

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



www.stpaturbana.org

April 2015

Mary Magdalene, Evangelizer

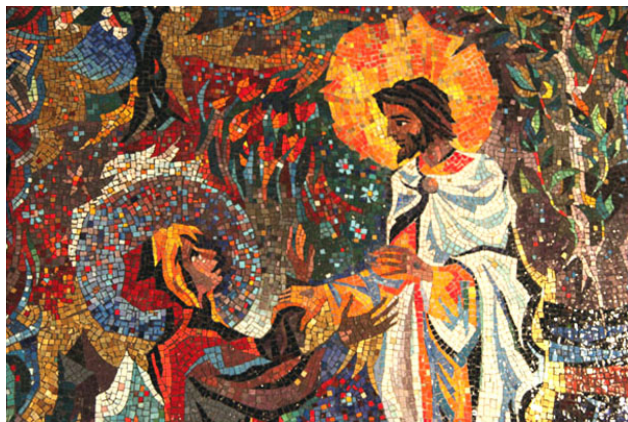
Many of us have been reading Pope Francis's *The Joy of the Gospel* and reflecting on the ways that we can share the good news of Jesus with others. The gospel reading on Easter morning gives us a good example (John 20:1-9). In it, we hear of Mary Magdalene, the first to approach the tomb of Jesus and see that the stone had been rolled away. What did she do? She ran to tell the disciples. Peter and John then went to the tomb and saw the shroud and the head wrapping. And "they saw and believed."

If you read a little further in John's gospel, you'll find that Peter and John went home. Mary Magdalene stayed at the tomb, where she met Jesus and spoke with him. What did she do? She ran to tell the disciples that she had seen the Risen Lord.

Many ancient authors call Mary Magdalene "the apostle to the apostles." She was the first at the tomb and the first to meet Jesus after his resurrection, and she did the most natural thing: she told someone else about the good news. She didn't hop a boat and head for foreign lands. She went home and told the good news to her close friends, to the grieving people who needed to hear the news as desperately as she did. She told them this even before she understood everything. When all she knew was that the tomb was empty, she told them about it. Her understanding grew gradually.

Mary got the ball rolling for the disciples of Jesus. Together they had other encounters with him and spread the word far and wide. The scene at the tomb is the last time we hear of her in the New Testament, but there's a tradition that she eventually went to southern France and converted many people there. Other apostles carried the good news throughout the world.

You don't have to be an expert on the gospels to spread the good news, you just have to tell others about your encounter with the Risen Lord. You don't have to join the foreign missions; tell the people close to you, the people you meet every day. You don't have to tell them with long speeches; tell them by the goodness and enthusiasm of your life.



As you become more confident as an evangelizer, God may give you the chance to study more deeply, to speak more clearly, and to share the good news with more people. But if all of us shared the gospel with the people we meet every day, we'd set the world on fire with the love of God!

Picture yourself in the St. Patrick's photo directory

If you didn't have your picture taken by the professional photographers in March, don't despair! You can still be part of the parish photo directory. You can submit a favorite photo via email to Lorraine Kim (lorraine.kim@stpaturbana.org), and Lorraine will send you the necessary permission form via email for your signature. Or you can have your photo taken by a parishioner after a Sunday Mass. Watch the bulletin for more information.



We really want to include everyone so the directory can be a useful tool to tie us together and a means of getting to know one another better. A short permission form enables you to select what information you'd like to have in the online directory: name and photo, email, address, phone number, and so on. We'd also like you to indicate the parish ministries you are involved in—10:30 choir, St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, lector, Welcome Team, etc.

The photo directory will be ongoing online, so after all the professional portraits and

See **Picture** on page 4



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

Moving Forward!

Get ready for some changes and excitement. The bulldozers will soon be rolling to dig the foundation for a major new addition east of the church. The key elements of St. Patrick's building plan are: (1) a church renovation and addition that will double seating capacity from 300 to 600, (2) a new gathering space connecting the church and parish center, (3) a new lower level with meeting space, storage and utilities, (4) a new entry plaza, as well as other improvements that will render our church and parish center more welcoming and accessible.

In recent weeks, behind-the-scenes preparations have been taking place. The parish staff has been busy emptying office and storage areas in the parish center that will be impacted by construction. To make room for the new entry plaza, the building plan calls for demolition of the multipurpose room. Creating the entryway that will connect the new gathering space to the parish center calls for the elimination of one office space (the northeast office). Storage areas in the basement of the church and parish center have been cleared as well.

Once construction begins, it will require patience and cooperation to adapt our parish life as we undertake this major building project. No doubt St. Patrick's parishioners will rise to the occasion and find creative ways to enrich our worship, learning, and service activities during this time of change. Let us ask God to bless our parish as we make this new beginning and to bless all of the workers laboring to fulfill our dream of an expanded worship space.



The Campaign Continues

Construction on our church expansion begins in the fifth year of St. Patrick's capital campaign, Honoring Our Past – Building Our Future. To date we have raised \$5 million – far beyond our original goal of \$4 million. This would not have been possible without the generous support and prayers of St. Patrick's parishioners and friends.

Here is a brief recap of our more recent campaign efforts. Once we completed the bidding process (in late December), the project budget had come in higher than expected – \$5.7 million. To help us meet our increased budget, the Diocese of Peoria approved a \$700,000 loan to St. Patrick's, but this left a shortfall of \$800,000. In order to move forward and sign contracts, we needed to raise that additional \$800,000 – and quickly! In mid-January, Father Joe announced this shortfall and we began a special appeal to raise more money. In just a few weeks we raised the \$800,000, which meant that we could start construction this spring. Special thanks to those who made this possible through their new gifts, pledges, and prayers!

The more we are able to raise through our campaign, the less we will have to borrow from the diocese to complete this project. In addition, we must keep in mind that some pledges will not be fulfilled – those from parishioners who have died, who have moved away, or whose financial circumstances have changed. We will need to make up for this funding gap as well.

If you have not yet made a gift or pledge to the campaign, please consider joining hundreds of parishioners and friends to help build for the future of St. Patrick's. If

you have already supported the campaign and are able to increase your commitment, please consider an additional gift or pledge.

Most importantly, continue to pray, asking God to bless our fundraising efforts. What we are about is sacred work!



Experiencing the fruits of *The Joy of the Gospel*

The Sabbath Renewal program was introduced to our parishioners in October 2014. “Sabbath” is a rest from regular duties, and many parish activities would be curtailed due to construction on our church expansion. “Renewal” refers to strengthening or reinvigorating our Faith, and the program called for parishioners to gather in small groups for a ten-week study of Pope Francis’s exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*.

Father Joe expressed his hope “that all parishioners will participate in the program because it is important that all of us grow spiritually as our church grows physically.” In November, parishioners began signing up for small groups and in January those groups began meeting in participants’ homes to pray and study.

At a parish event on Thursday, March 19 those groups will have joyfully celebrated the conclusion of the formal part of their studies, albeit with the knowledge that the Holy Spirit has been moving among them and has not finished his work with them just yet.

What indeed was “moving” in the parish groups? Many groups hadn’t come to a realization of what they could do collectively but knew inspiration was coming. Some had already decided what they might do as individuals. One member had come to realize how “sadly broken” her extended family was and made a pledge that she and her husband were going to take first steps to



Barb Schleicher and Miriam Schanauer's group designed this tree, whose leaves represent anonymous acts of service for others. They hoped to have it fully leafed out by the end of the program.

bring about a family reconciliation. The study of *The Joy of the Gospel* made one member recall that she had been talking about volunteering for Faith in Action for quite a while and decided to “stop talking and be proactive!”

Some groups actually got into evangelization projects long before their studies had concluded. The group led by Miriam Schanauer and Barbara Schleicher designed a two-and-a-half-foot table-top tree that very graphically enabled members to recall and discuss services that were performed anonymously on behalf of others.

The study group led by Richard Keane and Joseph Youakim joined volunteers from fifty local churches in empty tomb’s “Mega Work-a-Thon. On March 7 they met at Apostolic Life Church on High Cross Road, where they packed boxes with food items and delivered them to

350 needy families.

Susan Sondag led a group with Ginny Conron at Covenant Hospital. Susan was pleased that the members “bonded immediately. They are like a family,” she said. “Our

group unanimous-

ly agreed that we MUST DO MORE FOR THE POOR.”

Jerry and Judy Pijanowski led a group that didn’t always follow the study guide verbatim. “That was okay,” Jerry said, “it made for great discussions.” Jerry also remarked that he considers the Pope’s message a global one. “It doesn’t always relate locally, but it does relate to our Universal Church. It’s an exciting time to be alive!”

Like a few others, the group led by Pat and Joyce Dill plans to keep on meeting after the study is over, “to see where the Holy Spirit leads us.” Pat says that the group agrees on one thing, “to live their lives following the precepts of Christ in the Gospel.” He also shared that their group is praying for a special favor from God: they want to go as a group to Washington, D.C., in the fall to see Pope Francis. (Fantastic! What if a great contingent of Sabbath Renewal groups made it to D.C. too—well, why not?)

Looking for a way to put your faith into action?

Consider joining the Communications Committee, which produces the parish newsletter, *In Focus*, 11 times a year. We need idea people who can meet monthly on 4th Thursdays to decide on articles for the upcoming issue. We also need writers, photographers, editors, and page layout people who

can take an occasional assignment. It’s a great way to serve your faith community and to learn about the many people and activities at St. Patrick’s.

Interested? Contact Cathy Salika at 367-7861 or csalika@illinois.edu.



St. Patrick’s staff also found time to meet weekly for Sabbath Renewal study discussions.

Mary's Yes

Mary could have said No.

She was promised in marriage to Joseph.

To become pregnant by another would dishonor her betrothed and risk her life in the community.

Mary could have said No.

Herod plotted to kill her child.

Simon prophesied that her heart would be pierced.

Her young Son was lost for three days in the temple.

Mary could have said No,

to avoid the sorrow of her Son's humiliation and crucifixion, the anguish of cradling his broken body in her arms, and the despair of witnessing her Savior seemingly lost forever.

But Mary said Yes.

Be it done unto me

according to your word.

Mary said Yes.

For God who is mighty

has done great things for me.

Mary said Yes,

and through her faith

salvation came to a world starved for love.

Dear Mary, Mother most Holy,

Help me say Yes as you did,

that God may work wonders through my own faith and life.

Help me say Yes,

that the world may know your Son through my words and actions.

Help me say Yes,

that I may proclaim with you the greatness of the Lord, and find joy in God, my Savior.

From *Spirit & Song 2*,

OCP Publications



Picture from page 1

information have been entered online, we will enter photos and information from snapshots of everyday activities and dealings with church members, including new parishioners when they register. The new directory will always be up to date!

Parishioners are encouraged to view the directory online, but people can also get a printed copy of the directory if they prefer, either from their own printers or from the parish office on request. (There may be a nominal fee for copies.)

Questions? Contact Lorraine Kim (lorraine.kim@stpaturbana.org or 367-2665).

Vocation Prayer

Come, follow me.

Please, God,
help me
to know
my vocation
and
give me
the
grace
and
strength
to
follow it.



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



in our parish library

Due to the relocation of materials and offices necessitated by construction, the parish library is now off-limits to users. Next year we hope to resume our parish librarian's recommendations of parish books for children and adults that inform and enliven us on our spiritual journeys together.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Mary Lou Menches

Curried Fruit Bake

- 1 #3 can peach halves
- 1 #2 can pineapple slices
- 1 #3 can pear halves
- 12 maraschino cherries
- 1/3 c melted butter
- 3/4 c light brown sugar, packed
- 4 t curry powder

Drain all fruit well. Arrange fruit halves and slices in 1-1/2 quart casserole, with a cherry in the center of each



piece. Melt butter, add brown sugar and curry, and spoon over fruit. Bake one hour, uncovered, in a 325° oven. Best when served warm.

+ + +

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!



Q: Who is the patron saint of computers?

A: Having computer problems?

Internet down? Call on St. Isadore, archbishop of Seville, the patron saint of computer users, programmers, and the Internet. How did he get that job? This seventh-century Spanish saint tried to compile all the knowledge of his day into an encyclopedia. Imagine Wikipedia written by one person!

St. Isadore was an avid writer, a systematic and liturgical theologian, evangelizer to skeptics, minister to the poor, and establisher of schools. He revised the accepted liturgy of Spain and opened cathedral schools for the training of priests. He was named a Doctor of the Church due to his extensive writings—and patron saint of computer users, remember. His feast is April 4.

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



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, information, and photos for this issue were provided by Ellen Amberg, Dianne Gordon, Elizabeth Hendricks, Lorraine Kim, Mary Lou Menches, Cathy Salika, Barb Schleicher, and Patsy Schmitt. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches, page layout by Jim Urban.

April Patron Saints



Fr. Wuellner

Demolition begins!





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www.mkmlm/SNagele.org
 8th March 2015

To all the Good People of St. Patrick's,

Today is International Women's Day. I received a message from South Sudan about a woman, Regina, whom I knew in the 1990s. She was the 7th wife of a wealthy chief named Festus. She had only a first grade education, but this was far more than most women in her ethnic group. The priests in the parish were keen to include women as much as possible and saw potential in this bright-eyed, energetic young woman. However, Regina needed more education than her childhood had allowed, and in order to go back to school she needed the permission of Festus. He granted it. He even allowed her to go far away to Nairobi for a month-long course in catechetics.

Regina is now a catechist in the parish. She also helps with teaching in the nursery school, and she continues in adult literacy training for herself. Three of her children are in the grade school. I feel a real sense of hope, knowing that she is being supported by the men in her community to improve her skills and spread the Good News.

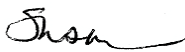
The Archdiocese of Mombasa finally has a new shepherd. Archbishop Martin Kivuva was installed on February 21 in the Mombasa stadium. He is a priest from this Archdiocese and had worked with Maryknoll for eleven years as the director of the evangelization program for the Catholic church in Kenya when it first began, over 20 years ago. I attended as the representative for Maryknoll Lay Missioners. I never really saw him because I was in one of the last tents. But I met up with Mama Nema, one of the pillars of St. Patrick's Parish, so you can at least see a picture of the two of us! Despite the blazing sun and torrid heat, everyone seemed to be enjoying the festivities.

St. Patrick's dispensary is one of two parishes in the Archdiocese, where we installed a new incinerator this past year. Medical waste disposal is a big challenge, especially for this unit, which is located in Bangladesh informal settlement (slum) where every inch of land is used for something. Each incinerator cost \$3,200; the money from my ministry account was used to pay for this one. (Each of you who supported us financially last year will receive my annual report. In addition, \$11,550 was donated to the Maryknoll Lay Missioner retirement fund, four times what I had hoped for! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!)

I will sign another three year contract with Maryknoll in June, so I'm not planning to benefit from the fund until I can no longer do this work. Since this is my renewal year, I will be in the U.S. from July to September, and I look forward to meeting up with many of you in person while I'm home.

I hear that the renovation of the church has begun and the reflections on *The Joy of the Gospel* are inspiring. I too have read the document and have been really moved and challenged. I hope that all of us will truly experience the joy of the risen Christ!

Blessings, and Happy Easter,



Susan Nagele

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



Here we are, all of us lay missionaries who work in Mombasa!



I met up with Mama Nema in the Mombasa stadium at Archbishop Kivuva's installation ceremony.