

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



www.stpatuurbana.org

March 2016

Giving up indifference for Lent

Here is what Pope Francis said to the world in his Lenten message: “Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.”



The pope seems to want us to give up our indifference to others. He continued: “We often end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people’s pain, and feeling a need to help them, as though all this

were someone else’s responsibility and not our own.”

Pope Francis quoted one of his favorite early Christian leaders, John Chrysostom, who said, “No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. No matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great.” Or as Pope Francis put it in his 2014 Lenten message, “I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt.”

The pope is saying that our spiritual activities must genuinely enhance the lives of others.

Pope Francis describes a phenomenon he calls the globalization of indifference: “Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of God’s love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades.”

Is it too late for us this year? Are we so well into whatever our resolution is for Lent 2016 that we cannot respond to the challenge Pope Francis presents? By no means! We can take hope in our hunger for a deeper conversion—with concrete action the result. For we are not alone in our endeavors. Our own poor efforts combine with those of the entire community of believers in shouldering our responsibility to our neighbor. And our Father, who loves us beyond measure, accepts our well-intentioned efforts, however faint-hearted they may seem, and increases their effectiveness.

Whatever you do for one of these little ones, you do for me.

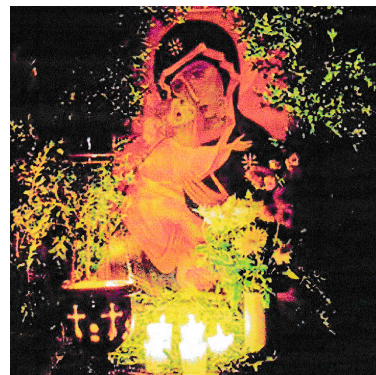
What is a Taizé service?

If you remember any of the Taizé hymns we’ve sung at Mass (“Veni, Sancte Spiritus,” “Jesus, Remember Me,” “Jubilate Deo” are just a few), you’ll know what to expect when you participate in the Taizé service on Tuesday, Mar. 8, at 8:00 p.m. in the church.

The prayer service is meditative, with simple refrains sung repetitively, punctuated by brief Scripture readings and times of silence for personal reflection and prayer. The many candlelit icons, images of sacred Christian personages, placed on the altar enhance the prayerful atmosphere.

This prayer service is named for the ecumenical Christian community in Taizé, France. Short, simple songs composed by members of the Taizé community are repeated many times over to allow their meaning to penetrate one’s whole being and evoke a prayerful response to the readings from Scripture.

Take a break from the pace of everyday life and let your heart respond to the music of Taizé, the words of Scripture, and the pleas we make of our God. You will find it a renewing and prayerful preparation for the Lenten holy days to come.



March 4 is the World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. The World Day of Prayer was founded on the idea that prayer and action are inseparable in the service of God's realm. Services begin at sunrise in the Pacific and follow the sun across the globe on the day of celebration. Each year a different country's committee serves as writers of the World Day of Prayer worship service.

Through the **World Day of Prayer**, women are encouraged to become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation, to be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures, to take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them, and to become aware of

their talents and use them in the service of society. They affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and have immeasurable influence in the world.

This year, the women of the WDP Committee of Cuba call us into worship, considering the words "Receive children, receive me." With these words as backdrop, we are invited to learn about Cuba's history and rich cultural diversity. The women of Cuba share their stories of tradition, intergenerational wisdom, and experiences of God's profound love and acceptance. Through the worship service, we learn of Jesus'



profound teaching of acceptance as he states, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs" (Mk. 10:14-15). As we listen to the women of Cuba throughout the worship service, we are invited to

receive others, as Jesus calls us, into the kingdom of God.

Women, men, and children in more than 170 countries throughout the world will celebrate the World Day of Prayer this year on Friday, Mar. 4. Will you be one of them? See www.wdp-usa.org for more information.

RCIA – A journey toward Easter

While much of the parish was on Sabbath during renovation of our church, there were people seeking to know and serve God more and desiring to deepen their faith. In the fall, the RCIA team began journeying with these Inquirers on the way to the Easter Sacraments.

For several years, St. Mary's and St. Patrick's have been working together to coordinate the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). Team members include Alejandra and Manfredo Seufferheld and Raymond Kim from St. Mary's, and Denise and Chris Freidhof and Frances Drone-Silvers from St. Patrick's.

Tuesday evenings find the group sharing and learning about God, Jesus, the Mass, Mary and

the Saints, and the sacraments. This year, many of the catechumens (unbaptized) and candidates (baptized) have been led by their children. As they watch their children grow in the faith through religious education, they want to be able to grow and nourish their children's faith. Sometimes, in other countries and cultures, the sacraments do not always follow the path that they do in the U.S., and people may have been baptized but not have received Communion or Confirmation. There are also Inquirers who may be Christian and wish to become Catholic.

The team members learn much as they listen to the faith stories of our inquirers, hear them tell of their favorite Bible stories or who

they would like to be in the Nativity story, or share Catholic traditions from their native countries. It is a tremendous privilege to work with these adults, who model the growth in faith that we all should be seeking.

Lent is a time of more intense prayer and final preparations for our catechumens and candidates. We will celebrate the Scrutinies at each parish and look forward to the Easter Vigil when these adults join in full communion with the Church, receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Please pray for these adults and, if you can, join in the Easter Vigil celebration to welcome them.

Women of St. Patrick sponsor Lenten activities

The board of the Women of St. Patrick has planned activities to help you make the most of Lent 2016. Here are several opportunities to pursue spiritual growth; surely at least one will fit into your schedule!



The WSP is excited to welcome back Mary Hogan (Fr. Joe's sister) to lead a day of reflection for the women of the parish on Mar. 12. Her previous programs at St. Patrick's have been enjoyed by many. Recently retired Executive Director at the Claret Center, Mary Hogan is a spiritual director, a creative curious seeker, and an inspired jewelry designer. She is enjoying a second career after retiring from 25 years in corporate finance. She is passionate about being open to many different types of prayer/God experiences. The theme she has chosen for this retreat is "Spiritual Discovery: A Retreat for the Sacred Soul."

The day will begin with Mass at 8:00 a.m., followed by a continental breakfast. Mary's opening talk will be at 9:00 a.m. There will be breaks, including lunch, throughout the day, with the

closing at 3:00 p.m. A donation of \$10 is requested, payable the day of the retreat. Scholarships are available. Register by email at womenofstpatrick@gmail.com or by calling Nancy Olson at 359-6424. Please register by Mar. 7.

On Mar. 15, the rosary will be prayed in the lovely Shrine of the Saints in the church. It will begin at 12:10 p.m. to allow for people to come during their lunch hour. Bring your brown bag lunch to eat in the parish hall afterward. Drinks and desserts (for those who haven't given them up for Lent!) will be provided.

Finally, on Mar. 21, WSP is sponsoring an opportunity open to both women and men of the parish. Ten spaces have been reserved for St. Patrick's at the

Chiara Center in Springfield, Ill., on the grounds of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. While not a structured retreat day, this "Ah - Day of Quiet" will provide the time and place for reflection and contemplation, to walk, read, journal, pray, listen, and enjoy the spacious grounds, the beautiful St. Francis of Assisi Church, peaceful reflection areas, as well as spiritual audio and printed resources. A home-cooked meal at noon, an optional presentation at 1:00 p.m. by Sr. Renita, and the possibility of a massage make this a healing experience for you. There is a \$20 fee for the day. If you are interested, please RSVP to Nancy Olson (359-6424 or nancybolson@gmail.com) by Mar. 11 so that carpooling can be arranged.

Would you like to receive email alerts for the Women of St. Patrick's events? Please send your email address to womenofstpatrick@gmail.org. It is the best way to keep informed about the group's activities, and emails are infrequent so they won't clutter up your inbox!

Special ways to help

- ◆ Father Joe has asked to have seven Eucharistic ministers at all Masses to facilitate Communion of the faithful. Diane Wilhelm, EM coordinator, says she is short two people for each of the noon Masses. 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). Another need is for someone to set up for the 7:00 a.m. Mass one day a week; if you can help, 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).

Minette Sternke elected to National Board

In October 2015, parishioner Minette Sternke was elected to the board of the National Catholic Office of the Deaf during a special election to replace a board member who resigned. She works in the Great Lakes Region, which represents deaf pastoral workers in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The board meets twice a year, with the most recent meeting this past January in New Orleans during the annual Pastoral Week. The next meeting will be in early June in Charlotte, N.C.



“Marching with the Saints!” PW 2017 will be held in Charlotte, N.C., with the theme of “Highway to Heaven.” PW 2018 will be in Seattle, Wash.

NCOD has also produced various resources for pastoral workers, most recently DVDs in American Sign Language (ASL) to help with prepara-

tion for First Communion, First Reconciliation, and Confirmation. NCOD also coordinated YouTube videos of various individuals signing the new Roman Missal prayers and responses when the Missal was changed. Other projects are taken up as necessary to support the needs of pastoral workers and the people they serve.

The National Catholic Office for the Deaf (NCOD) was founded by Fr. David Walsh in 1971 as a professional organization to support Catholic pastoral workers that work with Catholics who are deaf or hard of hearing. The organization exists to provide pastoral workers a place to network, gain information and resources, and collaborate with others. Its mission is to “spread God’s message through the support of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing pastoral ministry so that we may all be one in Christ!”

One of the board’s primary duties is to provide the annual Pastoral Week (PW) conference that has normally been held during Martin Luther King weekend in January. PW 2016 was held in New Orleans, with the theme of

Ms. Sternke has been a parishioner of St. Patrick’s since 1998. She is the coordinator of parish ministry to the deaf, working with interpreters and taking Holy Communion to deaf homebound parishioners. She is also active as a Eucharistic minister and sets up for weekend Mass once a month. She became a consecrated virgin in 2015, and is a candidate for a masters degree in pastoral ministry from St Thomas University, Miami, Fla., in May 2016.

We are truly blessed to have this dynamic young woman sharing her many talents with our parish!

Save the date!



The Knights of Columbus will host their very popular “Ladies Knight Out” on Apr.

30. This annual event consists of a delicious dinner and dessert followed by an always entertaining musical show by the very talented Cath’lic Boys. Mark your calendars and watch the bulletin and In Focus for more details as they become available.

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*.

At Knights' Super Bowl breakfast, everyone wins!

Parishioners and friends were treated to a tasty, hot breakfast after Masses on Sunday, Feb. 7. The Knights of Columbus annual fundraiser for the Fr. Charles Martell Scholarship Fund was a popular event. The Knights offered two menus: National Football Conference (NFC) Omelets and Pancakes and American Football Conference (AFC) Biscuits and Gravy. In addition, all were offered sausage, potatoes, fresh fruit salad, coffee, milk, and juice.

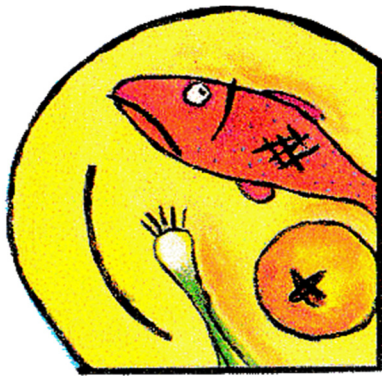
Prayers, jokes, and conversation filled the parish hall as guests ate and debated the upcoming Super Bowl. After the 8 a.m. Mass the "score" was tied at 51-51 from those buying NFC Carolina Panthers Omelets versus the AFC Denver Broncos All American Breakfast. Many families and Boy and Girl Scouts came to eat after the 10:00 a.m. Children's and Scouting Mass. At 11:45 a.m., the Knights declared a tied game of 100 to 100 by menu picks.



Feeding your soul and body

It is not too late to observe Lent this year. Do something positive and spiritually rewarding. Every Friday evening at 5:30 p.m., the Stations of the Cross are held in St. Patrick's church. The words of the Stations are amazingly moving as you and the priest take turns reciting them. This is also an opportunity to worship with members of our sister church, St. Mary.

Immediately after the Stations at 6:00 p.m., you can walk inside to our parish hall where St. Patrick's Knights of Columbus



and St. Mary's parishioners are serving a Lenten fish dinner. It is so easy and delicious; just ask anyone who has attended. After you pay, you get a menu form on which you check off your order. The

hovering waiters (Knights) will carry your menu to the kitchen while you munch on tortilla chips and salsa.

Before you know it, the waiters will return with your plate of delicious, hot food. The fried fish is crispy on the outside and moist inside, while the baked fish is succulent

throughout. You may select two sides with your dinner. One of the most popular sides is the cod and vegetable soup. There are also bean tostadas, cheese quesadillas, green beans, rice, and macaroni and cheese, which the children gobble up. Several types of drinks are available with your dinner. If you are still hungry after all this, there are parishioner-made desserts available for a dollar.

The receipts from these dinners go to the Father Charles Martell scholarships that help our young parishioners with college expenses. So do not miss this opportunity to feed your body and your soul. Make Friday evening at St. Patrick's a Lenten tradition.

What has CREW been up to?

From service days to celebrations, St. Patrick's CREW teen group combines service, spirituality, and fun. Here are a few of the activities they participated in the fall semester.



Service Day, cleaning up a local cemetery



An icebreaker activity: making a human knot

CREW continued...



Christmas party cookie-decorating

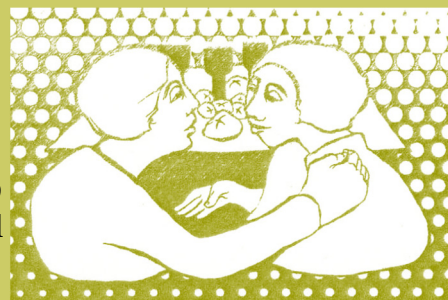


Christmas party karaoke



CREW leaders Jordan, Thomas, Toby, and Cassie

Consolation is a beautiful word. It means “to be” (con-) “with the lonely one” (solus). To offer consolation is one of the most important ways to care. Life is so full of pain, sadness, and loneliness



that we often wonder what we can do to alleviate the immense suffering we see. We can and must offer consolation. We can and must console the mother who lost her child, the young person with AIDS, the family whose house burned down, the soldier who was wounded, the teenager who contemplates suicide, the old man who wonders why he should stay alive.

To console does not mean to take away the pain but rather to be there and say, “You are not alone, I am with you. Together we can carry the burden. Don't be afraid. I am here.” That is consolation. We all need to give it as well as to receive it.

—Henri Nouwen

Holy Cross Happenings

Holy Cross School held its annual National Geographic Geography Bee on Thursday, Jan. 28. Three of the four finalists were St. Patrick's parishioners! Runners-up were Justin Smith and Sylvia Withers-Sickles, and the winner was Lisa Altaner.

The second quarter Honors Mass was held on Jan. 29. Many of our St. Patrick's parishioners were on the list. Highest Honors: Maddie McCoy, Ellen Loftus, Rachel Loftus, and Justin Smith; High Honors: Lucas Grosse-Perdekamp, Emily Leininger, Jasmine Waite, Kaleb Leininger, Lisa Altaner, Luke Herzog, Morgan Saunders, Mikala Turner; and Honors: Brandon Hood, Kylie Hopper, Austin Ford, Josie Kuenning. Congratulations to all of these outstanding students!

From Jan. 30 to Feb. 6, the school celebrated national Catholic Schools Week. The week started off with the second annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser served in St. Patrick's parish hall. This dinner unites the three parishes of Holy Cross, St. Patrick's, and St. Mary's, all of whom send students to Holy Cross School. A whopping 408 dinners were sold over the two hours, and approximately \$2,600 was raised for the school's technology fund. Thank you!

A variety of activities ensued over the week, from Catholic trivia to discussion of vocations. On that Friday, the school held its annual talent show, which lasted more than two hours with many of the students displaying their various talents, from a recitation of the Gettysburg Address, to singing, to piano playing and guitar duet. The week was capped off with a whole-school sock hop in the school's gym.

The 8th-grade boys basketball team made it to the Regional championship game but ended up losing to Judah Christian School. Our parishioners on the team were Luke Herzog, Austin Ford, Justin Smith, and Connor Whittington. Congratulations on an excellent season!

Finally, something to look forward to in the spring is the school's annual musical. This year it is "Shrek Jr.," starring Justin Smith as Shrek and Luke Herzog as Donkey. Make plans to see it on Apr. 7, 8, or 9 at 7:00 p.m., or on Apr. 10 at 2:00 p.m.



The Second Quarter Highest Honors students



Lisa Altaner and 4th-grade teacher Mary Tate after Lisa won the 2016 Geography Bee

Holy Cross continued...



Some of the 8th-grade helpers at the Spaghetti Dinner.

	<p>The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is March 6.</p>
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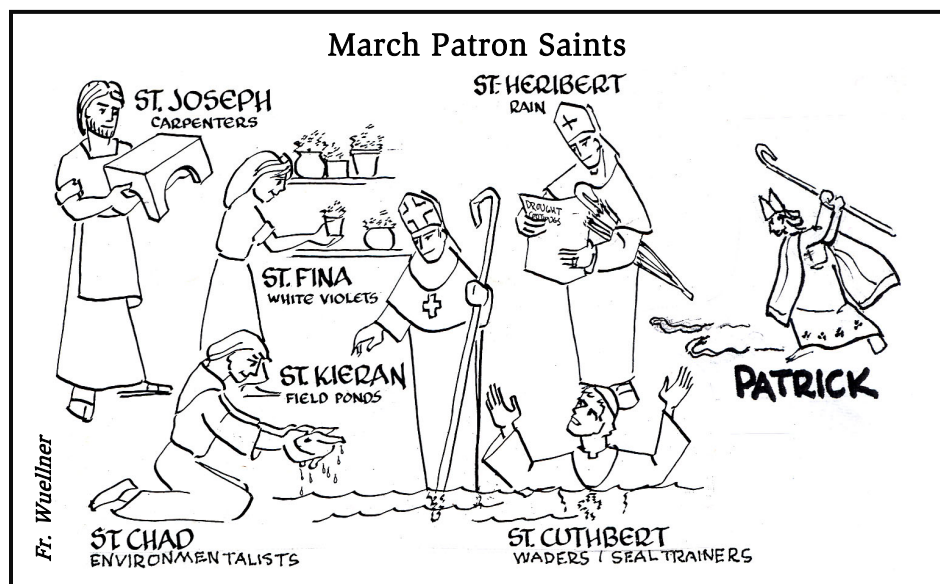
St. Jeanne Jugan seniors group preparing for Lent



On Feb. 4, the St. Jeanne Jugan seniors group (formerly the New Horizons seniors group) met at Ryan's Steakhouse to prepare for the Lenten season. It was a bright and sunny winter's day. About 20 members of the group gathered in a meeting room of the restaurant, where Father Dave Sajdak from Holy Cross Church led the novena to Jeanne Jugan before their buffet luncheon.

Following the meal, Father Dave Sajdak spoke to the group on Lenten spirituality. His message was that love requires sacrifice as demonstrated through several short stories. Father had also joyfully announced that Holy Cross School has opened the first Catholic Preschool in the area. This year they have 51 preschoolers enrolled.

At the end of the meeting, group coordinator Dan Richards gave each senior a sheet with Lenten reflections from St. Elizabeth of Hungary. The next meeting of the St. Jeanne Jugan senior group will held be on Wednesday, Mar. 16, at 11:30 a.m. at Ryan's Steakhouse. Mark Schneider will have a presentation on the apparitions of Our Lady of Reconciliation in Betania, Venezuela.



Father in heaven, you sent the great bishop Patrick to the people of Ireland to share his faith and to spend his life in loving service. For us also, may our patron St. Patrick be a constant encouragement as together we share our faith with our community and give wholehearted service to those in need.

By your love make our faith strong, that with St. Patrick we may become one body, one in spirit in Christ, and with him rise to be with you forever.



Q: What is the significance of the items that have been placed in front of the altar since Ash Wednesday?

A: They illustrate the three traditional Lenten practices:

fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Fasting is represented by the loaf of bread and the empty bowl. Prayer is represented by the Bible and rosary. Almsgiving is represented by two items: the collection basket calls to mind our gifts of treasure, and the prayer shawl made by a parishioner to be given to someone who is elderly or infirm, calls to mind the gifts of time and talent and also the love and compassion that underlies all of our Lenten activities.



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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!



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.

St. Patrick Parish
IN FOCUS

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

Please send news items to infocustPats@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 Cassie Chlebowski, Frances Drone-Silvers, Judy Fierke, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Renee Keller, Pat Mayer, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Nancy Olson, Dan Richards, Cathy Salika, Patsy Schmitt, Adam Smith, Minette Sternke, Mary Tate, and Peggy Whelan. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Margery Kane, page layout by Jim Urban.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Lori McDonough

Crowned Fish Fillets

- 1 ½ lbs cod or haddock, cut into 6 fillets
- 1 c sour cream
- 1/4 c shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 t paprika
- 1/4 t salt
- 1/4 t pepper
- 2 T Italian bread crumbs
- 2 T butter, melted

Coat a 9 × 13 inch baking dish with cooking spray. Place fillets in a single layer and set aside. Combine sour cream, Parmesan cheese, paprika, salt, and pepper in a medium bowl



and mix well. Spoon mixture evenly over fillets, sprinkle with bread crumbs, and drizzle with butter. Bake at 350° for 20–25 minutes, or until fish flakes easily with a fork.

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

So many saints—their lives touch our own!

One area of our expanded church that draws much attention is the space that used to be the sanctuary. Where the altar formerly stood, there is now a Meditation Chapel, where individuals and small groups can pray and meditate. The highlight of this area is a series of banners depicting several saints.

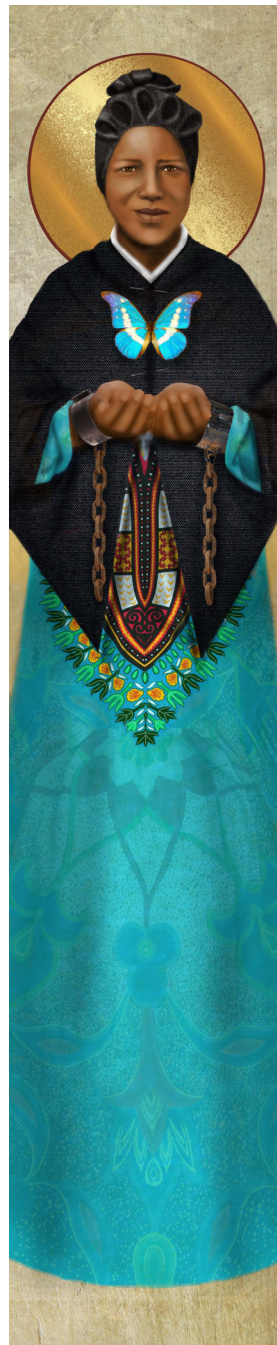
Perhaps you remember last fall when parishioners were invited to share both sacred and ordinary items from their lives. Parishioner Pat Mayer photographed these items, as well as the hands of many parishioners, and used the images of hands and of the many items loaned—among them prayer books, rosaries, wedding dresses, baptismal gowns, scarves, crafting fabric, and shoes—to depict the saints in these banners. (Just how she did this will be covered in a future issue of *In Focus*.)

One of the common questions heard from people who are admiring the banners is “Who are all these saints?” The short answer is that to the left of a pregnant Mary are St. Francis of Assisi, St. Josephine Bakhita, and Blessed Oscar Romero. To her right are St. Andrew Taegon Kim, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and St. Thérèse with her parents, Sts. Zélie and Louis Martin. These saints come from diverse countries on several continents—just as do the members of our parish.

St. Josephine Bakhita is one of the less familiar saints shown. This African saint was born around 1871 in the Darfur region of Sudan. At the age of 9 she was kidnapped by Arab slave traders and spent years enslaved and brutalized before being taken to Italy. There she cared for and was companion to an Italian family's young daughter and converted to Catholicism. When the family wanted to take her back to Africa, Josephine refused to go. A court ruled that since slavery was illegal in Italy she had actually been a free woman since she had arrived there. She then stayed in Italy and later became a sister of the

Canossian order.

During his homily at her canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square, Pope John Paul II said that in St. Josephine Bakhita, “we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation. The history of her life inspires not passive acceptance but the firm resolve to work effectively to free girls and women from oppression and violence, and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights.”



All of the banners in the Meditation Chapel bring home our connections to those who have gone before us and to those of us brought together in our community, but the banner of St. Josephine Bakhita does this in a particularly meaningful way. The ornate bodice of her beautiful African gown was created from fabric provided by a parishioner who was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo and now lives a life of serving the elderly in Urbana. The texture of the skirt comes from the garment of a parishioner born in Urbana who has spent her life serving those in need in Kenya, Tanzania, and Sudan. The fusion of these two textures reminds us of our common bonds.

We hope you will join in exploring the lives of the saints depicted in these banners and contemplating the richness of all we can learn from them—and from one another. Look for articles about these saints in future issues of *In Focus*!

In her own words:

I travel slowly, one step at a time, towards eternity, because I am carrying two big suitcases. One of them contains my sins, and in the other, which is much heavier, are the infinite merits of Jesus. When I reach heaven I will open the suitcases and say to our eternal Father: “Now you can judge.” I'm sure I won't be sent away! Then I'll turn to St Peter and say: “Close the door, because I'm staying.”

St. Josephine Bakhita