

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

June 2014

## Trusting Jesus

Jesus came to live among us to teach us about the love that God has for us and how we can respond to it. He taught us with stories, by healing the sick, by raising the dead, and by countless daily encounters with people who experienced God's love in him. He taught us from the

cross that God's love has no limits. He taught us in his resurrection that even death cannot bring that love to an end. And then what? He turned his ministry over to us. What a lot of trust he has in us!

It's interesting that Jesus didn't appoint a successor, a single person to continue his work. He gave the job to all of us. Each of

us shows the world how to live out God's love in all the different places that we live and the roles that we have in the Church and in everyday life. From us, the world can learn how to live in a family, how to care

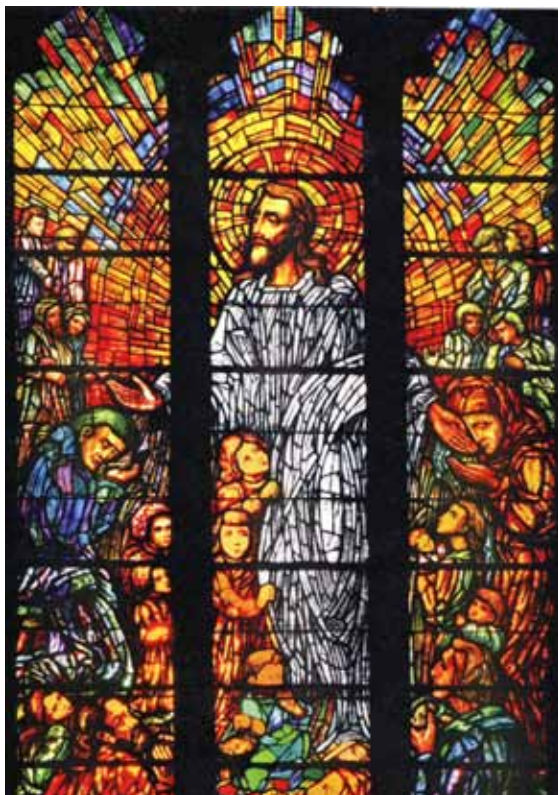
for the needy, how to be part of a community, how to work, and how to pray. None of us does these things perfectly or completely, but together, we are continuing the ministry of Jesus. In us, the world continues to experience God's love.

Jesus knew he could trust us with

this work because he knows us. He knows that we were made with hearts that thirst for God and for community. His life gave us the role model that we need. He gives us himself in the Eucharist so that we'll know that he is with us always. He gave us the Spirit at Pentecost so that we'll have the strength, the inspiration, and the understanding

that we need for this work.

What a lot of trust Jesus has in us in letting us carry on his ministry! And how trustworthy is he, who gives us everything that we need for this work!



Breathe into me,  
Holy Spirit,  
that my thoughts  
may all be holy.  
Move in me,  
Holy Spirit,  
that my work, too,  
may be holy.  
Attract my heart,  
Holy Spirit,  
that I may love  
what is holy.  
Strengthen me,  
Holy Spirit,  
that I may defend  
all that is holy.  
Protect me,  
Holy Spirit,  
that I may always  
be holy.

—Saint Augustine

## The Easter Vigil brings new life to the Church!

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is the process by which the Catholic Church in America welcomes people who are seeking a new spiritual life and are inquiring into the Catholic faith. Weekly sessions, led by Fr. Joe Hogan and his team of parishioners, started last October.

On the first Sunday of Lent, 24 men and women from St. Patrick's and St. Mary's who chose to become Catholics at Easter (or at some later date) became the Elect: God elected them to be members of his Church, and they accepted this invitation. Their instruction and faith sharing continued throughout Lent. Just imagine having the real desire to join us and having to wait several weeks before this was possible!

Finally the big weekend came, starting with the celebration of the Eucharist, their great desire, on Holy Thursday. Good Friday reminded them of Christ's sacrifice for us all

and brought them one day closer to their goal. On Holy Saturday, at the Easter Vigil, parishioners and guests entered an unlit church. The Elect waited outside with Fr. Joe and others who will assist at this first Mass of the Resurrection feast. Fr. Joe lighted the new fire and from it the great Paschal candle. As they entered the dark church, the Light of Christ was shared by the Elect as they spread the new fire to the candles held by the congregation. It was wonderful to see the church brighten as the Easter fire was passed from one to another down the rows and to see all faces alight with the Light of Christ.

Carrie Thomas is one of our neophytes or new Catholics. A co-worker encouraged her to join the Catholic Church, and another thought that she would really enjoy St. Patrick's. "The very first time I attended Mass at St. Pat's, I knew it was the church home for me and where I belonged."

Steve Blaukamp experienced connections with the Catholic faith as a college student. "My closest friend had converted to Catholicism. I observed how much his faith has sustained him, so I decided to investigate the Catholic faith on my own." The next connection: Fr. Joe, who presided at the wedding of his best friend; Steve was one of the groomsmen. "While looking into the Catholic churches in C-U, I found that Fr. Joe was still a pastor in town. I decided to go speak with him, and he welcomed me to St. Patrick's." Thus began Steve's RCIA journey.

Parishioners who attended the reception in the multipurpose room after the Easter Vigil service took the opportunity to meet and chat with the neophytes. They are happy to have joined our faith and our parish, and now they look forward to settling in. When you see them, do your best to make them welcome!



*Kelsey Angel*



*Bill Brown*



*Teresa Cimino*



*Carrie Thomas*



*Bill Weber*



*Steve Blauwkamp*

## Mary Long is set to retire

June will see the departure from staff of St. Patrick's long-time pastoral associate, Mary Yemma Long. Before you give her a hug and share a donut or a slice of cake with her on June 29 (she will meet and greet parishioners at Coffee Shop following 7:30 and 9:00 Masses), take a few minutes to read the following interview and brush up on what has made—and continues to make—Mary such



a treasured member of our parish community.

**Since this is retirement for you, give us the "thumbnail sketch" of your work history.**

I have worked at St. Pat's for 16 years. I began as the coordinator for evangelization in 1998 and eventually became a pastoral associate. I also was trained in and now offer spiritual direction to individuals and groups.

Prior to my ministry at St. Pat's, I worked as a freelance illustrator, substitute teacher, and in many other types of work I could do that allowed me flexibility when my three sons were young. I also committed a lot of time to volunteer activities, such as leading small group Bible studies, teaching as a catechist in our children's program, being a Boy Scout leader for 18 years, PTA, and other such community activities.

**Tell us something surprising about yourself.**

I don't know if it is surprising, but maybe not everyone knows

see **Mary Long** on page 3

# Mary Long from page 2

I love backpacking with my husband, Jimmy. My favorite trip was backpacking in the Grand Canyon with our scouts and sleeping in the open under an incredible starry sky. We've also backpacked in many other national and state parks. There is something very rewarding about consolidating everything you really need into a pack you can carry. It helps to have a strong husband and sons to carry the really heavy stuff!

### Give us a few highlights of your time as pastoral associate.

I have loved getting to know parishioners over the years and have tried to learn the names of many, something I keep working at because I know how important it is to have someone know your name and acknowledge your presence. Our parish is also enriched by all the different ethnic groups represented, and in how we are collaborating more and more with St. Mary's parish with its wonderful ethnic diversity.

Working with groups like Catholic Connected and our GIFT Cluster Team has opened up relations with the greater Catholic community and

enhanced our collaboration with the many parishes in our Vicariate, which covers the Champaign County area. I also have had the privilege of going on several pilgrimages led by Fr. Joe, my favorite being the one to the Holy Land, where we met the dear parishioners of our Sister Church in Bethlehem. It is exciting to feel more a part of the "universal" Church.

Ecumenical collaboration has always been important to me over the years, and I have enjoyed ministering with Urbana Theological Seminary (my alma mater), Community Bible Study, and other faith traditions in joint programs.

### What is your game plan for retirement?

I would like to continue offering spiritual direction in the parish or wherever I am. And I'll volunteer in other ways at St. Pat's.

Jimmy and I plan to visit our two oldest sons, Zach and Adam, who are stationed with the military in Hawaii; Adam & Julie have two sons, and we can't wait to spend time with our grandsons Nate and Brayden. We also want to visit the other islands for hiking and camping. And we have our son Alex and daughter-in-law, Kate, here in town

and will have more time to bug (er, help) them—lucky kids!

We will spend time in Austin, Texas, our hometown, helping out Jimmy's wonderful mom. Jimmy and I would also like to volunteer at different national parks so we can spend a season in a place and really get to explore it. Also, I plan on taking classes, having time for art, crafts, reading, biking, hiking, gardening, etc., etc. Whatever is fun!

### Anything else you'd like to share?

Thank you to Fr. Joe and Fr. Phelps (and Fr. Remm) for their spirit-filled shepherding of our parish, which includes their love for fun and good humor and their ability to relate to everyone. Thank you to my dear friends on staff (and past staff members), who have been a pleasure to minister with. Thank you to all my fellow parishioners, you inspire me with your faith, commitment, and love. Thank you to my family, who has always supported my ministry at St. Pat's, even when it kept me very busy on evenings and weekends. And thank you to God for the privilege of serving His people. I look forward to the next phase of this adventure!



### In Focus Newsletter needs your help!

We are looking for someone to help with **page layout** for two or three issues in the coming year. John Colombo and pastoral associate Jim Urban have alternated handling page layout for *In Focus*. But John has accepted appointment as interim dean of the UI College of Law during the search for a permanent dean and will have to reduce the time he can give to *In Focus* during the search.

We feel confident that there are many talented folks in our parish who can do page layout using any one of many paging programs. Jim uses Publisher, and John uses InDesign; both can provide templates and helpful guidelines, and our committee can fill you in on our simple production procedures.

Can one or two of you come forward to help us in our need? If you'll leave your name with the parish office, one of us will get back to you promptly!

For the Communications Committee,

- Judy Fierke
- Elizabeth Hendricks
- Mary Lou Menches
- Cathy Salika (chair)
- Peggy Whelan



## in our parish library

Here's some good reading for June, with a broadened understanding of "father."

***Desert Wisdom: Sayings from the Desert Fathers***, by Yushi Nomura. Each Christian who seeks God through prayer is continuing a tradition that began with the Desert Fathers and Mothers of the fourth and fifth centuries—simple peasants whose spiritual progress was marked by inner peace, self-control, poverty, patience, humility, and hospitality. *Desert Wisdom* contains some hundred sayings of the Desert Fathers, each accompanied by playful illustrations by Japanese artist Yushi Nomura. (248 Nom)

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

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

***12 Council Fathers***, by Walter Abbott. This book presents a compilation of interviews, conducted by the author, of twelve of the most significant leading figures of the Second Vatican Council. (262.5 Abb)

\* \* \*

*As always, if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Library Coordinator Megan Raab (raab4198@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.*



**Q:** I read somewhere that we're supposed to make our Easter duty. What does this mean?

**A:** For centuries in the early Church, receiving Communion at Mass was something people did fairly regularly. But reception of the Eucharist became rare starting early in the Middle Ages. Feelings of personal unworthiness to receive Christ in Communion resulted from an exaggerated emphasis on Christ's divinity in relation to his humanness. It became more popular to look at and adore the Blessed Sacrament rather than to "take and eat." Receiving Communion eventually became so rare that the Church mandated it be received at least once a year on Easter Sunday (hence "Easter duty").

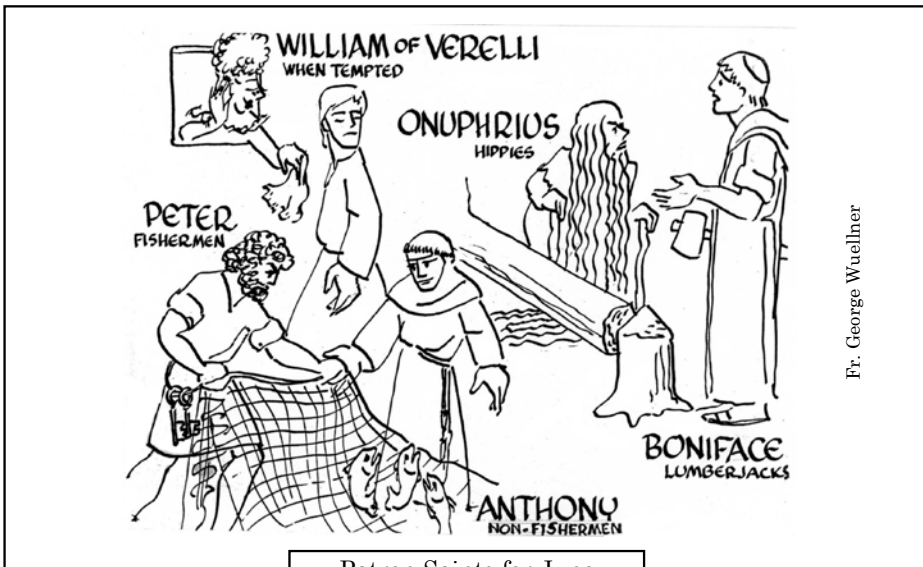
The time for making one's Easter duty was eventually extended to the period between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday. This mandate remains in the current Code of Canon Law (#920): "Once admitted to the blessed Eucharist, each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year... during Paschal Time."

The presumption was that confession is a part of the Easter duty, since one must be free of serious sin before receiving Holy Communion. Therefore the accompanying Canon (#989): "All the faithful who have reached the age of discretion are bound to confess their grave sins at least once a year."

So, have you made your Easter duty yet?

\* \* \*

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



Patron Saints for June

## End-of-year party a true extravaganza!

Sunday, May 3, was a warm, sun-dappled day confirming that spring had finally arrived. Under the pink and white blossoming trees outside the parish hall were two big inflatables: a red, white, and blue bounce house and a giant obstacle course so big that it needed two motors to keep it inflated. The laughter and screams of delighted children filled the air.

Inside the hall parishioners enjoyed free hot dogs and hamburgers hot off the grill. Donated chips, salads, fruit, and other sides filled their plates, but everyone left room for the homemade desserts and the big frosted sheet cake.

Children patronized the face painting and balloon creations booths. Olaf, the snowman from the Disney movie "Frozen," was the favorite to adorn the children's faces, according to Dawn Longfellow; she and



her daughter, Sydney, applied the paint. Kids also wanted unicorns and tigers.

Joe Hutchinson, of Animal Balloons Galore, created different animals for the children. Unicorns seemed to be the most popular creation, but Joe could blow up an impressive flower in a minute. He said his creations last from five days to a week and that they shrink proportionately; if one starts with a big tiger, after a week one has a tiny tiger, but still in perfect proportion. In his spare time, Joe works on new designs; currently he is working on a surfer balloon and a mermaid balloon. There probably will be an Olaf the Snowman balloon in the future.

Parishioners sold raffle tickets after every Mass and during the party. Prizes included pool passes, movies, a baseball game, and passes to Holiday World. All the proceeds from the raffle support the Twelfth Station

of the Cross Fund for our Capital Campaign. The Children's Religious Education program has pledged to raise \$10,000 in five years.

Jon McCoy said the raffle and donations raised \$895 at the party. Having already raised \$5813 in three years, they only need \$190 to meet their goal of raising \$2,000 a year for the first three years of their pledge. Look for their last fundraiser in June—a lemonade/iced coffee stand and bake sale. This effort usually brings in \$600. Any surplus from this year will be applied to year four of the five-year pledge.

What an inspiring effort the children are making for our church!



## Totus Tuus mixes religion with fun for children and teens

The motto of St. John Paul II, "Totus Tuus" means "all for you." You may recognize this as the name of the parish's new slant on what was formerly known as Vacation Bible School. All parishioners are invited to join the young participants at 11:15 Mass every weekday during the program: Monday through Friday, June 9-13.

The focus of study this year will be the Ten Commandments and the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. The program has a relaxed atmosphere. For example, each day begins with a skit, ending as the team throws out pieces of colored yarn for the

children to tie on their wrists. The color symbolizes the rosary mystery for the day. With a different color

The children's section is for those entering grades one through seven in the fall. They meet from 9 a.m.



*St. Patrick's Religious Education Coordinator, Jon McCoy (left), with the diocesan team for Totus Tuus, 2013*

and different mystery each day, the children will cover all five by Friday. All activities begin in the main hall of the parish center.

to 2:30 p.m. each day. (Teens from Vivo and CREW may help, but they must also attend their own teen program in the evening.) The children are grouped by age in classrooms for the study sessions. The class with the best behavior gets to make a human sundae out of one team member, who must sit in a child's wading pool and be covered with whipped cream, chocolate sauce, cherries, etc. We can't reveal any-

## Easter greetings from Susan Nagele

Box 84425-80100  
Mombasa, Kenya  
nagelesusan@gmail.com  
<http://healthministryinkenya.blogspot.com/>  
12 April 2014

To all the good people of St. Patrick's,

Recently, we visited an old Arab city nearby, where we found this huge Baobab tree. It is over 500 years old! Baobabs are 90% water and can live for 10 years without rain! I look kind of insignificant standing in front of this one—can you find



me in the photo? Sometimes I feel insignificant in light of all the problems and troubles there are in the world. The last couple of weeks have brought several violent incidents to Kenya, and three out of four were here in Mombasa. People keep forgetting that we are one family and we only hurt ourselves when we hurt one another.

Last Wednesday I saw the little boy that I mentioned in my December newsletter. When I called to the mother, she didn't come into the office, she put the little fellow on the doorstep and he walked in himself! I first saw him in April last year; he was one year old and couldn't sit up, his muscles were all very floppy. Now, at two years, he is standing by himself and flapping his arms like the little angel that he is. It was very hard to get this picture because he was not at all interested in posing for the camera. A small dose of thyroid medicine has given him the strength to grow more normally and behave very mischiev-



ously. For me Easter has come early because he has more energy and his life is renewed.

So when we feel insignificant, let us remember that we are part of a much greater whole. And when we feel like there isn't much we can do, let us do what we can and then wait to see what God will do with us. You are a great part of what we do and we are very grateful. Thank you for your donation of \$5000 from the parish in 2013. I am sending the financial report\* to show how we used the money we received. May you have a happy Easter and as much joy as this little boy!

Blessings,

*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.mkmlm.org](http://www.mkmlm.org)) or call toll free 1-800-867-2980.

\*Susan's financial report is posted on the bulletin board in the church vestibule and in the office wing of the parish center.

## Totus Tuus from page 5

thing about the really BIG FUN on Friday afternoon!

Teens entering grades 7 through 12 meet on Sunday through Thursday, June 8-12, from 7 to 9 p.m. Clothing should be casual. Teens will plan several fun evenings and a closing party.

Fees: For children, \$15 for the first child or \$25 for a family. For teens,

\$10 each person.

Leaders of Totus Tuus are a team made up of two college-age men (or seminarians) and two college-age women, all from universities in our diocese. Usually one of the men or women can play a musical instrument to accompany singing.

Parents are welcome to help, in person or by providing snacks for refreshment time. Parents may also volunteer to host the team members for dinner at 5:00 one evening, or

bring lunch for them. Everyone in the parish is invited to a potluck on Wednesday of the Totus Tuus week to meet the team and hear the songs. (Watch the parish bulletin for details.)

Offer to help when you register; come to the office for a form, or e-mail staff member Jon McCoy ([jon.mccoy@stpaturbana.org](mailto:jon.mccoy@stpaturbana.org)). And of course you'll want to come for the 11:15 Mass each weekday, June 9-13.

## Confirmation retreat a time to learn and a time to pray

After a year of preparation, 25 students from St. Patrick's were confirmed on Tuesday, May 13, by Monsignor Showalter. One of the highlights of their preparation was a day-long retreat on April 6. The retreat consisted of Mass as well as four sessions, each of which includ-

saint am I?" was a fun test of knowledge: students had to ask yes or no questions to discover which saint was named on a paper on their back.

Later in the retreat, students watched a clip of "The



ed an activity, large group presentation, and small group discussion time. The opening activity "What

Passion of Christ" and then were given time to spend in meditative prayer. Throughout the day, students

enjoyed breaking into their small groups to discuss each presentation in greater depth. College students from the Newman Center graciously served as small group leaders and eagerly jumped in on all the activities!

The retreat closed with a talk on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and an opportunity for each small group to present a creative skit depicting one of the gifts.

## Living Faith

By George C. Fahey, Jr.

In a parish the size of St. Patrick's, numerous funerals are held throughout the year. We are made especially aware of this during November when we celebrate the feast of All Souls and All Saints, and when the names of those who have been buried from St. Pat's during the preceding year are displayed prominently on a large scroll in the front of the church. All those listed on that scroll considered St. Pat's their "church home," and the scroll is an excellent reminder for us to pray for the souls of our departed parishioners, our family members and friends. Some years, the list is quite lengthy; other years, the list is a bit shorter, but even a short list usually contain 15-20 names.

I am one of about half a dozen parishioners who serve at the funeral Mass. What is involved? If you've ever served Mass in your youth, the procedures will be very familiar to you. There are a few items unique to the funeral service (pall, holy water, incense) but most of what is done is the same as for a regular Mass. A very informative procedures sheet has been prepared for anyone new to this ministry; it outlines each step in a very understandable manner. Because most funerals are scheduled for mid-morning, it helps to have a somewhat flexible daytime schedule!



I view this ministry of serving at a funeral Mass as one that assists the priest and, on occasion, the family. For example, in one instance, we held a funeral for a lady whose relatives present were all women. The altar servers then assumed the role of pall bearer. We even accompanied the priest and family to the cemetery to assist. This extended role, although rare, does occur from time to time.

The ministry of altar server is just one of several involved in a funeral service at St. Pat's. The Ministry of Consolation team members also serve the bereaved, and their presence is notable at each funeral service. They provide worship aids for all in attendance, help those unfamiliar with our church or a funeral service, and take care of many other details, while providing general support for the family of the deceased. The parish's Funeral Schola sings at each funeral Mass, and the Women of St. Patrick serve a delicious luncheon for the family and friends of the deceased after the funeral or burial.

Regardless of whether there are 3, 30, or 300 people at the funeral service, our priests and parishioners provide a meaningful service to each and every family. It's a genuine privilege and an honor to be a small part of this very important parish ministry.

## Holy Cross Happenings

In April, Holy Cross School presented *Seussical the Musical*. This fabulous production involved 95 students in kindergarten through 8th grade and over 100 parent volunteers! The annual Holy Cross musical is not only a showcase for our school, but the only large-scale school musical production in the area. All students are invited to audition and anyone who auditions can participate.



Congratulations to students who made the 2013-14 Third Quarter Honor Roll, ending the school year on a note of achievement! **Highest Honors:** Kaleb Leininger, Sophia Solava, Justin Smith, Rachel Loftus, Sarah Grosse-Perdekamp, Hannah Niccum, Jessica Hood, Ethan Smith, Maris Wszalek. **High Honors:** William Moore, Mary Agor, Brianna Hopper. **Honors:** Calum Beckett, Kylie Hopper, Luke Herzog, Morgan Saunders, Austin Ford, Josie Kuenning, A. J. Porter.



Holy Cross School honors and thanks the Wszalek family for your many, many years dedicated to Holy Cross Theater. We couldn't have done it without you!



From the Emerald City (twice) to River City, Iowa,  
 From an orphanage or two (Annie's and Oliver's) to an Austrian Villa and the Beast's Castle,  
 From a King's Palace to Charlie Bucket's house to Whoville,  
 From Independence Hall to the Pharaoh's Palace to the Darling's mansion and Neverland,  
 And nests for Ducklings and Elephants,  
 You have been there to design, paint, make doors and windows, and move scenery,  
 You have built imaginary worlds for our children to inhabit,  
 You have given countless hours, sweat, and expertise.  
 For all this we honor you as THINKER NON-STOP and  
 From the bottom of our hearts we THANK YOU!

With love,  
 Holy Cross School

*Ed. Note:* This is Adam and Stephanie Smith's last report on the happenings at Holy Cross School for In Focus. We are especially grateful for the information and photos they have shared with our readers for the last several years!



## News about area Catholic schools

### From Rose Costello

The High School of St. Thomas More held its Baccalaureate and Commencement Exercises on May 18 for 78 seniors. With the Knights of Columbus leading the procession, Fr. Robert Lampitt, the school's chaplain, served as presider and homilist, and several vicariate priests concelebrated the Mass. Valedictorian for 2014 is Demetrios Sofronis; Salutatorian is Sam Powers. One hundred percent of STM's 2014 graduates will be attending a four-year or two-year college program!

Twenty-two of the seniors qualified as Illinois State Scholars. To qualify, a student must be in the top ten percent of their class based on SAT, ACT, or PSAT

test scores and/or their class rank at the end of their junior year. STM's Illinois State Scholars for 2014 are Chandler Bollman, Cameron Deedrich, Caroline Dodds, Elizabeth Fahey, Katie Gillette, Trey Johnson, Brenda Le, Zachary Lo, Ian Niccum, Michael Plecki, Sam Powers, Jacob Schurter, John Seebauer, Danielle Smith, Demetrios Sofronis, Austin Tabeling, Meredith Thomas, James Tressler, John Walker, Victoria Wallace, Courtney Wax, and Christian Wilson.



On May 1, STM students were treated to a special lesson in archaeology to see firsthand how the arts and history can be combined. During the "Big Dig," students in art and world history classes dug up artifacts they had created and buried last fall. The students then cleaned, cataloged, and analyzed the artifacts on their archeological digs. Archeologists from Illinois State University were on hand to teach the students how to excavate and handle artifacts properly.

In recent academic competitions, the STM math team earned fourth place out of 53 teams in the Division 1A state finals. The science Olympiad team placed eleventh out of 23 Class A schools at the state level.

Our Catholic grade schools are holding their graduation ceremonies this month. Holy Cross School is graduating 35 eighth-graders on May 28. Both St. Matthew's and St. Malachy's graduation ceremonies are on May 22. St. Thomas's graduation is May 24. Congratulations to all our eighth-graders who are graduating this May!

Area Catholic schools are still accepting applications for the 2014-15 school year. Because the office hours of the area schools may vary over the summer, check their websites for additional information and summer office hours. Links to all five schools' websites can be accessed at [www.champaigncatholicschools.org](http://www.champaigncatholicschools.org).

#### Did you know?

- Fr. Joe Hogan, arrived to take up his newly assigned responsibilities as pastor of St. Patrick's ten years ago, in June 2004. How have we, pastor and people, grown in the last ten years?
- Accommodating parishioners with mobility limitations is high on the list for church expansion committees. Inside the new main entrance to the church and parish center from the parking area, there will be an elevator to transport parishioners up to the level (vestibule) of the church, providing an alternative to taking the stairs. The current south entrance to the church will also present easy access.

## Knit one, purl two, and pray

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was begun at St. Patrick's in February 2008.



Interested women met with Barb Wuebbles of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Champaign, where an active ministry existed; after watching the video "Shawl We Pray," they decided to begin the ministry at St. Patrick's. Initially, women gathered at the parish center monthly to pray and work on shawls together. After several months the number in the group dwindled, and it was decided that the work could be done just as well individually at home and at each person's own pace.

Shawl makers begin each session with a prayer, and continue to pray while they work. Upon completion, the maker blesses the shawl and brings it to the parish center. Before the shawl is given away it is blessed again, usually by a gathering of others involved in the ministry.

Shawl makers sign a card, which is attached to the shawl. (Makers may remain anonymous if they choose.) When a shawl is given away, the names of the maker and the the recipient are entered into the log book, which is kept with shawls at St. Patrick's parish center. Notes from recipients are also kept in the book.

Shawls can be knitted, crocheted, woven, quilted, or fashioned in any way suited to the talents of the maker. Patterns for knitting and crocheting are kept in the shawl supply box but can also be found online ([www.prayershawlministry.com](http://www.prayershawlministry.com)) and in books in the parish library.

see **Prayer Shawl** on page 10

## Prayer Shawl from page 9

Shawl makers are encouraged to use patterns that use repetitions of three stitches, which can aid in focusing prayer. The number three can remind us of the Trinity, Jesus' three days in the tomb, the Holy Family, or the three main prayers of the rosary.

Shawls may be taken to anyone, whether or not they are members of the parish. Some past recipients have included people who are seriously ill, undergoing chemo, in nursing homes, suffering from emotional or physical trauma, caregivers, new mothers, and newly widowed persons. Anyone who would benefit from the comfort of the shawl and

the prayers it represents are welcome to have one. Anyone in the parish may take a shawl and deliver it or ask to have one delivered by a staff person, parish nurse, or member of the Consolation Ministry team.

If you would like to participate in this compassionate ministry, simply leave your name at the parish office, and someone will contact you.



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

**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.

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

**Associates:** Carol Bosley, John Colombo, Joe and Nancy Costa, Frances Drone-Silvers, Mary Fonner, Camille Goudeseune, Mary Karten, 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.

**Articles and information** for this issue were provided by Rose Costello, Frances Drone-Silvers, George Fahey, Judy Fierke, Mary Karten, Pat Mayer, Jon McCoy, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Susan Nagele, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Carrie Otto, Carole Rebeiz, Cathy Salika, Adam and Stephanie Smith, and Peggy Whelan. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Kelly Skinner, page layout by John Colombo.

### Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Mary Karten

*This recipe is my grandmother's and one that's fun to make with small children, because they love getting their hands into it. It's made and done in time for breakfast or a mid-morning snack.*



#### Crumb Cake

2 c brown sugar  
2 c flour  
1/2 c shortening  
1 t cinnamon  
1 t salt  
1 c milk  
1 egg  
1 t baking soda  
1 t vinegar

In a large bowl, mix brown sugar, flour, shortening, cinnamon, and salt with your hands until the mixture resembles fine crumbs. Set aside 1/2 cup for use later. In a measuring cup add the vinegar, then the baking soda—kids love the fizz! Fill the rest of the cup with milk. Add egg and milk to the crumb mixture and stir until well blended. Grease and flour a 13 x 9 x 2 baking pan, and pour the mixture into it. Sprinkle the reserved 1/2 cup of crumbs evenly on top. Bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes. Test with a toothpick (cake will pull away from the sides of the pan).

\* \* \*

*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!*

#### Vocation Prayer

*You are precious in my eyes,  
and I love you. (Isaiah 43:4)*

Loving Father, I am filled with joy to realize the depth of your love for me. I would live always in that love and seek always to return your love in others I meet. Let me love and serve you in them however and wherever you lead me—I place my hand in yours with confidence that all will be well.