

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



www.stpatuurbana.org

May 2016

Alleluia! Sing Jesus' Ascension!

At first glance, the Ascension of Jesus seems an odd thing to celebrate. Are we celebrating because Jesus left us? Of course not! This feast has many facets, and a familiar hymn by the 19th-century poet, William Chatterton Dix brings them to mind.

First of all, we're celebrating because Jesus completed his work on earth for our salvation. Just as we might throw a party when someone we love receives an honor, we can imagine heaven throwing a party because Jesus has returned after doing what he set out to do for us. Listen to the song they're singing:

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the scepter, his the throne.

Alleluia! His the triumph, his the victory alone.

*Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood,
"Jesus, out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood."*

The songs of heaven are our songs too, because we are all one community of saints. But we don't have to sing with heavy hearts. Jesus promised that he would be with us always, and we know this is true when we experience his presence. What if Jesus hadn't ascended, what if he still appeared to believers at various times and places as he did in the days after his rising? We might be forever trying to be in the right place and time to see him. Instead, we can live in peace, knowing that he is with us in every time and place.

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now.

Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes nor questions how.

*Though the cloud from sight received him when the 40 days were o'er
Shall our hearts forget his promise, "I am with you evermore"?*

How is Jesus with us? He is in the Eucharist, as a gift of himself and as food to strengthen us to live in him. He is with us in the sacrament of Reconciliation, freeing us from the burden of sin. He is present as one who always hears our prayers and intercedes for us with the Father.

Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay!

Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.

Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, plead for me.

Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Jesus has not left his humanity behind. He carries it into heaven. He

remembers what it is to walk the earth, to be hungry and to laugh, to be exhausted and to love, to be betrayed and to be a friend.

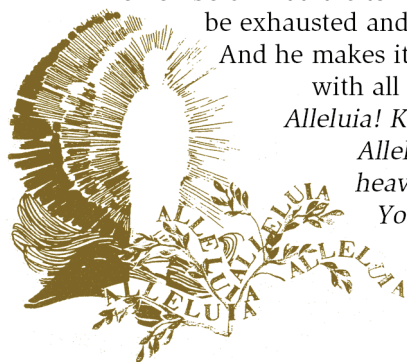
And he makes it possible for us to follow him, to be brought with all that is good in our humanity to be with him.

Alleluia! King Eternal, you the Lord of Lords we own.

*Alleluia! Born of Mary, earth your footstool,
heaven your throne.*

*You within the veil have entered, robed in flesh
our great high priest.*

*Here on earth both priest and victim in the
Eucharistic feast!*



News from the Environmental Stewardship Ministry

Pope Francis's encyclical about the environment, *Laudato Si*, has encouraged many Catholics to learn more about how to be good stewards of the Earth and to put that knowledge to use. The St. Patrick's Environmental Stewardship group has been working for several years to provide our parish with information and opportunities for learning and action in this ministry.



To this end, St. Patrick's is teaming up with the organization Faith in Place to sponsor an EarthCare workshop on Saturday, May 21, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The workshop will be led by Sister Sharon Zayac, a Dominican Sister from Springfield and Executive Director of Jubilee Farm, a 111-acre center for ecology and spirituality located just west of Springfield, Illinois.

Participants will learn and explore how to "Care for Our Common Home," and be led in a discussion of *Laudato Si* by Sister Sharon. You

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Divine Mercy Cenacle launched at St. Patrick

In February of this Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis, a new prayer and study group was initiated at St. Patrick called the Divine Mercy Cenacle. Members use a workbook provided by the Marians of the Immaculate Conception in Stockbridge, Mass., the National Shrine of Divine Mercy.

This workbook references the Bible, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and the *Diary of Divine Mercy in My Soul*. The *Diary* is the story of how St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun, who came to understand the message of Divine Mercy revealed to her by the Lord Jesus. St Faustina was canonized by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000. This series of revelations has swept the world. This year, Pope Francis led the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet in St. Peter's Square.

The Cenacle meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. The group is viewing a DVD, "Faustina," about her life and times in the '30s.

The essentials of the Divine Mercy

message are covered in the anagram FINCH:

Feast of Divine Mercy: the Sunday after Easter is a special day of grace

Image of Divine Mercy: the vision of Jesus to be venerated

Novena: praying the novena of Divine Mercy

Chaplet: daily recitation of a prayer on rosary beads

Hour: observing 3 p.m. as the hour when Jesus died

On April 2, the members of the three cenacles in the C-U community gathered to see a special showing at Savoy 16 of the movie on the history of the original painting of the image of Divine Mercy, done in 1934. On April 3, Divine Mercy Sunday, the feast of Divine Mercy, many gathered at St. John Newman Chapel for Divine Mercy devotions.

The St. Patrick Cenacle will



sponsor a parish-wide event on Tuesday, May 3: a visit to the St. John Newman facility, where participants will celebrate Mass at noon, followed by a lunch in a private room off the cafeteria and a tour of the facility led by the student Ambassadors. The visit will conclude with a prayer at the Holy Door at the chapel, one of the six Holy Doors in the Diocese of Peoria.

Welcome, neophytes!

The excitement built throughout Lent for the first Easter Vigil in our newly renovated church. We welcomed two St. Patrick parishioners, Li Barbee and Mike Redenbaugh, in the



Sacrament of Baptism. They received their First Communion and were confirmed along with five St. Mary parishioners: Jae Myun Lee, SuHong Kim, Areli Ramirez, Edgar Martinez, and Julio Tapia. The group gathered one last time on the Tuesday after Easter and talked about the Holy Saturday Vigil and the many spiritual gifts and blessings that came from the evening and the entire RCIA journey. They all felt surrounded by the Holy Spirit and the love and support of the parish communities.

A brief introduction of St. Patrick's neophytes (new Catholics): Li Barbee lives in St. Joseph. She and her husband, Steve, both work at Parkland College. They have two children and

two (soon to be more) horses. Li joined RCIA to be able to share in the faith with her children as they grow.

Mike Redenbaugh is a supervisor for Facilities and Services at UI and is also a village trustee in Ogden. He was drawn to RCIA after a Eucharistic minister from St. Patrick's visited his wife in the hospital and

mentioned Fr. Joe. You may run into Mike at daily Mass, where he is becoming a regular. Ask him what he's reading – he's been diving into many books about the Catholic faith.

A beautiful mingling of our sister parishes – Mike's sponsor, a long-time coworker whose faith he admires, is Julio Tapia's brother!



Growing from mud into beauty

The seeds of the lotus flower can lie dormant in the soil for as long as 1000 years and yet still grow. The lotus grows from the mud at the bottom of a pond up through the murky waters to the surface, then down again, then up again. The third time it breaks the surface of the water and blooms, raising itself above the muddy water. So too may we grow out of the mud and murk of sin and confusion and bloom into something beautiful.

This image was at the center of the Women's Retreat held at St. Patrick's on March 12. About 60 women gathered in the main hall of the parish center for the retreat led by Mary Hogan, a spiritual director and inspirational speaker—and the sister of our pastor. (Father Joe's mother and sister Robin also attended.)

The six Sunday Gospels of Lent help to provide a map of the



Mary Hogan, wearing a beautiful prayer shawl made by Maureen Reagan.

journey, touching as they do on issues of presence, awareness, temptation, love, and acts of mercy.

Participants were introduced to and practiced several kinds of prayer and ritual, including centering prayer and walking meditation. There was also an exercise in “listening with love.”

Each woman worked on a personal inventory to consider two important

questions: What separates me from God? Is it possible to say Yes to God, and what might that look like?

With three weeks of Lent still to go, there was time to renew a Lenten intention or to come up with a new one. Each woman wrote her intention on a strip of tissue paper and twisted it into a little cone. After a time of prayer, the women approached the table to ignite that intention from a candle and placed it in a basin of dirt, where it would burn to ash.

To conclude the retreat, the women formed small groups to come up with ideas for a purpose, design, and name for the new Women of St. Patrick's garden. The ideas varied, ranging from a desertscape to a range of trees and flowers, but most all with the function of creating a place of reflection and peace. The majority of those present declined to vote for a plan, saving that task for the Women of St. Patrick's general meeting in April. “The Promised Land” was chosen as the interim name of the garden.

Father Joe joined the group for a prayer, then everyone moved outside. Father Joe read a poem and blessed the WSP garden, which is located along the south side of the parish center, below the office windows. The dirt with the ashes from the intentions was poured onto it. At a retreat led by Mary Hogan two years ago, participants had each taken a rock home to pray with. Those who brought their rock to this retreat placed it in the garden. Then all departed, each a bit further along on her journey.

Partnering to improve conversational skills

If you've heard talk of an English as a Second Language, or ESL, program started at St. Patrick's, you've (sort of) heard right.

Technically, it is not a designated ESL program, which would employ experienced teachers and could accommodate students who speak very little, if any, English. Instead, the St. Patrick's Conversation Partner Program involves those with a fairly good grasp of the language who are paired with a native speaker of English. The goal is to help the non-native speaker develop better conversational skills, with a side benefit of forming friendships between the participants.

The pair meets for an hour a



week at a location of their choosing. There are no “lessons”; rather, the conversation is supposed to flow naturally. Bernadette Feeney-Easley, who is heading the program, reports that many of

the people who seek it out are only visiting the U.S., while others plan to stay indefinitely.

Volunteers are welcome; you may contact Bernadette via email (jeasley@ameritech.net). If interested, however, you should be aware that some who have already volunteered for the program are still waiting to be paired with a learner. Patience with the process is greatly appreciated as the program still in its infancy.

Bernadette, who herself is an ESL

teacher with over 15 years of experience, has heard some very encouraging feedback from the volunteers and learners so far, and foresees that the program will continue for as long as there is an interest on both ends. She is also thinking about how the program can possibly expand and/or take on new features to be of even greater assistance.

For the present, however, the Conversation Partner Program simply hopes to continue to be a helpful, welcoming presence in our community for those who need it.

Seniors group hears of love and compassion in Calcutta

Cold, rainy weather could not dampen the mood on April 6 when St. Patrick's St. Jeanne Jugan Seniors Group met at Perkins for their monthly lunch meeting. The guest speaker was Anne Marie Brummer, a missionary with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students), who is currently serving at the University of Illinois,



her alma mater. Annie Marie shared what she learned last summer in Calcutta, India, where she served for a month with the Missionaries of Charity, the order founded by Mother Teresa.

Initially overwhelmed by the poverty and chaos of Calcutta, she and the other 16 young adults in her group—who came from all over the U.S. and from a variety of different faiths—adapted to a daily routine that included rigorous physical and emotional labor as they ministered to the poor and sick. The volunteers also shared with one another their faith journeys, what brought them to

Calcutta, and what they hoped to do once they returned home.

Anne Marie's day began with Mass, followed by a time of prayer at the grave of Mother Teresa, which is located in the convent. After a breakfast of a banana, a slice of bread, and water, she made the two-mile walk to her assignment, a refuge to which ill and

impoverished persons were taken from the streets of Calcutta. One vivid memory she shared was the smell of Chlorox she encountered as she entered the refuge, and how welcome that was after she had walked through malodorous city streets strewn with garbage. The refuge also had gardens within its walls that provided both food and respite from the disorder outside.

People brought to the refuge were treated with love, care, dignity, and compassion as they were bathed, shaved, and given clean clothes, shelter, food, and companionship. Some were able to return to their

homes once they regained their strength, but others died at the refuge. According to Anne Marie, there was no preaching of the Gospel or religious instruction given, just love and care for everyone who enters. The sisters and missionaries live their lives in solidarity with the poor; they have no more conveniences and possessions than an impoverished person would have. For instance, the volunteers did laundry by hand for 2-3 hours each day and hung it out to dry. The focus of the work was to spend time with people one on one, not necessarily to accomplish things in the most efficient way.

Anne Marie shared pictures and stories about the people she grew to cherish while caring for them. She ended her talk by reminding the group that Mother Teresa wrote that you do not have to travel to Calcutta to serve others. Each of us should find Calcutta where we are and “see with the eyes of Calcutta,” both a challenge and an inspiration to us all!

Please remember to pray for this special young woman who truly has a servant heart.

About our new organ

St. Patrick's new organ has two physical parts, the console and the loudspeakers. The console was salvaged from another organ and rebuilt. Its wood was refinished, all its internals were replaced, and a third keyboard was added.

A critical part of the organ's convincing sound lies in its amplifiers and loudspeakers. The sheer volume of air moved by the low pedal notes requires stadium-grade subwoofers—the big speakers that produce the lowest sounds. That is why a very low note sets the pews humming and gives us the sense that plaster dust should be settling from the ceiling. These subwoofers are in the former choir loft, while the main speakers hide in the nine arches above the sanctuary. The amplifiers sit in the former reconciliation room.

Although our organ has no pipes, it sounds exactly like a pipe organ—because it reassembles thousands of recordings of the individual pipes of the “Father Willis” pipe organ in Salisbury Cathedral. Each of the thousands of pipes in the Salisbury organ has been recorded individually. Such a feat was impossible for electronic organs in the 1970s, but nowadays even a laptop computer can store enough recordings, and stitch them together fast enough, to pull off this illusion. (Some cathedrals have even borrowed such an organ for months at a time while their pipe organs were undergoing extensive mainte-



nance, with their parishioners none the wiser.) Computer software called Hauptwerk, running on a laptop computer in our organ's console, pulls the sounds together to reflect the stops pulled and keys pressed by the organist. Our organ's Hauptwerk software was developed right here in Champaign, and offers recordings of instruments in surprising-

ly many local churches, not to mention the Virginia Theatre!

On each side of the console is an array of drawknobs. When a drawknob is pulled out, it turns on the particular sound whose name is en-

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Keeping up with the St. Jeanne Jugan seniors group

On March 16, the St. Jeanne Jugan seniors group gathered at Urbana Gardens for their monthly meeting. Between 15 and 20 people enjoyed good conversation, food, and a talk by Mark Schneider.

Mark gave a presentation on the apparitions of Our Lady of Reconciliation in Betania, Venezuela. He spoke of his trip to Venezuela, meeting the family of Maria Esperanza, and shared his wonderful experiences while there. He also spoke about what to expect while visiting Vandalia, Illinois. He enjoyed the trip there immensely and shared some of the singing also with the group. Just beautiful!

The group's April 6 meeting was at Perkins Restaurant in Urbana. The speaker was Anne Marie Brummer, who spoke about her experiences in Calcutta, working with the Missionaries of Charity.

The next meeting of the group will be on Wednesday, May 11, at El Toro on Neil Street in Champaign.

The speaker will be Lorraine Kim, who will talk about life as a pastoral associate at St. Patrick.

Mark your calendars for the last week in June, when the group hopes to travel to Terre Haute, Indiana, to visit St. Mary's College, church, and shrine. The plan is for those interested to carpool from St. Patrick's. This event will be followed by a meeting on Wednesday, July 13, at 11:30 a.m. at Pizza M in Urbana. Darla Wilson will be the guest speaker.

All senior parishioners are invited to enjoy wonderful sharing, great speakers, and yummy food! Are you a senior? If you are at least 60 or 55 or 50 years of age, you qualify to participate in this interesting group!



Home schoolers take inspiration from St. John Bosco

Many parents are inspired by religious beliefs to home school their children, and Catholic families are no exception. A Roman Catholic focused home-school



group, inspired in part by the life and philosophy of St. John Bosco, is open for all Catholic families in the Champaign-Urbana and surrounding areas. Many of the Catholic churches, including St. Patrick, open their doors to the group.

The group meets weekly for fellowship and a play date, and seasonally for bigger family events. Weekly meetings are held at area parks or public venues for the primary teaching parents and their children. Parents can encourage one another while the students socialize with other children. The meetings often focus on celebrating Church feast days or specific saints.

The approach of St. John Bosco parents to home schooling varies widely from strict schedules and uniforms to much more flexible days and spontaneous learning. Some of the parents purchase their curriculum from education publishing companies. Others create in part or entirely their own lessons in reading, writing, math, social studies, science, catechism, etc. One advantage of home schooling is that it allows for an individualized curriculum and teaching style, particularly helpful for students' varying abilities.

Currently 10 to 15 families make up the core of active St. John Bosco group members, with about 15 more affiliated households participating in some events and meetings. The group is open to all area parishes and has families from St. Patrick, St.

Matthew, Holy Cross, and churches in surrounding towns, such as Rantoul. In 2016, the group is focusing on the "Year of Mercy" as a religious theme, which includes volunteering with local charities.

The group's namesake, St. John Bosco, 1815-1888, was an educator, priest, writer, and foster parent in Italy. He started schools and recreation centers for street children. Unlike most of his contemporaries, St. John Bosco had a kindly, gentle method of child discipline. His teaching emphasized the worth of all children no matter how poor or neglected.

The St. John Bosco home schooling group welcomes new members and those discerning whether home schooling is where they are being called. Contact Teresa Rund (teresarund@gmail.com, or call 217/721-0949 after 1 p.m.) if you would like additional information.

Helping others as a “charity bridge”

People struggling with physical, emotional, and spiritual difficulties who are searching for answers through Jesus do not have to struggle alone. Others who have had similar experiences want to share what Jesus did for them in a one-on-one session or in a small group, rather than by giving a talk or presentation. They want to serve as a bridge, a “charity bridge.”



with the burdens of life. To serve as a bridge. Charity Bridge is in a period of discovery. There are many interesting and challenging websites and groups that offer much we can learn from. However, we need to find out who we are and what God wants of us before we can judge what will work and should be incorporated.

Charity Bridge is not able to provide the kind of support that other groups provide to people who have serious chronic mental illness or disabilities. We are willing to be open to any approach adopted for this purpose by a parish. Meanwhile we can offer to tell folks about resources for them to explore. For example, NCPD, working on behalf of the over 14 million Catholics in the U.S. who live with physical, intellec-

tual, sensory, mental, or emotional disabilities, provides training, resources, and consultation to a network of directors of disability ministry in dioceses throughout the U.S., and other ministry partners. Through its programs and services, NCPD promotes and defends the culture of life, upholding the dignity of every person.

Charity Bridge meetings are announced in the parish bulletins of St. Matthew, Holy Cross, St. Mary, and St. Patrick. The time, date, and place of meetings are listed at www.cucoalition.org. Anyone interested in finding out more about Charity Bridge or in arranging for an individual meeting may contact Deacon Cliff (cmaduzia@stpaturbana.org or 217-791-1264) or Chris Washo (cwashotherapy@sbcglobal.net or 217-239-1547).

CREW teens are raising funds to attend Steubenville Conference

St. Patrick's CREW teens are hoping to be able to attend the annual Steubenville Youth Conference in Steubenville, Ohio, June 17-19. The Steubenville Conference is a national teen conference that meets at Franciscan University. The conference will include globally renowned theologians who will be giving talks on various topics, adoration and Mass with over 3,000 other teens, live music, and time for quiet reflection and small group discussion. The event is fully designed to meet the teens where they are in their high school experience and bring them into a deeper, more intimate relationship with Christ.

This year's conference theme is "I thirst," inspired by the reflection written by Blessed (and soon to be Saint) Mother Theresa. The five CREW teens and three adult leaders who will be attending hope to be able to experience Christ's thirsting for each of us.

One of the CREW members who wants to attend is Sophie Diers, a

senior at Urbana High School. "I want to go to Steubenville to strengthen my religious devotion. I would love to learn more about Catholicism and be able to spend time, away from outside distractions, focused solely on my faith. I think it will be a really influential experience for me, and will be especially good for right before leaving for college!" Paul Nguyen, a sophomore at Urbana High School, says, "I am interested in attending because I know my

connection with God is not the strongest, but I do have the will to make it even stronger than it is now. Going to Steubenville is the perfect opportunity for me to be able to do just that."

The CREW leaders hope to make going to this conference an annual opportunity for our teens from St. Patrick's.

To raise funds for the trip, CREW has created a donation page at CrowdRise.com. You can go to that website and search for "St. Patrick's CREW: Steubenville or Bust" or use the direct link

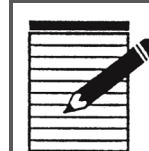
<https://www.crowdrise.com/st-patricks-crew-steubenville-or-bust/fundraiser/st-patrickscrew> to access their donation page. Contributions will also be accepted through the parish office. Check the bulletin and parish website for more details.



Paul



Sophie



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **May 8**.

Time out for reflection and prayer

On Saturday, April 9, a dozen parishioners sat together during a Day of Reflection led by Bridget McGill and Eileen Mathy, two trained spiritual directors from St. Patrick's. They shared biographies and prayers from Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, and Henri Nouwen, and talked about how they modeled faith, purpose, and hunger for God. Dorothy Day said what any of the three might have said: "Don't call me a saint. I don't want to be dismissed that easily!"

But more than that, there was a focus on getting to know themselves a little better. Eileen and Bridget gave lots of time for personal reflection, asking that each look for moments in their lifetime of call, search, struggle, breakthrough, and return, and to put those moments on a timeline.

Participants also colored their own trees of life with crayons and markers, and shared important places, people, values, and hopes with one another. When somebody asks "Tell me about yourself," what do you say? Remembering our stories and sharing them with each other teaches us a kind of spiritual listening that stimulates our own imagination and memory.

Can we learn to look at God long enough so that, when we look back at ourselves, we see God-in-us? When we do, we have something to say. Henri Nouwen wrote, "In solitude we discover that being is more important than having, and that we are worth more than the result of our efforts. And we discover that our life is not a possession to be defended, but a gift to be shared."

We prayed a prayer found in Fr. Merton's book of short



meditations, Thoughts in Solitude: "My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

Bridget's *Brigid's Well* and Eileen's *Mathy House* are warm welcoming places for those who would like ongoing spiritual companionship. This short retreat reflected that warm welcome in many ways. Feedback from participants asked for more, longer, overnight, or weekend experiences like this one. One participant wrote, "One of the best 'short retreats' I've been a part of. I feel a tremendous sense of the closeness of God to all of us."

Thank you, Bridget and Eileen.



Environment from page 1

can register for this free event at www.faithinplace.org/news-events/events/earthcare-workshop-papal-encyclical-environment, or check the bulletin for more details.

Again this year our parish will have a plot at the organic gardens in Meadowbrook Park in Urbana. This is the third year for the garden plot, which provides fresh produce for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Garden steward April Jessee is busy getting seedlings ready to plant at the plot as weather permits.

On Saturday, May 7, at 9:00 a.m. volunteers are needed to install the fencing that helps to protect the garden from deer. Help is also needed with weeding, harvesting, and other tasks throughout the gardening season. Contact Jim Urban (jim.urban@stpaturbana.org or 367-2665) if you would like to volunteer. There will be a garden blessing soon—watch the bulletin and parish website for the date and

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graved on it (trumpet, clarinet, viola, ophicleide, etc.). The organist chooses a combination of these drawknobs to create the desired sounds from the organ at given times.

The organ's touch screen can do that too, but it's harder to operate than the drawknobs while playing a hymn, so the touch screen is usually reserved for configuring and adjusting the organ's software.

The person who sourced, prepared, and installed all of this equipment is Randy Moe of Encore Organ Technology in Minnesota. He has installed quite a few instruments like this, but ours is his largest one ever.

We are deeply grateful to Randy Moe for his patience with St. Patrick's Music Committee and his attention to detail, which has given such a grand support to our liturgy.



in our parish library

St. Patrick's parish library cleared for browsing!

After nine months (wasn't it longer?) of use as an office-cum-storage, the many objects stored in the parish library have been moved elsewhere, and Jon McCoy, who somehow managed to make space for his desk and chair to enable his work in coordinating the children's program, has moved yet again to share an office with our new bookkeeper, Karen Barnes.

In the next issue of In Focus our parish librarian, Megan Raab, will resume her introduction to the many treasures the library contains!



Q: Is the obligation of Easter duty (going to confession and receiving Communion

once a year) still in effect?

A: Yes, indeed, this obligation still exists. And you may be fulfilling your Easter duty without even realizing it!

According to Church law (Code of Canon Law 920), all who have received first Communion should receive the Eucharist at least once a year during the period of time that extends from the beginning of Lent to Trinity Sunday. The obligation for receiving the sacrament of penance during that period is binding only if it is necessary for an individual to be able to receive the Eucharist, that is, because of mortal sins not yet confessed.

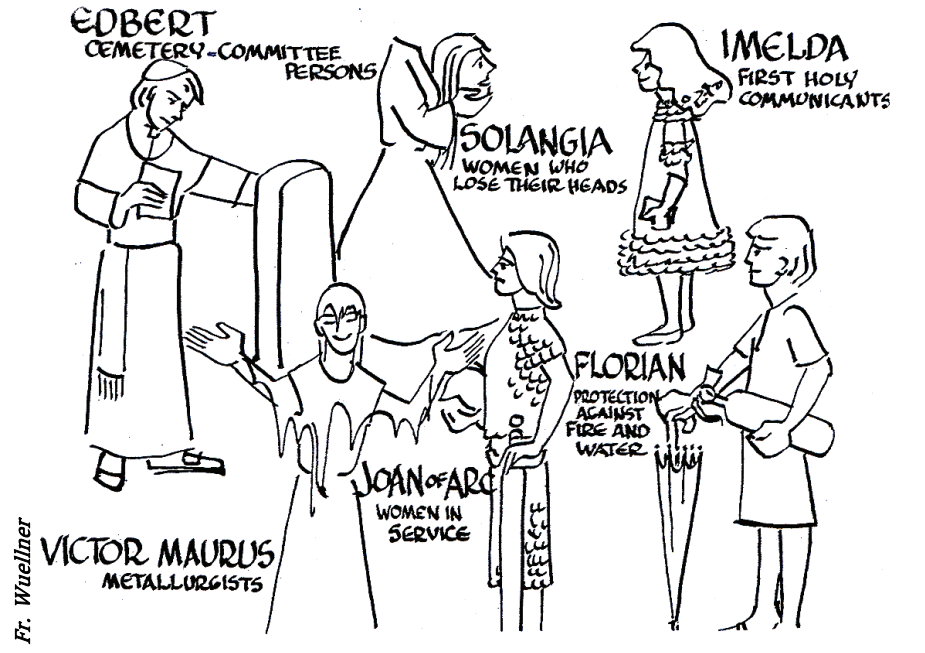
Early in the Middle Ages reception of the Eucharist by the laity became rare because of a sense of personal unworthiness, resulting from an exaggerated emphasis on Christ's divinity. It became more popular to look at and adore the Blessed Sacrament than to "take and eat." Communion eventually became so rare that the Church mandated that it be received at least once a year on Easter Sunday, hence "Easter duty." Time for fulfilling one's Easter duty was eventually extended to the period between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost).

The presumption was that confession must be part of the Easter duty, since unconfessed mortal sins are a deterrent to receiving the Eucharist. Confession of grave sins at least once a year remains the law of the Church (Canon 989) today.

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

May Patron Saints



Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Connie Knake

Corn Casserole

2 c frozen corn kernels, thawed
 1 t sugar
 1 t vanilla extract
 1 t salt
 1/4 t black pepper
 2 eggs, beaten
 1 c milk
 1 T butter, melted
 2 T cracker crumbs (saltine or Ritz)

Mix first 7 ingredients together in a large bowl. Pour into 1-1/2 quart ungreased casserole dish.



Combine butter and cracker crumbs and sprinkle over top of casserole ingredients. Bake at 350° for 40-50 minutes until set.

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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!

“Ah – Day of Quiet” lives up to its name

On a beautiful early spring day in March, six women from St. Patrick’s traveled to the Chiara Center near Springfield for an “Ah – Day of Quiet.” The Chiara Center is on the grounds of the Hospital Sisters of



small rooms with comfy sofas provided a place to read, journal, or rest. The library offered many books to spark a thought for contemplation. Outside, a paved labyrinth beckoned those who find walking meditation

St. Francis and provides a lovely oasis amidst the traffic and noise of everyday life in a calm, peaceful, and thoughtful location. A light breakfast and healthy lunch were provided, and the Chiara Center director, a Franciscan sister, gave a thoughtful optional presentation in the morning. However, the day was dedicated to taking a deep breath and relaxing and was really unstructured.

The Chiara Center provided ample spaces for quiet. The beautiful motherhouse church invited prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. The Canticle Room, filled with light from a spectacular stained glass window, was a calm island of beauty. Several

helpful.

While it lasted relatively short time, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., participants found the experience most rewarding. Here are some of their thoughts:

“It was amazing to find this place of spiritual tranquility so close to home. There was a place for everyone to find peace of heart, either in the beautiful church or walking the lovely ground. . . . I am very grateful for the opportunity to participate.”

“In our busy lives, there is so little time to just think, to just pray, to just be. That’s the gift that the Day of Quiet gave me. . . . I spent time in the gorgeous church, in the prayer

room with its amazing stained glass window, in the museum dedicated to the hospital nurses, and in the library. And in each place I found the peace I needed to reflect, to listen, and to spend time—quality time—with the Lord.”

The next “Ah – Day of Quiet” will be July 11. The Women of St. Patrick invite you to journey to a place where you can step away from your busy life for just a few hours to refresh and renew your spirit.

If you are interested, take a virtual tour at the web site: www.chiaracenter.org.

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 infocusstpats@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.

Editorial board: Judy Fierke, 352-7670 (jfierke@comcast.net); Denise Green, 553-7110 (dgree1@gmail.com); Elizabeth Hendricks, 328-2184 (elihen@att.net); Mary Lou Menches, 344-11253 (mmenches@illinois.edu); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@illinois.edu); and Peggy Whelan, 367-3668 (margaretwhelan@att.net).

Associates: Carol Bosley, John Colombo, Joe and Nancy Costa, Frances Drone-Silvers, Camille Goudeseune, Margery Kane, Mary Karten, Rachael McMillan, Nancy Olson, Rick Partin, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika, Sue Schreiber, Adam and Stephanie Smith, and Jim Urban.

Articles, information, and photos for this issue were provided by Mardia Bishop, Frances Drone-Silvers, Judy Fierke, Camille Goudeseune, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Connie Knake, Cliff Maduzia, Jordan Magold, Pat Mayer, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Nancy Olson, Dan Richards, Cathy Salika, Adam Smith, Susan Sondag, Minette Sternke, Laura Theby, Jim Urban, Chris Washo, Peggy Whelan, and Chris Whippo. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches, page layout by Jim Urban.

Year of Mercy workshop planned for deaf

To help Catholics who are deaf or hard of hearing to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy, St. Patrick’s will host a workshop for them on Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Father Joe Mulcrone, director of the Catholic Office of the Deaf for the Chicago Archdiocese, will present the workshop.

There will also be a social on Friday, May 5, in the great hall for the deaf and any others who would like to meet Fr. Mulcrone, with a limited time to tour the new sanctuary before the Youth Orchestra performs at 7 p.m. At noon on Saturday, Minette Sternke will lead a tour of the expanded church for those who would like to see it.

This workshop will be presented in American Sign Language. There will be a fee of \$10 per person to help cover the cost of lunch. Please RSVP to Minette Sternke (cudeafministry@gmail.com) by May 1 so that sufficient food can be provided.



St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra Opens 4th Season with May 6 Concert

The St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra will perform a concert themed in Adventure and Romance on Friday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m. in St. Patrick's church. The concert includes works from Rimsky-Korsakov, Mozart, Smetana, Grieg, and Barber. Noah Larson, a co-founder of the orchestra and a senior at University High School, serves as the conductor of this concert and general artistic director of SPYO.

This concert features the distribution of the SPYO music scholarships. Last April, parishioner and internationally renowned bass-baritone, Ricardo Herrera, sang a benefit concert with the orchestra, which raised \$12,000. (Thank you for your generosity, St. Pat's parishioners!) The proceeds were split between the orchestra and CREW's summer mission trip program. The orchestra uses its share to fund scholarships for orchestra members to attend music camps or music lessons. Providing opportunities for members to grow in their musicianship and confidence is crucial to keeping the orchestra's mission alive. Nine scholarships were awarded at that benefit concert last year.

Father Joel Phelps Award SPYO initiated the "Fr. Joel Phelps Award," a scholarship given to the orchestra member who is not only musically talented but demonstrates care and concern for its members. The award was named in honor of Fr. Phelps because he guided the SPYO founders in establishing an orchestra that (1) used music to bring people together, (2) encouraged confidence building through creativity, and (3) enabled teens to have fun and play music in a healthy environment. Last April, the first Father Phelps Award was given to Annika Downey, a co-founding member of SPYO, a brilliant violist—and a very nice person! The award was a full-tuition scholarship to the Illinois Summer Youth Music Camp. This year, SPYO is thrilled to announce that Fr. Phelps will attend the May 6 concert to announce the



scholarship winners for 2016.

Orchestra Updates As the only student-run orchestra in the nation, SPYO is proud of giving teens opportunities to develop as musicians and leaders. Jack Reeder, a co-founder and conductor of SPYO for 2½ years, moved on to Northwestern University, majoring in vocal performance and music education. When asked how SPYO influenced his life, Jack commented, "SPYO gave me so much more than I gave it! I made great friendships and had a phenomenal music experience. Because of SPYO I had the confidence and experience to form Tempo Tantrum, an a cappella quartet, at Northwestern."



The first Father Joel Phelps Award winner, Annika Downey, and Fr. Joel Phelps.

The only disadvantage of a student-run orchestra is having to say good-bye to those who graduate to their next adventure. Noah Larson, founder and current conductor, heads to the University of Illinois this fall to major in music composition and violin performance. We thank Noah for his service and many musical talents. Succeeding Noah as conductor and artistic director next year is Renata Herrera. Renata is a founding member of SPYO, a violist, soon to be a senior at Uni High School. Serving as assistant conductor will be Sarah Grosse-Perdekamp, a violinist, singer, and cantor for St. Patrick's. Sarah will be a sophomore at Uni High.

Please come to enjoy the May 6 concert and to say hi to Fr. Phelps!

Vocation Prayer

Mother Mary, help me to accept God's call, whatever the Father asks of me, as you accepted the call to bear his Son to a needy world. I pray for all who serve in consecrated life, that they may embrace the challenges of bringing Christ to the world today. And I pray for all of us lay persons, that we too respond with joy to the Father's call to be Christ for others.

Holy Cross Happenings

The third quarter at Holy Cross School has been a busy one: the 8th-grade boys basketball team made it to the last game of the 2A IESA Regionals, the 7th-grade volleyball team made it to the 2A IESA Regionals, and the 8th-grade volleyball team made it to the 2A IESA Elite 8 in the state championship! Way to go, HCS athletes!

While our athletic teams were doing so well in the IESA state playoffs, over 60 of our students (including many who were on the basketball and volleyball teams) were rehearsing and getting ready for the school musical, "Shrek Jr." Holy Cross School is the only school in the area that presents a school musical that includes students from kindergarten through 8th grade. The cast included parishioners Justin Smith as Shrek and Luke Herzog as Donkey, and 14 other parishioners from St. Patrick's. If you didn't make it to Holy Cross School the weekend of April 8, you missed a very good show!

Several St. Patrick parishioners made the Third Quarter Honor Roll. **HIGHEST HONORS:** Maddy McCoy, Ellen Loftus, Kaleb Leininger, Rachel Loftus, Justin Smith; **HIGH HONORS:** Lukas Grosse-Perdekamp, Emily Leininger, Jasmine Waite; **HONORS:** Brandon Hood, Joyson Kakinga, Will Moore, Lisa Altaner, Austin Ford, and Luke Herzog.

Holy Cross will be holding its 8th-grade Honors Day on May 18 at 1:00 p.m. in the school gym. All are welcome to support our St Patrick's parishioners and their accomplishments that day as they get ready to head to graduation on Thursday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m. in Holy Cross Church.

As a final note, this is Adam Smith's last report on the happenings of our parishioners and other students at Holy Cross School. Thank you, Adam, for your reports and the many photos covering our young people, their activities and achievements, over the last seven years!



Seventh grade volleyball team



Eighth grade volleyball team.



Luke Herzog as Donkey and Justin Smith as Shrek



Mother Mary, pregnant with new life

At the center of our new Meditation Chapel, in the middle of all the banners is one showing our Blessed Mother Mary. As with the other banners created by Pat Mayer, this picture of Mary is comprised of scanned images of our parish family. Her hands are literally our hands, created from photographs of the hands of multiple parishioners. Her gown merges fabric from Korea, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Cambodia, Ireland, and the U.S., from clothes and fabric loaned by parishioners: from baptismal gowns, First Communion dresses, wedding dresses, and other items of importance to the lives of our Church family.

Many people have been surprised by this banner, some even failed to recognize Mary as the obviously pregnant woman. This image of Mary is not one that most of us have encountered in artwork and religious imagery. Some parishioners absolutely love it; others are less enthusiastic.

Yet capturing this moment in time can give us a strong connection to Mary. Seeing her heavily pregnant, we can appreciate the physical reality of the amazing situation she was in. She was not simply given a great spiritual

challenge when the Holy Spirit visited her, but a physical one as well! She had not only to navigate the spiritual and social difficulties of carrying this great mystery, she had

to undergo the hard physical work that is pregnancy and childbirth.

Most women who have been pregnant can attest, at some moment or other, to the great mystery of another life growing inside them. What will become of this new life? Will I survive this process? What will this baby be like? How can I bear what lies ahead?

Yet we don't need to have experienced pregnancy to know such a mystery. As we experience our faith journeys, we all have many such questions and worries. What has God given me? What can or will it grow into? Will I be able to nurture it properly? Will it come to fruition? Will I survive this? How can I bear what lies ahead? While this Mary's face is placid, it is also very young, and in her eyes we may see uncertainty and even

apprehension—something we all feel at one time or another. Wherever our faith journey begins, we are young or new and uncertain where it will take us, perhaps even afraid of what may be asked of us if we



give ourselves over to God.

Mary is often invoked by Catholics to intercede with God. She helps us to connect with God when we may feel we can't quite make our way to him. Looking at the pregnant Mary, we might pray:

*Hail Mary,
full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit
of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour
of our death-in-life.*

Amen.

When we look at the pregnant Mary, we know that Jesus is inside her womb, just as we were once inside the womb of our own mother; God put himself in the same place we once were. At the end of his earthly life, Jesus told us through John that Mary is to be our mother too.

**Remember,
O most gracious
Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to
your protection,
implored your help,
or sought your
intercession
was left unaided.
Inspired with this
confidence
I fly unto you,
O Virgin of virgins,
my Mother.
To you I come,
before you I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word
Incarnate,
despise not my petitions
but in your mercy hear
and answer me.**

—St. Bernard of Clairvaux