, theologian and educator, Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary), Fr. George Remm (our previous pas-



My theological position is that men are basically good, but that women are basically better.

tor), Sr. Mary Kay Himens (writer, spiritual director, and pastoral psychotherapist, Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary), and Sr. Charlene Cesario (spiritual director and former pastoral associate at St. Patrick's, Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary).

The evening will be informal and will conclude with a reception.

If you have questions you would like to present to our elders, there will be a box available in the back of St. Patrick's church in January - watch the bulletin for announcements. Mark your calendar now for an evening full of wisdom appropriate for all ages.

