

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

June 2016

The heart of our faith

The Eucharist is the heart of our faith. More than any other teaching, the Eucharist shows us how much God wants to live in us, to be involved in every part of our lives, to nourish and sustain us. It



is the “heart” of our faith because the heart is the place of love and intimacy.

Jesus always comes to us in the sacraments. Generally, he comes bringing us gifts. In Baptism, he brings the gift of adoption. In Reconciliation, he brings the gifts of forgiveness and renewal. In the Eucharist, Jesus himself is the gift.

Could any gift be dearer to us?

So it’s no surprise that we celebrate the First Communion of our children and our new Catholics in a special way. Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist is a big step in getting to know him better. Throughout their lives, Jesus will feed their faith day by day, Sunday by Sunday, as they receive him.

The heart is also the place of will and purpose. Through the Eucharist, Jesus forms us into members of his body, seeing the world a bit more as he sees it, valuing the things he values and doing the things he does. This is what we need to decide how we are going to live our lives in faith every day.

And the heart is the pump that sends nourishment throughout our bodies. The Eucharist nourishes our hands so that we can serve others. It nourishes our lips so we can speak of Jesus to others. It nourishes our minds so that we can

continually try to understand better what Jesus is to us and how we can live our lives in response to his love.

The Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ is celebrated on May 29 this year. It reminds us to welcome the gift of himself that Jesus gives us, to be grateful for his presence, and to be open to his work in the heart of our faith.

Go with God, Laura!

Sadly, it’s once again time to say good-bye to a staff member now headed out the door: Music Director



Laura Theby will soon be leaving us to move to the Northern Virginia/ Washington D.C. area to check out some exciting opportunities (more on that later).

As a U of I student, Laura first visited St. Patrick’s for Palm Sunday Mass and was impressed with what she heard coming from the congregation: “People actually sang! This is such a singing parish, and I love it!”

Originally from the St. Louis area, Laura came here to attend music school. She collected three degrees while here, a B.M. in Piano Performance, a B.M. in Piano Pedagogy, and M.M. in Piano Pedagogy with a minor in organ

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Laura Theby

from page 1

performance. She's been our music director for the past nine years.

Her new title at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Arlington, Va., will be Director of Sacred Music. However, the biggest opportunity she'll enjoy as a result of the move is a chance to get to know boyfriend Colby a little bit better. Laura states, "It's time for us to take the next step in our relationship, and we obviously have to be in the same location to do that."

We asked Laura what she enjoyed most about St. Patrick's, and her list was long:

- *The people. We have a great community—very talented, open, welcoming, dedicated, faith-filled people. I love the mix of students, university-affiliated folks, townies, etc. I love our diversity.*
- *The parish staff has been so wonderful to work with; we have a great leader in Father Joe. All are very team-oriented and willing to pitch in whenever needed. We laugh a lot, and that makes working together more fulfilling and fun!*
- *Staff retreat.*
- *Working with combined choirs/large groups (adult, children's, various languages, St. Patrick's and St. Mary's, choristers and cantors, instrumentalists, SPYO, etc.) at major celebrations like Catholic Connected, Christmas, Holy Week/Easter, the Rededication Mass, etc.*
- *Flying my miniature remote-control helicopter through the halls on Friday afternoons with Father Phelps. (Yes, there are videos!)*

Perhaps not surprisingly, she won't miss being a part of a massive renovation, although she reports that she "absolutely loves" our new sanctuary and Trinity Hall (and the fact that both are finished).

In parting, Laura would like to thank the whole parish community: "You welcomed me and affirmed my place in the Church as a music minister. This has been my home-away-from-home for so many years now, and I appreciate all that you have done for me personally, as well as for the Church."

Members of our various choirs should take comfort in the fact that she plans to follow through on her strict instructions to send care packages containing, among other things, homemade cookies.

Thanks for everything, Laura, and best of luck out East!

Ninety-nine youths of St. Mary and St. Patrick say "Yes" to Holy Spirit

An overflowing congregation of godparents, family, friends, catechists, and guests filled St. Patrick's on May 10. Ninety-nine young people in red robes were the joint confirmation class of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's. Songs and prayers mixed English and Spanish. The priests, deacons, and servers also wore red vestments.

Abbot Philip Davey of Saint Bede Abbey in Peru, IL presided. He urged all to see themselves as a God's works of art. Jesus Christ has endowed us gifts to give and receive from the Church. May we all join the confirmands doing our part to make our parish, community, and world better as the Church nurtures us!



They came to the Lord's table

*we come to your table;
with our hearts so full of joy,
we come to your table.
Bringing gifts of all we are,
we come to your table;
gifts of life and love and joy,
we come to your table...*

Thus, the children came to Jesus, as he had urged, and received him in Holy Communion for the very first time. As they returned to their places, each would have told Jesus that they loved him very much, and prayed for their parents, their brothers and sisters, and the person next to them, as Father Joe encouraged them to do.



What a year!

Do you remember where we were as a parish this time last year? May 24 was our last weekend in the old church. At 3 p.m. that day, parishioner Father Alex Miller presided at his first Mass. Then a willing crew began moving everything that we needed for Mass to the main hall so that things would be ready for the first Mass there on Memorial Day. In the days that followed, everything was removed from the church to make way for the construction.

Do you remember where we were six months ago? On December 9, we celebrated our Mass of Rededication in the beautiful new space.

What a year it has been!

David Kauffman's visit brought music and inspiration

On Apr. 15 and 16, St. Patrick's community continued our rededication celebration by welcoming singer-songwriter David Kauffman. On Friday evening, Mr. Kauffman played a concert of his



music inside the church. By sharing the experiences that inspired his songs, he made it easy for the audience to connect with him. The audience was happy to join in on the refrains of a couple of familiar songs.

Mr. Kauffman's songs can inspire us to listen to God's voice in our everyday lives. They can guide us throughout the day when we are trying to enrich our lives through prayer.

On Saturday, Mr. Kauffman led a small group in a prayer journal workshop based on the Benedictine tradition known as *Lectio Divina*. After reading a scripture verse or listening to a song, the participant is asked to reflect on it. As we reflect, a word or phrase will stand out—or "choose us." This leads us to contemplate why this word or phrase is meaningful to us. This can then be shared with others or kept to ourselves as we let God enter our prayer. This approach to studying scripture allows it to "study us," inform our lives, and lead us closer to God. Those who attended the workshop came away with a new technique to bring God more into their daily lives.



in our parish library

Welcome to the library. For those of you who are new to the parish and the library, my name is Megan Raab; I am the parish librarian for St. Patrick's Parish. I welcome you to check out the library, which is located on the left at the far end of the classroom wing, the west side of the main hall. Please excuse the general disarray of the library in its present state. In the coming months, I plan to get the library set up again to its former state. If you are visiting on Sunday morning before or after Mass, the library should be open. If, however, you find it more convenient to come during the week, the library will be locked; to obtain a key, simply ask at the front office for a key to the library. Lock the door behind you when you leave, and don't forget to return the key to the parish office.

Several periodicals and encyclicals are available for you to take home and to keep. The more current issues are located in the rotating wire rack. There are also a number of back issues in the plastic archive boxes on top of the shelves along the wall beside the rack. I encourage you not only to read through the back issues, but to also take home any you may want to keep.

I would like this to be a "new beginning" of sorts. To make room for the many new books that have come in while the library was closed during construction, we will pull from the shelves some books that you may want to take home. We'll let you know when you can look through them—watch the parish bulletin to know when they're ready for you!

To search for material you might want to review (whether a specific title, author, or subject), you will have to use the computer, because the paper copy of the card catalog no longer exists. Instructions for use of the computer are located on the computer desk in the back right corner. If you have any further questions regarding use of the computer or the search for material, do not hesitate to contact me (369-0454 or raab41987@gmail.com).

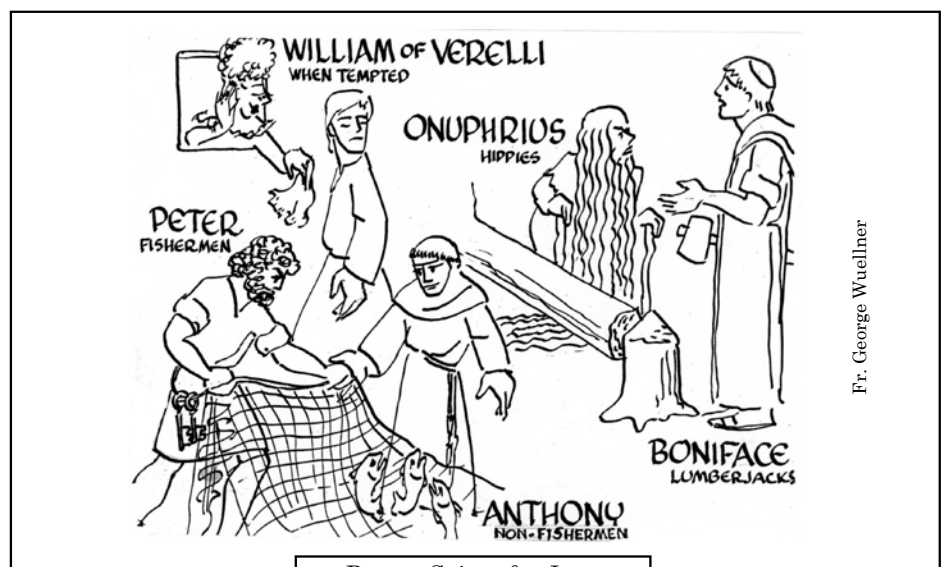
The recommended time range for checkout is two weeks, but if you need to keep material longer, please feel free to do so. Simply contact me with an estimated return date. To check out a book, write your name on the next available blank line of the card located in the inside front cover of the book and place the card in the green box located on the far right corner of the computer desk.

In the spirit of new beginnings, I would like to focus on some of the many new books in the library. Located on

the blue cart, they are available only for standard library checkout.

- ***Pause for Thought: Making Time for Prayer, Jesus & God*** (Gerald O'Collins) This book is an ideal resource for those of you who often find yourself preoccupied, distracted, busy, but desire a spiritual compass for daily life. 248.8 Oco.
- ***Navigating the Winds of Change*** (Lynn Anderson) The author presents a wealth of practical, effective strategies for managing change in the Church. He is the creative force behind a seminar that helps thousands of Church leaders manage positive change in their congregations. 248.8 And.
- For a lighter, less factual, more story-like read, I recommend ***Always We Begin Again*** (John McQuiston). When an attorney with a busy commercial practice went searching for a truly balanced life, he found the blueprint for it in a 6th-century text. 248.8 McQ.
- ***The Journey toward God*** (Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel) brings together inspiring and instructive selections from great writers who have mastered the spiritual life. Let them teach you how to open to God in prayer, how to respond to God's initiatives, how to grow into a deeper union with God. 248.8 Gro.
- ***Building of the Mother Church*** (Joseph Armstrong) tells the story of the planning and construction of the original edifice of the Mother Church. 248.8 Arm

Again, I welcome you to the parish library. I know you can find many valuable resources here. If you have any questions for me as I continue to sort through the library and get it back to its former state of organization, please don't hesitate to contact me.



Patron Saints for June

Spirituality through art and furniture

By Thomas Skaggs

My wife, Donna, and I have been members of St. Patrick's for eight years. When the Second Century Campaign began, we were very willing to contribute to the project. As time went on, I would sit in Mass and wonder if the altar and other furnishings would be replaced as part of the renovation. My curiosity came from my being a parishioner but also a woodworker.

I have been designing and building furniture for 20 years. The first eight years I was an avid hobbyist. The last 12 years, I have taken my work to the professional level. I was self-taught but drew from my education in fine art and architecture. I worked as a Planner for the U of I for 27 years, so my woodworking was part-time until I retired from the university in 2014. I now pursue my passion for design and woodworking full-time, and my work is featured in art galleries around the country.

As I wondered about the future of St. Patrick's liturgical furnishings, I realized that perhaps I could do more than just give money to the campaign. Perhaps I could contribute in some way toward any needs for assistance with design. I met with Father Joe and let him know about my background and my desire to be of assistance. Some time went by before Father Joe contacted me and asked that I serve on the Arts and Environment Committee. I was delighted to do so.

The A&E Committee worked hard over the next year to establish a vision and direction for the look of the expanded church. Our efforts were steadfast with a goal of a worship space that was inspirational, beautiful, and respectful of our parish and the architecture of our church. It is through the committee work that I found motivation to use my art and furnishing design skills to sketch ideas for the committee to help us better visualize various ideas.

Eventually, the time came for us to find a liturgical furnishing designer and maker. I helped research various makers, and I contacted them for proposed pricing and portfolio information. None of them seemed to match our committee's vision—and all were extremely expensive! I was asked if I would be interested in taking on the project myself. I reminded the committee that I did not have liturgical design experience, but the committee placed their faith in me and I was thrilled to accept.

My first step was to learn about Catholic liturgical furnishings, requirements, symbolism, and church tradition. I realized gaining that knowledge was the start of a spiritual journey for me. It inspired me and gave me insight into the designs I was about to create. I shared various design concepts with the A&E Committee and received very helpful feedback. The committee was in agreement that the goal was to design furnishings that were unique and spiritually inspirational. The results of the project represent many months of design development, followed by many months of workshop work in an effort to realize that vision.

The Furnishings

My design concept was to not only consider the design of each piece, but also create an overall composition with the furnishings so that they would relate to our faith, our worship, and the architecture of the church. All of the pieces relate to each other in terms of design and materials. The materials include wood, bronze, and light. To experience the composition of our furnishings, begin at the baptismal font.

The baptismal font is designed as a community font. The basin itself is cast bronze. The textures on the bottom side of the basin symbolize movement and spiritually "living water."

The round bronze medallions in the base are repeated throughout other furnishings. I drew inspiration for the medallion design from traditional Celtic Catholic symbols, in honor of our church and patron saint, St. Patrick. The light underneath the basin illuminates the textures of the living water and the spiritual connection of light and water.



To visualize the overall composition of the furnishing design, one should stand at the baptismal font and look directly down the aisle at the tabernacle. If you look closely, you will detect a series of concentric circles. There



is a partial circle of lighter wood under the altar's top. If you visually follow the curve, it continues through the two small shelves on either side of the tabernacle. The circle is then completed with the light-colored radiant textures on the wall around the tabernacle. The tabernacle itself forms additional concentric circles.



Q: How is a new employee chosen to fill a vacancy on the staff of St. Patrick's?

A: While we are always saddened when someone leaves the St. Patrick's family of employees, a vacancy in the staff ranks necessitates pulling together a committee to run the process of a search.

Once a vacancy occurs, Father Joe appoints a search committee from parishioners. The recent resignation of our Music Director, Laura Theby, meant that Father Joe needed to find parishioners available with a human resources background and others with a special interest in the position. For this search, there was one human resources representative and three members of the choir. Father Joe is always the unofficial leader of the search committee.

The first step is to review the position description and make any changes that might be necessary. Then appropriate venues for advertising the position are

discussed. For any position, an announcement is placed in St. Patrick's bulletin for a minimum of two consecutive Sundays. In addition, we ask other parishes in the community to place the ad in their bulletins. Our announcement for the position of Director of Music and Liturgy also ran in the bulletins of Holy Cross, St. Matthew's, and St. Mary's. Because of the specialty factor of this particular position, ads were placed on various websites to attract candidates with a music background.

Candidates are asked to provide a cover letter, résumé, and list of references. Search committee members review the applications and then determine a list of finalists for the position. The search committee determines a list of questions to use in the interview process. For the Director of Music and Liturgy, the interview was made up of two parts: a sit-down interview with the members of the search committee and Father Joe, and an audition with the St. Patrick's choir. Choir members were provided with an evaluation form so they could

provide input after the audition.

For the Director of Music and Liturgy, the finalists were interviewed. After the interviews and auditions were completed, the search committee met with Father Joe to determine which of the candidates would be the best match for St. Patrick's. At this point in time, the search committee is hopeful there will be a hire from the finalists and the search will be completed. Once the candidate is hired, the other applicants will be notified that the position is filled and the search is closed.

The entire process for the Director of Music and Liturgy has taken several weeks, with meetings of the search committee throughout the process and much correspondence through email. The work of the committee can be challenging, but the reward is always great once a successful candidate begins working at St. Patrick's.

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

Attn: HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS TEC is here for 17- to 20-year-olds!

www.TECcu.weebly.com

*Unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains but a single grain. But if it dies it produces much fruit.
~ John 12:24*

Have you heard of TEC? Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is a dynamic weekend of acceptance, respect, celebration, challenge, and community. From Saturday morning through Monday afternoon, each attendee will hear real stories from real people, experience meditation, participate in discussions on meaningful themes, and spend time in reflection about life's BIG questions. TEC is also about freedom; all retreatants are encouraged to participate as they feel comfortable.

Applications are now being



accepted for those aged 17–20 for a Girls' weekend, July 23–25, at St. John's Catholic Newman Center on the U of I campus in Champaign. Informational brochures and applications can be found in the church vestibule or on the TEC website, www.TECcu.weebly.com. Mark your calendars now for the Boys' weekend, October 22–24. Questions? Email TECchampaign@gmail.com.

TEC is active in more than 50 dioceses throughout the United

States and in Canada, the Bahamas, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Bolivia, and Nicaragua. You can find more information about the history and mission of TEC on the national TEC website, www.tecconference.org.

Vocation Prayer

Creator God, life is your gift to me, and you invite me to share it in service to others. Give me the wisdom to discern how best to do this, and the courage and generosity to respond to your loving call. Open the hearts of many others, too, that together we may help to build the Kingdom.

Women of St. Patrick prepare for Cellar-to-Garret and other events

The Women of St. Patrick (WSP) have had a busy winter and spring. They have held a monthly Rosary followed by a Brown Bag Lunch, a Lenten Retreat, a Marian Night in May, and a couple of "Ladies Nights In," at which women of the parish came together to share a meal, conversation, and a game or two. WSP members also helped with parish-wide events such as the Rededication Mass and with receptions after that Mass, Confirmation, and other events.



At the WSP general meeting in April, the current WSP Board was introduced.

Chair: Donna Rinkenberger; Vice Chair and Spirituality Chair: Nancy Olson; Treasurer: Marcia Raab; Secretary: Ruth Ann Kingery; Social Chair: Katie Leninger; and At-Large Board Members: Sandy Cuza, Eileen Schmidt, and Janet Althausner. Several future events were proposed: more Ladies Night

In dinners, a Fall Bake Sale, and Family Game Nights (or afternoons). Volunteers were sought for upcoming activities, including planning and developing the new WSP garden area on the southwest side of the parish center. (If you are an interested gardener, please get in touch with the WSP!)

Much missed during our church expansion construction was the annual Cellar-to-Garret Sale, which is the WSP's biggest fundraiser. The money raised is used for projects or purchases that benefit the entire parish, such as refurbishing the parish center kitchen, and most recently, buying the tables and chairs used in the new Trinity Hall gathering space. WSP also makes annual donations to Dr. Susan Nagele's medical ministry in Kenya.

Not only is the Cellar-to-Garret Sale a great fundraiser, the WSP see it as a ministry to give people in the parish and surrounding community an opportunity to buy clothes, bedding, kitchen ware, household items, toys, and other items they might otherwise not be able to afford.

It takes many hands to make the sale a success. This year, board member Janet Althausner is taking on one of the co-chair positions overseeing the sale, but the WSP is

looking for at least one other person to join her and help get the planning process started. Volunteers are also being sought to lead different areas of the effort so that no one person or group gets overburdened.

Any parishioner can volunteer for one of these positions, and couples can share a co-chair position. Needed are the following:

- **Overall Sale co-chair:** Work with Sale Co-chair Janet Althausner in planning and overseeing all aspects of the sale.
- **Set-up co-chair:** On July 31 only. Manage the sale set up, directing volunteers in setting up the tables, clothing racks, rooms being used as sales areas, and so on.
- **Volunteer comforts co-chair:** Arrange refreshments for the workers during set-up and sale days by both purchasing food and finding volunteers to provide



needed food.

- **Volunteer assignments co-chair:** Be in charge of helping to sign up volunteer workers and assign them to positions.
- **Publicity, Logistics co-chair:** Be responsible for publicizing the sale by placing advertisements in print media and elsewhere, getting the word out on social media, etc.
- **Clean Up co-chair:** On August 13 only. Manage the tear down and clean up on the last day of the sale.
- **Financial co-chair:** Assist with the financial aspects of the sale.

If you feel called to share your time and talents in one of these positions or would like to help with one of these groups, please send an email to womenofstpatrik@gmail.com or call Donna Rinkenberger (217/220-0301).

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

“May your care and mercy lead us to a just society”

Are you interested in working with other faith groups to address social justice issues in our community? Parishioner Luis Cuza has been working to raise awareness of these issues and to bring other St. Patrick’s parishioners into the efforts to mitigate them. One such issue is that of formerly incarcerated people reentering society.

There are about 8 million individuals in the U.S. today that have served prison sentences. Annually, 600,000 men and women complete their sentence and return to communities to struggle against a stigma that may accompany them for the rest of their lives. In Champaign County, that number is about 100 people each month.

Upon release, each person gets little more than a few dollars and a bus ticket, but no ID card. Many are soon forced into homelessness and develop chronic and acute illnesses. About 33% are rearrested in their first year out, 57% within three years, and over three-quarters within five years. The odds are that only one in four formerly incarcerated person manages to stay out of prison for five years.

Our streets would be safer if the majority of “returning citizens” become tax-paying, middle class members of our society, but in most cases, prisons do not provide adequate training, education, or the financial assistance for a “returned



citizen” to successfully transition into society. The economic and social costs associated with the continued failure of our society to successfully reintegrate individuals who have served the punishment given by the courts are significant. Yet the few reentry programs in Champaign County are underfunded and lack long term planning and financing.

see **Just Society** on page 12

Art and Furniture from page 5

The tabernacle is the center point of the sanctuary design. In many ways it is the most sacred element of the church. It is there where the Body of Christ resides and thus it is very holy. The A&E Committee agreed that it should be the true focal point. I learned, in my study, that the tabernacle is also considered the Ark of the Covenant. I used the concept of a holy house for the Body of Christ being carried as inspiration for the design. The design is an abstract adaptation of that concept. The bronze enclosure has doors that I designed with a version of the symbols I used for the medallions. To add mystery and spiritual inspiration, I designed the tabernacle to be mounted away from the wall as if floating. I designed and installed a lighting element to project a halo of light around the tabernacle itself. That became the inspiration for the radiant textures on the wall. It is an overall expression of holiness and the presence of God.

Above the tabernacle is a bronze crucifix, created by artist Todd Frahm. Todd’s family is connected with St. Patrick’s—in fact, his brother was baptized in our church. Todd now lives in North Carolina but he has a connection to Champaign-Urbana. He was the sculptor of the rabbit and books sculpture outside the Urbana Free Library and the bronze gargoyles on the courthouse tower. I worked with Todd in the design stages of the crucifix. The cross itself is sculpted of real wood. In some church references, the cross is referred to as a “tree.” With that in mind, Todd designed the cross to have roots. The thought of the Tree of Life is also a spiritual connection. Todd and I wanted the roots to appear to relate to the tabernacle, where the Body of Christ resides. One very small but important symbol is seen at the top of the cross: a small branch sprouting out with new leaves, a small but powerful

symbol of hope and eternal life.

The altar required special consideration for achieving liturgical function as well as symbolism. The legs are visually connected to the legs on the chairs, ambo, and baptismal font. An arch shape relates the furnishings to the Gothic arch window openings of our church. The altar relates to the sacrifice of Christ and the Last Supper. Symbolically, I designed the top of the altar to be a “floating top” to honor the feast. In the back of the altar is a shelf, and in the back of the shelf there is a sealed chamber where a relic honoring Christian martyrs was installed by Bishop Daniel Jenky at the rededication of our church. This is, again, a holy place.

The ambo, or lectern, was designed using the same arch support design. If you look at the front of the ambo and the front of the altar, you might see shapes that are familiar. The wide stance of the altar legs with the semicircle element is an abstract image of a communion bowl. If you look at the ambo, the narrower legs with semicircle atop is an abstract image of a chalice.

The chairs repeat the Gothic arch in the legs and in the backs of the chairs. In accord with church custom, the Presider’s chair is larger; it too features the medallions seen elsewhere.

The Journey

It was the honor of my life to serve our parish in this way. I learned a great deal about church liturgy, and the entire process deepened my spirituality. Each day before I worked on the furnishings I prayed for God to guide my hands. I truly felt God’s presence in the workshop and now in the church with the furnishings God inspired me to create.

Parish ladies enjoy a wonderful night out

The annual Ladies Knight Out, put on by the Urbana Council of the Knights of Columbus, gets more popular each year. Tickets are \$25 to

The Knights did all the preparations, cooking, serving, and clean up.

After dessert, the ladies left their tables for chairs set up in front of the stage, and it was the Cath'lic Boys' turn to entertain. Their performance, "Cath'lic Boys 2016...Extreme Church Make-over," consisted of 15 skits and songs about the reconstruction of our church. The quality of the singing, the hilarious costumes, and the clever writing of song parodies

brought roars of approval from the female audience.

The storyline had Father Joe sent to Florida on vacation while the church was secretly being remodeled. Father Joe wore Mickey Mouse ears, and the Cath'lic Boys, dressed as sea creatures, sang "Under the Sea" from "The Little Mermaid." Every skit was funnier than the last, and song parodies used pop, rock and roll, reggae, and folk music. The ground-breaking skit was performed to "Sixteen Tons"; the plumbing skit, to "O Danny Boy" ("the pipes, the pipes are calling"); and the baptismal font



cover the food and extras, such as wine, raffle tickets, and a long-stemmed rose for each of the 160 ladies. The Knights do this as a thank you to the ladies and all the work they do each year for the parish.

This year, the event was held on Saturday, Apr. 30, at 6:00 p.m. The parish hall looked beautiful; the tables were set with maroon table cloths, china, glass, and silverware. Some of the Knights were circulating and pouring wine for the ladies, while others were finishing the dinners in the kitchen. The menu included appetizers, salad and rolls, steak or chicken entrée, and cherry-covered cheesecake for dessert. Raffle numbers were called while the ladies were enjoying coffee with their dessert. At least 10 women won gift certificates, wine, beauty products, and other gifts.



skit,s to "Cool Water," sung by cowboys in the desert riding fake horses.

The last skit had Father Joe arriving home from Florida to be surprised by the new church. Father Joe and the Cath'lic Boys all came out wearing Mickey Mouse ears. The lights were turned out as they began singing "When You Wish upon a Star," and on each of their foreheads a light beamed forth. When the



lights were turned on, everyone in the audience joined in a rousing rendition of "When the Saints Go Marching In." What a fun Knight!



Lorraine Kim shares her faith journey with seniors group

For their May 11 luncheon, the St. Jeanne Jugans Seniors Group (SJJSG) chose a speaker from a little closer to home than usual: our own parish pastoral associate, Lorraine Kim. Lorraine began her presentation with a beautiful prayer entitled, “The Litany of Mary of Nazareth,” which the group recited together with her.

Lorraine then proceeded to share the highlights of her faith journey, talking about the influence of her parents and experiences growing up poor in an inner city in Missouri. Her mother taught her to pray, encouraging her to talk to God as her best friend, rather than just using formal prayers. Therefore, Lorraine felt comfortable talking to God about anything.

She described her dad as her hero. He was soft-spoken, gentle, warm. He always followed through with his convictions. When “white flight” was going on in the 1960s, he stayed in the same home, refusing to give into prejudice and fear. Lorraine had three older sisters, but she was the youngest and her sisters were out of the family home as she was growing up.

Some family members had a farm where Lorraine would take walks on the surrounding country roads. She loved to collect rocks, as she found them very interesting. All rocks have gone through some sort of trauma, yet this trauma made them

the value of questioning authority; how faith and intellect are not antagonists but complementary.

Lorraine said that her spiritual journey, to this point, has taught her that our strength comes to perfection in weakness, that God loves all

creatures and all people, regardless of our flaws, that kindness can make a friend out of a dragon (or difficult person) and the importance of thankfulness, and the value and growth potential that stems from talking and sharing with others.

Lorraine expresses her faith belief through such activities as creating quilts, rock collecting, and stained glass window collages. She shared several of her

creations with the group, including a personal rosary.

After Lorraine’s talk, the group ordered lunch and enjoyed a meal with a great deal of sharing.

The next gathering of the SJJSG is Thursday, June 30, for a road trip to Terre Haute, Ind., to the St. Mary of the Woods campus. For more information, contact group coordinator Dan Richards (217/714-2609 or woregon@hotmail.com).



all the more beautiful—so much like real life, she reflected. We, too, grow stronger, wiser, more beautiful through the difficult times in our lives.

She shared how specific experiences and people in her life taught her about empowerment; the importance of openness and respect for all people; how to become discerning through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit;

Environmental Stewardship news

A hard-working and enthusiastic crew of volunteers installed the fencing at the SVDP Food Pantry vegetable garden plot at Meadowbrook Park in Urbana on a Saturday morning in early May. They were able to get the work done between light sprinkles of rain. For the third year, Garden Steward April Jessee will be leading efforts to provide fresh produce for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Thanks to April for her continued commitment!

If you would like to help with the garden or with other environmental stewardship activities, contact Jim

Urban (367-2665 or jim.urban@stpaturbana.org), and watch the

weekly bulletin for upcoming events and opportunities.



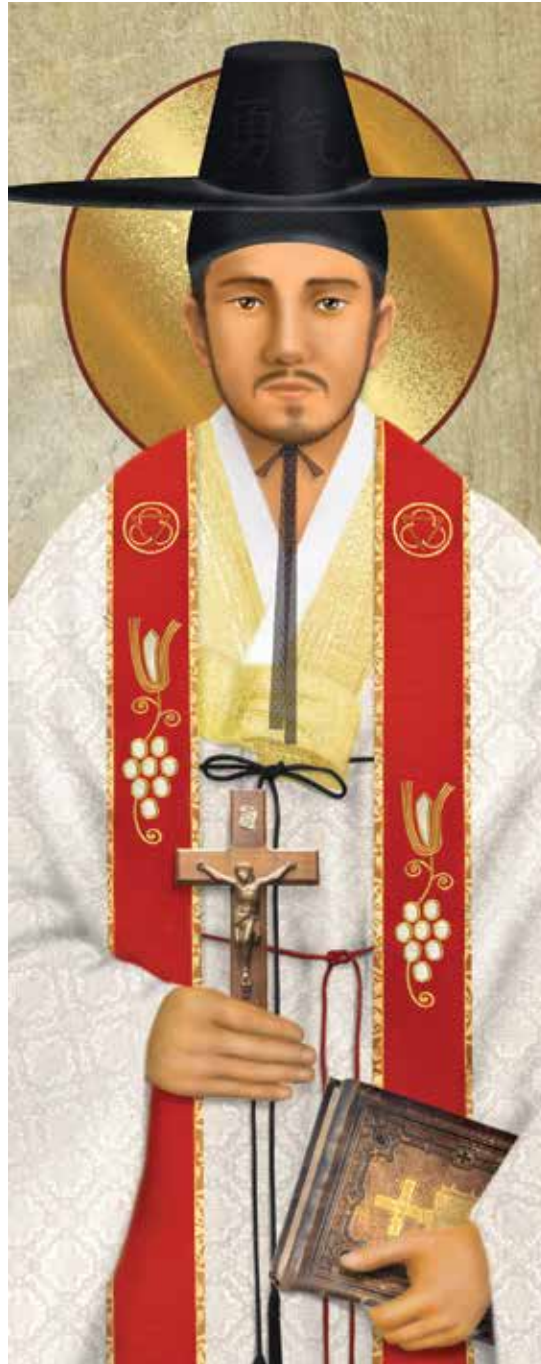
A short life of faith and sacrifice

One of the less familiar saints in our Meditation Chapel banners is St. Andrew Kim Taegon. Born in 1821 to Catholic converts at a time when practicing Christianity was prohibited in Korea, Andrew was baptized at age 15 and traveled to the Portuguese colony of Macao in China to attend seminary. Six years later, he was ordained, the first Korean-born Catholic priest. He returned to Korea to preach and spread the Gospel. In 1846, age 25, he was arrested, tortured, and beheaded, one of many Korean Christians executed in that time.

During a visit to Korea in 1984, Pope John Paul II canonized Andrew Kim, as well as lay apostle Paul Hasang, three French missionaries, and 98 Korean men and women, mostly laypeople, who had been martyred between 1839 and 1867.

As with all the banners, images of items from our parish and our parish families are incorporated into this depiction of the saint. Pat Mayer, who created the banners, says that the fabric for St. Andrew Kim's outfit was taken from the fabric that was on the former server chairs. Of the two cords he wears, the black one is a traditional part of the Korean dress and the red one is a symbol of his priesthood and of his martyrdom; both are from the parish vestment collection. His stole is a combination of several stoles that have been worn by priests at St. Patrick's.

The white cloth in the collar and shoes came from Bethlehem. The black fabric in the hat and shoes was taken from the shoes of



a parishioner. Pat reports that she saw the gold fabric being worn by a Eucharistic Minister one Sunday and couldn't resist asking to take a quick photograph of it to use in the banner.

The Bible that St. Andrew Kim carries is from 1869, printed in Dublin. It has been handed down through many generations of an Irish family in the parish and contains a record of all the family names. The cross was loaned by a parishioner who told of weekly visits from their parish priest, who would come to visit his live-in Grandma. When the priest arrived, the cross was slid open to reveal two tiny candles and holy water, ready for Communion and blessing from the priest.

Those visits of the parish priest to a home might remind us that the early Catholic Church in Korea was a home church, founded by laypeople as educated Christians studied Christian literature obtained from Jesuits in China. It was 12 years before any of these early Korean Catholics saw a priest for the first time, and when that priest arrived, he found that there were already 4,000 Catholics in Korea. Can we imagine that? These people had found a faith strong enough to risk the threat of persecution and death, even before they were able to experience the sacraments.

As we contemplate St. Andrew Kim Taegon, we might ask ourselves: How passionate are we about our faith? What sacrifices would we make for it?

He showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, in the palm of my hand. I looked at it with my mind's eye and I thought, "What can this be?" And answer came, "It is all that is made." I marveled that it could last, for I thought it might have crumbled to nothing, it was so small. And the answer came into my mind, "It lasts and ever shall because God loves it." In this little thing I saw three truths. The first is that God made it. The second is that God loves it. The third is that God looks after it.

—Julian of Norwich

Just Society from page 8

Because post-release employment is one of the most important elements for an ex-offender to successfully transition back into the community and to stay crime-free, the St. Patrick's Peace & Justice Interfaith Team is joining with other local faith groups to partner with the First Followers Reentry Program, based at the Bethel A.M.E Church. First Followers (FF) provides peer counseling, job preparation, and application assistance for people reentering society after incarceration. They help identify those individuals with the commitment and ability to apply, accept, and maintain full-time employment and thus are ready to achieve economic and social self-sufficiency.

The team is concentrating its efforts on encouraging businesses in Champaign County to employ, without prejudice, individuals who have served the punishment given by the courts. The team also supports activities related to the process of successful reentry into the community, such as fundraisers to finance visits by children to mothers in prison.

If you are interested in taking part in this corporal work of mercy or in other interfaith activities related to social justice, contact Luis Cuza (217/954-1056 or Luis@cuza.us).

St. Patrick's Parish IN FOCUS

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

Please send news items to a Communications Committee member, leave them in the committee's mailbox in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

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Articles and information and photos for this issue were provided by Ginny Conron, Luis Cuza, Judy Fierke, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Mary Hogan, Tracey Johnson, Cindy Mottin Kelly, Rachael McMillan, Pat Mayer, Mary Lou Menches, Megan Raab, Susan Reese, Dan Richards, Donna Rinkenberger, Cathy Salika, Tony Schutz, Thomas Skaggs, Laura Theby, Mary Twigg, Jim Urban, and Peggy Whelan. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Margery Kane, page layout by John Colombo.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Mrs. Kathleen Hogan

This recipe from the mother of Father Joe and Mary Hogan was mentioned during the women's retreat in March.




Chocolate Cinnamon Buns

3/4 c warm water
1 pkg active dry yeast
1/4 c shortening
1 t salt
1/4 c sugar
1 egg
1/3 c cocoa
2-1/4 c sifted all-purpose flour
1 T soft butter
1-1/2 t cinnamon
3 T sugar
3/4 c confectioner's sugar
1 T cream or milk
Chopped pistachios, almonds, or pecans

In a mixer bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Add shortening, salt, sugar, egg, cocoa, and 1 cup flour. Beat 2 minutes, then stir in remaining flour. Cover with a cloth and let rise till doubled, about 1 hour. Stir down by beating 25 strokes. Turn onto floured, cloth-covered board and roll out to 9 × 12 inches. Spread with butter and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar mixture. Roll up starting from the long edge, pinch to seal, and cut into 12 pieces. Place in a greased 9-inch square pan. Let rise till doubled, about 40 minutes. Bake 25 minutes in preheated 375° oven. Remove from pan and frost immediately with confectioners sugar moistened with cream or milk. Sprinkle with chopped nuts. Serve 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 be easy and quick to prepare!

 Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of In Focus is **June 12**.