

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



www.stpatuurbana.org

January 2017

Coming

Did you have to make a special effort to come to Mass on Christmas? Maybe your family plans its festivities around Mass. Maybe you made a point of packing up the kids to help them remember that this day is about more than presents and food. Maybe you're traveling and you had to seek out a church to attend. Maybe you went out of your way to bring someone to church who can't usually come. Or maybe you're committed to coming to Mass regularly and you no longer think about what it takes to come, week after week. These experiences speak of the value of coming – coming together with others, coming to praise and thank God, coming to remember God's love and mercy. They also speak of your love of God, expressed by the desire to come.



Have you ever considered how far Jesus came to be with us on Christmas? He came from heaven to earth. He came from knowing all things to knowing cold, hunger, and a full diaper. He came from sharing the fullness of love with the Father and the Spirit to having only a glimmer of awareness of the love of his father and mother. And while

angels and shepherds and magi came, they didn't bring anything that he needed; better for him were sleeping and feeding in his mother's arms.

Jesus knew the value of coming. Only his presence could show us how much God loves us. Only his sharing in our human experience could show us how deeply God understands us. Only his teaching could kindle the fire of faith that would spread throughout the world. Only his response to the cruelty, cynicism, and rejection of the crucifixion could show us that nothing, *nothing*, will separate us from the love of God.

We come together because Jesus came to us. We come, week by week, because it takes time and patience to learn what his coming means for us. We come because the presence of others on the same journey encourages us to live lives shaped by the love of God. We come with awe and thanksgiving for Jesus' coming to us. Come, let us adore him!

"Help us welcome the stranger and help them find a home in our nation"



The plight of refugees is one that hits close to home in our parishes. Both St. Patrick and St. Mary's have large populations of first-generation immigrants, some of whom have come to our country as refugees. Over the years, St. Patrick as a parish has supported several refugee families.

In early 2016, the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign began bringing together an interfaith group of people committed to supporting the resettlement of refugees in our area. The Champaign-Urbana Friends Assisting Immigrants and Refugee (CU-FAIR) Task Force, which is affiliated with the East Central Illinois Refugee and Mutual Assistance Center, circulated a letter in September and October supporting the establishment of a Refugee Resettlement Program in Champaign County. The letter was signed by 33 faith and secular groups. The letter was sent to our parish, which sent a letter to Bishop Daniel Jenky. Bishop Jenky contacted the Washington office of

See **Welcome** on page 3

Thanksgiving basket distribution a success

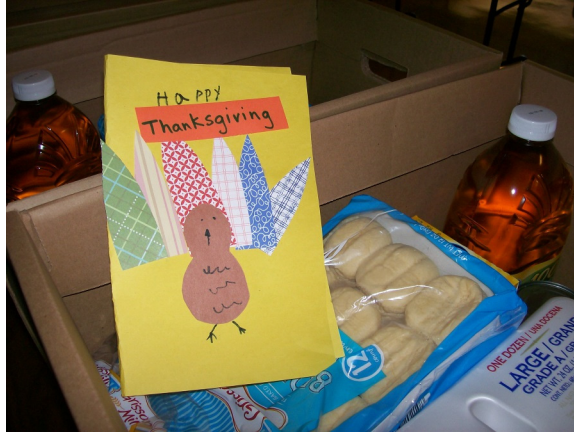
St. Patrick's parishioners stepped up with generous donations of money and time to our St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry's annual Thanksgiving basket distribution. Thanks to their contributions, SVDP was able to provide 260 Thanksgiving baskets to people in need.

Volunteers helped pick up cases of non-perishable foods from Save-a-Lot and brought them to the parish center on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. On Sunday after Masses, parishioners helped Vivo and CREW members construct the "baskets" (cardboard grocery boxes) and pack them with the canned and boxed goods.

Early Tuesday morning, perishable items were picked up and more volunteers added those to the boxes. Then pairs of volunteers from St. Patrick's, Holy Cross, participating social service agencies, and other groups set out to deliver the Thanksgiving baskets to very grateful recipients.

The boxes contained the makings of an easily prepared Thanksgiving dinner—including ham, canned sweet potatoes and other vegetables, canned fruit, rolls, and pumpkin pie—along with items to help make a few more meals. Each box also included a Thanksgiving greeting card made by children in the Religious Education program.

Many thanks to all who donated and helped!



Seniors gather for an Advent celebration

The St. Jeanne Jugan Seniors group celebrated Advent with an Italian flavor on December 7 at the Olive Garden restaurant. About 20 seniors gathered for lunch and fellowship. Each table was asked to share Advent or Christmas memories. Following that, the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" was sung by all.

Our pastoral associate, Carol Conaghan, led a rousing Advent Trivia Game; Josephine Dubois won the prize for guessing the number of candy pieces in a candy jar. Carol also read a reflection on Advent written by the illustrious Trappist monk, Thomas Merton.

The seniors, with Mary Karten's assistance, then went to work addressing Christmas cards from the seniors group to the homebound and those in the Champaign County Nursing Home. The food and fun made for a most pleasant afternoon.

The next senior meeting will be Wednesday, February 1, at Pizza M on Main Street. The presenter will be Fr. James Ellison of St. Nicholas Antioch Church, who will speak on Orthodox Spirituality in Lent. All in the parish are invited.



What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part—
Yet what I can I give him,
Give my heart.

—Christina Rossetti



Could you bring Christ to someone?

Think about a time when you or a loved one were in the hospital. Even if the hospitalization was for something fairly minor—or even something joyful, such as giving birth—you may have felt vulnerable, powerless, lonely, uncomfortable. If nothing else, you were away from home, sleeping (or lying awake) in a strange bed, stripped of familiar clothes, possessions, and surroundings, uncertain of exactly what each day would bring. If you were suffering from a serious illness or injury, you may have felt quite lost, afraid, maybe even hopeless, in the grip of emotional as well as physical pain.

How much would it have meant for you to have a visitor to bring you Communion, to pray with you, to exchange a comforting word? This is



what volunteer pastoral Eucharistic ministers from St. Patrick's can provide for Catholic patients at Carle Foundation Hospital. As a patient once told such a volunteer, "Thank you for bringing Christ to me."

Pastoral Eucharistic ministers are usually scheduled to visit the hospital once or twice a month. Bringing Communion to patients can take an hour or two. Will you consider this important ministry? There is currently a very great need for more volunteer pastoral Eucharistic ministers.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering for this vital ministry, please contact pastoral associate Carol Conaghan (carol.conaghan@stpaturbana.org or 367-2665).

Welcome from page 1

the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), writing, "I support the effort to resettle refugees in a manner which enables them to become integrated into our society in a positive way. I approve the effort to see if Champaign-Urbana in our diocese can become a center for the USCCB Resettlement program."



In partnership with its affiliates, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops Migrant and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) resettles approximately 30% of the refugees that arrive in the United States each year.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this effort or have questions, contact Jim Urban at 367-2665 or jim.urban@stpaturbana.org, or Luis Cuza at luis@cuza.us.

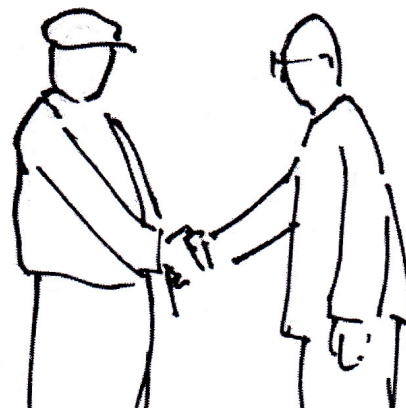
No room at the inn

As the weather turns bitterly cold, we might give a thought to those people who are in need of shelter. In 2015 both the Times Center Level One (emergency shelter to men) and the Salvation Army Stepping Stones Program closed their beds to homeless men in the Champaign-Urbana area. A total of 90 beds were lost to these men needing shelter. Last year, through a program called Canteen Run, several churches opened their doors to the homeless when temperatures dipped below a zero wind-chill factor. Since that time a group of service providers under the direction of local governing bodies has convened to discuss a long-term approach.

This Council of Service Providers to the Homeless desires to run a three-month pilot program providing nightly emergency shelter to men

during the coldest months of the winter. This program, which offers only a temporary shelter for three months, will allow the council to study the homeless population and determine specific needs and demographics useful for the development of a permanent solution.

A group of St. Patrick's parishioners has formed a committee to explore how our parish might assist with this urgent need. There have been several meetings and correspondences



between group representatives and the mayor of Champaign, a representative from her office, members of the Canteen Run program, members of New Covenant Church, and the pastor of Faith United Methodist Church. Several proposals have

been made for how our parish might participate in this effort.

If you are interested in becoming involved, contact pastoral associate Jim Urban (367-2665 or jim.urban@stpaturbana.org).

Advent Greetings from Sr. Jackie Jean-Marie Gitonga

Advent (and Christmas) greetings from Chicago! It has certainly been a long time since I last wrote! I remember meeting some of you during our book display at St. Patrick's in March. I truly felt that I had come to my "home away from home." I cannot thank you enough for your faithful prayers and support in my vocational journey.

Over the past few years, the Lord has walked me through a myriad of missionary experiences. I made my first profession of vows in August 2013 as a Daughter of St. Paul, consecrated women religious who have been entrusted with the mission of evangelization using the media. After my first profession of vows, I was missioned to New Orleans for almost two years. The first year was challenging as I took my first baby steps of living more fully our Pauline religious life of prayer, mission, and community life as well as our missionary work.

My assignment took me to parishes in both rural and urban Louisiana. I enjoyed the fresh seafood, Cajun seasoning, music, and cuisine, and I was challenged by the peoples' resilience from hardships like the hurricanes. I admired their simple yet constant faith, as well as their generosity in sharing not only what they had but who they were. It was in New Orleans that I discovered my love for writing music and co-wrote my first song "Chosen," rediscovering how deeply God has

chosen me (and all of us) to remain in his love.

In July 2015, the Lord called me to a new mission in Chicago. I was commissioned to organize our book and media evangelization and outreach initiatives in the Chicago area and the nearby midwestern states, including outreach to schools, parishes, conferences, social media, and radio. Overall, it has been a truly grace-filled experience amidst the normal challenges of life in a big city.

Chicago was the first convent I visited during my graduate studies at the U of I. We are right on Michigan Avenue (near Millennium Park, between Randolph and Lake Streets). One of the greatest treasures is our chapel in the bookstore. Many people working in the downtown area come to make a little visit with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. We receive a lot of tourists from around the world, making my experience at the book center a global one!

The dynamics of mission, community, and religious life are very different in the city. Daily my heart is confronted with the homelessness and mental illness in the heart of the city. I enjoy being close to Lake Michigan (especially in warmer months), and as for the cold days ahead, I must say that I am living each winter one day at a time! I have been able



Renewal of vows, August 2016

to connect with a few University of Illinois alumni here. Chicago is a very multicultural city, where I've been able to visit parishes with Spanish, Polish, Italian, and Filipino communities.

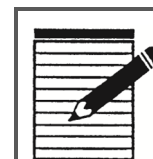
This past summer, I was blessed to renew my religious vows along with six other junior professed sisters. What a moment of grace! After our first profession, we renew our vows every year for five or six years before making perpetual vows. In the next year or two I hope to be heading to Rome to prepare for taking my perpetual vows. I am trying to learn Italian, since the course for preparation is in Italian!

As the year draws to a close, I want to thank you for your faithful support and prayers, which continue to carry me as I try to be faithful to what God asks of me in my missionary adventures. Please know that I keep you all close in my heart and prayers. I wish you a very blessed Advent and Christmas!

Love and blessings,
Sr. Jackie Jean-Marie Gitonga, FSP



Our community in Chicago; from the left: Sr. Bethany, Sr. Maureen, Sr. Jackie, Sr. Majorina, and Sr. Danielle (novice)



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **January 15**.

Sr. Jackie from previous page

CHOSEN

By Sr. Jacqueline Jean-Marie Gitonga, FSP & Jamie Diliberto

Did you know that from all time I have loved you
Did you know I've always held you in My heart
From the sunrise of your life, until I call you home
I have fathered you gently in My care

Refrain

You are chosen! Chosen!
From the beginning of all time You are mine
You are chosen! Yes, chosen!
It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you
To live and remain in My love

My beloved, I have plans for your life
For a future full of peace and of hope
With My Spirit as your guide, proclaim the Good News
Be My witness to the ends of the earth

Lord, take my hands and take my feet
Use me for your glory
May my thoughts be your Thoughts
And my heart be more like Yours
No longer I who live but Christ who lives in me!

I am chosen! Chosen!
From the beginning of all time, I am Yours.
I am chosen! Yes, chosen!
It was not I who chose you but you who chose me
To live and remain in your love
To live and remain in your love

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Lyrics for Chosen



Co-hosting "Winds of Change" radio show program with Sr. Bethany



Book and media exhibit at St. John Parish in Chicago area

St. Patrick, Catholic Worker House, and Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

By Ellen McDowell

The relationship of St. Patrick's and the Soup Kitchen is a long, long trail a-winding. It goes back to the very early 1980s when Fr. George Dorsey, then at St. Pat's, was instrumental in establishing the first Catholic Worker House in this community, on University Avenue in Urbana. The house was on loan to St. Pat's as a possible home for a refugee family—those were the years of boat people arriving from Vietnam.

However, the family did not materialize and the decision was made to use the facility as a Catholic Worker House, run by graduate students at the U of I, one of whom had actually been to New York and worked at St. Joseph's House with Dorothy Day (as had Fr. George). The very afternoon the Worker House opened, a woman and toddler arrived, probably sent by St. Pat's where they might have gone for help. Fr. Doug Hennessey became involved as the Worker House explored its place in the community.

A Soup Kitchen was started immediately, being an integral part of every Worker House. Attendance was small, maybe 30 guests on a crowded day. Sophia Zeigler, the heroine of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Pat's, began to provide her legendary soup, nutritious mixtures of great hunks of meat and plenty of vegetables in a thick broth. Some of our guests still fondly remember Sophia's soup. Since the menu was simple, soup and bread, her soup was a full meal.

Until the Worker House began its move to Champaign in 1989, Sophia assisted guests in other ways through St. Vincent de Paul. After the move to Champaign, through the transition and beyond, Sophia's iconic soup continued, although

guests were then asked to approach Holy Cross's St. Vincent de Paul at Holy Cross, which responded generously.

Although Sophia's retirement was a blow, through the years in Champaign St. Pat's donors and their volunteers were hugely supportive. Fr. Joe (who was at the Newman Center then) brought a group of student volunteers who planted the seed for our U of I connection with Newman and the weekend van.

One afternoon, perhaps in 2005, I heard from a desperate woman who had been put out on the street after a family fracas. I brought her to the Worker House on Randolph, where she slept on the sofa. Trying to find help, I contacted Best Western on South Neil, as the woman had work at a nearby gas station. The receptionist at the motel quickly responded that she knew about the Worker House; she and her toddler were the first guests on University Avenue. The little boy was now 22 and a college graduate. Full circle!

In 2009, with new leadership at the Worker House, with the Tent City happening and neighborhood unrest, the Soup Kitchen was asked to leave the Worker House. Attendance had grown to over 70, and the volunteer corps was over a hundred, all dedicated people from all faith traditions who were determined to continue feeding the hungry. A new site to rent was found at New Covenant Fellowship. The Soup Kitchen established itself as an independent entity, and the rest is history.

After seven years, the time of Biblical fulfillment, the Soup Kitchen—now christened Daily Bread—is moving into its own home, and the relationship with St. Pat's has been the tie that binds, an unbroken thread, an invaluable and ongoing gift.



Holy Cross Happenings



The first semester always flies by, and this year was no exception. It ended with as much fun and fanfare as

always—and, as always, with a lot of participation from St. Pat's kids. The annual **Kris Kringle Shoppe** was held the first week of December, allowing students to purchase Christmas gifts for loved ones (some of which were handmade by none other than Holy Cross' Fr. Dave!).

Financial assistance applications for the 2017-18 school year are now available. If you are interested in sending your child to Holy Cross School but are in need of financial assistance, the first step is to apply for the **John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship** available through the Diocese of Peoria (visit cdop.org and click on Financial Assistance under the Catholic Education tab). You will need to complete the FACTS Grant & Aid Application, which can be done online. Contact the parish office (367-2665) if you have questions or need additional help getting your little one started at Holy Cross School.

Catholic Schools Week will be

observed during the last week of January and the first week of February. It kicks off with the **3rd Annual Spaghetti Supper** at St. Patrick's on Saturday, January 28. There will be two sittings, one at 6:00 p.m. and one at 7:00 p.m. the better to accommodate families coming from 5:00 Mass at St. Pat's and 5:30 Mass at Holy Cross. Tickets will be \$3 for every person over 3 years of age.

Donations of gift cards to purchase food and desserts are needed; see Kristi Turner or Rachael McMillan if you are able to help.



At the Kris Kringle Shoppe students were able to select holiday gifts for their loved ones.

Feast of the Vietnamese Martyrs

On Sunday, November 20, a special Mass was held at St. Patrick's for the Feast of the Vietnamese Martyrs. Father John Pham was the celebrant for this Vietnamese language Mass. About 200 people attended. Afterwards, a dinner was held in the main hall.



Feast of the Vietnamese Martyrs



Festival of Lessons and Carols

On a wet Sunday evening, a full sanctuary of friends, parishioners, and guests participated in the “Festival of Lessons and Carols.” Choirs from St. Patrick’s, St. Mary’s and St. Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church expressed in many languages the common joy of the Christmas season.

The traditional hymn “Once in Royal David’s City” opened the performance as the choirs processed into the sanctuary of St. Patrick’s church. Choral groups stood on risers where the altar usually resides. Ensembles took turns singing and speaking the “Lessons” or Bible passages in tongues including English, American Sign Language, Vietnamese, Lingala, Q’anjob’al, Korean, and Spanish.

Hymns included “Come Down, O Lord,” “Holy, Holy,” “Our Ancestor of the Ancient Time,” and “Hymn to St. John the Baptist.” Choirs performed a cappella or with piano or organ accompaniment. A small instrumental ensemble supported some songs. The Spanish choir included guitarists and tambourine players. The Congolese Catholic Community accompanied themselves with drums, shakers, and rattles. The American Sign Language performers generously interpreted all lessons and songs as well as performing a memorable “Silent Night.”

Some singers wore traditional clothing from their ancestral or native lands such as the striking Vietnamese áo dài and Mayan huipil and cortes. The audience joined in clapping, swaying and singing along with the performers.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols originated at Kings College, Cambridge, England, on Christmas Eve 1918. Their minister wanted a more modern and flexible Advent chorale service for a changing world. St. Patrick’s first annual Festival joins that tradition with a wonderful evening of readings, prayer, and music. The many diverse voices and languages of our community joined in faith and tolerance.

The spiritual “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” and the carol “Joy to the World” concluded the concert of music and prayer, which was followed by a reception in the parish hall.



Festival of Lessons and Carols

From many voices a celebration of Christ's birth



St. Thomas More Minute

By Principal Jason Schreder

Merry Christmas from the High School of St. Thomas More!

We are truly filled with joy during the Advent and Christmas Season as we live out and share our faith. It is our mission to assist our families in forming our students to become the saints God created them to be. At St. Thomas More it is not so much about what we do, but what we help our students become as disciples of Christ. At St. Thomas More, we believe that all students have the opportunity to receive a solid Catholic education that blends intellectual and spiritual formation.

Our academics challenge our students to take on the responsibility of achieving their greatest academic

potential. Our teachers are committed to serving our students by meeting their academic needs through challenging and enlightening lessons that foster a community of learning. We feature an average class size of 17 students with an 11:1 student to faculty ratio, which allows our teachers to focus more on individual learning and achievement. Our teachers come from highly qualified and experienced backgrounds. Many hold master's degrees and even doctorates, bringing college level learning to the high school to help prepare our students for the next level. This academic potential has come to fruition in over 200 Illinois State Scholars, an average ACT score of 25—the highest in the Diocese of Peoria—and over \$7 million in

scholarships awarded to our graduating class of 2016. In all curricular areas, our students seek truth, goodness, and beauty, but ultimately aspire to know, to love, and to serve God in their lives.

Most importantly, however, it is our mission to help our students grow in their faith during their time at St. Thomas More. Our students have the opportunity to encounter Christ in their walks as disciples daily through prayer, Theology class, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and celebration of the Eucharist. They take their faith to the world through their service, as St. Thomas More students have accumulated over 142,000 service hours since its inception. We strive to do our best every day in reaching the minds and hearts of our students, who will then go out into the world to shine the light of Christ.

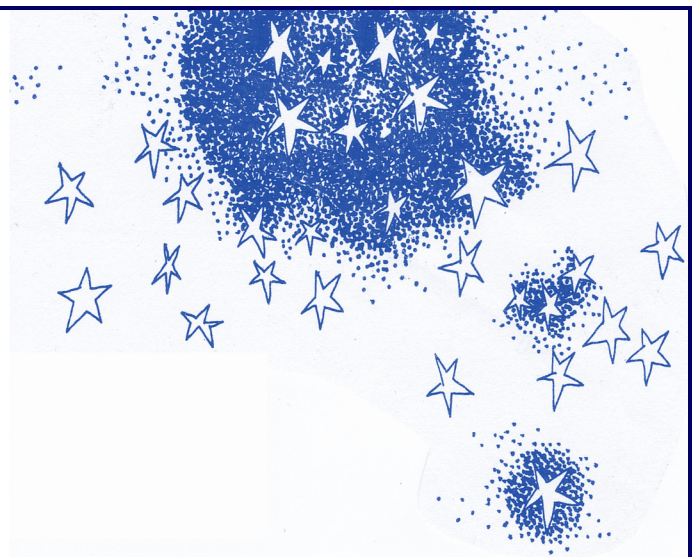
We would be honored by your presence at our many events, which you can find on our website (www.hs-stm.org). We ask for your prayers and we pray that you and your family would feel God's love at Christmas. He became one of us in the person of Jesus so that we may share in that joy and happiness of eternity in Heaven.

Thank you for your continued support, and Merry Christmas!



St. Thomas More students in the National Honor Society

Holy, holy, holy,
vulnerable God,
heaven and earth are full of your glory;
hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of God;
hosanna in the highest.





in our parish library

St. Patrick's parish library cleared for browsing!

The beginning of a new year is a wonderful thing. It provides a time for us to reflect on the joys of the past year, as well as its woes and problems, a time to rethink our relationship with God and to renew our promise to live as God would want us to live. You may find these books helpful in reflecting how to go about it.

Everyday Simplicity, by Robert J Wicks. This book focuses on the fact that God is present everywhere, no matter where we are or what we're doing. We simply have to take the time to seek God and listen to *God's* plans for us, not necessarily what we want to do. Call number 248 Wic

Seasons of Strength, by Evelyn and James Whitehead, focuses on Christian adulthood as an attempt to re-envision, to see anew, the patterns that shape maturity. This effort is guided by two images that have long been central in Christian

spirituality: vocation and virtue. The goal is to befriend these images, to rescue them from narrow interpretations that have weakened them, to recover their power to illumine our adult journey with God. Call number 248 Whi

The 7 Secrets of Successful Catholics, by Paul Wilkes. Have you known successful Catholics, people whose faith gives them a solid, sturdy framework upon which to base their lives? This framework inspires and helps them reflect on who they are and what's important in life. Wilkes provides a way to discover the secrets of this framework, helping *anyone* to become a successful Catholic. Call number 248 Wil

Seeds of Sensitivity: Deepening Your Spiritual Life, by Robert J. Wicks. Sensitivity is a virtue that is essential to becoming a caring, compassionate person. Wicks includes insights from contemporary psychologists and spiritual writers,

as well as his own experiences as a therapist, inviting us to commit ourselves in self, others, and God. Call number 248 Wic

A Tree Full of Angels: Seeing the Holy in the Ordinary, by Macrina Wiederkehr. This book is a personal invitation from God to stop, look, and listen for him. Every day, everything, everyone is a blessing and a miracle from God. The author helps us see the need to realize this and to praise God for all that we've been given. Call number 248 Wie

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

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

Please send news items to 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).

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Articles, information, and photos for this issue were provided by Luis Cuza, Judy Fierke, Sr. Jackie Jean-Marie Gitonga, Bob Goss, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Eileen Mathy, Pat Mayer, Ellen McDowell, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Susan Nagele, Thang Nguyen, Megan Raab, Dan Richards, Cathy Salika, Patsy Schmitt, Jason Schreder, and Adam and Stephanie Smith. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches, page layout by Jim Urban.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Connie Knake

Cranberry Bread

2 c all-purpose flour
1 t baking powder
1/2 t salt
3/4 c butter, softened
1 8-oz pkg cream cheese, softened
1-1/2 c sugar
2 t vanilla extract
3 eggs
1-1/2 c cranberries (fresh or frozen)
1/2 c chopped walnuts

Prepare a 9 x 5 loaf pan with cooking spray. In a large bowl, combine flour, baking powder, and salt; set aside. In another large bowl use an electric mixer to combine butter, cream cheese, sugar, vanilla, and eggs



until blended. Slowly add flour mixture to cream cheese mixture until combined. Stir in cranberries and nuts, then pour into loaf pan. Bake at 350° for 80-85 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let cool in pan 10 minutes, then remove to a wire rack to cool completely.

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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!



Q: Why does the priest pour water into the wine at Mass?

A: This action is very ancient and began as a practical necessity. When Christians started to ask what it meant, the action became interpreted symbolically and, when it was seen to make sense, it became part of the Church's rich tradition.

In the ancient world, the Greeks added water to wine because wine was often thick, gritty, too strong. It was simply good taste to add water to wine before drinking it. This custom was picked up by the Romans and then spread to all the lands they conquered. Even though it was not originally a Jewish custom to add water to wine, it soon became part of the Passover meal—hence, part of our Mass.

As early as the fourth century, catechists explained that the water represented humanity and the wine, divinity. Just as water that has been put into the wine is inseparable from the wine, so Jesus' humanity is inseparable from his divinity. So the custom continues.

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

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 this issue Jim Urban completes his years of preparing page layout for *In Focus*, leaving only two volunteers to prepare the newsletter for printing. They really need help from 1 or 2 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 really need help from 1 or 2 volunteers to edit a couple of issues a year. We can provide a short list of editing guidelines, schedules, and interesting articles, all in a single format, 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!

Vocation Prayer

Lord, light my heart's fire! Open my heart to hear your call, the call that could change my life. I will put my heart, mind, and soul into serving however you ask of me. I put myself into your hands, Lord. I will answer your call to the best of my ability, to be all that you want me to be.

January Patron Saints

ST. GENEVIEVE

WEIGH-WATCHERS

ST. RAYMOND OF PENAFORT

WIND SURFERS

ST. ANTHONY
PIG HERDSMAN

ST. ELIZABETH
ANNE SETON
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Fr. Wuelner



The sky is not the limit

On Sunday, November 20, an amazing event was held at St. Patrick's Trinity Hall. There was a live, Skype conversation with Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno, who is the director of the Vatican Observatory. His complete biography appeared in the November issue of *In Focus*.

The question-and-answer session was called "Cosmic Faith: Exploring the big questions of science and religion." Jim Urban, pastoral associate, gave the introduction. David Leake, an astronomy instructor and director of the Parkland planetarium, praised Brother Guy's ability to mesh science and religion. Father Remm, moderator, remarked how fitting it was to discuss the universe on the feast of Christ the King.

Brother Guy began by relating that when he was thirty and studying at MIT, he questioned why he was studying astronomy while there were people starving in the world. He left his studies to join the Peace Corps in Kenya. There he learned that man indeed does not live by bread alone. One night he brought a telescope to a small village where the people uttered "Wow!" as they saw the moons of Jupiter or the rings of Saturn for the first time. It is marveling at the universe that makes us human, not being rich. All humankind should have the time and opportunity to do things that make them human, such as astronomy, photography, art, dance, or theater.

Father Remm asked the first question, about why science is never complete; every scientific answer generates five new questions. Brother Guy responded that scientific description is human made, therefore incomplete. Science



is understanding seeking truth; whereas religion is truth seeking understanding.

Brother Guy discussed God and the universe. God is before the universe is, and God is outside the universe. God remembers the future. God inspired the authors of Genesis to write, "Let there be light." God commented several times that his creation was good. This is why, Brother Guy said, that he studies astronomy; "If God did it; it's worth my while to study it."

Scientists believe that the laws of physics are the same anywhere in the universe. Brother Guy believes the laws of right and wrong and the law of love that is God is the same anywhere, too. Therefore, any intelligent alien would be governed by these laws. One of his books is entitled *Would You Baptize an Extraterrestrial?*

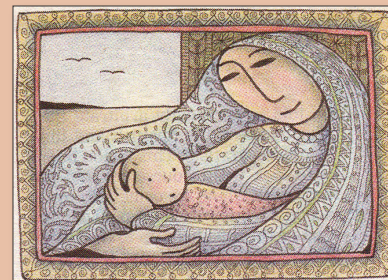
Brother Guy answered a question from Denise Green about how to keep children interested in science as they grow up. He answered have them read science fiction. Then he mentioned one of his favorite books as a youth was written by H. A. Rey, the author of the "Curious George" series—*The Stars, A New Way of Seeing Them*, for ages 10-110.

It is important for Christians not to be afraid of science, but not to worship science. Science is not the

last word. God gave us the physical universe as a way to get to know him. To close your eyes to that, Brother Guy said, is to close your eyes to God.

Father Hennessy asked the last question: God designed the Earth to be lived on; could it be the only life-supporting planet? Instead of addressing whether there are other planets with intelligent life, Brother

Guy spoke to the need for humankind to find ways to live in harmony with nature on Earth. God will not give us impossible desires, so we can work out ways to live on Earth, this gift from God. "We don't want to write graffiti on the book of nature!" Brother Guy, it is apparent, is a scientist/philosopher with a sense of humor.



**O Eternal Wisdom,
we praise you
and give you thanks,
because you emptied yourself
of power
and became foolishness
for our sake;
for on this night
you were delivered
as one of us,
a baby needy and naked,
born into poverty and exile,
to proclaim the good news
to the poor.**

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 November 2016

Dear friends at St. Patrick's,

I have seen many of you these past few weeks as my father passed on to be with God on November 6. Our family is very grateful for the beautiful funeral service at St. Patrick's on November 12. Your love and support was a great comfort to us as we remembered his life among us. His remains were interred in the cemetery near the farm where he grew up.

This has been a year of goodbyes. Judy Walter, who was my housemate for five years, moved on to Tanzania in April to help begin a House of Prayer in Mwanza with Maryknoll. In August, Russ Brine, a Maryknoll Lay Missioner who lived and worked in Kitale Kenya for the past 15 years, moved to Cambodia to continue serving as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner. In September, my last housemate moved to Bolivia to continue serving as a Maryknoll lay missioner and teacher. So Coralie Salvador and I continue to serve in Mombasa...the remnant!

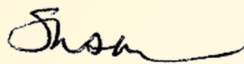
It has been difficult to recruit new missioners to come to Kenya due to insecurity. Recently there was an attack on the Central Police Station in our neighborhood. Three women attacked police officers with knives, and one blew herself up. Some say that the so-called Islamic State was behind this, but others are uncertain.

We are routinely checked by security guards when we enter the Cathedral, post office, or grocery store. They look in our purses and pass a wand around our bodies. The Sunday before I left, they found a man trying to enter the Mass I was attending who was carrying a knife. He refused to hand it over and didn't enter. I don't go out at night and don't frequent big shopping malls or fancy restaurants. I'm quite content to live a simple life with our neighbors. My work takes me to the villages, and the only concern on those trips is dangerous drivers—they go too fast and don't follow the rules of the road!

Our Maryknoll Association has been commended by Archbishop Dolan of New York, the authority who oversees our ministry; I attach a letter from him. We are always looking for new members, and I'd be very happy to be in contact with anyone who is interested or who has questions.

Happily, I continue on with our health care ministry in Mombasa and will return to Kenya on December 6. I am very disturbed by the increasing violence and hateful actions in the U.S. since the elections. It is obvious that many people are afraid and hurting deeply on all sides. I hope and pray that our Advent reflections on the coming of the Christ child will help us to see ourselves as members of one family who need to listen to each other, to love and care for one another.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Susan Nagele

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

If you'd like to make a donation, simply make your check payable to Maryknoll Lay Missioners, and in the memo line write "Missionary account Susan Nagele." If you want to make a gift in memory of Thomas Nagele, simply add "in memory of Thomas Nagele."

You can find Susan's blog (and instructions for making on-line donations) at <http://healthministryinkenya.blogspot.com/>



Susan and Coralie

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

You could say that Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's claim to fame, particularly in the United States of America, is that she founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. She opened the American parish school and established the first American Catholic orphanage, all in a lifetime span of 46 years. In and of themselves these accomplishments are extraordinary, but putting them into the backdrop of the challenges that were dealt to her throughout her life makes all that she accomplished incredibly spectacular.

She was born in 1774, two years before the Declaration of Independence was signed, into a prominent New York Episcopalian family. She learned early from her father, a humanitarian, to love and to serve others.

By 1793 she was a beautiful socialite, happily married to William Magee Seton, a handsome and very prosperous New York business owner. Their family grew to five children but soon afterwards the elder William died, leaving the young couple to manage the family's importing business, the Seton extended family, and their own young children. Unstable events at the beginning of the 19th century caused many maritime businesses to fail and the Seton importing business became bankrupt.

In conjunction with this event, William contracted what was the health scourge of those times, tuberculosis. Hoping for a cure Elizabeth took her dying husband to Italy, where they were taken in by her husband's business associates, who were devout Catholics. William died in Italy and Elizabeth returned to New York a penniless widow with five small children to support. She also returned home with a deep affection for the Catholic faith and indeed, in 1805, became a Catholic convert.



To support her family, Elizabeth was encouraged to do what she could do well, open a school and teach. The school was thriving until word got around of her conversion to Catholicism; parents immediately removed the pupils from the school and Elizabeth was shunned by her family, friends, and New York society. At 30 years of age, her life had taken many forms: a rich young socialite, a bride, a wife, a mother, a business woman, a caregiver, a widow, an educator, and a shunned Catholic.

It has been suggested that the most difficult and painful times in Mother Seton's life were during interpersonal and family conflicts, misunderstandings, deaths, and wayward children. This list may sound a bit familiar to many of today's mothers!

A study of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton banner in our Saints Chapel reveals many objects and fabrics that bring to mind events, rituals, and ceremonies associated with our own life stories and our Catholic faith. It is not hard to imagine that St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, too, might have been able to associate fabrics from her lifetime that would have conjured up similar memories. Notice the laces from baptismal, first communion, confirmation, and wedding gowns. The cherished Rosary and holy medal that signifies our Catholic faith and Mother Seton's devotion to our Blessed Mother. The simple woven cloth and buttons from the cloak of a cleric and the treasured book from the local convent of The Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, symbolizing the consecrated life.

One of Elizabeth's most beloved sayings, always but especially appropriate in our time, was, "Live simply so that all may simply live."