

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

November 2014

## Giving thanks

God has a way of turning things on their heads. We think we're doing something for one reason and God transforms it into something else altogether.

Giving thanks is a good example. We think we're doing this for God, as a gift. God transforms it into a gift for us – a gift far richer than ours.

Giving thanks to God strengthens our relationship with God, and is there any gift richer than that? Giving thanks to God acknowledges who God is: powerful, gener-

ous, loving, one who chooses to be involved in our lives. Giving thanks acknowledges our deep need of God, our dependence on God, and God's complete trustworthiness. Meister Eckhart, a 14th-century spiritual writer, said, "If the only prayer you ever pray in your entire life is 'Thank you,' that will be enough." Perhaps he was thinking about all the blessings that come to us when we give thanks.

Something similar happens when we thank other people. The relationship between us grows. We acknowledge and affirm what the other has done. We recognize that we rely on one another and can trust one an-

other. Giving thanks is a wonderful, powerful thing!

It's important to note that we don't have to feel thankful to be thankful. Any time we choose to give thanks, we are thankful. Our decision to give thanks is our gift to God, regardless of how we're feeling, and this decision is what God blesses in us. This makes thanksgiving very portable. We can do it anytime, even when life is difficult or prayer seems dry. In fact, since giving

thanks takes more effort during dry and difficult times, it may be especially precious to God then.

Those of us who work on *In Focus* each month have much to be grateful for. We're grateful for the talents that God has given us and for the opportunity to use them in the service of God's people. We're grateful for the many people (nearly a hundred in the past year!) who pitch in with ideas, information, tips, recipes, articles, poems, photos, and production skills. And we're grateful for you, our readers, for your interest and feedback, and for making St. Patrick's a wonderful, vibrant community. Thank you!



## Ladies, you deserve a night out!

On the Knights, that is. The Knights' annual Ladies Knight Out has been moved up from February to November because of the disruption of parish facilities during the church expansion. So get ready to socialize over appetizers, be seated at a beautifully set table, be served a delicious steak or chicken dinner, perhaps with a little wine, enjoy a sumptuous dessert, and then be entertained by some of the best musical and comedic talent the parish has to offer, from The Catholic Boys of St. Patrick's.

For 30 years or more the Urbana Council of the Knights of Columbus have hosted this annual event to show their appreciation for the women of the parish. They cook the dinner, serve as waiters, and afterward put everything to rights for Sunday morning's Coffee Shop.

If you're ready for a great night out, this is it. Ladies Knight Out will take place on Saturday, November 8, in the parish hall. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., with appetizers until 7:00 p.m., when dinner will be served, with entertainment following at 8:00 p.m. Tickets (\$20) must be purchased in advance (so the appropriate entrees can be made available); they are on sale now, in the Coffee Shop on Sundays and in the parish office during the week.

Last year's Ladies Knight Out was a sell-out, so get your tickets now!



## Friends Dinner: Friends, food, and fellowship

It was a beautiful fall afternoon on September 25 as guests began lining up outside St. Patrick's parish center for what has become a much-anticipated event: the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Friends Dinner. This was the fifth year that clients of our parish's SVDP Food Pantry were invited to enjoy our parish's favorite activity, sharing food and fellowship.

most successful Friends dinner yet. St. Patrick's parishioners had the opportunity to extend their hospitality to 139 of the adults and children we serve in our parish food pantry, and our guests had the opportunity to enjoy the same sort of dinner we share with one another at parish events. Both guests and volunteers had some relaxed time to interact, to

converse, and to learn more about who we are—at the very least, neighbors who share a love of dessert!

Dinner co-chairs Chris Whippo and Elizabeth Hendricks offer thanks to all the generous parishioners who gave their time as volunteers, prepared or donated food, supported us, and prayed for the success of this dinner. Many, many thanks to Kathy McKenzie and her incredible kitchen crew; to Food Pantry Coordinator Ellen Abell; and to Mary Long. The Women of St. Patrick, the Knights of Columbus, and the SVDP are greatly appreciated for their financial contributions. And a very special thanks to Joyce Wagner, whose hours of work preparing a "how-to" guide meant that we did not have to re-invent the wheel this year—and neither will future organizers!



At 5 p.m., guests were brought in and directed to tables, where volunteer hosts waited to greet them. Once Father Joe gave the official welcome and meal blessing, it was time to eat.

And what there was to eat! There was fried chicken from Schnucks and ham from Sam's Club, accompanied by a wide variety of side dishes and casseroles prepared by our generous parishioners. The bakers (and buyers) of the parish came through as always with a delicious assortment of pies, cupcakes, and cookies.

Beverage servers moved among the tables, filling cups. Once table hosts had guided their guests through the serving line, they sat down to eat with them and enjoy conversation. Other volunteers moved around the room, helping where needed and chatting with guests. In the kitchen, the dedicated crew of women kept the serving end of things running smoothly.

All in all, this may have been the





# Focusing on *In Focus*

Recently members of St. Patrick's Communications Committee invited parishioners to a presentation on how the parish newsletter, *In Focus*, progresses from its monthly conception to its final form. The presenters, Cathy Salika, Judy Fierke, and Elizabeth Hendricks, covered the newsletter's early history and its growth to what it is today, an attractive and very readable monthly publication written for the people of St. Patrick's by the people of St. Patrick's.

The presenters made it clear that the newsletter was an "in house" publication. It starts its monthly life at a committee planning meeting, where members make use of the parish calendar, liturgical calendar, and suggestions of parish staff and parishioners to come up with content for the next issue. Ideas and writing assignments are settled on, and volunteer photographers are contacted. When articles are received, they are edited, proofed, formatted, laid out, and printed—all this by St. Patrick's parishioners.

Cathy Salika, chair of the committee, said, "It takes an average of 60 hours to produce the 12-14 page newsletter, not including time spent by writers and photographers in their creative efforts. The first two pages usually carry some color illustrations and, in the September issue, a color supplement focuses on CREW's summer Mission

Trip." Judy Fierke talked about the different types of writing that make up the newsletter. "There are articles designed to promote up-and-coming events, and articles telling readers what they missed at a past event."

as well as prayers, poems, cartoons, and recipes. "If you've ever thought about writing for publication, this is the place try it out," Elizabeth Hendricks said. "There are always people at your back who can polish up grammar, spelling, tone, and content." She also talked about the use of the Internet for research and images to accompany articles. The committee relies on a small group of editors, who shepherd articles into a document of standard format, proofread and edited for length.

When all articles have been compiled into a file, the edited file is submitted to the parish staff for their review. Then the volunteers who prepare page layout integrate text with photos and graphics and forward the final file to the Website Committee for posting on the parish website and to Dianne (parish bookkeeper and so much more!), for printing on the parish copier. A small group of parishioners staple the opening page in color to the subsequent black-and-white pages and place the copies in the church for parishioners to

take and read. Cathy pointed out that "by the end of our monthly planning meeting, we're on a strict schedule to get the newsletter out on time." She estimated that 60 people contributed a large number of hours to the production of *In Focus* in 2013, adding, "It's a huge job. I'm proud of each month's finished product and the committed parishioners who are involved in the effort. But good can only get better, and better begins with YOU. Come join us."

The committee usually meets on the fourth Thursday of the month in the parish center, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Interested? Contact Cathy (csalika@illinois.edu or 367-7861)—or just come to a meeting!

## St. Patrick Parish *IN FOCUS*

**Lent: Spring Planting**  
 Getting planting is hard work. Whether you do it on top of a hill or in the fields or on your knees in the back yard, it's tough. It takes time and effort, and you're likely to be sore the next day. It is satisfying to look at your work and see that it's well done, but that's all the reward you get for now. You're at the mercy of the weather. If the sun and the rain come to the right balance, and if you're willing to wait for it, you know you'll get lots of food or flowers for yourself and for others. No rain? You could just sit there and wait. Too much rain? That's harder. There's no guarantee that you'll get a crop, but one thing is sure: if you don't plant, you'll have nothing but weeds.  
 Lent is spring planting. It takes time and effort, and it's nobody's business.

**Living Faith: Bringing Jesus to the sick in hospital**  
 I was asked to write a few words on serving as an extraordinary minister of communion at Cate Hospital. Serving in this role takes a few hours one day a month—and a few hours to reflect on what has happened. A pastor on serving as a Eucharistic minister described bringing Communion to the sick as "the most important thing you'll do that day. That moment is probably right. When I first began, I worried a good deal about doing this task properly. A parishioner who does this volunteer work walked me through the process, and others have offered pointers. Prayer is a good way to start before collecting hosts from the tabernacle. I have come to realize that this ministry is a community expression helping the relationship between God and a community. I just help, watch, and make deliveries. An illustration may make this point.  
 see Living Faith on page 12

she said. "Anyone can submit an article to the editors for consideration." The committee also makes room in each issue for a Q&A dealing with Catholic teaching or Catholic practice, information about books in our parish library on a theme related to the issue or season,

The two volunteers who prepare the **page layout for *In Focus*** urgently need help from at least one more parishioner (two volunteers would be super!) to prepare the page layout for a couple of issues a year. Templates, guidelines, schedules—all would be provided; you may use your own paging program, or St. Patrick's can provide a copy of Publisher, the paging program used by one of our page layout volunteers. Can you help? *Cathy Salika, 367-7861 or csalika@illinois.edu*

## Many diamonds in the crown of St. Margaret of Scotland

Margaret of Scotland is an unusual saint in that during her lifetime of forty-seven years, she fulfilled



many diverse roles. She was born a princess, became a queen, a wife, a step-mother, a mother, an educator, a theologian, and a servant to the poor. She is Scotland's only royal saint.

Her father was Edward Atheling, son of King Edmund of England and a claimant to the English throne. When young, he and his brother Edgar were exiled to Europe by Danish King Knute, who also claimed the English throne. Margaret was born in 1046 in Hungary, where she was schooled in several languages, the arts and sciences, and history and religion, as was the custom for princesses in the Middle Ages.

The family was called back to England where her father, Edward, was expected to become the King of England. This plan was thwarted by the Norman Invasion and William the Conqueror, who took the English throne. Again the family fled; they were shipwrecked on the shores of Scotland, where they were rescued and came under the protection of

see **Margaret of Scotland** on page 6



## in our parish library

November is the month of saints and holy souls. The parish library has many books about saints that are not represented here; look for the call number area of 920-921 to browse for others.

### For children

**Book of Saints**, by Amy Welborn (author) and Ansgar Holmberg (illustrator), includes inspiring stories, real-life applications, and information about sixty saints from around the world and across time. It is written in a storybook style for children 8-12 and explains how saints become saints, why we honor them, and how they help us even today. C920 WEL

**Saints and Heroes for Kids**, by Ethel Pochocki. C920 POC

### For Adults

**All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses for Our Time**, by Robert Ellsberg. Includes 365 short biographies of men and women of moral strength and spiritual vision. 920 ELL

**The Avenel Dictionary of Saints**, by Donald Attwater. 920 AVE

**Be Mindful of Us: Prayers to the Saints**, by Anthony Chiffolo. 242.7 CHI 2000

**Butler's Lives of the Saints** (5 vols.). In these authoritative entries readers can find a wealth of information about the lives and deeds of the saints, as well as their ecclesiastical and historical importance. 920 BUT

**Francis: A Saint's Way**, by James Cowin. 921 FRA 2001

**Saint of the Day: Lives, Lessons, and Feasts**, by Leonard Foley, OFM; revised by Pat McCloskey, OFM. A well-written collection of brief essays concerning saints and feast days. 920 SAI

**Saint Paul**, by Pope Benedict XVI. 225.9 BEN 2009

**The Young People's Book of Saints: Sixty-three Saints of the Western Church from the First to the Twentieth Century**, by Hugh Ross Williamson. 920 WIL

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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 Wuellmer

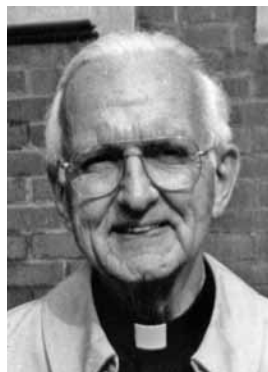
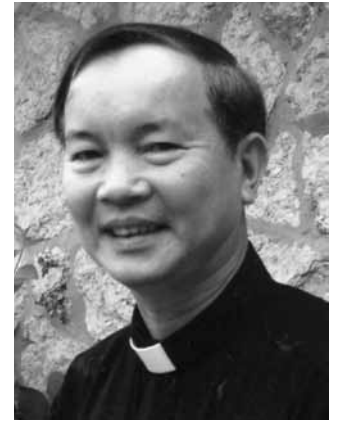


## ***The Communion of Saints: Journeying together***

As we grow older we have more and more people to remember, people who have died before us. It is very important to remember those who have loved us and those we have loved. They accompany us on our journeys—even as we continue to love them, they continue to love and help us.

Parents, spouses, children, and friends can become true spiritual companions after they have died, perhaps even more intimate to us after death than when they were with us in life. They and we together people the Communion of Saints.

—Henri Nouwen







**Q: Why do we celebrate the dedication of the St. John Lateran Basilica?**

**A:** The building originally was gifted to the Emperor Constantine as part of his wife's dowry by the Laterani family in 313. He then donated it to the Church, which makes it the oldest church building in the history of the Roman Catholic Church.

The basilica (its official title is the Patriarchal Basilica of the Most Holy Savior and St. John the Baptist at the Lateran) is the official cathedral of the pope as the Bishop of Rome. Its importance is noted in an inscription placed on its façade by Pope Clement XII, describing it as "the mother and mistress of all churches of Rome and the world."

November 9 marks the anniversary of its dedication in 324 as the cathedral church of Rome by Pope St. Sylvester I, who named it the Church of the Most Holy Savior. It wasn't until the sixth century that the name of St. John the Baptist was added to its title. It remained the pope's residency and the seat of the papacy until 1305, when the power-

ful French royalty moved the popes to Avignon in France. After 73 years the seat of the papacy was reestablished at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, where it has remained ever since.

Pope Benedict XVI, during his Angelus address on November 9, 2008, gave us insight on why this feast is celebrated by the Church:

Dear friends, today's feast celebrates a mystery that is always relevant: God's desire to build a spiritual temple in the world, a community that worships him in spirit and truth. But this observance also reminds us of the importance of the material building in which the community gathers to celebrate the praises of God. Every community therefore has the duty to take special care of its own sacred buildings, which are a precious religious and historical patrimony. For this we call upon the intercession of Mary Most Holy, that she help us to become, like her, the "house of God," living temple of his love.

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

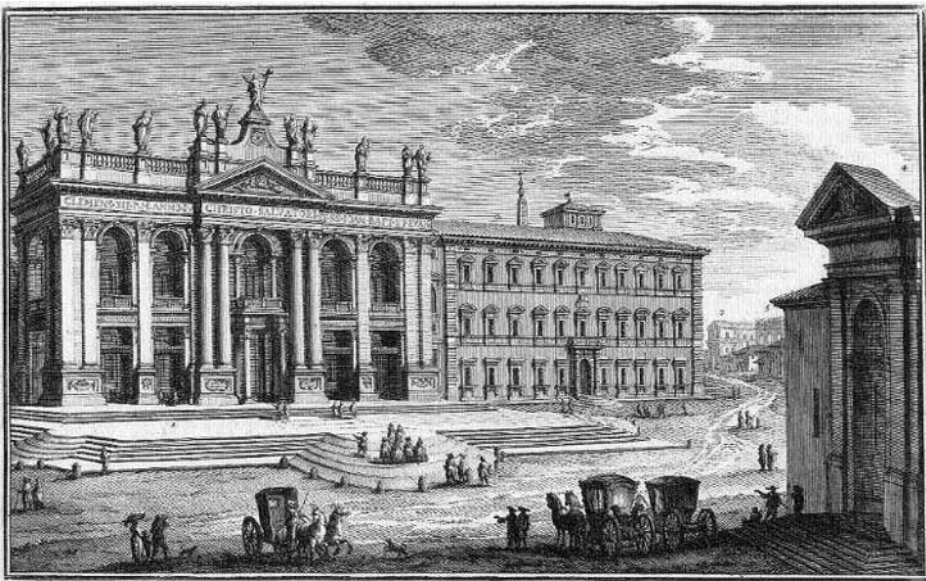
## Margaret of Scotland from page 4

King Malcolm Canmore, who made them part of his household.

The king was a man considered rough, uncultured, uneducated, and downright barbaric. A widower with two sons, he quickly became enamored by the young princess and they were married in 1070 at Dunfermline Abbey. It is said that Margaret did not want to marry because she had dedicated herself to God and planned to become a nun. However, the new bride immediately set about gently educating her husband and making their home, Edinburgh Castle, an equal in taste, warmth, and splendor to the courts where she had lived in Europe and England. King Malcolm is reported to have loved his wife dearly and so appreciated her efforts that he had all her books gilded; he is said to have kissed them when she finished reading them to him.

Margaret was obviously an intelligent woman, especially when it came to the beliefs and tenets of the Roman Catholic Church. She convened and led a number of synods that addressed certain irregularities of the Scottish Church. She advocated for frequent reception of the Eucharist, especially during the Easter Season, and for participation in the sacrament of Penance. She moved for reforms directed against abuses common among priests and lay people.

In 1093, Malcolm and sons Edward and Edgar went to battle against England. Margaret was seriously ill when they left. Edgar returned to bring the news that King Malcolm and Edward had been killed in battle. Queen Margaret died of grief four days later, on November 16, 1093. This day was chosen by the Church as her feast day, commemorating her entrance into eternal life.



## We remember and we pray . . .

During the month of November the Church reminds us to pray for the living and the dead by setting the feasts of All Saints and All Souls on the calendar. It is fitting, then, that during the month of November we take opportunities to remember and pray for our deceased loved ones and ourselves.

On Saturday, November 1, the Ministry of Consolation team invites you to the Ray of Hope program, following the 8 a.m. Mass. We will gather in the lounge of the parish center, and a continental breakfast will be served. The Ray of Hope program will help you think about

personal strategies for coping with holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, and other special days after the death of a loved one. Whether it means keeping traditions intact, starting new traditions, or not celebrating at all, options will be explored and supported.

On Thursday evening, November 13, at 7 p.m. we will gather in the multipurpose room of the parish center to remember and pray for our beloved dead during the fall Evening of Remem-

brance. Sharing memories and praying together will be a way of honoring those we love who have died since the fall of 2013.

Parishioners, their family members, and friends are invited to join us for these events. If you have any questions about these events, or would like more information, please contact Nancy Olson ([nancyolson@gmail.com](mailto:nancyolson@gmail.com) or 359-6424) or Lorraine Kim at the parish office (367-2665).



## Praying during the Octave of All Saints for all souls

On November 2, the Church celebrates All Souls Day, a day of prayer for all the faithful who have died. The Church has authorized an octave of prayer for them, beginning with the feast of All Saints, November 1.

In November, the Church observes the Communion of the Saints: those in Heaven, those in Purgatory, and those faithful pilgrims still on earth, and encourages us, the living, to pray for the dead, as in 2 Maccabees 12:46, "It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins."

A devotion to the holy souls in Purgatory can be in the form of indulgenced prayer, going to a cemetery to pray for the dead on each of the first eight days of November. This practice gives a plenary (complete) or partial indulgence for a soul in Purgatory. Indulgences remit the temporal punishment due to sin. For those who are not free from any taint of sin, Purgatory is the gift of God to purify them before they stand in the presence of God.

The three conditions of a plenary indulgence are these: (1) receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation within eight days before or after the

pious act, (2) receiving Holy Communion on that day, and (3) praying for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Some local cemeteries one might visit: Woodlawn Cemetery behind Busey Woods has a haunting and evocative Crucifix. St. Mary's Cemetery by the State Farm Center has some lovely statuary. St. Boniface church at Seymour has a nice prayer mini-plaza. St. Lawrence cemetery east

of Penfield in the northeast corner of Champaign County is a great spot for silence and solitude.

One key to Catholic spirituality is its incarnational aspect. We see God's glory in our beautiful churches and cathedrals. We feel the closeness of God in our candles, vestments, and stained glass windows. Praying indulgenced prayers for the relief of the holy souls in Purgatory is a way of participating in God's love and mercy. And all the souls you pray for will become your friends in Heaven, praying for you.



### Did you know?

The Knights' Tootsie Roll drive netted \$1200, which will be used to help the disabled.

A core group of three ninety-year-olds repackage breads donated by Panera's every Monday through Thursday. If you could spare an hour or so (as a few parishioners do) on a given day of the week, it would be a great help! Come for coffee at 7:45 a.m. and stay to repackage bread while enjoying companionship and conversation.

If you'd like to help bring relief to the people of West Africa who are suffering from the Ebola crisis, you might consider a donation to one of these organizations:

- Catholic Relief Services: [www.catholicrelief.org](http://www.catholicrelief.org)
- Doctors without Borders: [www.msf.org](http://www.msf.org)
- Friends of Liberia: [www.fol.org](http://www.fol.org)
- National Peace Corps Association: [www.peacecorpsconnect.org/ebola-fund](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/ebola-fund)

## In Liberia, God always comes first

*Emily Floess, St. Patrick's High School Youth Coordinator, served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia from July 2010 through June 2014. This story focuses on her experience living and teaching there.*

When Emily first arrived in Liberia, the whole country depended on generators. There was no electricity even in the capital city of Monrovia, no water or sewer systems. She quickly adapted, mastering the art of hauling water on her head, hand-washing clothes, and taking a bucket bath. Meeting at the pump or well was a great way to get to know her neighbors.

With the warm climate, people are outside most of the day, constantly interacting with one another. Each cluster of five or six houses shares a common area called "the yard." Emily's place was a favorite among the children and often doubled as a mini-daycare. Having a portable DVD player helped!

Emily began her Peace Corps work in the city of Kakata, where she spent three years teaching math, science, and chemistry in a government school. During the civil war in Liberia (1989-2003), many lives were disrupted and schools were closed. Thus, schools today are extremely crowded – sometimes up to 100 in a room. It is not uncommon to have adults learning side by side with children. Classes take place day and night, taught by one dedicated team of teachers.

During her fourth year in Liberia, Emily served in Cestos City, a very remote town and a very underprivileged community. Here she taught high school physics, science, and math, and also helped establish a night school for adults.

Throughout her time in Liberia, Emily witnessed the deep faith of the people. The church and the mosque are central to everyday life. Catholic and other Christian churches and Muslim communities have a strong presence. Liberians eagerly join together for worship, Bible study, and revivals more than once a week. When someone is in crisis, everyone in the community reaches out. Weddings and funerals are celebrated by the entire congregation.

"I learned far more from Liberians than I taught them," she said. "Living there, you get to know your neighbors and care about them. People don't have a lot but always share their food and make you feel welcome. Homelessness does not exist in Liberia. There is a deep sense of community, openness, and generosity."

Emily was starting her fifth year of service this past July when Peace Corps workers were removed from the region

due to the Ebola outbreak. Now back home, she keeps in touch with her Liberian friends. She feels helpless hearing that people she knows are dying from Ebola, others losing family members to the disease. "Liberians are doing all they can to help with the situation. The lack of a functioning health care system is a heartbreaking reality."

Someday, Emily hopes to return to Liberia. She continues her sponsorship of three girls whose families cannot afford schooling and is monitoring progress at the Cestos City night school she helped establish. She wants to do all she can to encourage more educational opportunities, especially for women. Her experience in Liberia has truly strengthened her faith.

"Living where life can be a daily struggle, you have to rely on God and trust in God. Without the creature comforts that are common here in the U.S., there are fewer distractions to separate you from that reality. In the midst of disappointment, the people of Liberia sometimes say, 'If all my dreams are failing, it wasn't God's plan for me,' and, in the midst of suffering, 'Life is difficult. It will be okay. God will lead you through.'"



*Emily teaches the 1/2 grade class at the night school that she started in Cestos City, Liberia.*



*Auntie Mamie, Emily's Liberian mother, shown here cooking pumpkin soup for her, died in August of suspected Ebola. Auntie Mamie had just completed her training as a nurse and had begun her first job working in one of the hospitals when she became ill.*



## Sabbath Renewal – What does it mean for you?

On the rainy evening of October 2, over one hundred parishioners gathered in the parish hall for an informational meeting on serving as group facilitators for the Sabbath Renewal program. Father Joe and Mary Long explained and answered questions.

Father Joe is hopeful that all parishioners will participate in the program because it is very important that all of us grow spiritually as our church grows physically.

This program is called Sabbath Renewal for two reasons. Most of the parish ministries will not meet in January through March because they are taking a sabbatical or rest from their regular duties during the time that construction eliminates space for meetings. Secondly, it is called a renewal because during these months parishioners are encouraged to join a weekly session strengthening and renewing their faith by studying Pope Francis's *The Joy of the Gospel*.

During the month of October group leaders of these study sessions meet on Thursday evenings for training as small-group facilitators. During November the parish will be given information at every weekend Mass. There will be testimonials about Pope Francis's book as well as

the importance and value of meeting in small groups to study it. There will be signup sheets for the small groups, which will meet at various times during the day and evening to enable everyone to find one that meets at a convenient time.



On the evening of Thursday, January 8, there will be a parish-wide kick-off event. The week of January 11, the ten-week study of *The Joy of the Gospel* will

begin in the various study groups. There will be bulletin inserts with a simplified version of materials for those participating in the program on their own or with their families. The program will conclude the week of March 15; on the evening of Thursday, March 19, there will be a concluding parish-wide event.

Many have been working to pave the way for the spiritual and physical changes to come. Among these are members of the Sabbath Renewal Team and the Building Committee and its subcommittees, the Art and Environment Committee and the Music Committee. Now is the time for the whole parish to participate. This winter many parishioners will open their homes to you in the small groups. Father Joe urges you to select a convenient group and to grow in your faith as our church grows.

## Share your blessings by filling a Thanksgiving Basket

Every year, the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Patrick's provides Thanksgiving dinners to people in need. Most of the 250 recipients are referred by agencies such as Community Elements and Family Services, but the SVDP reserves about 50 baskets for people who are referred by someone in the parish or for those who call in to the parish office.

The baskets (actually cardboard grocery boxes) are packed with the makings of an easily prepared Thanksgiving dinner, including a canned ham, canned sweet potatoes and vegetables, canned fruit, margarine, dinner rolls, and a ready-made pie, as well as items to help make up a few additional meals.

Can you help fill a basket? A donation of \$30 will pay for the cost of food for one basket. If that strains your budget, any amount you can contribute will help. Donations should be placed in an envelope clearly marked "SVDP Thanksgiving Baskets" and put in the Sunday collection or brought to the parish office.



Can you help fill the baskets and/or deliver them? On the morning of Tuesday, November 25, many volunteers are needed at 8:30 a.m. to place perishable items into the boxes (the non-perishable items will have already been packed by religious education students). Volunteers are also needed from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 or 11:30 a.m. to go out in two-person teams to deliver the baskets.

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

*Honoring Our Past*

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**

**ST. PATRICK'S CAMPAIGN**

Construction of the new parking lot will take place this fall. Berns, Clancy and Associates is the consultant for construction of the new lot north of the alley and renovation of the existing lot once the church expansion is completed. The contractor for both phases of construction is Petry Kuhne.

Throughout October, the parish has been soliciting construction bids. Once a general contractor is selected, the contract will be submitted to the Diocese of Peoria for review and approval. Meanwhile, St. Patrick's awaits a City of Urbana building permit. Site work is expected to begin later this fall.

## Here's your chance to clean parish buildings

Saturday morning, November 15, is our final opportunity to clean St. Patrick in its present configuration. You don't have to bring any cleaning supplies, just bring yourself between 9:00 a.m. and noon. The more people who come, the more detailed the cleaning can be and the more quickly it can be completed.

Mary Ann Luedtke oversees the church cleaning and will direct you to what needs to be done there. The pews are to be wiped down with Murphy's Soap and the kneelers washed. The church walls and stained glass windows will be dusted. The vestibule will also be dusted and the sills washed. The furniture in the sanctuary will be polished and the bathrooms and steps to the basement will be cleaned. If there are enough helpers, even the brass candlesticks will be polished. Desperately needed are tall, sturdy men who will climb our tallest ladder to dust the wire cables from

which The Rising Christ hangs.

The parish center needs an even larger host of workers. Chairs and tables in all the rooms are to be washed. The staff offices need to be thoroughly cleaned. Windows and glass doors need to sparkle. The stairs to the basement and the basement itself need attention. There will be someone from the Women of St. Patrick to alert you to what needs to be done whenever you arrive that morning.

Let's come together to help God's house reflect his majesty. Let's clean the church and the parish center one last time before the dust flies during the expansion. See you November 15!



## Moms<sup>3</sup> is for moms and kids

Moms Meeting Moms (M<sup>3</sup>) is St. Patrick's very own mothers' group. It meets every other Wednesday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. in the basement of the parish center, where moms and kids can take a break from being each other's main social outlet for a spell. The grown-ups snack, sip, and chat, while the younger crowd enjoys our church's fun assortment of toys and games. Occasionally, group members bring in a craft project to share (although craftiness is certainly not a prerequisite for attending).

People who are considering joining the group may want to know that M<sup>3</sup> welcomes all moms who feel they can benefit from attending. Their children can be of any age, and the family does not need to belong to this (or any other) church. Topics of spiritual importance can and do come up, but the group strives to be a support to moms at any point in their life of faith and at all stages of parenting.

After breaking ground on the building renovations in January, the group will be temporarily displaced. Plans are being made to find an alternate location (or locations) in the meantime, but there is still plenty of time to get in on the fun before that happens. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 5.

For more information, call the parish office (367-2665) or contact Rachael McMillan (rachmcmill@gmail.com).



## St. Patrick's on pilgrimage

On October 7 our intrepid New Horizons seniors car-pooled to the suburban town of St. John, Indiana, about two hours and 40 minutes away through scenic western Indiana along route 63-41, on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Christ's Passion.

The landmark for the Shrine is a 33-foot stainless steel statue of the

Holy Virgin. The Shrine of Christ's Passion is located on 14 acres, reproducing in life-size bronze statues the Stations of the Cross. The crest of the hill has a poignant Crucifixion scene, followed by a walk-in empty tomb, and Christ Resurrected.

Following a delicious lunch at the local La Quesadilla Café, the group toured the magnificent Church of St. John the Evangelist. This traditional-style church, completed in 2008 at the cost of \$15 million dollars, can seat over 1,000 people. Both Shrine and Church provide tour guides on request.

Our parishioners were tired but inspired after their pilgrimage.



### Vocation Prayer

Lord, I want to go  
where you want me to go,  
do what you want me to do,  
be what you want me to be.  
Help me!



## Holy Cross Happenings

It is hard to believe October is nearly over—the school year at Holy Cross School is just flying by, and the end of the first quarter is almost upon us!

School started on August 20 for our preschool through eighth-grade students. During the week of September 8 our third- through eighth-graders took the Iowa Test of Basic Schools, which all diocesan elementary students take to gauge academic progress. After a week of testing, the entire Holy Cross School and parish community celebrated the Feast of

the Exaltation of the Holy Cross during the week of September 14.

Activities at school that week included a PJ Day (students were allowed to wear PJs instead of their school uniforms), grandparents ate lunch with their grandkids on another day, and the week culminated with our annual Hot Dog Day on Friday.

Finally, on October 11 our girls Cross Country team placed third at IESA Sectionals and will move on to State.

What a first quarter this has been!



*Craig and Stacey Goad staff the Athletic Booster table at school registration in August.*



*STM Ambassadors help at the annual Hot Dog Day, capping off Feast Week at Holy Cross School.*



*Fr. Joel Phelps hands out hot dogs at Hot Dog Day.*

## STM named a 2014 Blue Ribbon School

**By Katie Schroeder**



The High School of Saint Thomas More is honored and humbled to be named one of the 2014 Blue Ribbon schools, chosen from among the Nation's 133,000 public, charter, private, and parochial schools eligible for the award. Principal Ryan Bustle summed it up best when he said, "This award acknowledges and validates the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in striving for—and attaining—exemplary achievement all while pursuing the Christ centered life."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program was established in 1982 to bring public attention to and to recognize those U.S. schools whose students thrived and excelled. Although a strong emphasis is placed on state assessment data, schools must show how data are interpreted and used and how curriculum, instruction, professional development and student support promote student success.

Throughout its history, students at STM have excelled in academics, athletics, and the arts. Ninety-nine percent of all STM graduates attend a post-secondary college or university, with the remaining one percent entering the military. Over \$5.1 million dollars in merit scholarships

were awarded to graduates of the Class of 2014.

STM students' ACT average is among the highest of the Champaign-Urbana high schools. The Class of 2014 earned an average ACT score of 26, five points above the National and State averages. Over the years, STM athletes have achieved four state championships, in boys' cross-country, boys' golf, girl's golf, and girls' basketball. The drama and musical productions are well known throughout the area as being of the finest quality. STM's a capella group, Note Nerdy, has recently been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

see **STM** on page 12



## STM from page 11

In addition, STM's 2013 graduates performed over 13,000 hours of service in the Champaign-Urbana community.

Naturally, STM is excited to spread the good word about this accomplishment throughout the community. Therefore, we have started an ad campaign and are currently accepting sponsorships for ads throughout the community. To learn more about the ad campaign, or to sponsor the cost of an ad in full or in part, please contact Jack Clifford (217-352-7210 or jclifford@hs-stm.org).

Friday, February 6, is STM's 9th

annual Empty Bowl Supper. For a donation of \$10 you can enjoy a great bowl of soup, bread, dessert, a ceramic bowl, and great entertainment! Warm both your body and your soul, anytime from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The High School of Saint Thomas More exists to assist parents in forming students spiritually, morally, intellectually, and physically in a Christ-centered atmosphere of love, respect, and reverence consistent with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, sending them forth to fulfill their baptismal call as Christ's disciples in the world.

## 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 and information** for this issue were provided by Ellen Amberg, Judy Fierke, Emily Floess, Elizabeth Hendricks, Rachael McMillan, Mary Long, Mary Lou Menches, Nancy Olson, Dan Richards, Cathy Salika, Patsy Schmitt, Katie Schroeder, Tony Schutz, Adam Smith. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by John Towns, page layout by John Colombo.

### Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Patsy Schmitt



#### Butternut Squash Soup

- 6 T chopped onion
- 4 T margarine
- 1 large butternut squash (about 6 lbs), washed
- 3 cups chicken or vegetable stock (or 4 cubes chicken or vegetable bouillon dissolved in 3 cups water)
- 1/2 t dried marjoram
- 1/4 t white pepper
- 1/8 t ground cayenne pepper
- 1 8-oz package of cream cheese

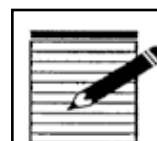
Bake (350°) the whole squash in pan filled with 1-1/2 cups of water for about 2-1/2 hours, or until squash is soft to the touch. (Replenish water as needed.) When the squash is cool enough to handle, split it in half, scoop out the seeds, and then peel and cut it into chunks.

In a large saucepan, sauté onion in margarine until tender. Add squash, water, bouillon, marjoram, pepper, and cayenne pepper. Bring to a boil, then simmer for 10 minutes, stirring to integrate the seasonings.

Puree the squash mixture and cream cheese in a food processor until smooth. Return it to the saucepan and heat thoroughly. Do not allow to boil. If the soup has thickened while reheating, add a little milk or butter-milk. Garnish with sour cream or yogurt and enjoy

\* \* \*

*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!*



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