

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

April 2017

Exodus

The story of the Exodus of the people of Israel from the slavery of Egypt to freedom in a land of their own is one of the most important tales in the Bible. Two things stand out: First, the Exodus happened on



God's initiative. Even though the Israelites had to do a lot of walking, it was God who called them out of Egypt and made the journey possible. Second, the Exodus marks a change in the relationship between God and his people. They experienced God as one who recognized their plight and cared for their needs on the journey. God made a covenant with them to strengthen the bond between them. And he gave them the law as a guide for how to live in God's ways.

There were other events in the history of Israel that share these elements, the action of God and a change in Israel's relationship with God. The return from the Babylonian

exile is an example, or any time that Israel listened to the call of a prophet. In a way, each of Israel's growth spurts was a little exodus, echoing the model of the great Exodus from Egypt.

The word "exodus" comes up in Luke's gospel in the story of the Transfiguration (Lk 9:28-36). Have you ever wondered what Jesus was discussing with Moses and Elijah? Luke says they were talking about the exodus that Jesus was about to fulfill, in other words, his passion, death, and resurrection. These events fit the model of the great Exodus. Jesus, the Son of God, took the initiative. His work made a change in the relationship between God and his people. He made it possible for us to be reconciled with God.

Jesus experienced other exoduses just as Israel did. Surely one of the

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Information available about the annulment process

The Catholic Church presumes that all marriages—even those not blessed in the Catholic Church—are valid, binding two people together for life. The Catholic Church also presumes that the two parties came to this union of their own free will—fully adult and fully aware of the mutual responsibilities of a married couple—and they would continue to grow in grace and love until death separates them.

So, what is an annulment?

In our imperfect world, couples divorce. The Church, at the request of one of the partners, can examine the circumstances of the union to determine if essential elements were missing from the very beginning of the relationship. This request is made by initiating a legal process commonly called an annulment.

What might an essential element be? Perhaps one or both of the individuals were too young, or too immature, to understand



or take on the responsibilities of a marriage. Perhaps one party suffered an addiction, grew up in an abusive environment, or was not open to children. Pre-nuptial signs such as

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Stations of the Cross

With Lent comes a renewed focus on the spiritual practice known as “the way of cross,” “Via crucis” or most commonly “the stations of the cross.” The stations started with European pilgrims and soldiers during the Crusades. They brought a devotion to Jesus’ passion journey back



from travels to the holy lands. Then as now, many visitors in Jerusalem follow the path of Jesus’ trials, torture, and crucifixion from the traditional site of Pilate’s palace to Golgotha and on to the Holy Sepulcher. The Jerusalem route is called “Via Dolorosa.”

Shrines or visual representations of the places and events of the crucifixion became very common in Europe around the 15th century. Today almost all Roman Catholic churches

include a set of stations such as the wooden carved tablets at St. Patrick’s.

Since they are a devotion rather than a sacrament, there are many texts for the stations of the cross. The number of stops and exact events commemorated has varied, but a 1731 Papal decree institutionalized fourteen stations:

- Station 1: Christ is condemned to death by Pilate
- Station 2: Jesus is made to carry the cross
- Station 3: Jesus falls
- Station 4: Jesus meets His Mother
- Station 5: The cross is laid on Simon
- Station 6: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
- Station 7: Jesus falls the second time
- Station 8: Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem
- Station 9: Jesus falls the third time
- Station 10: Jesus is stripped and receives gall to drink
- Station 11: Jesus is nailed to the cross
- Station 12: Jesus dies on the cross
- Station 13: Jesus is taken down from the cross
- Station 14: Jesus is laid in the sepulcher.

Many families practice the stations of the cross together. Children can follow along with adults and participate as they are able in the prayers and storytelling. Parishioner and frequent stations pilgrim Lilia Peters started following the way of the cross as a school child. “In the Philippines, I went to a Catholic High School and it was compulsory to do it. During my time it was a big event to do the way of the cross. Many families would do it together.”

Another parishioner, Jeff Kneer, remembers his Dad’s “leadership” in “when to genuflect, kneel, stand, and what to say and, most importantly, on what it all meant.”

He continued, “It was such a different and unique way of being at church that that it left an impression on me and so now as a grown man and father of a family myself, I also celebrate the Stations of the Cross, attending them regularly and with eager anticipation.”

Jeff and Lilia both recommend the stations as a way to meditate and pray with Jesus.

The last Lenten Stations of the Cross event will be at St. Mary’s on Friday, April 7 at 5:30 p.m. Please join us!

Seniors group hears about Franciscan Spirituality

Mike O’Brien spoke to the St. Jeanne Jugan senior group at its March luncheon. Mike is a Secular Franciscan, and he spoke about Franciscan Spirituality. It involves following the example of Jesus Christ, Mike’s message was one of peace, poverty, and justice.

St. Francis of Assisi had a conversion experience and turned his back on his former life of wealth and self interest. Francis became a reformer and began to live a life in poverty, sharing and helping all. He saw all, nature and mankind, was created by the same God.



Everything is under man’s dominion and we are to be in kinship with the environment and good stewards by caring for people and the environment.

Francis became a peacemaker; he was respectful of all things, people, animals and nature. People noticed and followed him. Francis of Assisi established a religious order and one of his followers, Clare, established an order for women.

Mike O’Brien’s interest in Franciscan Spirituality began with Francis’ Prayer for Peace (Lord, make me an instrument of peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love...) and led him to discover the order of Secular Franciscans. He became a candidate in 2005, and after two years of study and discernment he became a Secular Franciscan. He belongs to a group in Decatur. Their purpose is to bring the Gospel to life in practical ways in their lives and be an example to others.

At the April 5 meeting of St. Jeanne Jugan Seniors, Abbott Philip of St. Bede Abbey will speak on the charisma of the Benedictine order. All are welcome.

Parishioners participate in historic march in Washington, D.C.

Spirituality is expressed in everything we do. It is a style, unique to itself, that catches up all our attitudes: in communal and personal prayer, in behavior, bodily expressions, life choices, in what we support and affirm and what we protest and deny. —Anne Carr, *Women's Spirituality*

Over a dozen women and a couple of men from St. Patrick parish, many involved with our peace and social justice ministry, traveled to Washington, D.C. for the Women's March on January 21. Recently some of them talked about the experience.

Carol Bosley: It was one of the most amazing experiences. The diversity of the people and the social justice concerns they brought with them was striking. I felt such a sense of hope and optimism.

Paula Partin: Attending the Women's March in D.C. created a focus and direction for our activism and actions going forward [on social justice issues]. Women from all religions and creeds, as well as the forward-thinking men who support us, all gathered to show support and compassion and hope for our combined futures.

Jeannie Rasmussen: My daughter Annie and I were fortunate to be able to participate in such a historical event. To be with thousands of people of all ages and races shouting "This is what democracy looks like," gives me hope that women can make a difference in our current government.

Sandra Cuza: The trip made me feel that I was involved in doing something about a situation that I feel is disastrous rather than sitting at home and grumbling about it.

Eileen Mathy: The two parts of the march that will always stay with me were this group of Native American women leading us in chants and helping to direct the densely packed crowd, and the



roar of over 500,000 marchers coming from an ocean of pink hats from Capital Hill to the White House. There is strength in our collective voices and on that day, in body, mind and soul, I found mine.

Nancy Olson: I went because in the post-election climate of divisive speech and conflict I wanted to stand with other people, women and men, who want better for our country. When I saw the number of people there, all peacefully expressing a diversity of ideas, coming from all different backgrounds, I was encouraged and strengthened in my belief that we can value one another and coexist if an atmosphere of respect prevails.

Carol Bosley: The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, next to the back of the White House, was one of many march-friendly places offering bathrooms and coffee and cookies and places for marchers to rest a bit. Known as an inclusive and justice-seeking church, in 1861 it welcomed President Abraham Lincoln and his family on the first Sunday following his inauguration.

Our search for a God who looks like us begins in our own lives. She will be found there.

—Patricia Lynn Reilly

Beloved God, you who hold us in the silence of our prayer, bless our yearnings for home. Keep us on the path that leads to you. Fill us with courage to do what is best for the healing of our own hearts and the heart of the world. Accept our gratitude for the many times you have sought us and have invited us to recognize you in the home of our true self. Amen.



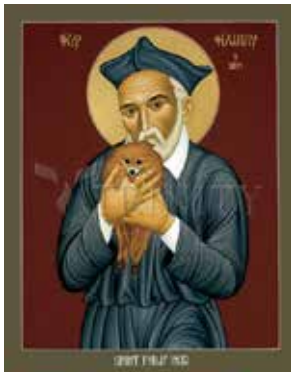
Q: What are the boundaries of St. Patrick Parish?

A: Our parish has a bit of an irregular shape.

It extends 4 miles north of the city limits, 4 miles south of the city limits, east to the Champaign/Vermilion county line, and west to Wright Street, except for a strip north of University Avenue. But everyone is welcome at St. Patrick!

Patron saint of April Fools Day?

St. Phillip Neri was a charity worker and priest who lived in Italy from 1515-1595. Known for his joy and humor, he used jokes to help people who came to him for counsel. For example, he walked around Rome with half his beard shaved off and gave young men penances of making fools of themselves in public places. He said, "A joyful heart is more easily made perfect than a downcast one."



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"cold feet," "pre-marital jitters," or "second thoughts" may really have been indicators pointing to some deeper personal problems or developmental issues that eventually led to some serious problems in the marriage itself and its dissolution.

How do I start?

The Peoria Diocese has identified and trained lay parishioners as Notary-Auditors to assist individuals desiring to begin the process. At St. Patrick's, Barbara Wysocki has served in this capacity for more than ten years. She, like all advocates, is well-versed in the proceedings that inform and shape a case; she will advise and offer suggestions as the case is assembled; she can offer emotional support as a case evolves. You can contact her at (217) 367-5014 or bwysocki16@gmail.com, or you can contact the parish office at (217) 367-2665 to set up an appointment.

What are the benefits of pursuing an annulment?

The legal process enables the diocesan Tribunal Office to investigate the circumstances of a marriage and determine if it was truly sacramental.

More importantly, this process, with the benefit of hindsight, can inspire reflection and healing on the part of those most involved. It affords an occasion and a grace to face the past, rather than ignore it, enabling one to move forward as a baptized person, discovering one's truer self.

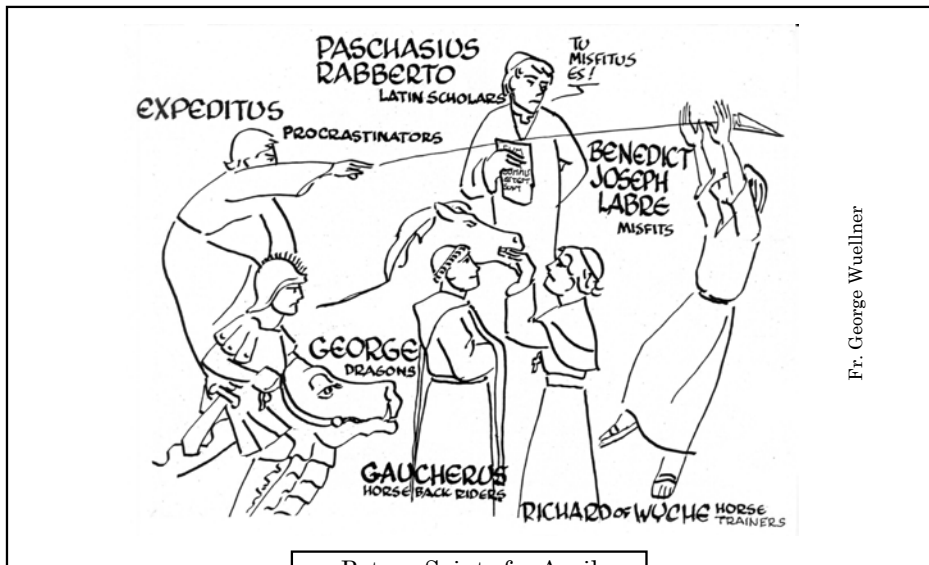
The Notary-Auditors of
St. Patrick's Church (Urbana), and St. Malachy's Church (Rantoul)
Under the auspices of the Tribunal Office of the
Diocese of Peoria

Invite you to an informational meeting regarding the

CATHOLIC ANNULMENT PROCESS

Saturday, May 13, 9:00 a.m.
Trinity Hall Lobby
708 W. Main St., Urbana

No Obligation No Reservations No Cost



Patron Saints for April

Vocation Prayer

Loving Father, you speak to us and nourish us through the people you put in our way day by day, but especially through those who lead and guide us in the Church. We ask you to send your Spirit to us so that men and women among us will respond to your call to service and leadership as priests, deacons, sisters, and brothers. May those who are opening their hearts and minds to your call be encouraged and strengthened as they seek how best to serve you.

Fr. George Wuellner

Women's spirits awoken through Lenten retreat

On Saturday, March 4, a group of about 40 women gathered for the Women of St. Patrick Lent retreat day with Sr. Ann Sullivan, a Sister of Providence of St. Mary of the Woods. The day's theme was "Women's Spirituality in a New Time"



and was partially based on the book *Dance of the Spirit* by Maria Harris. It was a day set aside to explore the unique spirituality of women.

The day began with a video presentation about the cosmos. It was a beautiful reminder of how we are all part of something much greater and all part of one another. The splendor of God's creation became real in a vivid way through the presentation. The video was followed by an examination of who God was for each person. In order to be in touch with each person's unique spirituality it is essential to be in touch with an individual image of God. For some, God is the Great Judge in the Heavens (always "up there"). For others, God is a loving friend. God may be ever-present or far away. Getting in touch with a personal idea about God is the first step in finding one's own spiritual path. Quiet time to read, create art or reflect in solitude

was scheduled to allow for that to happen.

Later in the day the retreatants examined the steps of women's spirituality which resemble the steps of a dance. Understanding goes forward and back, circles around,

and sometimes begins again. Life's circumstances and changes cause us to re-examine what we thought was true and then ground ourselves again in the God who loves us unconditionally. So, women's spirituality can be seen as moving and changing throughout life. The afternoon brought an overview of the first three steps outlined in the book: awakening, discovering, and creating.

The retreat day was also a time for fellowship, meeting new people, sharing a meal and exchanging thoughts and ideas. Many participants went home with the book on which the afternoon presentation was based to study alone or in small groups. At the end of the day all were reminded to let their light shine by joining in the song, "This Little Light of Mine." It was a full day, but one that left participants with many thoughts to ponder and possibilities to pursue.

Exodus

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greatest was his incarnation. He took the initiative in choosing to become one of us, and this marked a real change in God's relationship with his people. It showed in the strongest possible way that God loves us, understands us, and wants to be close to us.

What are the exoduses in your life? Your baptism is certainly one. God took the initiative, claiming you as his own, starting you on the path of life in him. Perhaps there are others, times of growth, times of loss, or other milestones. God is always there, taking initiative and inviting you to deeper life in him. And just as Jesus' death was an exodus for him, so will your death be. When God calls you from this life, he calls you to the fullness of life in him, to the life he has always wanted for you. He calls you to the life made possible by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

*Sit and be still
until in the time of no rain
you hear,
beneath the dry wind's commo-
tion in the trees,
the sound of flowing water
among the rocks,
a stream unheard before,
and you are where breathing is
prayer.*

—Wendell Berry

Catholic education is thriving in our area

The celebration of National Catholic Schools Week, from January 29 to February 4, showed that Catholic education is alive and thriving locally at Holy Cross, St. Matthew, St. Thomas (Philo), and the High School of St. Thomas More. In addition, each of our four parishes has strong religious education programs through which Catholic doctrine is taught on a regular basis to Catholic children who are not enrolled in a Catholic school.

St. Matthew School in Champaign serves children from kindergarten through 8th grade. There are plans to add a preschool in the coming school year. The school's principal, Mrs. Petrece Klein, Principal, comments, "Catholic



Students at St. Mathew School

Education [at St. Matthew School] allows students to be educated and formed in Christ to live a virtuous life, one of faith and excellence."

Holy Cross School, located in an urban neighborhood in Champaign, has pupils from preschool through 8th grade. Mrs. Chris Ellis, its principal, has a lot of praise for her



Holy Cross Students with Father Dave.

school. "We are a school that is steeped in tradition, but on the other hand, is academically and technologically advanced. Holy Cross is set apart because we educate the whole child. There is a focus on academic growth, physical growth, emotional growth, but most importantly spiritual growth."

St. Thomas Catholic School in Philo, in the southwest corner of Champaign County, has been serving this area

since 1905. On their website, Principal Lisa Doughan writes that the school is dedicated to "providing our preschool and K-8 students with a faith-based education that is focused on forming, not just educating the whole child—spiritually, academically, emotionally, and physically."

The High School of St. Thomas More was constructed in 2000 and is located in the northwest section of the City



Students at the High School of St. Thomas More

of Champaign. It is the only private, Roman Catholic, co-educational high school in our diocese. On reflecting on the school, Principal Jason Schreder had this to say: "At the High School of St. Thomas More it is our mission to assist our families in forming their students intellectually, physically, morally and spiritually. We make it our mission to help form the whole human person, body, mind and soul to help the students become the persons God created them to be."

Continuing Catholic Development (CCD) is a formal Catholic religious education available to all parish chil-



A religious education class at St. Patrick

dren. The CCD programs in the parishes of St. Patrick, St. Matthew, Holy Cross, and St. Thomas provide Catholic education and sacramental instruction for those children unable to attend Catholic school. Jonathan McCoy, coordinator of Children's Religious Education at St. Patrick said this to In Focus: "Religious education classes inside the parish setting are very important to a child's spiritual development. By attending these classes, outside the public school, children are spending time with God while learning more about Him. In addition the children are developing a life-long love of God and it allows them to learn what makes them uniquely Catholic while preparing them for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation."

Celebrate the Three Days

The three greatest days of the Church year begin on the evening of Holy Thursday and continue through Easter Sunday. These days give us a chance to reflect on the essential elements of our faith. We take time to ponder the life of Jesus and how we are to follow his example. We give thanks for all that Jesus has given us, in words, in example, and in saving deeds.

On Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper of Jesus with his



disciples. We give thanks for the gifts of the Eucharist, of the priesthood, and of the model of service that Jesus taught us by example. On Good Friday, we reflect on his total gift of himself for our salvation. We see him, not as a helpless victim of human cruelty, but as one who

makes it possible for us to recover from any sin and to be reconciled



with God. At the Easter Vigil, we recall the patient work by which God prepared us to understand the life and resurrection of Jesus, and his patient work in our catechumens and candidates, bringing them to a deeper faith. We give thanks for the resurrection Jesus and the fullness of life that he invites us to share.

There are many ideas and themes in these days. There are many actions of God, but celebrating them, year after year, helps us to understand them more deeply and see in them one complete, overwhelming action of love. There are many moods, times of quiet and of excitement, times of solemnity and of

family-like intimacy, times of awe and wonder and grace.

Please come, if you can, for as many of the celebrations as you can. On Holy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper begins at 7 p.m. Mass ends with a procession with the Blessed Sacrament and a time of adoration until midnight. On Good Friday, the Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at 3 p.m. At 7 p.m., the main service is celebrated, including the telling of Jesus' passion and death and an opportunity to honor his Cross with a sign of respect. The Easter Vigil begins at 7:30 p.m. and includes several scripture readings



telling the story of God's saving work and the rites of initiation of those who are prepared to enter the Church. The Easter Sunday Masses

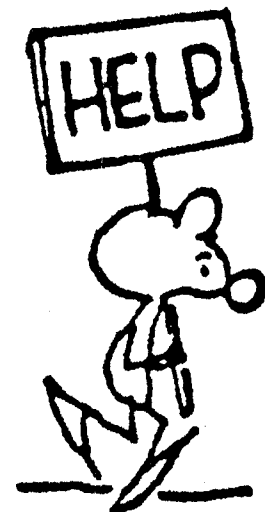
In Focus needs your help!

The future of our parish newsletter, *In Focus*, is in your hands. Two of our generous volunteer parishioners have had to resign, one from laying out pages for printing and another from editing.

Page layout. With the January issue Jim Urban completed his years of preparing page layout for *In Focus*, leaving only two volunteers to prepare the newsletter for printing. They really need help from one or two parishioners to page a couple of issues a year. Templates, guidelines, schedules—all would be provided.

Editing. Margery Kane, who joined our all-volunteer staff over a year ago, has moved away, leaving only two volunteers to edit *In Focus* to prepare it for page layout. They need help from one or two volunteers to edit a couple of issues a year. We can provide a short list of editing guidelines, schedules, and interesting articles for editing on your PC.

Can you help? We can put you to work right away—and probably give you your choice of issues to work on! Please contact Denise Green (dgree1@gmail.com). And thank you!



St. Mark, a lion of a Gospel writer

St. Mark is the author of the gospel named for him. He was born in the first century A.D. in Cyrene, North Africa. He most likely belonged to the group of apostles sent out to teach the Jews about Jesus. He accompanied Peter on his final journey to Rome. He moved to Alexandria in Egypt in 49 A.D., about 16 years after Jesus' ascension. He founded the Church of Alexandria, became its first bishop, and is honored as the founder of Christianity in Africa. St. Mark was martyred in Cyrene in 60 A.D. on April 25.

We accept the



preaching of the apostles and their believing followers as an important

source for all of the gospels. Mark was once considered a summary of Matthew's gospel, but most scholars now regard Mark, not as a summary, but as the earliest source for Matthew and Luke. In comparison, John's gospel is distinct.

His greatest shrine is San Marco in Venice. The statue on top of the church shows Mark above a winged lion, holding a book of the gospel. His symbol in art is a winged lion. He is the patron of lawyers, of Venice, and of Egypt.

St. Patrick Parish
IN FOCUS

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

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

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Articles, information, and photos for this issue were provided by Carol Bosley, Carol Conaghan, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Eileen Mathy, Mary Lou Menches, Nancy Olson, Paula Partin, Jeannie Rasmussen, Dan Richards, Cathy Salika, Patsy Schmitt, and Peggy Whelan. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Rick Partin, page layout by John Colombo

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . The St. Vincent de Paul Society

Soup

2 ½ lbs. bread
¾ lb. lard
7 quarts water
Herbs and salt to taste




Break the bread into pieces. Add other ingredients. Place in large kettle over fire or stove. Simmer for 30 minutes or until done.

[Sounds delicious, doesn't it? But it kept people alive throughout France in the 1700s. It was a recipe for sharing God's love, for satisfying the hungers that existed at that time.]

* * *

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 April 2.**

Loving Father, we are deeply grateful that you call us to yourself, and that you give us this community to help sustain us. We are especially grateful for the healing we receive each time we rest in you in prayer. Our growing awareness of you—within us, within our community, and within all—fills our hearts with joy! Amen.