

www.stpatuurbana.org

## Harvesting

**The harvest season** is a time of quiet gratitude. Bringing in the crops is a lot of work, whether from a backyard garden or acres of wheat or corn or soybeans. We've invested labor and resources to buy the seed, apply fertilizer, and care for the plants during the summer. Yet we know that we aren't solely responsible for the results. We create the best conditions for the crops that we can, but God makes them grow by providing the sun, the rain, and the inherent fertility of the seeds and the soil. The mystery and beauty of growth can fill us with awe. There is much here to be grateful to God for.

But harvesting is a lot of work, too. We freeze and can the garden vegetables. We dry and store the row crops. As we do, we're caring for the gifts that God gave us. More than that, we're preparing the gifts to do what God intended them to do, nourish hungry bodies. We are preparing the meals that will gather and bind together families and communities. We are preparing feasts for times of rejoicing and comfort for times of mourning.

Jesus grew up around farms and he used the image of a harvest in many of his parables. He said that the Kingdom of God grows in much the same way as the crops do. The word of God is planted in our hearts; we nourish it by reflecting on God's words and putting them into action. We plant the same seeds in the hearts of our children, god-children, and others whom we meet, and sometimes we tend it with our encouragement or challenge or sharing of our faith. All the time, God is providing the sun and the rain and the fertile conditions that make it possible for the word to grow. It is important that we plant and tend the word, but it grows by the hand of God in ways that are beautiful and mysterious.

The farmer cooperates with God by planting and harvesting. The cook



cooperates with God by canning, freezing, and preparing. Without them there would be no food. In the same way, God entrusts us with part of the work of building his Kingdom. How he trusts us! If we all fail him, there will be no kingdom, but if we work with him, we will be part of God's beautiful and mysterious work! Being a Knight can transform your life!

The Knights of Columbus are a band of brothers, a network of Catholic men in communities around the



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world dedicated to doing good in the service of God and neighbor. If you're interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, growing in your faith, or having exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you!

Over 130 years ago the venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., with some of his parishioners, founded the Knights of Columbus to help Catholic men remain steadfast in their faith through mutual encouragement; to promote closer ties of the fraternity among them; and to protect families from financial ruin caused by the death of the breadwinner.

The name "Knights of Columbus" relates to Christopher Columbus, emphasizing that it was Catholics who discovered, explored, and colonized the North American continent, and the term "Knights" to signify the knightly ideals of spirituality and service to church, country, and fellow man. It has grown from several members in one council to more than 15,100 councils

## Parish children write letters to Pope Francis

His Holiness Pope Francis I has come to Cuba and the United States of America and returned to the Vatican. Many of us miss him already and wish that he could have stayed longer in our midst. Just following him on television felt as though we were being blessed by him, as he blessed so many others who were meeting him.

This special visit reaffirmed what we know of our Holy Father. He is a peacemaker, as shown by his visit first to Cuba to meet Raúl Castro, the President of Cuba, a country just 90 miles from our Florida shore. The U.S. imposed an economic embargo on Cuba and has not had diplomatic relations for six decades.

He is a diplomat, shown by his visit to President Obama at the White House, his address to the General Assembly of the United Nations, and his address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress.

He is a humanitarian, pleading for the cessation of war between so many nations, crying out for nations to welcome and embrace the refugees waiting at their borders, and calling for an end to the death penalty as a punishment for criminals.



He is a loving father, as seen by his loving smile, waves, and "thumbs up" from his Jeep Popemobile as it drives through crowds of admirers; his hugging and kissing of babies, teenagers, and so many others, and even granting "selfies" along the way; his visits to the poor and homeless at Catholic Charities in Washington, D.C., and his visit to a Catholic school in Harlem, N.Y.; his visit to a prison in Philadelphia; and the many visits of encouragement with bishops, priests, and religious throughout his time here.

*In Focus* wanted to get an idea of how the children of St. Patrick's



Youngsters who wrote to Pope Francis include (front, from the left) Josephine Warrior, Enrique Beuschlein, Oscar Hackman, Brayden Watson, and (back) Luke Pankau, Noelle Ramaly, Lola Clayton, Michael McCoy, and Evelyn Ficek.

thought about our Holy Father, so we recently visited Mrs. Theresa Williams' third and fourth grade religious education class on a Wednesday night. We talked about the Holy Father's recent visit and what the kids thought about Pope Francis. Before we left the classroom, each of the nine children had written a personal letter to His Holiness with some very interesting comments and questions.

In their letters they told the Holy Father that they loved him and what he was doing for people. They wanted to know if the Pope had pets, if he liked hamsters; his favorite flavor of ice cream (Gelato); whether he played Minecraft, and what he liked on his pizza. One of the kids gave the Holy Father an A + + + + for his work. Another asked for prayers for deceased pets and grandpas. The nine letters are on their way to Vatican City (via special envoy!) and by next issue of In Focus we hope to be able to print a reply.

# Papal Mass a blessed event

By Marlene Thomas

My niece, Jennifer Mackiewicz Shadowens, and I attended the Papal Mass in Philadelphia. We were moved by the warmth of Philadel-



phia's welcome. From the moment we arrived until our departure, volunteers gave us free water, cookies, pretzels, and a Pope Francis pin.

Our Holy Father's compassion, tenderness, and love comes from his heart. What a momentous occasion, celebrating Mass with Our Holy Father and all the faithful present! It was a thrilling, joyous, blessed day!

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## "I believe..."

We have all said "I believe in... the communion of saints" many times while reciting the Nicene or Apostles Creed. "Communion" means the mutual sharing of help, prayer, stories, good deeds, friendship, and presence. The "saints" (in Roman Catholic tradition) include all the faithful, both living and dead, with Jesus Christ as our leader. Some of the faithful have been recognized as officially canonized saints in Heaven. Most believers are known only to their family, friends, and community for their faith, prayers, and good works.

As we approach All Saints Day, let us remember that the Church is the communion of *all* the faithful, both those who are pilgrims still on Earth and those who have joined the heavenly branch of our mutual spiritual community. As the *Catechism* says "What is the Church if not the assembly of all the saints?"





## Who is Dorothy Day?

When Pope Francis addressed the U.S. Congress on September 24, he cited four Americans as relevant models of virtue for Americans today. They were Abraham Lincoln, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Merton, and Dorothy Day. **Pope Francis** praised Dorothy Day for her tireless

work in the cause of justice for the oppressed. So who is Dorothy Day?

Dorothy Day was born on November 8, 1897, in Brooklyn, N.Y. She was a student on a scholarship at the University of Illinois from 1914-16. In 1917 she returned to New York City and began writing for a radical newspaper, covering social movements such as workers unions, the Russian Revolution, and communists and anarchists. She was



an active suffragette and was arrested outside the White House while picketing for women's right to vote. Dorothy Day lived a very Bohemian

life style—until she met Sister Aloysia, a Sister of Charity. Sister Aloysia inspired Dorothy to become Catholic and to help the poor. Dorothy Day started the Catholic

Worker movement in 1933, during the Great Depression. This movement combined her new faith with her previous commitment to social justice, the poor, and the pursuit of peace. Catholic Worker Houses sprang up in New York and other cities, offering hospitality, food, and shelter to the poor. Today there are over 200 Catholic Worker communities worldwide.

Dorothy Day also started the Catholic Worker newspaper, which

stills sells for a penny. She was its editor from 1933 until her death in 1980.

In the late 1990's, steps were taken by the Vatican to begin the canonization process for Dorothy Day—even though she is known to have said shortly before she died. "Don't call me a saint. I don't want to be dismissed so easily." In March 2000, the Vatican granted the Archdiocese of New York permission to open her cause. Pope Francis added his support: "I cannot fail to mention the Servant of God Dorothy Day who founded the Catholic Worker Movement. Her social activism, her passion for justice and for the cause of the oppressed, were inspired by the Gospel, her faith, and the example of the saints."

If you want to find out more about Dorothy Day from her own words, you might read her autobiography, *The Long Loneliness.* 

## From the Parish Nurses:

Know your family's health history

How familiar are you with your family health history? As your family gathers this Thanksgiving to give thanks for your blessings,



taking a good look at your family's health history would be time well spent. An accurate family health history can help your health care provider assess your risk for certain diseases and better advise you on steps you can take to improve your health.

Every year since 2004, the Surgeon General has declared Thanksgiving to be "National Family History Day." The Surgeon General's office has created a free internetbased tool that makes it easy for you to record and organize your family health information. This tool does not keep a record of the information you fill in, nor is your information accessible to anyone but you. It provides only the software for organizing the information. After you fill it out, it is available only to you for downloading. You can then print it out and share it with your health care provider and other family members as you choose. You can access this tool at www.hhs.gov/familyhistory.

#### **Vocation Prayer**

Jesus, our brother, you call each of us by name and ask us to follow you. Bless St. Patrick's and all vour churches by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends, who will serve your people as priests, deacons, sisters, brothers, and lay ministers. Inspire us as we grow to know you, and open our hearts to hear your call.

### Knights from page 1

and 1.9 million members worldwide.

From providing a simple "pass the hat" benefit for widows and orphans, the Knights of Columbus now provides top-rated life insurance, long-term care insurance, and retirement products, earning A.M. Best's highest rating (A + +, Superior) for 39 consecutive years. With nearly \$100 billion of insurance in force and a full-time field force of more than 1,400 agents serving members and their families, the K of C is proudly fulfilling Fr. McGivney's vision!

If you are a practicing Catholic man 18 years of age or older, you too can become a Knight of Columbus. The local Knights of Columbus Urbana Council #5752 was chartered on September 26, 1965, as a spin-off from the Twin City Council #891 located in Champaign. The Urbana Council presently has 91 members. Current officers are Jeff Kneer, Grand Knight; Richard Keane, Deputy Grand Knight; Steve Beckett, Recorder; Mark Sweeney, Treasurer; Ed Clancy, Financial Secretary; and Brent West, Insurance Field Agent. The Urbana Council provides support to charitable causes throughout the parish, local community, and its members through a variety of fundraisers, including:

Tootsie Roll Drive Lenten Dinners Ladies Knight Out Fifth Sunday Pancake and Sausage Breakfast Super Bowl Breakfast Merry Christmas Breakfast Sponsorships for 2014-15 sponsorships include: Father Martell Scholarships, offered annually to St. Patrick's and

seniors Seminarians in the Peoria Diocese Developmental Service Center

St. Mary's graduating high school

Camp New Hope Group Homes for the intellectually disabled (Tootsie Roll Drive) Rural Champaign County Special **Education Cooperative** St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry Empty Tomb Servants of the Holy Heart of Marv Individuals needing financial assistance Vocations Marvknoll Missions Join your local Urbana KC Council today by calling or e-mailing Grand Knight, Jeff Kneer (217/469-7475, janck94@comcast.net), or our Insurance Field Agent, Brent West (630/779-2979, Brent.West@KofC.org). You can find more information about the Knights of Columbus at www.kofc.org, and at the website of our local council: stpaturbana.weebly.com/knights-ofcolumbus-mens-group.html.



Jeff Kneer Grand Knight



Deputy Grand Knight



Steve Beckett Recorder



Marc Sweeney Treasurer



Ed Clancy Financial Secretary



Got articles for *In Focus?* Got suggestions for articles? Got questions? Got comments? Got quick recipes to share?

Use our new email address to reach us! infocusstpats@gmail.com



Q: What was the flag that people were waving everywhere Pope Francis went? A: It's the flag of

Vatican City, which is a sovereign state governed by the pope. It has been used since 1929, when the Lateran Treaties settled the relationship between the Holy See and the nation of Italy.

The flag is divided in half, with white on one half and either yellow or gold on the other. On the white half, the coat of arms of the papacy appears. It dates to the early thirteenth century. The coat of arms includes the papal tiara, a crown that was once placed on the pope's head as part of the papal coronation ceremony. Pope Paul VI was the last pope to make use of the tiara, in 1963.

A pair of crossed keys also appears on the coat of arms. The keys call to mind Jesus giving to Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 16:19). However, you can see that one key is gold, the other silver. So another interpretation of this symbol is that the pope has authority both in the spiritual realm and the worldly realm.

#### in our parish library

Due to the relocation of materials and offices necessitated by construction, the parish library is now unavailable 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.



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **November 8.**  Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

#### Bea Ellsworth

#### Easy Pumpkin Cake

 pkg spice cake mix
can (15 oz) pure pumpkin (not pie filling)
eggs
1/3 c water
c confectioner's sugar
t ground cinnamon
t vanilla extract
T milk

Preheat oven to 350°. Coat a Bundt cake pan with cooking spray. In a large bowl, beat cake mix, pumpkin, eggs, and water until well mixed. Pour



into prepared Bundt pan. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. Cool cake about 15 minutes, then invert onto wire rack to finish cooling. In a medium bowl, whisk remaining ingredients until smooth, then drizzle over cake.

+ + -

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!



## **Holy Cross Happenings**

The Holy Cross 2014-2015 school year ended in the last week of May. June saw a fabulous week-long summer art program taught by Mrs. Nivens. In early August, the school held its second annual Crusader 5K Run/ Walk, with many St. Patrick's parishioners running, walking, or volunteering. The students thank everyone at St Patrick for helping to raise funds for the improvement of technology at the school.

Not long after classes started, the school celebrated the Exaltation of the Holy Cross with a week that included an ice cream social and several concerts. The week ended with the long-time tradition of Hot Dog Day on the school's blacktop.

STM Ambassadors, Principal Bustle, and Vice-principal Neitzel served hot dogs through all of the lunch periods to our students, staff, parents, and other family members. The Holy Cross School band played through much of that time as well.

The first quarter ended on October 23, followed by the Fall Festival on October 24. Preparations are being made for the school's traditional Veteran's Day ceremony on November 11, with readings and the chorus singing patriotic songs.

Once again, thank you to all of the St. Patrick parishioners for your support and prayers throughout the school year.





Top: First day of school Middle left: 4th graders helping to stock the St Vincent de Paul food pantry Middle right: Summer art program Bottom: Class registration Left: Holy Cross thanks St. Patrick's for the gift of pews

## Friends of the Poor Walk raises much-needed funds for our food pantry

Saturday morning, September 27, dawned as beautiful as an autumn morning ever has. The sun shone from a blue sky and a light breeze blew. At the Anita Purves Nature Center in Urbana, a group of men, women, children – and a dog – gathered for the St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk to benefit St. Patrick's SVDP food pantry. Even the Holy Father showed up in the form of a life-sized cardboard cutout, and folks eagerly awaited a "photo op" with the Pope!

People talked and prepared for the walk with fruit and protein bars, as well as delicious baked goods provided by our faithful parish bakers. Father Hogan led the group in prayer and then joined the 50 participants down the boardwalk for the first leg of the walk. Small groups of walkers strolled and talked as they made the 1/3 mile circuit, some making it two or three times. The lovely weather was conducive to sitting, snacking, and visiting while those who had completed the course waited for the final walkers to finish.

When all had completed their walk, event coordinator Margaret Kelley led those gathered in a prayer of St. Vincent de Paul: "*This is my prayer to you, O Lord! Give to me your special favor. Pour out your truth and mercy on me in an abun-* dance that will enable me to put your love into practice, filling me with true affection for you and my neighbor."

Many participants are still talking enthusiastically about the walk and looking forward to next year's walk. One shared this story:

"I happened to have some of my grandchildren in town that Saturday, so I brought them along. It was a beautiful day to go for a walk in Busey Woods. More importantly, it was a wonderful opportunity to have a conversation with my grandchildren about families who don't have enough, about how our Church helps those in need through our food pantry, and about how people can work (and play!) together to make good things happen.

"Later that day, when one of my

granddaughters was playing with her Barbie dolls, she set up two different houses one for a family that had gone shopping and bought lots of food, the other for a family that was poor. The family with all the food invited the poor family over for Thanksgiving dinner.' This was the first Friends of the Poor Walk for the St. Patrick's conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. It was a very successful first event, raising about \$5,500 for the food pantry. Many thanks go to Margaret Kelley for first suggesting that our parish host this event and then doing such a great job organizing it. Thanks are also due to the volunteers who kept things running smoothly, and to the participants who shared their Saturday morning to walk in solidarity with the poor among us. May this become an annual tradition in our parish!



On the boardwalk, in Busey Woods

Friends of the Poor Walk Coordinator Margaret Kelley shares a laugh with walker Kathy Jobin



Walkers at the finish line

## SVDP Thanksgiving baskets need your help

Every year the St. Patrick's SVDP Food Pantry prepares about 250 Thanksgiving baskets for people in need in the Champaign-Urbana area. Those receiving baskets are referred through local agencies and public school staff. Some baskets are reserved for

personal requests. These requests will be taken through the parish office after November 1.

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

Can you help fill a Thanksgiving basket? The cost of food for one basket is approximately \$30. If that strains your budget, any amount you can contribute will help. In your current batch of offering envelopes you will find a special yellow envelope for your Thanksgiving basket donation. If you use your own envelope, simply mark it clearly "SVDP Thanksgiving baskets" and put it in the Sunday collection or bring it to the parish office.



Many volunteers are also needed to make this project a success. Several people with trucks or vans are needed both on Saturday morning, November 21, and on Tuesday morning, November 24, at 8 a.m. to pick up food at local stores and take it to St. Patrick's.

People without large vehicles are welcome to help with the loading/ unloading as well. After the noon Mass on November 22, volunteers of all ages are needed to move chairs, set up tables, and assemble boxes in the hall. On Sunday evening, Vivo students will pack the nonperishables. On Tuesday morning organizers will need "all hands on deck." Many volunteers are needed for packing and delivering the baskets! Around 8:30 a.m. perishable food items will be packed into the boxes, and at 9:00 several teams of two will begin delivering the baskets. In recent years, everyone was finished by 11:00 a.m.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Sally Czapar (217/638-5178 or svdpthanksgiving@gmail.com) with questions or for the link to the Doodle sign-up form.

This is a wonderful way to begin the holiday season!

#### Did you know?

During the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Thanksgiving Day everyone is invited to participate in the offertory procession to present a nonperishable food item or two for the SVDP Food Pantry. If you find that you've forgotten the canned goods you planned to donate, drop a dime or dollar instead into the basket at the foot of the altar. Don't let anything stop you from participating in this annual St. Patrick's tradition!



Friends of the Poor walkers at the Nature Center

## Seniors Group find beauty and inspiration on Springfield trip

Twelve members of the St. Patrick's New Horizons Group (former Seniors Group) carpooled to Springfield on September 15 to tour the Springfield Diocese Cathedral Church of the Immaculate Conception and St. Francis of Assisi Church, maintained by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis.

They spent the morning on a selfguided tour of the Cathedral Church, modeled after an 18<sup>th</sup>-century basilica in Rome, Santa Maria Maggiore. The cathedral was dedicated in 1928 and rededicated on December 2, 2009, after extensive restoration.

The church interior is filled with many beautiful statues, shrines and mosaic images. A large mosaic replica of Murillo's *The Immaculate Conception* (c. 1680) rises behind the tabernacle at the rear of the sanctuary, which holds the original and new altars, an immersion baptismal font, and the crypts of four bishops.

Next the seniors traveled to the Chiara Center, which serves as the motherhouse of the American Province of Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, northeast of Springfield. There they enjoyed a delicious lunch followed by a guided tour of the St. Francis of Assisi Church. The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis is an international, multicultured congregation of Franciscan Sisters founded in Germany in 1844. The center was established in November, 1875, with 20 sisters from Germany. Currently the American Province continues a significant Catholic health-care ministry in Illinois and Wisconsin.

The St. Francis of Assisi Church is built in the Romanesque style, shaped like a cross with thick walls, round arches, large columns, and a vaulted ceiling. The tops of the columns and arches hold carvings of

griffins, grotesques,



Sanctuary of St. Francis of Assisi Church

and gargoyles. The balcony has 12 Byzantine-style carvings of angels and elaborate designs.

The statues, carvings, altars, windows, and chapels were crafted by many world-renowned artists and artisans. Antique-styled glass windows are filled with symbols representing events from the lives of St. Francis and St. Claire of Assisi. There is a shrine to St. Therese of Lisieux, an altar of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and a beautiful nativity scene created in Germany. Also housed in the church is a reliquary containing a bone fragment of St. Francis of Assisi and a reliquary with a fragment traditionally believed to be from the True Cross.

The seniors found their expedition

an enjoyable and inspiring experience and encourage other parishioners to visit both churches.



Seniors at Springfield Diocese Cathedral



*St. Patrick's Parish In Focus* is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, IL. 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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## The transformation of our church continues, inside (and out on next page)



New nave, east entrance This view of the main (east) entrance to the

church shows the newly installed rose window. Just below this window, we will see the Rising Christ sculpture in a new and striking setting.



**St. Patrick window** *The relocated stained glass windows will look even more dramatic in their new setting.* 



**New nave, southeast view** *As dry wall goes up inside the church, the traditional architectural style, beautiful arches, and aisles take shape.* 



New nave, northwest connection

This view captures part of the north wall of the new church addition and also shows the west wall of the church where the new sanctuary will be located. Notice how the arched ceiling defines the connection between old and new.



Lower level of the new addition

The new lower level has been designed to provide flexible meeting space. In the future, as funds allow, operable partitions will be installed which will allow us to divide this large room into up to six smaller rooms.





South side view of the church from Main Street Blue skies above St. Patrick Church accent the traditional beauty of our church and the seamless matching of old and new.



Heavenly Father, Open my heart to the Silent Presence of the Spirit of your Son. Lead me into that Mysterious silence Where your love is Revealed to all who call Come Lord Jesus. —John Main





**New parking lot construction with view of new addition** *This photo of concrete being poured for the new parking lot also provides a great view of the new addition.* 

North side view of the church from parking lot Work crews complete the first section of bricking on the north side of the new addition.



Connection between parish center and the church gathering space A widened hallway near the parish office will connect the parish center to the new gathering space and the church. See more interior photos on page 11.