

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

April 2016

What if?

What if Jesus hadn't died and been raised from the dead? How would the world be different? One crucial difference is that we wouldn't know nearly as much about God as we do. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus tell us everything that is most important in our relationship with God.

They tell us about God's desire to be with us, and for us to be with him. God didn't

come to earth looking like a human being; God took on humanity because that was the most intimate way to be with us. Jesus' life—and death—shows us his humanity.

They show us God's power. Jesus died because of the fears of the religious leaders, who didn't want to upset their relationship with the Roman authorities, didn't want to lose their teaching authority, and didn't want to hear his correction. He died because a petty Roman official was afraid to lose face before the crowd. He died because the people forgot their awe of the teaching and healing of Jesus and let themselves be swayed by a few loud voices. Jesus' resurrection shows us that God is more powerful than these fears, and

our own fears. God doesn't prevent people from doing evil. Instead, God takes the situations that we have created and makes something astonishingly, wonderfully new out of them.



They show us God's faithfulness. God could have said, "You ignore my laws. You ignore my prophets. You ignore my Son. Forget you!" But throughout history God

has always promised to be faithful to us. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus show us in the strongest possible way that God remains faithful to us, no matter what we do.

They show us God's mercy. God wanted so much to show us love and how to live lives that respond to his love. He wanted it so much that he was willing to die for us. And one of his first gifts to us after his resurrection was the forgiveness of sins. God is always willing to forgive us, we just have to ask him for this gift.

They show us God's love. Everything that Jesus taught and did speaks to us of God's love, his desire for us to be our best selves, his hope

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Let's celebrate!

Now that our "WOW" moment has passed and we have become somewhat accustomed to the new size and simple beauty of our expanded church, it's time for us to celebrate the rededication of St. Patrick's church. Our staff has been busy making arrangements to help us with an entire year of celebration. You will want to watch the bulletin for more information about each event as the date draws near!

Parishioners already enjoyed the first event, Feb. 27-28, when "The Spoon Man" presented "There's More to Lent Than Giving Up Candy!" At all Masses that weekend, the "Spoon Man" also introduced us to the Unbound Program, which provides direct financial support and encouragement to children and families living on the margins of society. Now for the rest of the year:

April 15-16: Concert and workshop led by singer-songwriter David Kauffman. St. Patrick's choirs will



join in the concert of liturgical music on Friday, April 15, at 7 p.m., in

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CREW and other parishioners participate in empty tomb's Mega Work-a-Thon

St. Patrick's parish community was one of 44 church communities in Champaign County that provided funding and volunteers for the empty tomb's Mega Work-a-Thon. The parish community provided pasta, oatmeal, and cooking oil as well as donations to help the work of empty tomb in the coming year.

CREW, St. Patrick's youth group, worked at the Mega Work-A-Thon on Saturday, March 5, from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 5 p.m., assembling more than 500 food baskets for needy families. The food boxes contained 11 basic food items and were assembled and decorated in the morning and afternoon by St. Patrick's volunteer youth under the supervision of several adult parishioners led by Youth Coordinator Jack Parisi and Fr. Joseph Baker. Other St. Patrick's participants included Charles Milewski, Joseph Youakim, Richard Keane, and Trudy Keane.



The Work-A-Thon offered discipleship opportunities for Christians of all denominations to put their faith in action, working together as one body in Christ. It also served as a fundraiser to strengthen the financial stability of empty tomb, so that expenses can be paid on time. Last year's Work-A-Thon also provided more than 500 food baskets for needy families, with help from the St. Patrick's community.

The Work-A-Thon served as an excellent opportunity for parishioners, the Knights of Columbus, and CREW, as well as all parish organizations within the apostolate of social action to help less privileged folks in our community.

It is hoped that participants in the parish Crew Mission Trip can work during late spring and early summer on empty tomb Home Maintenance programs in Champaign-Urbana, under the supervision of skilled tradesmen and parishioners, to prepare for similar kinds of work they will be doing on their Mission Trip.



Come to share memories and prayers at the Evening of Remembrance

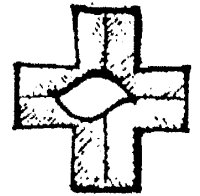
*Praise to you, God of all consolation.
Give us comfort and hope at the
death of your faithful ones.*

*In you, O God, life is not ended, but
transformed.*

Death is swallowed up in victory.

—From *Intercessions of Mercy*


On Thursday, April 7, St. Patrick's Ministry of Consolation will hold an Evening of Remembrance at 7 p.m. in the parish center. The Evening is a time for family and friends to gather and celebrate the lives of loved ones who have died in the past year, to share memories of them, and to pray together for them and for those left behind to grieve their loss.



Everyone is welcome to participate, to remember those who have died and lend prayerful support to their loved ones. For more information please contact Nancy Olson (359-6424, evenings, or nancybolson@gmail.com).

*Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection
and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he
dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes
in me will never die.*

—John 11:26

 **in our parish library**

Due to the relocation of materials and offices necessitated by construction, the parish library is now unavailable to users. We hope to be able soon to resume our parish librarian's recommendations of parish books for children and adults that inform and enliven us on our spiritual journeys together.

Welcome to Karen Barnes, our new parish bookkeeper

St. Patrick's bookkeeper, Karen Barnes, comes to us from the other newly renovated Catholic Church in the area, St. Matthew's in Champaign. Be sure to stop by the parish office to welcome Karen and introduce yourself!

Are you a C-U native?

No, I am from Connecticut. My entire family (minus me and another cousin) still lives there.

What was the path that led you to C-U?

Very roundabout! I have a B.A. in vocal performance. When we moved here my husband was working on his Ph.D., so I started working for a local company doing merchandising. My boss saw some potential and sent me to Parkland where I took a semester of accounting. I still work for him part-time.



What else should we know about you?

My husband, Tim, and I will be married for 39 years in October. We have two beautiful, talented, and active daughters: Nicole (16) and Magdalen (13). They were both adopted from China when they were 10 months old.

I love to read, mostly history, though I can get side-tracked with Jane Austen, Harry Potter, and Lord of the Rings (strange combination, I know). I enjoy Bible study as well and led Bible studies at St. Matthew's for about 6 years. I cantor and sing in the choir at St. Matthew's as well.

You now have connections to two newly renovated Catholic Churches. That's sort of a unique position to be in. Do you have any thoughts to share about that?

Honestly I didn't even know St. Patrick's had had a renovation until I saw the pictures last month! I know it was

challenging at St. Matthew's during the 9-month renovation. Both churches are so beautiful now. The stewardship shown in both parishes is a blessing to the community and I feel so blessed to be part of two such vibrant parishes.

You've only been here a short time, but do you have any goals/dreams/wish list items related to your new position?

It should become a position that "runs like clockwork," with a bit of adjustment here and there. Obviously accuracy and being current in all my duties are my main focus. I'm just happy to have an office with a window! I worked for quite a few years in a backroom office with no windows.

What do you see as your biggest challenges as our new bookkeeper?

Getting organized! I don't work well with a messy desk and if you've been to the office you'd see I haven't made much headway there.

What are you most excited about in regards to the position?

Actually, working in an office again—with people! I have been working part-time from my home while being a stay-at-home mom. Now that my girls are older (and one will be driving soon and getting ready for college) I thought it would be good to have other community connections. I am also very excited about working in a faith community.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I am looking forward to getting to know more people here at St. Patrick's, though it may take a while to remember everyone.

Welcome to St. Patrick's, Karen—we look forward to getting to know you!

Seder meal connects us to the Eucharist

When did the sacrament of the Eucharist begin? How can we find out more about the origins of this amazing sacrament? These and several other questions were answered at the Seder meal at St. Patrick's on March 1.

For many of the people who came to this year's Seder, this was a time to participate in a traditional Seder meal, something many of them may not have experienced before. A Seder is a traditional Jewish meal that is celebrated at the beginning of Passover. During a Seder, foods such as maror (bitter herbs), matzah, and charoses are eaten to remind the Jewish people not only of the Israelites' years in slavery but also to celebrate the freedom that they achieved with God's help.

For those of us in the Catholic Church, the Seder is an opportunity to connect with the Eucharist. When Jesus gave us the gift of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, he was attending a Seder meal with his disciples.

Connecting to the Eucharist was the main focus of the Seder meal, especially for our kids who will soon take their

first Communion. Lynn Hardimon, a mother of a soon-to-be First Communicant, talked about her experience at the Seder meal: "I attended the Seder meal with my husband and our 7-year-old daughter, who will be celebrating her First Communion in May. I enjoyed learning more about the traditions that go back 2000 years to the time that Jesus celebrated the Last Supper. There are so many symbolisms that relate to the Last Supper that we celebrate at each Mass with the sacred Eucharist. I enjoyed sharing a meal with fellow parishioners and visiting with others. It was memorable, and I encourage every to attend. My daughter didn't care for the bitter herbs, but she loved the lamb! Thanks to the parish staff and Fr. Joe for planning this event and allowing my family to enjoy a memorable evening of fellowship."

If you are looking for a way to gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Sacrament of the Eucharist, you might want to plan on attending our Seder meal next year!

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that we will love him as he loves us. The love between God and his people can be wounded by sin, by greed, by pride, and by a mistaken understanding of God, but God will never let it be destroyed. The resurrection of Jesus shows that nothing can kill God's love.

Finally, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus show us God's wisdom. Is there any way God could have made his love for us more clear? Is there any better way he could have shown us his power, even in the face of sin and death? Is there anything that could give us greater hope in God's willingness to forgive and to heal?

The resurrection of Jesus shows us God's greatest gift to us, his greatest hope for us. Just as Jesus was raised from the dead, so will we be. Just as Jesus is one with his Father in heaven, so will we be. We're just following Jesus.

We respond to this dazzling sign of God's love with a resounding *Alleluia!* We respond by listening carefully to the teaching of Jesus and learning to act on it. We respond by giving and accepting love, by giving and accepting forgiveness, by becoming signs of God's justice, mercy, and welcome.

He is risen indeed! *Alleluia!*

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the church. He will sing his award-winning songs and share inspiring stories that offer a call to action. On Saturday, April 16, the singer-songwriter will present a morning workshop on prayer journaling, a guided musical journey into the quiet places of the heart, where conversations with God become life-changing. David Kauffman's Mass of Renewal was used at our Rededication Mass, and he wrote additional special lyrics

for our parish that were included in the Blessing and Sprinkling of Water rite of the Mass.

May 21: Sr. Sharon Zayac, O.P., a Springfield Dominican, will speak on Pope Francis's encyclical on care of the Earth. St. Patrick's will co-sponsor this event with Faith in Place, a regional interfaith organization that promotes care of the Earth.

June 18: A parish retreat, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., led by Sr. Dianne Fulgenzi, an Ursuline sister from St. Louis. The retreat will include a meditative presentation on discernment, looking at contemporary models and witnesses, with time for personal reflection and prayer.

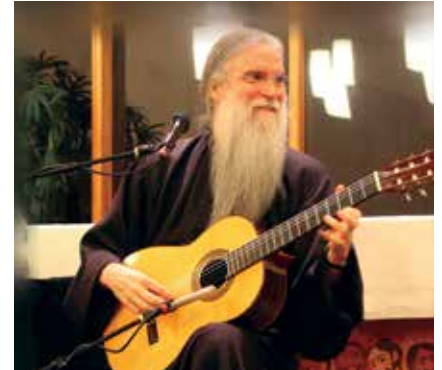
August: "Barn Raising," a parish service event. Get your hammers ready: it will be a lot of work and a lot of fun, with much good food! Something for everyone!

Sept. 7: "Reboot! Live!" at St. Matthew, 7-9:30 p.m., is co-hosted by several local parishes. This Real Life Catholic event is an inspiring and practical experience for all aged 12 and older in applying the beauty and genius of the Gospel to every aspect of one's life, from prayer and spirituality to work, dating, marriage, parenting, health, and more.

Sept. 24: Friends of the Poor Walk. This will be a repeat of last year's popular fundraiser for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. There will be a parish walkathon through Anita Purves Nature Preserve, with snacks and prayers before and after. Will

'Pope Francis' join us again? Come and see!

Oct. 16-17: John Michael Talbot, Christian musician of world-wide renown, author, and host of TV's



"All Things Are Possible with God," will spend two evenings with us for a parish mission/concert.

Nov. 19: Live presentation via Skype from the Vatican by Brother Guy Consolmagno, S.J., Director of the Vatican Observatory and President of the Vatican Observatory Foundation. He will address "Faith and Reason," with Fr. George Remm serving as moderator. Brother Consolmagno is the author of a number of popular books, most recently *Would You Baptize an Extraterrestrial?* which he co-authored with Paul Mueller, S.J.

Dec. 9: The First Anniversary Mass of the rededication of St. Patrick's church will be the heart of our celebration that day, but expect additional festivities to mark this special occasion in the life of St. Patrick's.

Come to as many of the events as you can—everyone is welcome!

Prayer for Reconciliation

Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, go back into my memory as I sleep. Every hurt that has ever been done to me, heal that hurt. Every hurt that I have ever caused to another person, heal that hurt. All the relationships that have been damaged in my whole life that I am not aware of, heal those relationships.

But Lord, if there is anything that I need to do, if I need to go to a person who is still suffering because of me, bring that person to my awareness. I choose to forgive, and I ask to be forgiven. Remove whatever bitterness may be in my heart, Lord, and fill the empty spaces with your love.

Holy Cross Happenings

Holy Cross School will be presenting its 31st annual all-school musical this month. "Shrek, Jr." will star St. Patrick's parishioners Justin Smith as Shrek and Luke Herzog as Donkey. Other parishioners in the production include Lisa Altaner, Kahlil DeCerbo, Lukas Grosse-Perdekamp, Isabelle Jordan, Josie Kuenning, Zach Lewis, Anna Loftus, Carter Logsdon, Madelyn Logsdon, Michael McCoy, Kate McMillan, Hadley Peters, Ian Peters, and Emmanuel Tittora. Holy Cross School is unique in the Champaign-Urbana area for having a musical that includes students from kindergarten through 8th grade.

Performances will take place on April 7, 8, and 9 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 10, at 2:00 p.m. Don't miss what should be a spectacular production!



Luke Herzog and Justin Smith rehearse their roles of Donkey and Shrek with director Nicole Morgan.

Whatever happened to . . .

Perhaps you've been wondering what happened to some of the items that were in the church before the expansion. Fr. Joe has been telling us that there is more work to be done, regarding both construction issues and decisions about the art and environment, but here's what's known at this point:

The **statues of Mary and St. Patrick** need to be refinished and will be kept, but we're not sure where they will be placed.

The **Last Supper sculpture** was part of the altar in the original church and, since 1978, it was in a shrine at the back of the church. It has been cleaned and will be kept, but we haven't decided where yet.

The **altar and ambo** have been sent to a diocesan warehouse of items that a church no longer needs and that another church might want to use. (Our new Stations of the Cross came from this warehouse.)

The **tabernacle** was one of two tabernacles at St. Patrick's. One was in daily use and one was used only during the Easter Triduum. We'll probably keep one and send the other to the warehouse.

The **paintings of the Stations of the Cross** await a decision about what will be done with them.

The **pews** have found different homes. Some were taken by parishioners, who made a free-will offering for them. A few of the shorter pews have been kept for use here but will need to be refinished.

The **organ console** was in very bad condition, so it was recycled. The pipes went to a local organ builder who may be able to reuse some of them or perhaps salvage some of the materials in them.

The sculpture depicting **John baptizing Jesus** has been mounted on the wall to the left of the devotional area.

A new carved **statue of the Holy Family** has been mounted on the wall to the right of the devotional area. As you look around the church, you will see the life of Jesus: his childhood with his family, his baptism at the beginning of his pub-

Women of St. Patrick enjoy first "Ladies Night In"

On the evening of Feb. 23, about 28 women gathered in Trinity Hall (the lovely new gathering place below the church) for the Women of St. Patrick's first "Ladies Night In." For \$5 each, those attending had their choice of three kinds of pizza from Pizza M, along with salad, fruit, soft drinks, and cookies. After

Women of St. Patrick's



**Spirituality
Service
Social**

the meal, the Women of St. Patrick (WSP) Board President, Donna Rinkenberger, presented some ice-breaker activities to help the women learn a little more about one another. Then everyone had a chance to win one of several door prizes.

This event was a variation on the popular WSP activity of parish women dining out together at local restaurants. Several women remarked that it was easier to socialize with more people in Trinity Hall, with its large tables and space to circulate.

There will be another WSP "Ladies Night In" in April, and all women of the parish are invited. Come for the chance to meet new people as well as to catch up with friends. Come to put a name with a familiar face, or to get to know someone you see at Mass.

Check the weekly bulletin for details as they become available, or make it easy on yourself and sign up for the WSP email list. Send your email address to womenofst-patricks@gmail.com and you will get information about all upcoming WSP events. There's no obligation to do anything but to come to the events that appeal to you.

lic ministry, his passion and death on the cross, and his resurrection.

St. Katherine Drexel, pray for us!

On March 3 we celebrated the vision and missionary zeal of one of North America's great saints, Katherine Drexel. She witnessed the poisonous divisions within U.S. society and culture because of the racism and poverty inflicted on African Americans and Native Americans.

The daughter of a wealthy investment banker, she inherited a fortune, which she expended on her mission-



ary efforts to address the suffering of these two disadvantaged groups. Her work as a Sister of Mercy, then as founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, focused the unifying mystery of the Eucharist on the care of the poor in urban ghettos, rural pockets of poverty and discrimination across the South and on reservations.

St. Katherine died in 1955; her memory and influence are perhaps more needed now than ever as our nation enters a critical time of demographic and cultural change that has aroused resistance from all the forces that have fostered division, inequality, and class conflict during most of our nation's history.

St. Katherine Drexel, pray for us!

*Every kingdom divided against itself
will be laid waste
and house will fall against house.*

Luke 11:16



Q: Why do we celebrate Easter for 50 days?

A: Most people think of Easter as a single day. It has never had the commercial appeal of Christmas, and because it always falls on Sunday, most people don't get an additional day off from work. But for Catholics, Easter isn't just a day, it's a whole season. The Easter season stretches all the way to the feast of Pentecost. Lent, which sometimes feels like it's stretching on forever, is actually forty days long; Easter, on the other hand, is all of fifty days long.

About these fifty days theologian Nathan Mitchell writes: "The great fifty days of Pentecost are not an unwelcome, unrealistic obligation to party on, even if we don't feel like it, but an invitation to awaken our memory of God's presence and power in our lives, to look more closely at all the rich and varied textures of creation."

One way the Church pursues this goal of seeing God present in the world is through the reading of the Acts of the Apostles. At Masses all through the Easter season, our usual practice of reading from the Old Testament is replaced by reading from the Acts of the Apostles. These readings tell the story of the Church's earliest days, and the beginnings of our faith spreading throughout the ancient world. The stories of heroism, controversies, persecutions, and miracles all testify to the continued presence of the Risen Christ in the world, through the lives of his disciples and the actions of the Holy Spirit.

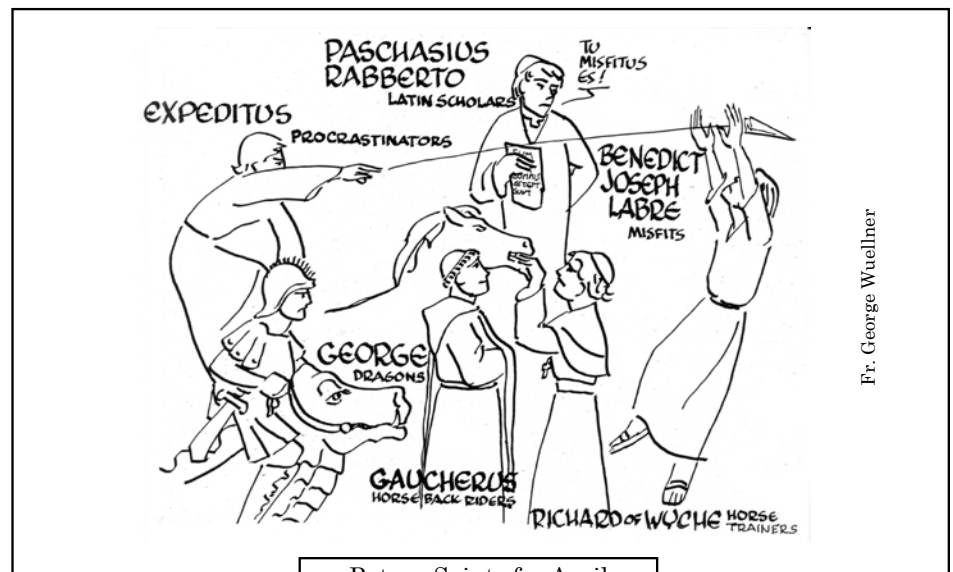
All of this should be an encouragement and a sign of hope for us today. Despite war, violence, personal struggles, and an under-performing economy, God has not abandoned us, nor left us to our own devices. The risen Savior is still with us. These fifty days of Easter ask us to reflect on his presence, and—even in the face of danger or fear—to live with unmitigated joy.

Today this extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say Christ is risen. It's the season when we remember our baptism and how through this sacrament we are, according to the liturgy, "incorporated into Christ's mighty acts of salvation." As "Easter people" we also celebrate and ponder the birth of the Church and gifts of the Spirit (Pentecost), and how we are to live as faithful disciples of Christ.

We are meant to savor Easter!

* * *

Questions about Catholic practice or Catholic teaching may be sent to the Communications Committee in care of the parish office—or just ask one of us!



Patron Saints for April

Transformations . . . a day of reflection

St. Patrick's parishioners Bridget McGill and Eileen Mathy will present a day of reflection at St. Patrick's on Saturday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bridget and Eileen are spiritual directors in the diocese of Peoria, trained by Fr. Albert Haase and Jessie Vicha. Bridget runs Brigid's Well, and Eileen is a clinical social worker in private practice.

What is spiritual direction? And what drew you to the practice?

Bridget: Spiritual direction is companioning a person along his pathway to discern the presence of God in his life. It is led by the Holy Spirit. After years of service at St. Patrick Parish in various ministries, I felt called to serve in a different capacity. Beyond 12 years of Catholic school education, I began to explore different programs and was drawn to learn about spiritual direction. My yearning for a deeper relationship with God was fulfilled by spiritual direction, and now I can journey with others as they discover what God is up to in their lives.

Eileen: I have often appreciated times of silence and contemplation. Quieting my mind helps me to open up to the impressions of the Holy Spirit and new awarenesses. I like to create opportunities for others to do the same. Spiritual direction complements the practice of mental health counseling, but it is also distinctly different. Typically a directee will come with a concern or an area of growth. Through active listening, we work towards greater psychological and emotional understanding, and, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, deeper spiritual impressions. It is always a privilege to journey with others through this process.

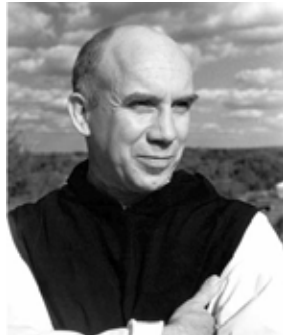
Tell us about this day of reflection.

Eileen: We are really excited to focus our attention on three great leaders of the faith who have experienced personal transformations. Our hope is that we will become more aware of those defining moments in our own lives.

Bridget: Together we will reflect on Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, and

Henri Nouwen.

THOMAS MERTON was a Trappist monk. In his writings he describes an early life of agnosticism until



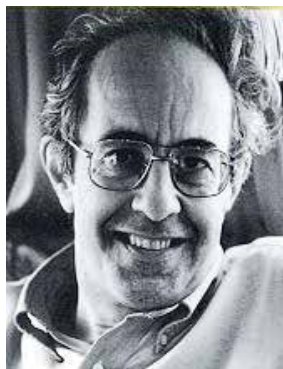
a very mystical moment where he was drawn into communion with God. As a religious he did

much to promote unity among the world's Christian churches and inter-faith dialogue. Through reflecting on Thomas Merton, we will explore times in our lives when faith became real and our lives were transformed.

DOROTHY DAY is the founder of the Catholic Worker movement. Her journey suggests to us that when we see life through the eyes of the poor and our lives are lived in response to that awareness, a deep spirituality and engagement in social transformation can result. Dorothy Day encourages all of us to seek God's purpose in our lives.



HENRI NOUWEN, a gifted lecturer and celebrated writer on the spiritual life, often wrote about his battles



with depression and self-esteem, observing how others lived out their lives with innate challenges. His

life speaks of a man in search of his true self.

What is Brigid's Well?

Eileen: While I see directees at my office in Champaign, Bridget created this great little space for reading and reflection.

Bridget: Hidden within The Magic Needle on University Avenue, a stone's throw from St. Patrick Church, Brigid's Well contains a reading library that includes texts written by women, a private prayer space, and room for group or individual spiritual direction. Its purpose is to be a font of inspiration. You can find more information at <http://stbrigidswell.org> or contact me at stbrigidswell@yahoo.com.

How do people sign up for the Day of Reflection?

To join us for our Day of Reflection fill out the enrollment sheet, include a check for \$10 and mail it to Bridget McGill, 2500 Brownfield Rd. Urbana, IL 61802. Sign-up sheets are available in the parish office and on the table in the foyer. The \$10 fee covers lunch. We hope you will consider joining us as we look together at transformations in faith, purpose, and self.

Every parish Eucharist is a feast for sinners, a family table where all of us are welcome and invited to grow beyond our resentments and self-justification, or our self-excluding fear of being unworthy. All are sinners and all are welcome, for God sees in us only brothers and sisters, sinners on our way to perfect love. Let God be God. Come to the table. Let the party begin!

—Pat Marrin

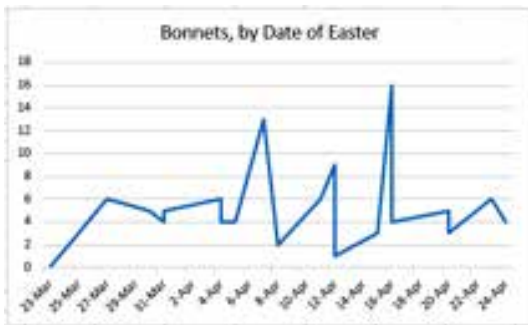
A choir's eye view of Easter bonnets

For more than 20 years, members of the 10:30 a.m. choir at St. Patrick's conducted a study of Easter bonnets. Our position in the choir loft gave us an excellent vantage for this study. This Easter, we are in our newly expanded church and the choir is on the ground floor next to the sanctuary, affording us less opportunity to collect data. So this seems like a good time to analyze the data and publish our conclusions.

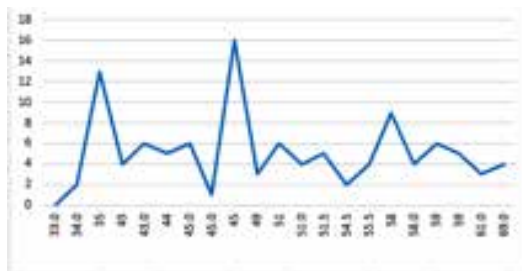
We have counted bonnets at both the Easter Vigil and the 10:30 Easter Sunday Mass. Because our Vigil has been combined with that of St. Mary's for the past several years, we believe that the data for the 10:30 a.m. Mass were likely to be more consistent.

The definition of "bonnet" has required much discussion over the years. Clearly, a headband or a flower in the hair does not reach the level of a bonnet. Neither does a religious veil. We have, however, counted African head wrappings when they were especially dressy for Easter. We have counted knit hats only when they had an Easter decoration. And we have counted dressy hats, even when they were not in festive colors.

We considered the possibility that bonnets would be more common when the date of Easter fell later in the spring. The data do not appear to support this hypothesis.

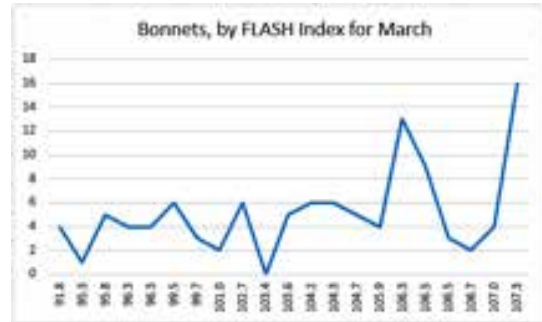


We considered the possibility that bonnets would be more common in warm weather. Comparing the bonnet count to the average temperature on Easter does not support this hypothesis. Further study might consider the average temperature for several weeks before Easter, since one must plan ahead to acquire an Easter bonnet. Thanks to the Illinois State Water Survey for temperature data.

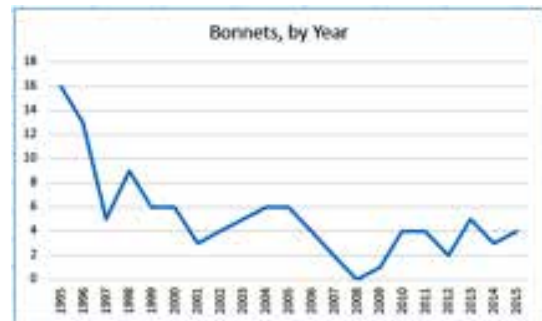


We considered the possibility that bonnets might be more common in good economic times, and we believe that having 21 years of data gives us a sound basis for

evaluating this. We have compared our counts with the U of I Flash Index, created by the Institute of Government and Public Affairs. The index has become the most widely used economic indicator in Illinois. A FLASH index above 100 indicates a growing economy; values less than 100 indicate a shrinking economy. To be consistent, we have used the FLASH Index for March to compare with our data. And here there does seem to be a correlation.



Finally, we considered the possibility that the presence of bonnets might simply be a whim of fashion. To test this hypothesis, we compared our data year by year, and here we find the strongest correlation of all. Bonnets were much more common in the early years of our study than the later years.



We would be happy to share our data with other researchers who wish to conduct additional analysis.

Got questions about the new church? Send them to infocustpats@gmail.com and we'll try to answer them in future issues of *In Focus*.

Why are there two crucifixes in the new church?

When the Art and Environment Expansion Committee began meeting in fall 2013, they intended to approach the design for the new expanded worship space so that St. Patrick's parishioners would quickly feel at home there. The Rising Christ sculpture created by Nick Britsky was to be the centerpiece of the new



sanctuary, and the committee members set out to design its backdrop on the west wall.

As they were finishing up details of the design in December 2014, they learned that new liturgical guidelines set in 2002 would prevent them from using the beloved Resurrection crucifix in the new sanctuary. Because the parish was remodeling the worship space, the parish would be expected to follow these new guidelines, which call for a "crucified" figure rather than a "resurrected" figure to be present in the sanctuary.

What is the difference? The Catholic Church utilizes signs and symbols. The Sign of the Cross speaks to our belief in the Trinity; blessing with holy water reminds us of our baptism; ashes placed on our foreheads at the beginning of

Lent remind us of our humanity and call us to humility and repentance. The figure of a crucified Christ in the sanctuary is our reminder of the passion and death of our Savior. He broke the bread and shared the cup of salvation only to be betrayed and led to death for our sake. When we celebrate the Mass we are again entering into this holy mystery – the Paschal mystery – the cornerstone of our faith.

The Rising Christ, by contrast, shows Christ's body leaving the cross and reaching out to be reunited with his Father in heaven. It is the sign of resurrection. It is a powerful symbol of hope. It is the reminder that we too can share eternal life with Christ and be resurrected on the last day.

Soon after Christmas 2014, the A and E Expansion Committee moved forward to secure a crucified Christ for the new sanctuary and to find an appropriate setting for the Rising Christ. In the months that followed, two other designs were considered for the new sanctuary space but both were dependent on the final placement of the Rising Christ.

The decision was made to commission a new crucifix for the sanctuary that would not only be an appropriate symbol of the passion of Christ but could be an additional source of inspiration, prayer, and meditation. The new crucifix, created by North Carolina professor and artist Todd Frahm, features a "corpus" made of bronze on a real tree taken from a forest in North Carolina. The committee gave the artist a list of features they wanted to see in the artwork and then the artist proceeded with his own interpretation of those features. The result is a beautiful depiction of a Christ who gave up his life with humility and full commitment to fulfilling the act of salvation. The small branch and leaf at the top of the sculpture symbolize hope for the new life in Christ that his resurrection will confirm for us.

The new artwork installed in the church in early March now completes the circle of Christ's life on earth. Beginning in the new devotional area, there is a statue of the Holy Family, reminding us that Christ was fully human. To the left of the devotional area is the re-appearance of Nick Britsky's Baptism of Christ, which signals the beginning of Christ's public ministry. In the sanctuary is the depiction of Christ crucified as designed by Todd Frahm, and appearing on the opposite east wall is Britsky's Rising Christ – our symbol of hope for our own resurrection, which we see as



we leave the worship space. The signs and symbols of our faith now encircle all those who attend Mass or come to pray in our new church. And if you ask the A and E Expansion Committee, they will readily attribute the beautiful results to the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit.

May this new worship environment raise hearts, minds, and souls to God!

We can see our family—literally!—in this family of saints

You may remember last fall the appeal from the Liturgical Arts Committee for parishioners to bring in materials and objects to be photographed for use in creating the saints banners that now hang in the new devotional area in our church. According to committee member Pat Mayer, the response was overwhelming. People sent family Bibles, prayer books, medallions, rosaries, crosses, and jewelry. They brought in wedding dresses, baptismal gowns, and first communion dresses. Many items had passed through multiple generations—for instance, Bibles and baptismal gowns from the 1870s, and prayer books and rosaries from the 1930s.

There was also fabric, both simple material used for Sunday School crafts and fabric collected from places such as Nigeria, Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cambodia, Korea, Guatemala, Ireland, Scotland, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem. In all, more than 300 items were shared and more than 1,300 photos were taken. Details of the items were pulled from the photos and collaged to create garments for the saints.

The right-most banner, which depicts the Martin family, incorporates in excess of 25 separate items in the family's clothing. For example, the little girl wears gloves from the 1960s and holds a first communion book from the 1930s. Her gown is fashioned from six different baptismal, communion, and wedding dresses.

Thus are the families of St. Patrick's interwoven with the family in this banner. However, as many people looking at the banner have wondered, who exactly is this Martin family? Who are Zelig, Louis, and Therese Martin, and how is it that we find a family group among the saints?



The answer is that this is a family of saints. You likely are familiar with that little girl, or rather the woman she grew up to be. St. Therese of Lisieux, the “Little Flower,” has been a saint of such influence and inspiration that she was named a Doctor of the Church in 1997—the youngest person ever so designated.

What you may not have known is that her parents, Zelig and Louis Martin, became saints just last October. They were the first spouses to ever be canonized as a couple.

As young people, Zelig and Louis each aspired to life in a religious order, but each was rejected for health or other reasons. When they met and married, they intended to live in celibacy, but a priest urged them to fully embrace their vocation of married life. They became the parents of nine children, the youngest of which was Therese. The five who survived past infancy—all daughters—were raised and educated with their parents' loving observance of the instruction of the Church: daily Mass, confession, frequent Communion, and the practice of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

After Zelig died, when Therese was four, the older girls entered religious orders, one by one. Therese followed three of her sisters into the Carmelites, and it seems likely that it was her parents' example of love and faith that set her on her amazing path.

Just as we look to St. Therese for inspiration in making our way through our daily lives, we can look to St. Zelig and St. Louis Martin for inspiration in our family lives. When we look at this banner, we can see reflections of our parish family in this family of saints, and perhaps that can help us to follow their example of love of faith.

From Susan Nagele

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March 2016

To all the good people of St. Patrick Parish,

Greetings from Mombasa, Kenya, where it is that time of year once again. We are all melting! The rains should come soon to cool us off. I hope that spring is on its way to you and the worst of winter is over!

I was able to access the link to pictures of the opening of the newly renovated church. I am looking forward to seeing it with my own eyes. I especially enjoyed seeing the faces of so many of you whom I know. More and more, the faces are new and younger, which is exciting! I look forward to meeting people and renewing old friendships when I am home in June.

I found the banners in the new prayer space beautiful. I will look forward to some moments of prayer before the banner of St. Bakhita, the first Sudanese saint and patroness of people suffering from human trafficking. South Sudan, the newest country in the world, is torn apart and shredded into pieces.

I recently was confronted with a case of trafficking. When I went into Likoni Dispensary, Sr. Susan met me immediately. She was distraught about a woman who claimed she was pregnant and was demanding a card to confirm it. She was extremely overweight but the staff could find no evidence for a pregnancy. Neither could I. She had a two-year-old boy with her, claiming he was her son, but she looked old enough to be his grandmother. We had to call the police, arrange for her to come to another clinic in two days and, unbeknownst to her, have the police there to investigate her. They found she was running an orphanage and trafficking children. She would pay a prostitute \$1000 for her baby when she delivered and then tell people it was her own child or an abandoned child. Bakhita must be a very busy saint!

Thanks very much to all of you for your donations from the parish, totaling \$13,217. In addition to the usual gift of \$5000, \$5217 was raised for the Mission Match Project. Empty Tomb matched \$3000. This total of \$8217 was used to fund the renovation of the Giriama Maternity Unit, which is now completed and ready to function.



The Giriama Maternity Unit, before renovation and after.

Kenya will hold presidential elections in August 2017, and campaigning has begun in earnest. They follow our own process of long-drawn-out, expensive campaigns. Leadership is such an important service. The pope visited Kenya last November, but it is hard to see that much has changed in the political arena. We in the Catholic Church are trying to keep his message of mercy at the fore this year. Even if I don't see much progress elsewhere, I can see some change in myself. I look at those who ask for help with kinder eyes and a softer heart.

You all have shown great generosity and mercy to people who are less fortunate here in Kenya. We send our gratitude, hoping to increase your joy this Easter season.

Blessings, and Happy Eastertide,

Susan

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

Special ways you can help

- Several long-time Eucharistic ministers have found it necessary to resign, and as a result 5:00 and 10:00 Masses now have several openings. Diane Wilhelm, coordinator of Eucharistic ministry, would be grateful to have more volunteers to serve at any of our four weekend liturgies. You can be regularly scheduled for a once-a-month spot or added to the pool of EM subs. If you can help, please contact Diane (cell: 630/292-3028, or wilhelmd@earthlink.net).

- Some parishioners are setting up for more than one weekend Mass a month. Two new volunteers are hoped for, one to set up once a month for the 5:00 Mass and another for the noon Mass. Interested? Contact Mary Lou Menches (344-1125, or mmenches@illinois.edu). And if you can set up for one 7:00 a.m. Mass every week, please do contact Mary Lou!

- Daily Mass can get your day off to a good start. Helping to distribute Communion to those who come would make it even better. If you can serve as a Eucharistic minister at Mass even one day a week, please contact Mary Lou Menches (344-1125, or mmenches@illinois.edu).



St. Patrick's Parish In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Materials must include the name and telephone number of the person submitting them.

Please send news items to infocusst-pats@gmail.com. You may also send them 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 Karen Barnes, Judy Fierke, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Mary Karten, Richard Keane, Lorraine Kim, Eileen Mathy, Jon McCoy, Pat Mayer, Bridget McGill, Rachel McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Chuck Milewski, Susan Nagele, Jack Parisi, Cathy Salika, Adam Smith, Mary Twigg, Jim Urban, and Peggy Whelan. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Rick Partin, page layout by John Colombo.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Chuck Milewski



Squash/Sweet Potato Casserole

1 large butternut squash or 4 large sweet potatoes
 1/2 c packed brown sugar
 2 T butter
 2 c cranberries
 1/2 c orange juice

Topping

1/2 c chopped walnuts
 2 T melted butter
 1 T brown sugar
 1/2 t cinnamon

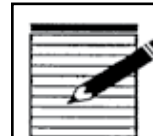
Peel and cut into half-inch cubes the squash or sweet potatoes. Cover with water in saucepan and parboil (7-9 min.). Drain and arrange half in greased 1-1/2 quart casserole dish, sprinkle with 1/4 c brown sugar, and dot with 1 T butter. Sprinkle with 1-1/2 c cranberries. Cover with remaining squash or sweet potatoes and cranberries, dot with 1 T butter, and sprinkle with remaining brown sugar. Pour orange juice over all. Cover and bake in 350 oven for 45 minutes.

For topping, mix walnuts, melted butter, brown sugar, and cinnamon in a small bowl. After 45 minutes uncover the casserole and distribute walnut topping over the squash or sweet potatoes, and return to the oven, uncovered, for 10 minutes.

Although fresh cranberries are best, frozen berries may be used. Thaw, rinse, and dry cranberries thoroughly before use.

* * *

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



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **April 10**.