

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

October 2014

## Keeping the Sabbath

In six days God created the heavens and the earth and, on the seventh day, God rested. What do you think that means? Was God bone-weary from the exertion of creating? Did God need a nap? It's an interesting question because it gives us a clue on how to keep the Sabbath. God gives us stories like this in the scriptures to show us how to live. What is God trying to tell us here?



Perhaps God was admiring his handiwork. Taking a step back from your work can give you a fresh perspective and new ideas. It gives you time to consider whether your work contributes to the good of society and to the building up of the Kingdom of God. Perhaps God was relishing the beauty of creation. There's so much to savor in the rich diversity of creation, the interconnectedness, the intricate detail,

the immensity and power. When you ponder these things, they can speak to you of God's overflowing creativity, God's deep love for what he has made, and the ways we can connect with one another and with God.

Perhaps God was taking delight in his people, being with us, enjoying our company and our play. We can do the same. Being together with family and community is part of keeping the Sabbath.

Perhaps God was pausing to see how we would respond. Seeing God's great goodness to us, would we be good to each other? Would we turn to God in love and adoration?

And, no, God wasn't bone-weary on the seventh day. But God does know that we need physical rest, a mental change of pace, and perhaps a change of scene, so our lives don't pass in a blur of exhaustion and monotony. The Sabbath meets these needs for us too.

The Sunday Sabbath is a gift of time: time to consider how we fit into God's Kingdom, time to savor God's creation, time to enjoy family and build community, time for rest, and time to respond to God in worship and praise. These are the things that make our Sunday Sabbath holy.



Next spring, our parish will be keeping another kind of Sabbath. For a while, construction of the church expansion and its connection to the parish center will deprive many parish organizations of meeting space. Instead of leaving this as dead time, we're asked to make of it a Sabbath time.

Between January and March, we're all invited to attend small group study sessions in one another's homes. The study will focus on Pope Francis's

## From Deacon Alex Millar

Dear friends,

Going into the last of six years of seminary is certainly an interesting feeling. When I began this process five years ago, this day seemed incredibly far off. Today, however, it is hard to believe that so much time has elapsed. Studying for the priesthood of Jesus Christ has truly been one of the happiest times in my life, but rather than getting nostalgic, I find myself increasingly excited about the prospect of serving as God's priest.



Although in many regards the final year of seminary is like the previous years, there is one major difference: we spend this last year as deacons. As a result, my experience of the theology classes has changed. I know enough that I am beginning to understand the big picture of theology in a deeper and more intimate

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## Quilters raffle made two people very happy

At Coffee Shop on Sept. 7 at 10:30 a.m., St. Patrick's Quilters raffled off a robin's egg blue and white quilt, in a Drunkard's Walk block pattern finished as Friendship Circle. John Hummel made sure all the tickets were well mixed, and then asked a young boy to draw the winning ticket. The winner was Marthaan Riegel of Monticello; she received the quilt later that day.

The quilting group raised \$846 for C-U at Home. This group engages and mobilizes our community to house and support the most vulnerable homeless on their journey of healing and restoration. Paul Gallagher, Director of Phoenix House, a drop-in center for the homeless at 205 N. Neil, Champaign, was present to receive

the check from the group.

Paul also assists with two transitional living homes. One home can accommodate two families for six to 12 months while they seek employment and learn financial skills. The other home can accommodate four people who are getting their life together after serving time in jail or recovering from something that has disrupted their life. They learn job skills, how to apply for a job, how to manage their money, and other skills to get their life back on track.

St. Patrick's Quilters thank all who purchased tickets to support this project. They have already begun work on a new quilt to be raffled off next year!



*Sr. Karen Carlson, Janet Althaus, and Shirley Splittstoesser present a check for \$846 to Paul Gallagher.*



*The winning ticket!*



*Happiness is...winning a beautiful quilt—and Marthaan Riegel does indeed look happy!*

## Sabbath from page 1

exhortation *Joy of the Gospel*, and will include group fellowship, prayer, study, and discussion of book passages and related Scripture. There will also be action/outreach arising from the study for the individuals and groups to consider. In addition, there will be parish-wide gatherings at the beginning and end of the study.



Materials are being prepared by our parish Sabbath Renewal Team, headed by Mary Long. For those who cannot attend a study group, bulletin inserts will cover some of the topics discussed. (The hope is that some of these materials will be translated into French and Vietnamese.) Discussion leaders will be trained during October. Signup for discussion groups will take place in November. Watch the bulletin and *In Focus* for more information.

The Sabbath Renewal program is a time to step back from our usual activities, to spend time in reflection, to consider our parish ministries and how they could be more effective, to make new connections among parishioners, and to respond to God with gratitude. If we do these things, it will be a holy time indeed!

### Vocation Prayer

O Jesus, may I see this as  
 my vocation:  
 to make the most of what  
 I am this day,  
 to use my present talents  
 and opportunities,  
 to strive to improve myself  
 without undue strain, and  
 to help enrich  
 the lives of others  
 without feeling imposed  
 on or compelled by others.

With your help,  
 my Friend!

## Who are they?

They are the Mother Teresas, the saints, statesmen, spouses, classmates, and friends of your future. We are called to respect their promise and their need, from birth through natural death.

St. Patrick's offers an opportunity to serve this purpose through the work of the Respect Life group, which meets at convenient times to pray and plan activities. It was established "to study, pray, and plan activities that foster reverence for the whole of life."

The coordinator oversees the parish Pennies for Life collection in October (Respect Life month) and, with local organizers, plans the 40 Days for Life campaigns in fall and spring.

The coordinator also joins with others in the community to plan the ecumenical Memorial Prayer Vigil held in January each year on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion.

A new coordinator is coming on board. His or her name is not known at press time, so we can ask: IS IT YOU? Even if you're not the coordinator, you can easily participate in the work of this group—just get in touch with Jim Urban ([jim.urban@stpaturbana.org](mailto:jim.urban@stpaturbana.org) or 367-2665).



## We can help you plan for the future

We don't like to think about serious illness affecting our family, let alone talk about it. We don't look forward to thinking about or talking about death. Yet there is a very real possibility that we, or someone in our family, will be hospitalized at some point. And of course, we all will eventually die. Dealing with these issues can be frightening, but knowledge is power—and peace. To plan ahead for such difficult moments is one of the best gifts we can give ourselves and our loved ones.

To this end, the Parish Nurses and Consolation Ministry team invite you to the program "Planning for the Future, for Your Family and You." Over the course of three Sunday afternoons you will hear firsthand of a good strategy for



copied with expected and unexpected circumstances.

Sessions will be from 2 to 4 p.m. in the parish center's multipurpose room. You may attend one, two, or all three sessions—each is independent of the others. Each session starts with an hour of presentations on specific issues by experts from our community, and

ends with an hour for questions and answers

Session One will be held on Sunday, Oct. 5: "Now What? Resources, Important Discussions, and Understanding Grief." Session Two will be held on Sunday, Oct. 12: "Having a Plan, Preplanning Final Arrangements and Funeral Liturgy." The final session will be held on Sunday, Oct. 19: "Putting Your Legal House in Order."

This adult forum program is free and open to all parishioners, their families, and their friends. The information provided will be of value to people in their golden years, just starting a family, or anywhere in between. Being prepared for life's eventualities is one of the best gifts we can give ourselves and our families.

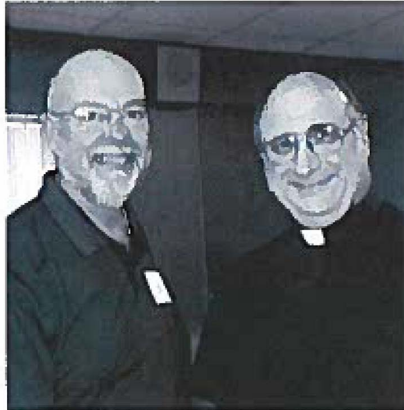
## Seniors present Fr. Bill on Salesian spirituality

The New Horizons Seniors (the name chosen for the reorganized St. Patrick's Seniors) met for an abundant potluck lunch at St. Patrick's on Sept. 8. Following the lunch, Fr. William Bucciferro, S.D.B., spoke about Salesian spirituality. The Salesians are a world-wide order of priests, brothers, and sisters working as educators and missionaries. Fr. Bill is based at Holy Cross Parish in Champaign and is a chaplain at the University of Illinois's St. John's Newman Center. He and the Salesian sisters work with the Catholic students on campus.

Fr. Bill gave a warm, humorous presentation on the spirituality of the order founded by Don (that is, Father) John Bosco in Italy in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He explained that each religious order—such as the Benedictines, the Franciscans, the Dominicans, and the Salesians—has a distinctive spirituality springing from its founder, its mission, and the era in which it was founded.

Don John Bosco founded an order to care for youths abandoned in prisons and on the streets of industrialized Turin, Italy, around 1868. The name "Salesian" comes from a saint Don John Bosco was devoted to, St. Francis de Sales, who was a great evangelizer and writer in France in the 1600's. His famous book, *Introduction to the Devout Life*, is widely read even today.

Fr. Bill said the key word in Salesian spirituality is "practical." All people living in the modern world can follow this path to holiness through living in relationship. Holi-



Dan Richards welcomes Salesian Fr. Bill Bucciferro.

ness must be practical, transforming attitudes, attributes, and actions. Practitioners will keep things in perspective, and develop a sense of humor. This type of spirituality is particularly useful in working with the young.

Each person present received a Salesian holy card about Don John Bosco.

The next New Horizons Seniors event will be a pilgrimage on Tuesday, Oct. 7, to the Shrine of Christ's Passion and the St. John the Evangelizer church in St. John, Indiana. The shrine is a life-sized enactment of the Passion with narrated Stations of the Cross featuring the 14 stations, a crucifix on the crest of the shrine, and a full-sized tomb.

Transportation will leave from St. Patrick's parking lot at 8:30 a.m. If you're interested, please contact Tyra at the parish office. This will be a pilgrimage you will never forget: it might change your (spiritual) life!

### Did you know?

Plans for connecting the expanded church to the parish center include a full-size elevator to help negotiate the difference in levels between them, for those who find steps difficult.

• • •

Dianne and John Gordon have been blessed to have foster baby Zane, just 2 days old, join their family. Their daughter, Rory, loves being the protective and loving big sister! You may see Zane in St. Patrick's office on Friday afternoons. Please pray for this little guy during his journey through the foster care system.

• • •

Sr. Charlene Cesario, SSCM, was appointed Community Leader of her Mercy Community for a period of three years by the Provincial and Council, upon consultation with the Sisters of Mercy Community. For 19 years Sr. Charlene was pastoral associate at St. Patrick's, where she provided opportunities for spiritual growth through interest groups, the Parish Council, staff, and parish activities. She continues to offer guidance to individuals seeking spiritual direction, which was an important aspect of her ministry here. She also offers individual retreats upon request.

### Can you help?

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



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

## Deacon from page 1

way. Most importantly, serving as a deacon has shown me how the theory is lived out in God's people.

As an ordained minister, I have been given a share in helping form the people of God. I have been blessed to do this in many ways, by preaching, baptizing, and presiding at weddings. The seminary has also begun to teach us how to celebrate the Mass, hear confessions, and anoint the sick. This year we are learning to have a servant's heart.

Is there anything better than being what God made us to be? My time in the seminary has given me the resounding answer: no. All of us have been given a great vocation, a way to serve God and His Church, and I cannot but love mine. How sad that so few young people seriously ask God "What do You

want for my life?" Encourage them to ask that question. Please pray for the six of us who will be ordained priests this year. We will pray for all of you, especially that God helps you live your vocations well.

God's blessings on all of you!



Lord Jesus, we pray for all priests and seminarians, but especially for our parishioner, Alex. We pray that Alex and all of our seminarians will grow in faith, hope, and charity. May their hearts overflow with your compassion, understanding, and generosity. Lord, give them wisdom to discern your will and the grace to follow you more perfectly.

Amen.

## Boo!

This year, the St. Patrick Religious Education Program will once again host a "Trunk or Treat" night on Sunday, Oct. 26, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the church parking lot and parish center.

"Trunk or Treating" is much the same as trick-or-treating, but instead of going from door to door, the kids who attend our event dress up and go from car trunk to car trunk—in the parish parking lot. Each person handing out candy decorates their own trunk with a special Halloween theme. Not only can the kids get Halloween treats, but they can also visit neat places like Harry Potter's castle and meet interesting people like Perry the Platypus (Fr. Phelps).

Once the children are done collecting treats outside, the entire family comes inside for some food and fun. Various rooms will have games for the children to play. There will also be a craft room, where children make Halloween decorations to display at home. After having had all

the fun they can handle, all move into the parish hall for dinner. Your children will have a great time and you won't have to cook that evening—what could be better?

Besides providing a safe night of Halloween fun, "Trunk or Treat" is also a fundraiser for our religious education program. The religious education program at St. Patrick pledged to raise \$10,000 for the Capital Campaign over five years. After year three, we are well on our way having raised over \$6,000 for the campaign. So if you can, please leave a donation that you know will



have a lasting effect on St. Patrick Parish.

You might also donate some of your time. First, you could decorate the trunk of your vehicle and hand out treats. The kids have a blast going around to the various trunks and looking at the decorations. For your trouble, you will have an opportunity to win a movie gift card if your car is voted as the Best Trunk, or if the kids decide you have the Best Treats.

If decorating is not your thing, kitchen help is also needed. Parishioners are needed to set up the hall, cook food beforehand, and help serve dinner. Vivo or CREW students might help in the craft and game rooms—this is a great opportunity for them to serve the St. Patrick community!

Will you join in the fun on Oct. 26? If you have any questions or can help, please contact Jon McCoy (jon.mccoy@stpaturbana.org, 367-2665)!

## So many talents! Such a gift of time!

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Time and Talent ministry sign-ups last month. St. Patrick's serves many people and meets many needs because of the generosity of its volunteers. If you haven't yet signed up, it's never too late! Contact the parish office (367-2665) if you can help.

Here are some areas where the need for help is especially critical:

- The 9:00 choir needs singers. Time commitment: 9:00 Mass on Sunday and rehearsals on Thursdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- The 10:30 choir needs singers too. Time commitment: Choir alternates between the 10:30 and noon Masses on Sunday. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Ushers are needed at all Masses to guide people to seats, take up the collection, and distribute bulletins. Time commitment: Other than coming to Mass, nothing! Training is on-the-job.
- The Respect Life ministry lets St. Patrick's participate in community-wide Respect for Life events. Coordinator and participants needed. Time commitment: flexible.
- The Party Ministry Team needs members to help plan social events for the parish, such as the St. Patrick's Day party. Time commitment: flexible.
- The Sacristan needs help with cleaning and refilling votive candle holders. Time commitment: one hour per week. flexible.



**Out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground.**

—Matt. 25:14-30

Young children loved to watch "The Magic School Bus," an animated TV show featuring Ms. Frizzle, undoubtedly the coolest teacher ever, and her students. The Magic School Bus went to places no ordinary bus (or students) could: inside a volcano, out into space, under the ocean, inside the human body. Ms. Frizzle's charge to her students was always "Take chances! Make mistakes! Get messy!"

Perhaps that should be our motto too, because if we're afraid to use our gifts, then we bury not only our own best selves, but also God's Spirit in us. This familiar parable reminds us that someday we will be called to account for our behavior.

Lord, help us to take risks not only for ourselves,  
but for the sake of the Gospel.

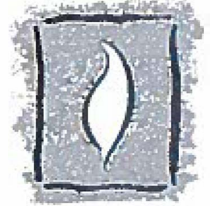
## Health tips from the Parish Nurses

Because the flu season is just around the corner, the Parish Nurses urge you to take steps now to prevent the flu. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, seasonal flu activity in the United State can begin as early as October, but usually peaks in January or February. Flu, also called influenza, is a contagious respiratory disease that can lead to serious complications.

The single best way to protect yourself is to get vaccinated every year. Flu viruses are constantly changing, so the vaccine is updated yearly to protect against the viruses that will be most common that year. The vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months old and older.

Along with getting a flu vaccine, you can take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs. Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. Wash your hands often. Stay home when you are sick. Avoid close contact with sick people. Finally, clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.

Take action now to keep yourself and your loved ones healthy this flu season!



## Who is St. Margaret Mary Alacoque?

It is because of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque's visions that Catholics today have a strong devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Margaret Alacoque was born on July 22, 1647, in L'Hautecour, France. From early childhood she showed intense love of the Blessed Sacrament, preferring silence and prayer to childhood games. She made her First Communion at the age of nine.

Margaret was bedridden by rheumatic fever for five years until the age of fifteen. She made a vow to the Blessed Virgin to consecrate herself to religious life and was instantly restored to good health. Subsequently she added the name Mary to her baptismal name of Margaret, in recognition of this favor.

Margaret's father died when she was eight. The family was plunged into poverty because a relative selfishly controlled the inheritance until Margaret Mary was seventeen. When the family regained their fortune, Margaret Mary's mother encouraged her to go into society. With her brothers she attended dances and balls, but one evening after returning home from a Carnival Ball, Christ, scourged and bloody, appeared to her. He reproached her for forgetting him, but also told her how his heart was filled with love for her because of her promise to consecrate herself to religious life. Margaret Mary entered the Visitation Convent at Paray-le-Monial on May 25, 1671, and professed her vows on November 6, 1672.

Margaret Mary began having visions when she was twenty, and these revelations continued for eighteen months. Christ told her that she was his chosen instrument to spread devotion to his Sacred Heart. He taught her a devotion that was to become known as the Nine Fridays and the Holy Hour. Christ asked her to establish the feast of the Sacred Heart.

Margaret Mary's mother superior rebuffed her efforts to follow Christ's instructions, but finally the

community's confessor declared the visions genuine. Ten years later, in 1683, a new mother superior was elected who believed in Margaret Mary's visions. In 1686, the convent privately began observing the feast of the Sacred Heart, and two years later a chapel was built at the convent to honor the Sacred Heart. Soon observation of this feast spread to other Visitation convents.

Margaret Mary Alacoque died at Paray-le-Monial on October 17, 1690, at the age of 43. Devotion to the Sacred Heart was approved by Pope Clement XIII in 1765, 75 years after her death. In 1824, Pope Leo XII pronounced Margaret Mary "venerable," and in 1864, Pope Pius IX declared her "blessed." When her tomb was canonically opened in 1830, two instantaneous cures took place, opening the way for her canonization by Pope Benedict XV in 1920. Her incorrupt body rests above the side altar in the Chapel of the Apparitions at the Visitation Monastery in Paray. Many striking blessings have been claimed by

pilgrims from around the world.

St. Margaret Mary's feast day was changed to October 16 by the Church reforms of 1969. She is the patron saint of devotees of the Sacred Heart, those suffering polio, and those who have lost their parents. To learn more about her, read her excellent biography *The Life of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque*, by Rev. Emile Boupaud.



## Lindsey Weishar, new Vivo coordinator

*Lindsey Weishar came to St. Patrick's and Vivo in an interesting way. Read all about it—and about Lindsey herself—in this brief introduction.*

**Please tell us a little about yourself—your family, your background, your parish connections.**

Almost all my life I've been a native of Champaign. My family moved here when I was three. Our parish is St. Matthew, and my younger sister and I attended St. Matthew grade school and the High School of Saint Thomas More. So I'm a bit of a transplant into St. Patrick's. Thank you all for being so welcoming.

**How did you come to be the junior high youth group's coordinator? (Is that its formal title?) Were you recruited by someone, or did you see an ad? Or did you simply hear that Amy was leaving the position and volunteer for it?**

I heard about Vivo through a Newman Center friend on the University of Illinois campus. The wonderful thing about Vivo is that for quite a few years now, there have been Catholic U of I students serving in Vivo alongside our parishioners.



A friend who was involved in Vivo at the time suggested that I help with Vivo during my junior year. I ended up helping again in the last half of my senior year. Graduating from the U of I in 2013 and knowing I'd still be in Champaign (I work as a teacher's aide at Central High School now), Amy and I partnered up for another Vivo year. That brings us to this year, where I'm now coordinating the youth group.

**What are your hopes for this year with the junior high youth?**

This year, the focus will be on the life of Jesus as told through the mysteries of the Rosary. I hope that the middle-schoolers will begin to see that our faith is truly something universal and ever new. The Rosary, and the Gospels it draws

from, contains the drama of our faith in all its splendor and beauty. I hope that we (myself and the college volunteers) may plant seeds in the lives of these young people, seeds that will continue to flower and take root throughout their lives.

**Vivo's religious education program for the year just got started. How did it go?**

Our first event took place Sept. 7. It was our kick-off weekend, so we played some introductory games, broke into groups for a Gospel reflection, and ended with snacks and a prayer. We were blessed by the presence of Fr. Phelps, who encouraged the students to be active seekers in their life of faith.

I also want to mention that Teresa Brown is the parent volunteer for Vivo this year. She is really going to be my connection to St. Pat's—she is a parishioner and has a son in Vivo. She's been involved in CREW in years past, and we are very blessed to have her.

**What does "Vivo" mean?**

"Vivo" is Latin for "I live." The hope is that, through this program, we may all grow more alive in our faith.

## Feeling crafty?

A wonderful opportunity to support a great cause awaits you, either by making crafts or by purchasing them. The Arts and Crafts Bazaar, which benefits Children of Hope and Faith, will take place in the Holy Cross parish center on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on Sunday, Oct. 26, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The money raised will provide funding for scholarships, giving orphans and needy children in Tanzania the gift of an education and hope for a better future. Lydia Patrick, the student Holy Cross supports, is fortunate to have a sponsor. However, there are more students in need than there are sponsors for them.

The benefits of this event are



many: you can use your talents to help others, purchase great items for yourself or as gifts for others at a reasonable price, and give hope and support to children in need. Tags that indicate the proceeds from the gift purchase, benefiting Children of Hope and Faith, will be included with the purchased item, letting the

recipient know that the gift they received has benefited a worthy cause.

To contribute or donate baked goods or crafts, please contact Tracy Duchinsky (217/721-2524, tded@abcglocal.net) before Oct. 24. Crafts typically are donated outright, but for those interested in selling their handiwork as a "for profit" vendor, there is a 25 per cent donation fee in lieu of a registration/table fee.

Admission to the bazaar is free, presenting you with choices that include handmade treasures, homemade baked goods, concessions, and kids' craft activities. For more information on how you can help, contact Tracy Duchinsky; she will be happy to hear from you!

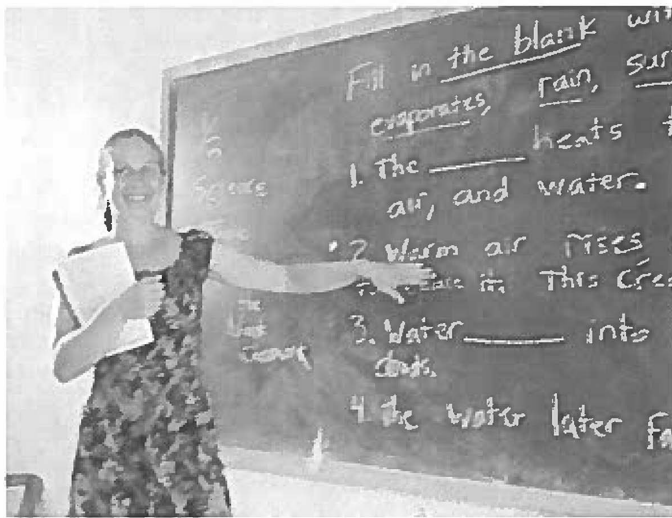


## Emily Floess – Energetic new leader for our high school youth

St. Patrick's is happy to welcome Emily Floess as our new High School Youth Coordinator. Emily recently returned to the U.S. from Liberia, where she was a Peace Corps volunteer for four years. She is a young woman committed to her faith and committed to serving others.

brought together local homeless people with U of I students. Emily participated in six Alternative Spring Break trips and served on the board for this program. She also volunteered at the Center for Women in Transition, the Crisis Nursery, and the Catholic Worker House soup kitchen.

The average length of service for a Peace Corps volunteer is two years. Emily served in Liberia for four years, from July 2010 through June 2014, as a math and science teacher. She was starting her fifth year of service this past July, when Peace Corps workers were removed from the region due to the Ebola outbreak. Emily remains closely connected with her Liberian students, friends, and colleagues via email, Facebook and Skype, and is deeply saddened by some of the updates she is receiving. She is forever changed by her experiences in Liberia, and feels a part of the people she grew to know and love.



Emily Floess, St. Patrick's High School Youth Coordinator, was a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia, where she served as a math and science teacher.

Throughout her college years, Emily lived in the U of I's Global Crossroads Living-Learning Community and became friends with students from all over the world. This unique living environment, combined with the College of LAS Global Studies Program, broadened Emily's world

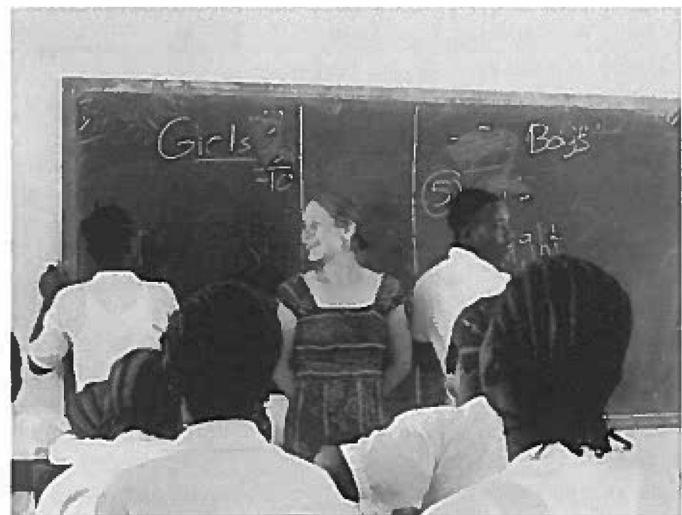
view. She took courses in African Studies and Latino Studies and also participated in three winter break study abroad programs in China, India, and France. The program in India was led by Professor Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. The program in France, during her senior year, introduced her to immigrants from West Africa. Just a few months later, Emily was headed to West Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer assigned to Liberia.

Emily is the daughter of Joe and Patty Floess, parishioners since 1994. Growing up at St. Patrick's, Emily was an altar server for many years and took an active part in our religious education program, including a CREW mission trip to East St. Louis. While a student at Uni High, she participated in a Habitat for Humanity building project in Clarksdale, Mississippi. These experiences planted the seed for continued learning and service during her college years.

At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Emily chose a rigorous and diverse pathway. She majored in Chemical Engineering and graduated in 2010, having earned an incredible 185 credit hours. She also put in an incredible number of hours on service projects. An Urban Planning class took her to East St. Louis once again for neighborhood renewal work. Here in C-U, she organized a meeting that

view. She took courses in African Studies and Latino Studies and also participated in three winter break study abroad programs in China, India, and France. The program in India was led by Professor Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. The program in France, during her senior year, introduced her to immigrants from West Africa. Just a few months later, Emily was headed to West Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer assigned to Liberia.

*The November issue of In Focus will include an article about Emily's experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia.*



Emily, with her seventh-grade math class, enjoys a Girls vs. Boys math competition.

## STM opens the school year with a busy agenda

By Katie Schroeder,  
*Director of Development*

Due to the support from St. Patrick's Parish and other vicariate parishes and partner schools, this year the High School of St. Thomas More opened its doors to a large freshman class, increasing the student body to 305 students.

Its annual Fall Sports Kickoff took place on Friday evening, Aug. 22. This year, Msgr. Hallin was happily present for the dedication of Msgr. Hallin Court. Athletes were introduced, and highlights from the previous sports seasons were announced. Volleyball, soccer, and football scrimmages followed. Here's to another great season for these athletes!

The ACT test scores for the school's 2013 graduates were recently reported. The ACT measures the



English, mathematics, reading, and science skills needed for success in the first year of college-level coursework. Students at St. Thomas More tested well above the national average in all four categories.

The school is also happy to announce the return of Parent Prayer and Social. This is a half hour of communal prayer and a reflection by Father Hoelscher, followed by refreshments and socializing. Parent Prayer and Social takes place in the St. Thomas More Chapel on the first Thursday of each month from 8:10 to 9:10 a.m. (exceptions in October, January, and April).

Interested students and their families are invited to the annual Preview Night on Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (check-in at 6 p.m.). General questions will be answered and staff will be available to review the core curriculum and extracurricular activities. Please RSVP to Katie Schroeder (819-5702, [kschroeder@hs-stm.org](mailto:kschroeder@hs-stm.org)).

The Future Saber Tailgate is planned for Friday, Oct. 17 at 5:30 p.m. Fifth- through eighth-graders and their families are invited for food, fun, games, prizes, and free admission to the STM-Maroa football game.

The students and staff are excited at the prospect of another productive and prosperous school year. In the words of Msgr. Hallin, "You will leave The High School of St. Thomas More, but The High School of St. Thomas More will never leave you!"

## Catholic Young Adults, an evolving *status quo*

The Catholic Young Adults group at St. Patrick's is re-forming and evolving. It is currently led by Bao Bui, a graduate student in History at the University of Illinois. For the past three years, he has organized and hosted many of the events in its busy social calendar, such as the Thursday potlucks and Saturday brunches for a dozen-odd people dinners on major holidays, and monthly outings like movies, barbecues, hikes, and sing-alongs.

The group also regularly volunteers for fundraisers such as the Celar-to-Garret Sale and Ladies Knight Out. The potlucks in particular introduce new parishioners, such as university researchers visiting for a year or less, to the Young Adults, both as a social group and as a strong connection for their faith lives.

Because St. Patrick's young adult parishioners quickly change from single to married to parenting, and from studying to job-hunting to moving house, the Young Adults were recently surveyed to discover their current composition and needs.



*Young Adults enjoying their weekly Thursday night potluck dinner.*

Of the 26 respondents, 15 are in their twenties, 7 in their thirties, and 3 in their forties. Within each of these decades, roughly half were single. Of the married adults, the older ones are likely to be parents.

Almost all respondents desired events involving fellowship or service-related activities. Events with meals and spiritual/intellectual engagement were also important. Most wanted to meet for 90 minutes, once or twice per month. Surprisingly, many respondents wanted regular

events and activities involving *all* age and marital groups, not only those like themselves (e.g., only thirty-something singles). This need has yet to be met.

Respondents also expressed their enthusiasm for volunteering, many for social activities and food planning, fewer for social service, spiritual programming, scheduling, parish liaison, administration, field trips, and planning child care.

If you were one of these respondents and want to take action, please contact Lorraine Kim ([lorraine.kim@staturbana.org](mailto:lorraine.kim@staturbana.org), 367-2665). With half a dozen people to start planning a few meetings, things can start rolling! If you are a member of the Catholic Young Adults and missed the survey but would still like to be heard, contact Lorraine. Results from the survey will continue to inform planning in the months to come.

# St. Pat's goes to market—the Market at the Square

By Joe Hinchliffe

For a few Saturdays each fall, a few parishioners spend a morning under a tent canopy at the Urbana farmers' market on behalf of St. Patrick's. People shopping for vegetables and other items look, walk by, and often stop to chat. Sometimes parishioners come by to say hello and maybe ask about starting times for religious education or what's going on with the renovation.

Sometimes folks new to town stop and ask about the parish. They may be looking for a church (it seems any Christian church will do for them), or they may be looking specifically for a Roman Catholic church and want to hear more about ours. Some simply ask for the Mass times.



All these folks are looking to make God and St. Patrick's a part, or maybe a bigger part, of their lives. Just visiting with them, or looking through the ministry booklet with them, it's easy to point out something they might want to

do.

Some people are balancing already busy lives deeply rooted in the community. Others are at the beginning of their journey in this community. They ask, "Where is St. Patrick's?" We answer, "It's the Catholic church straight down Main Street and off to the right."

There's no worry about being drawn into apologetics. The farmers' market might be described as many things, but not as a theological debating society! Very rarely, someone expresses unhappiness with Catholicism in this country or in this diocese,

but then it is really enough to invite them to St. Pat's to come and see for themselves. And, at the booth, you're never alone: there's always someone else to help carry the conversation.

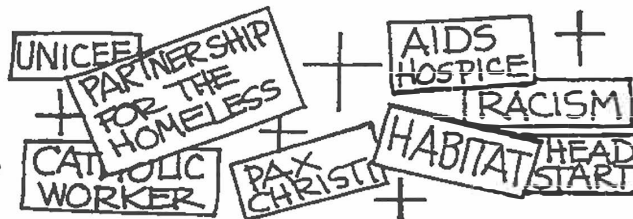
Thinking about who stops to chat offers a good reason to think about volunteering to sit at the booth. I notice that when a mom with a baby is representing St. Pat's, many more moms with children stop by to visit. When a quilter is selling tickets for a quilt drawing, more would-be quilters stop to chat. When more mature men volunteer, guys about that age stop to ask a question or two. Questions or observations about kids, about quilts, and about "stuff" just seem to flow into questions about the many things happening at church.

It's a special blessing to be part of a diverse, active, and vibrant—that is, a truly catholic—parish with so many people who can invite others to join us, in so many ways and from so many perspectives.

## Understanding Poverty

Twenty-two people, mostly St. Patrick's parishioners, gathered on September 13 to study the root causes of poverty. The event was sponsored by our St. Vincent de Paul Society. Many of us know SVDP as the organizers of our parish food pantry and special events such as the Friends of SVDP Dinner, the Thanksgiving Basket drive, the Christmas gift drive, and the dental clinic. While these acts of charity are essential, the national SVDP organization is hoping to encourage local groups to look at ways to help people climb out of poverty.

The presenters were Tom Pelger and Deacon Tom Mueller, both members of the Peoria Council of SVDP. They have been presenting this material to local SVDP conferences around the country. Their work is based on the book



*Bridges out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities.*

They began by looking at the different mindsets of people. Those who are financially secure can plan for the future and focus on things they want to achieve. Those who are financially insecure rely on relationships to help them survive. Because they never know what the next crisis in their lives will be, they are unable to make long-term plans and live in constant fear. These are generalizations, of course, but they help us to understand the different priorities and decisions of people with different mindsets.

Getting out of poverty often involves leaving people behind, at least temporarily, and adopting a different mindset, two very difficult things. SVDP emphasizes meeting people where they are, in a loving and non-judgmental way.

Mentoring can help, as can cooperation among the many agencies that have resources to offer.

The presenters also asked us to consider the systemic factors that keep people in poverty, such as lack of health insurance, payday loans at high interest rates, low wages, the scarcity of full-time work with benefits, lotteries, and fines that fall predominantly on the poor. We can all be advocates on these issues.

It was a very worthwhile day, giving the participants much to think about.



## in our parish library

Fall is definitely on its way. This is a beautiful time to reflect on recent changes in our lives and on changes that God may be calling us to make.

October points the way to the celebration of All Saint's Day, November 1. In preparation, you might focus on some of the lighter reads in the parish library, the fiction books by Louis de Wohl about some of our Catholic saints (all are shelved at the call number F1c Dew).

**Lay Siege to Heaven: A Novel about St. Catherine of Siena.** The daughter of a prosperous dyer in 14<sup>th</sup>-century Siena, Catherine never forgot the mystical experience of her extreme youth. At that time, the pope resided in Avignon, but Catherine persuaded him to return to Rome. She also helped to bring peace between the warring city-states of Italy.

**Dear and Glorious Physician: A Novel about St. Luke of the Cross.** Luke's story is really that of every man's pilgrimage through despair and darkness, suffering and anguish, bitterness and sorrow, to the feet of an understanding God.

**The Restless Flame: A Novel about St. Augustine.** This is the story of St. Augustine's

transformation from a vain, sensual youth to the brilliant, devout writer and theologian, who conquered himself as completely as he did the adversaries of the Church.

**The Quiet Light: A Novel about St. Thomas Aquinas.** The battles and crusades of the 13<sup>th</sup> century play a big part in this story. Through study under St. Albert the Great, writing, prayer, preaching, and contemplation, Thomas rose to become an influential figure in the Church and was later proclaimed the Angelic Doctor.

**The Joyful Beggar: A Novel about St. Francis of Assisi.** Louis de Wohl tells the story of Francis Bernardone, the soldier and merchant's son who might have been right-hand man to a king. Here is the inspiring story of the brash, pleasure-loving young officer who became "Il Poverello" (little poor one), one of the most venerated religious figures in Roman Catholic history.

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*As always, if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Library Coordinator Megan Raab (raab4199@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: What is Priesthood Sunday?**

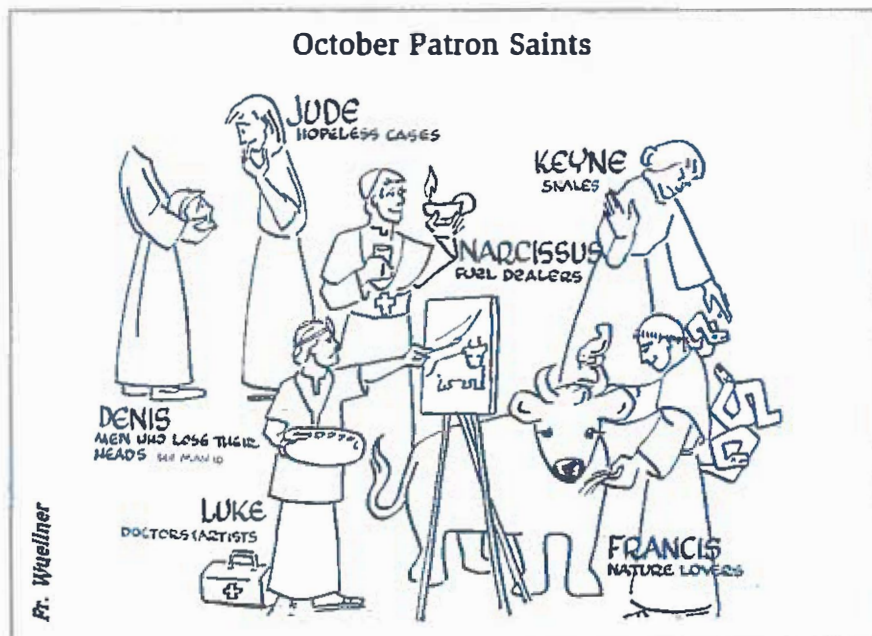
**A:** Priesthood Sunday, this year observed on Oct. 26, is

a special day set aside to honor the priesthood in the United States. Coordinated and sponsored nationwide by the USA Council of Serra International, it is a day to reflect upon the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church and to affirm our priests.

Priests touch our lives in so many ways. They celebrate with us as we come together to worship every weekend—and, for some, every weekday morning. They baptize our babies and introduce our youngsters to Reconciliation and Eucharist. They stand with us at times of great joy and great sorrow. They anoint us with the oils of salvation in times of illness and frailty, and as we slip away into Life after life. They advise and console and guide us when we seek them out. They instruct and inspire us, by their words and by their lives. They try to show us Jesus in their care for us.

What return shall we make for the great gift of the priesthood? How will we mark the day to honor our priests?

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



## Returning home

It's fall again: the season of falling leaves, chilly nights, homecomings, and class reunions! For most of us, returning evokes powerful thoughts and emotions—meeting friends and rekindling relationships, catching up on news and changes in our lives, sharing new perspectives brought about by life experiences and lessons learned.

In our faith lives, there are also occasions for returning home to our baptismal roots. Celebrating the birth of a child, attending to the needs of an elderly parent, enduring an illness that makes us aware of our own mortality: all these are opportunities to re-evaluate our lives and our relationship with God.

Returning to our spiritual home is a process and, more importantly, a



moment of grace. Many could not entertain even the possibility of returning to the home of their baptism if not convinced of the Father's unconditional love—a love that offers an embrace, not judgment; a love that invites participation in the Father's bountiful mercy and compassion.

Those who have weighed the decision to return to the Catholic Church know this grace. Even before accepting an invitation to return, these Catholics have come to realize that a parish community and the Church in general—despite imperfections—still have much to offer. There's an opportunity for growth, both for the person and the community, a chance for each to become a truer self.

To serve those seeking to make

the journey home, St. Patrick's offers a six-week session of Returning Catholics beginning on Oct. 2. Each Thursday evening at 7 p.m. we will gather to support one another, recall the grace and power of the sacraments and the Mass, discuss the Church in the contemporary world, and how to become involved with a local parish.

If you know someone who has expressed a desire to return—to reconnect with their baptismal roots—please share this article with them and invite them to join us on October 2.

## 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.

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**Articles and information** for this issue were provided by Ellen Amberg, Bao Bui, Sr. Charlene Cesario, Judy Fierke, Emily Floess, Dianne Gordon, Elizabeth Hendricks, Joe Hinchliffe, Kathy Jobin, Lorraine Kim, Mary Long, Mary Lou Menches, Deacon Alex Millar, Jon McCoy, Susan Nagele, Dianna Oliveira, Nancy Olson, Megan Raab, Dan Richards, Nancy Roth, Cathy Salika, Katie Schroeder, Shirley Splittstoesser, Lindsey Weishar, Peggy Whelan, Barbara Wysocki, and Chris Zwilling. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Camille Goudeseune; page layout was prepared by Jim Urban.

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

Mary Lou Menches

#### Fresh Zucchini Cookies

- 1 stick butter, softened
- 1 c sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 c all-purpose flour
- 1 t baking soda
- 1 t cinnamon
- 1/2 t salt
- 1 c grated zucchini
- 1 c raisins
- 1 c chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350°. Coat baking sheets with cooking spray. In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Gradually add



egg, flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt; mix well. Stir in zucchini, raisins, and walnuts. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto prepared baking sheets. Bake 15-20 minutes, or until golden (*do not overbake*). Makes 4 dozen cookies.

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

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

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Mombasa, Kenya

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http://  
healthministryinkenya.blogspot.com/

October 2014

Greetings once again from Mombasa, where I arrived on August 15. I was in Urbana for only a few weeks from July to August and am sorry that I didn't meet up with more of you during that short time. On my return to Kenya I found life much calmer than when I left in July. So far, the coast remains relatively peaceful, especially in comparison to other places in our world.

On October 19 we will celebrate World Mission Sunday with the theme "I will build my church" (Mt. 16:18). I truly enjoyed reading the Pope's message, in which he says, "I invite you to immerse yourself in the joy of the Gospel and nurture a love that can light up your vocation and your mission."

All of us have a mission call—to follow God's desire for us, especially beyond our comfort zones. Pope Francis is a man who truly has the joy he writes about. Today he asks us to look at the whole world and find our place in it.

This will mean a different response from each person. Some who are unable to leave their homes may offer their prayer. Others may be called to leave their homes and even their country to respond to those in need. All of us are called to do what we can to show our love for one another as brothers and sisters in the human family.

On Monday, August 10, 1984, I answered my own call when I began the orientation program with Maryknoll as a lay missionary. I didn't actually sign my first contract until December 12; it took a few

months for both Maryknoll and me to agree that this was the path I should follow. Now 30 years have passed, and I can say with a very grateful heart that it was the right decision.

When I began this journey, Maryknoll was the only organization in the U.S. Catholic Church that offered laity a chance to work overseas for three years. Most organizations had short-term contracts of 1-2 years, but the volunteer experiences I had done showed me that this wasn't enough time to do what I felt called to do. Maryknoll also offered the opportunity to renew my contract on an ongoing basis. I knew in my heart, even at that time, that this journey might last a long time. And so it has.

Because I have completed 30 years as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner, I will benefit from a retirement plan that will provide me with \$30,000 annually to live a simple and dignified retirement. Our Association is trying to raise \$1,052,000 by the end of 2015 to provide this benefit for all our missionaries who have

given long-term service.

In gratitude for my vocation I have given \$300 to this fund. Could you join me in this effort and give \$30 to help us meet our goal? Donations can be made in the following ways:

**By phone:** 1-800-867-2980

**By mail:** Maryknoll Lay Missioners, P.O. Box 307, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0307 Make the check payable to Maryknoll Lay Missioners, and in the memo line write "Retirement Fund."

**Online:** [www.mkim.org](http://www.mkim.org). Click on "Donate," and in the comment box type "Retirement Fund."

Thank you for supporting my vocation and Maryknoll Lay Missioners over all these years. I hope and pray that one of you will hear the same call I heard 30 years ago, and come to join us in spreading the Good News and building our global Church. I trust that as we immerse ourselves in the joy of the Gospel, the love of God in our own lives will light up the world!

Blessings,

*Susan*



*Susan at home with neighbors in Mombasa.*