

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

July-August 2019

## How will you rest this summer?

We often think of summer as a time of rest and relaxation but, for some of us, it's busier than ever. With mowing and gardening, with youngsters home from school, and with cookouts, sports, and travel, there's a lot to do. It may be a happy and productive time, but is it restful?

When you think of rest, perhaps the first thing that comes to your mind is a good

night's sleep or a nice nap. These are a kind of rest, but not the only kind. The book of Genesis tells us that, after creating the heavens and the earth, God rested. This shows us that rest is important, but do we imagine God taking a nap? When someone dies, we often say, "Rest in peace." Are we wishing them eternal sleep, or something more?

Rest is a time to be still, to take us away from mere activity and give us a chance to do more important things. Rest gives us time to savor our surroundings, to enjoy the beauty of the world and the people that God has given us, to see things that we might not see when we're busy. Rest gives us time to know peace, the gift that Jesus so often

wished for his disciples. Rest gives us time to dream, to note our deepest longings, and to begin to see how they might be fulfilled. Rest gives us time to be curious, to explore the world God has given us.

Resting on the seventh day,

God could well have savored the world that he had created. It is lovely to imagine him taking pleasure in all that he

had made. How well it all works together! What joy it will give to all his creatures! And someone entering heaven, to whom we say, "Rest in peace," is blessed with an eternity "to savor the sweetness of the Lord," as Psalm 27 says. How beautiful to picture them enjoying God, enjoying the other people there, finding every pain and longing eased!

Find time to rest this summer. No matter how busy you are, find time to savor, to enjoy the people you are with, to know peace, to dream, to discover your deepest longings, to be curious. These are gifts for rest that God has given us to strengthen us to go on in our life with him!



## Coming soon: the annual Cellar-to-Garret Sale!

Call it "Cellar-to-Garret" or "Basement-to-Attic" or "C2G" as it is affectionately known—it is St. Patrick's annual giant garage sale that raises funds for the Women of St. Patrick, which are used throughout the year to further the mission of Spirituality, Service, and Social engagement for the women of the parish. This is an event that parishioners and people



Kathy McKenzie and Toni D'Urso help set up the 2017 Cellar-to-Garret sale

in the community look forward to each August. It's a great place to find just the right thing at a spectacular price!

Proceeds from the Cellar-to-Garret Sale are used for a variety of causes. The funds have been used in the past to purchase tables

see **Cellar-to-Garret** on page 9

## Parish Council News

Although seeing him leave is difficult, we are grateful for everything Father Luke did for us. The Parish Council is particularly grateful to Father Luke because he changed the functions of the Council to be more active as an advisory board as well as to create activities and projects that would make St. Patrick more welcoming, more prayerful, and safer. To honor and thank Father



Luke, the Parish Council organized a few gifts for him. The first was a collection of memories and prayers: parishioners wrote memories of their experiences with Father Luke, such as a favorite homily or a time he made them laugh or inspired them. Parishioners also wrote about their commitment to pray for Fr. Luke. The second gift was creation of the Fr. Luke Spannagel Scholarship. Parishioners contributed money for this named scholarship, which will be given every year to a student in K-12 who attends a Catholic school and who demonstrates Father Luke's qualities. The scholarship committee for this scholarship will be formed later this summer.

The final gift was a framed list of Father Luke's accomplishments in his short time at St. Patrick:

### Pastoral Ministry

- Served as role model for what it means to be a Christian in modern times
- Provided homilies grounded in scripture, with practical applications related to the readings
- Made baptisms, weddings, and funerals a very personal service
- Led many Holy Hours
- Led Friday lunch sessions on the Church, its teachings, and its rituals
- Engaged with children including those in Catholic schools
- Was transparent about the priest abuse scandal and included a prayer for the victims at all Masses
- Served the spiritual needs of parishioners and non-parishioners at both Carle and OSF
- Offered Mass at the Champaign Nursing Home every month
- Was available to parishioners and often said funeral Masses on his day off
- Established the Young Professionals group and increased the number of parishioners in their 20s
- Encouraged the parish to pray and provided new opportunities to do so

### Administrative

- Reframed the Parish Council so that it is a proactive advisory group that takes on special projects to

enhance our parish community including:

- Creating a parish mission statement that involved all parishioners and ministry groups
- A review of the Music Ministry
- A review of security
- Reframed the Financial Affairs Committee to the Finance Council that is active in creating a realistic budget, as well as:
  - Reviewing all accounts and fundraising activities, including the renovation project
  - Closely monitoring parish support of Catholic schools
  - Providing advice on the newly established Vincent Green Scholarships
  - Directing the ADA
  - Achieved the ADA goal for two years, which had not been accomplished for several years
  - Reviewed, analyzed, and adjusted business practices
- Restructured the Building and Grounds Committee
- Identified deficiencies and enhanced space in our newly expanded church:
  - Repairing the separation between the old church and new structure
  - Identifying deficiencies in the heating and air conditioning system (currently being monitored)
  - Installed room dividers in part of Trinity Hall to allow the space to be used for classes and small meetings
- Negotiated with Carle to provide lawn mowing and snow shoveling services
- Installed security cameras within and outside of our structures
- Ordered a new keyless locking system to improve security
- Contracted with a cleaning service to improve daily maintenance
- Purchased a new rectory and acquired large donations to minimize the mortgage payment

### Other accomplishments

- Enhanced our image both in our parish and in Champaign-Urbana as a welcoming community
- Allowed our parish to host sessions on LGBTQ and the priest abuse scandal
- Created the St. Scholastica endowed scholarship fund to encourage parishioners to support Catholic education in our community
- Reduced the debt on the renovation project by \$1 million
- Was always open to new ideas, including having a pilgrimage to St. Joe's this fall with a Mass offered in a park

### And finally...

Father Luke's ready smile, kind heart, transparency, sense of humor, and humility led to a deep trust and affection among parishioners.

## Go with God, Father Luke!

At the time of this writing, we are on the cusp of celebrating Pentecost, and with it, the end of the Easter season. It is also the last weekend of Father Luke as pastor of St. Patrick Parish. In most other years, Easter would have ended several weeks ago. Fittingly, however, his departure comes at a time when we naturally reflect on how we have grown as Christians, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and our charge to take that love out into the world.

After all, part of his legacy is leaving St. Patrick with a new mission statement to reflect the heart of our parish: Growing God's family by living the love of Christ through sacraments, service, and a joyful, welcoming community.

In Focus caught up with Father Luke to ask him some questions about how he sees his impact here, his advice for Father Anthony, and other things he'd like to reflect on about his time at St. Patrick.

A sad but fond farewell and many blessings to Father Luke as he continues in his ministry!

**Many parishioners probably recall the incident you shared at one of your first Masses at St. Patrick's about a religious sister who, at the funeral of her brother—a former pastor here—casually announced that you would be in charge here someday. What an amazing prediction! As you move on, do you have any reflections on your time here in light of that incident that you'd like to share?** Yes! The sister's name is Sister Andrea, Fr. Martell's sister. As some may recall, when I told the story I stood on one of the steps in front of the pulpit, which is approximately where I stood in the church many years ago. Often times, these past years, I would go to that spot early in the morning to



pray, asking God's blessing on the parish and for his wisdom over my work here. I do believe it was God's will that brought me here and I am thankful for all the blessings and many great things we were able to accomplish during my time here.

**Each former pastor leaves a little bit of himself behind. What about St. Pat's do you think people will associate with you for years to come?** In

practical ways, I have always tried to leave an assignment in better condition than before I arrived. Sometimes these would be practical matters like organization, building repairs, parish structures, the development of a parish mission. Hopefully, in this case, all of those will bear fruit for years to come. Of course, there were many things I was not able to finish, like retiring our debt. But I am grateful for the many good works we accomplished together.

One practical note—I'm leaving many pieces of furniture and household items for Father Anthony, but one special item I'm leaving behind is a chalice to be used at Masses. All the parishes I've been in in the past had many chalices. Many of you may not know, but St. Patrick only had one chalice when I arrived, a historical chalice made by cloistered nuns for Fr. Paul Kinder. I am joyful that during my time here we added a chalice and matching ciborium in memory of Deacon David Zola, through the generosity of our Knights of Columbus. The chalice I'm leaving behind was a gift for my tenth

anniversary as a priest.

**What about St. Patrick's are you going to take with you wherever you go?** By far my favorite experience of being here is all of the good people. I have very much enjoyed getting to know people from different walks of life and life circumstances. I will take their memories with me.

**How would you rank the projects you set in motion—installing an electronic security system, landscaping, revising the Parish Council by-laws, and so on—in order of importance for Father Anthony?** One of the items I'm leaving for Father Anthony is a file folder of ongoing projects and potential memorials. Each of these projects in their own way is meant to help maintain our parish facilities or enhance the life and well-being of our parish family. I have enjoyed working with parish leaders on these projects and am grateful for all their ideas and help when carrying them out.

**What is your best piece of advice for Father Anthony as he takes on the role of pastor here?** Father

Anthony is one of my best friends; we have known each other the entire time we have been serving as priests. He has a unique heart for God's people. I have seen God work through him in many ways to help bring people to healing and growth in their life with Christ. My only advice is for him to continue to live as the priest God has made him to be and to

continue doing God's work.

**Any other thoughts you'd like to share with us as we say "see you later"?** It has been a great joy to be here and to grow with you all. Know of my ongoing prayers for all of you—I send my blessings from the banks of the Mississippi River!





## Holy Cross Happenings

And just like that, the 2018-2019 school year is in the books! On Thursday, May 16, Holy Cross graduated a class of 34 eighth-grade students. Graduates from St. Patrick are Aidan Beckett, Ava Borbely, Tsega Jahiel, Emily Leinenger, Emma Martinez, Gabby Mboyo, Jack McMillan, Christina Pembele, Hadley Peters, Jasmine Waite, and Sylvia Withers-Sickles.

The day before graduation, students were recognized for participation in extracurricular activities, honors they had received throughout the year, and academic achievements dating back to the start of junior high. A few special awards were given to recognize general excellence in several categories. The American Citizenship Award, given to students who embody the qualities of a good school-community citizen, was awarded to Tsega, Christina, and Jasmine.

Tsega also received the Mother Theresa Award for generous service, while Jasmine was given the Pope John XXIII award for providing a strong example of the Christian faith. Christina's hard work, dedication, and musical talent were acknowledged with the Chorus and Band Award. Ava and Hadley were granted the Spirit of Cooperation

Award for exhibiting excellence in that area. In addition, Hadley was granted the P.E. Leadership Award by Mr. Weaver, who also acknowledged the 8th-grade class's overall self-sufficiency at running their class activities.

In general, the faculty of Holy Cross seemed to have a hard time saying "see you later" to this group of very special young ladies and gentlemen!

One good way to stay connected to Holy Cross this summer is to participate in the Crusader 5K, which will be held on Friday, July 26. In addition to the professionally chip-timed 5K, which steps off at 7:00 p.m., it will feature a tot dash at 6:15 p.m., and a youth run (100



m) at 6:30 p.m.. There is a fee for the 5K; the youth runs are free. Visit [crusader5k.weebly.com](http://crusader5k.weebly.com) for more information and to register.

*Please feel free to contact [rachmcmill@gmail.com](mailto:rachmcmill@gmail.com) if there is anything you'd like to see featured in an upcoming installment of Holy Cross Happenings or if you have any additions/corrections to report.*

*Interested in having your children attend Holy Cross School? Schedule a tour of the school by calling Principal Phil Sexton at 356-9521. Financial help may be available; contact St. Patrick's parish office (367-2665) for more details.*

### **Fourth Quarter Honor Roll**

*(Note: this does not include eighth grade students, who were acknowledged at Honor's Day)*

### **Highest Honors**

Grace Dimoke  
Josh Loftus

### **High Honors**

Alyson Clements  
Pilar Martinez  
Michael McCoy  
Cate Feinen  
Anna Loftus  
Ian Peters  
Natalie Caughlin



### **Want to receive *In Focus* by email?**

Want to receive *In Focus* by email? Join our email list to receive a monthly notification when a new issue of *In Focus* is published, with a link to it on the parish website ([staturbana.org](http://staturbana.org)). Go to <http://eepurl.com/duJdY1> and sign up—it's that easy!

You can also find on the parish website all issues of the newsletter that have been published during the current year, as well as access to all previously published issues of *In Focus*.

# Scholarship winners announced at graduation Mass

The 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday, May 11, celebrated the accomplishments of St. Patrick's eighth- and twelfth-graders. Parents, friends, and parishioners shared in the joy of youth moving on to high school and college from area schools including Holy Cross School, St. Patrick's of Tolono, and The High School of St. Thomas More. The Knights of Columbus Fr. Martell scholarship awards and the Vincent Greene scholarship winners were announced.

Vincent O. Greene, a parishioner who passed away in 2015, left a gift to St. Patrick's Parish in the form of a college scholarship trust for students of our parish. This is the second year of the scholarship so some of the recipients are incoming freshmen and some of them are incoming sophomores or juniors. Here are the recipients for the 2019-2020 school year:

**Incoming freshman:**

- Josiah Freedman, Parkland Pathway to the University of Illinois
- Erinn Miller, St Louis University
- Johnson Nguyen, University of Illinois
- Hannah Niccum, University of Mississippi
- Ketsia Nzeza, Parkland College
- Sarah Grosse Perdekamp, Indiana University

- Kayley Schacht, University of Notre Dame
- Kathleen Sherlock, Butler University
- Lucy Sherlock, Butler University
- Ethan Smith, Catholic University of America
- Maris Wszalek, University of Illinois

**Incoming junior (second year recipient):**

- Matthew Reeder, University of Illinois
- Hannah Sweeney, MacMurray College

**Incoming sophomore (first year recipient):**

- Syntyche Nzeza, Parkland College

**Incoming senior (second year recipient):**

- Robert Stavins, University of Illinois

**Incoming sophomore (second year recipient):**

- John Acklin, Parkland Pathway to the University of Illinois
- Sarah Acklin, Indiana State University
- Samuel Arend, Parkland Pathway to the University of Illinois
- John Acklin, Parkland Pathway to the University of Illinois
- Sarah Acklin, Indiana State University
- Samuel Arend, Parkland Pathway to the University of Illinois
- Brooke Berry, Northern Illinois University
- Courtney Kneer, Eastern Illinois University
- Paul Nguyen, Parkland College



*Vincent O. Greene Scholarship winners*

Each year the Knights of Columbus sponsors the Fr. Charles Martell Scholarship for high school seniors. Fr Martell was the pastor of St. Patrick from 1957 to 1977 and helped to found the Urbana Knights of Columbus Council in 1965. Here are the recipients for this year:

- Josiah Freedman - Urbana High School
- Erinn Miller - St Joseph-Ogden High School

- Johnson Nguyen - Centennial High School
- Sarah Grosse Perdekamp - University Laboratory High School



*Fr. Martell Scholarship winners*



*Eighth- and twelfth-grade graduates*



Keeping You Informed:

# The landscape plan

In 2016, a landscaping plan was adopted by St. Patrick Parish. The grounds committee consulted a professional landscape designer, who drew up a well-thought-out landscape plan for our parish. With grounds that encompass a full city block, the landscape designer advised St. Patrick's of the importance of looking at our landscaping needs as a campus.

A challenge is posed by landscaping grounds with public visibility on all sides. On the south, our parish center and church face Main Street. On the north, both the center and church are fully visible from our parking lot. The church wall on the west rises over Busey Avenue, while the east side of the parish building faces Coler Street. The landscaping needs to emphasize that the church's northeast door is now the primary entrance to St. Patrick's Church.

Some of the work already completed includes trees taken down or cut back. The trees removed had substantially outgrown their space, and some presented a risk of damage to the roof of the parish center.

Thanks to the generosity of the Timpone family and in memory of former trustee Ginger Timpone, a pergola is being built in the grassy area at the northeast corner of the parish center. This area will be landscaped to provide a beautiful place for wedding photos as well as other memorable occasions.

The parish is fortunate to have a partnership with Carle for our parking lot. Carle not only does all maintenance on the parking lot but in the most recent negotiations has agreed to manage the landscaping for the parking lot and mow the parish grounds—saving our parish a great deal of money!

Phil Davis, chair of the grounds committee, plans work days for the parish. If you wish to help with landscaping work, please call Phil (217-354-2545). If you have questions about the landscaping plan, please call committee member Margy Palmisano (217-202-9361).

If you are interested in funding a landscaping project, Father Anthony would welcome having a conversation with you.

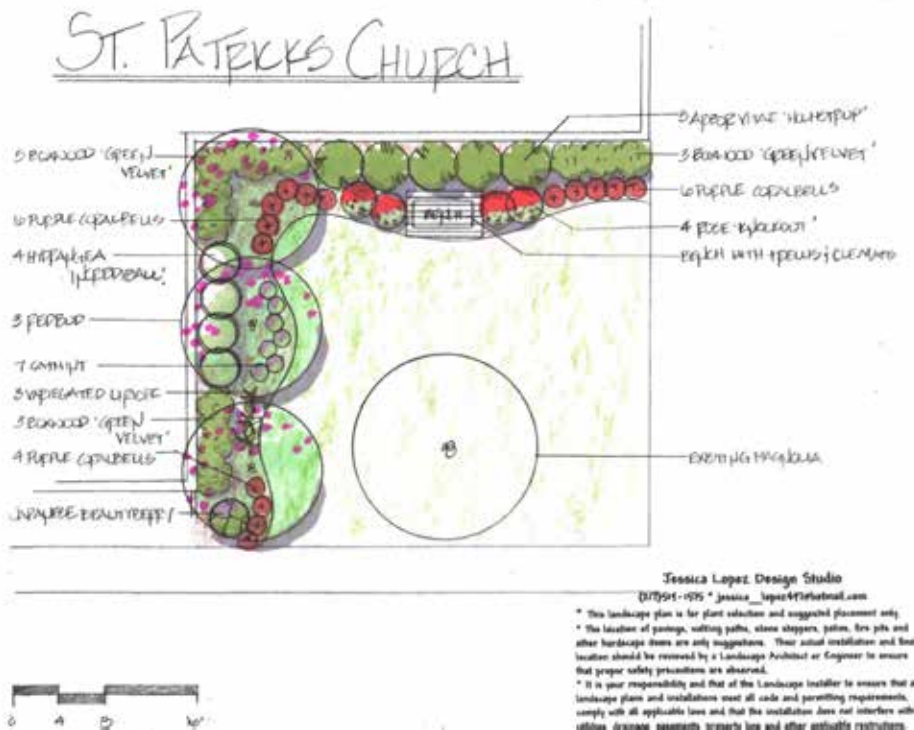
# Where on earth is St. Patrick?

Thanks to the generous support of the people of St. Patrick and the fundraising efforts of the Knights of Columbus and The Women of St. Patrick, the statue of our patron saint is in Chicago for a total refurbishment. It was long overdue, but following the refurbishment of the statue of Our Blessed Mother, the time had come.

The Knights of Columbus and Women of St. Patrick together undertook raising \$5,200 for the restoration, and with the help and support of many parishioners were able to accomplish the goal. The statue was transported to the Daprato Rigali Studios in Chicago on May 29.



Whether you dropped a donation in the basket outside the doors of the church, put a check in the Sunday collection, or came to the KC's delicious pancake and sausage fundraiser breakfast, your donation helped to achieve the goal and is greatly appreciated. With significant donations from the Knights and the Women of St. Patrick, the project was able to move forward quickly. We hope to see St. Patrick back in place sometime in July, when we will have a blessing and rededication of the statue. Watch the Sunday bulletin for details.



## St. Patrick Parish comes together to support SJS/TEN research fundraiser

A silent auction and chicken dinner were held in our parish

hall on June 8, in memory of Angela Anderson, daughter of long-time St. Patrick parishioners Paul and Wanpen Anderson. Over 333 tickets were sold for the chicken dinner provided by Nelsons of Springfield.

The tables in the hall were full of chattering parishioners, including Father Luke and his parents. All the money raised by this event will go to the Stevens-Johnson Syndrome/ Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (SJS/TEN) Research Fund at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

On December 24, 2015, 22-year-old Angela took ibuprofen for an eye infection. By Christmas morning a rash had spread over her body and into her mucous membranes, and her father took her to the emergency room. Her condition worsened, and she had to be put on life support as her lungs filled with fluid. Over 50 per cent of Angela's skin sloughed off as she experienced the toxic epidermal necrolysis stage. She died on December 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents. To learn more about



*Angela Anderson*

Angela's tragic case, go to: [www.AngelaWanpenAnderson.com](http://www.AngelaWanpenAnderson.com).

The silent auction offered 82 donated items, worth over \$10,000, including products and services. The preliminary total raised from the dinner and auction was \$13,982.50. More money was raised from local businesses: Kohl's has promised \$500, and the Savoy 16 Goodrich Theaters

raised \$1475 on the weekend of the new "Avengers" movie by asking customers to round up the price of their movie tickets.

Halfway through the evening Angela's father, Paul, took the microphone to explain the three prerequisites of this terrible disease. The first is the individual's DNA. The second is the specific medication taken by the individual to fight an infection. The third is an

unknown variable that determines whether the individual gets SJS/TEN. This third prerequisite is what Vanderbilt's research is trying to discover so they can prevent this disease.

There were three survivors of SJS/TEN at the fundraiser. Two of them addressed the audience to tell about their experiences.

The Anderson family thanks the many businesses, friends, and parishioners who donated money or items to make the fundraiser a success. They are grateful to the parish nurses of St. Patrick, who sponsored the event, and to Jon and Dawn McCoy, who were excellent

advisors on the many details of hosting a fundraiser. A very special thank you to the Women of St. Patrick, who

generously

provided grant money so that every penny raised by the dinner will go to SJS/TEN research. This was truly a community effort!



*The Anderson family*

## Seniors enjoy wildlife photographs

On a warm, sunny May 15, the St. Jeanne Jugan seniors of St. Patrick's met for their monthly luncheon at Attie's in Urbana.

The speaker for the day was Don Chamberlain, a retired teacher from Eisenhower in Decatur. He gave us a personal history of his wildlife photography, some tips for taking the best pictures, and shared his personal best pictures. Most of them shown were taken at Banner Marsh in Banner, Illinois, and Horseshoe Lake in Granite City, Illinois.

As strange as it may seem, after 17 years of taking pictures of birds he gave us over nine reasons to remain in the car while doing this! With great emphasis he said, "Being a nature photographer is like being a doctor. YOU HAVE TO HAVE PATIENCE!" So many varieties of birds and colors! And beautiful! We were able to view pictures of other wildlife creatures as well, and we appreciated



every one of them.

Since his retirement Don has been able to travel extensively, taken classes, attended lectures, and joined camera clubs to learn as much as possible to help him enjoy his retirement in Wildlife Photography.

Sounds like a good retirement!



## From Sr. Jackie Gitonga

Dearest Friends in Christ,

I hope this note finds you each well and blessed. I thank you all for your continued love, prayers and support especially in my vocational journey. Please join me in thanking and praising God for all that he has done in my life thus far, including the recent final profession of my religious vows!

This journey began on April 5, 2018, when I was sent to study and prepare more intensely for my final vows in Rome. There we quickly got settled down to learning Italian. There were 24 of us sisters from 12 different countries and three sisters accompanying us in our formation journey. Our Italian teacher came to the convent every day, and we would study for about three hours. After three months of learning Italian at our Generalate house in Rome, we were missioned out to our convents outside of Rome for an Italian immersion experience. There we lived, worked, prayed, and continued to study Italian with our sisters.

About 11 of us were sent to our hospital community in Albano, Italy, about 45 minutes from Rome. In Albano, there is the one and only hospital built by our founder, Blessed James Alberione, in 1948. It was built to help take care of our sisters both physically and spiritually after World War II; now it includes the general public as well. The sisters stationed there have had a wealth of experience as missionaries both in Italy and in other countries. My Italian immersion experience at this hospital branch was invaluable, not only because of the opportunity to learn from the sisters' missionary experiences but also because many of them knew our Founder, Blessed James Alberione and co-foundress, Mother Tecla Merlo, as well as the history of our foundations. It was a challenging but fruitful experience.

During his lifetime, Blessed James Alberione (1884–1971) visited the hospital many times exhorting the sisters to be attentive to the ministry of suffering, prayer, and offering of illness for the salvation of souls and the fruitful spreading of the Gospel, using the various means of social communication. This powerful aspect of our ministry as Daughters of St. Paul today remains quite relevant, since the Lord continues to ask that we offer our sufferings, ailments, and prayers for the sake of those who use the media and that they may find Christ, who is our Way, Truth and Life.

I had the chance to do some sightseeing of St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican radio offices, the colosseum, the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican, Castel Gandolfo (papal summer residence), the papal gardens, and many

beautiful churches. My sisters and I were blessed to have a few audiences with Pope Francis. One powerful mission experience was being able to attend the Synod for Young People with Pope Francis in October 2018. What an experience to see Pope Francis up close! What an experience also to hear the stories of so many young people today facing a complexity of issues...difficult family situations, incongruence between Christian

values and expectations at work, prison, pornography, social media, drugs, war and violence, etc., and yet in all that they shared, they had found Christ in the cross. Pope Francis shared brief but beautiful words, encouraging the Synod Fathers to ponder what was shared by the young people.

Another powerful mission experience for me included visiting the Regina Coeli prison in Rome to pray the Mass together with the inmates and to share with them copies of the Gospel. The Mass was full

of life, and I couldn't help but be amazed at how Christ comes to us right where we are—in our "locked up reality" whether physically, spiritually, mentally, psychologically—and that he comes to help us live a life of freedom, as persons who are fully alive, sons and daughters of God! We were truly blessed to be present to them at the Liturgy and to share a book of the Gospels in such a tangible way. God is good!

One of the neat things about being in Italy was the opportunity to visit our Pauline roots. The Daughters of St. Paul are part of the Pauline Family founded in 1915. It consists of 10 congregations that proclaim the Good News to all peoples today with the means of social communication and in the spirit of St. Paul. As a matter of fact, for the Feast of St. Paul on June 29 we had a Mass with all the members of the Pauline family at the Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls. It was awesome to pray and praise God in the very same place that St. Paul's remains are found. The Mass was celebrated by the Superior General of the entire Pauline Family, Don Valdir Jose de Castro, SSP. The Mass concluded with a brief visit and incensing at the tomb of St. Paul.

On October 25 our group of junior professed sisters from around the world officially began the preparation for final vows. It was held in Italian and entailed an intense participation of classes on deepening our knowledge of our Pauline charism, Constitutions, and visiting our charismatic foundations and other holy sites in Rome and beyond. One of the highlights of these weeks of study and reflection included pilgrimages to Alba and other areas of

see **Sr. Jackie** on next page



*Sr. Jackie and her family*



## Sr. Jackie from page 8

our foundations in the Piedmont region.

We also spent a day in the footsteps of St. Paul where we walked the Appian Way, that is, the way St. Paul walked on his way to Rome, where he died. We also prayed the Mass at the Church of St. Paul at the Three Fountains and visited the Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls where the remains of St. Paul are buried. There was so much to see, learn, and experience! I most certainly interceded for you all at each of these holy sites and strongly believe in the intercession of our "Pauline folks" for our every need. We concluded our preparation on March 10 and thereafter, each of us junior professed sisters returned to our home countries to prepare for our final vows.

With the permission of my Provincial Superior, Sr. Donna Giaimo, I made my final vows on May 18 at Our Lady of Consolata Cathedral in my hometown of Nyeri, Kenya. The main celebrant was Archbishop Emeritus Peter Kairo. Sr. Donna was able to visit Kenya to receive my vows and celebrate with us. It was such a joyful day! I felt blessed to have the presence and tremendous support of my family and our sisters in the East African delegation. Thereafter, we had an opportunity to participate in Masses of thanksgiving at my local parish in Giakanja, Nyeri (Kenya) as well as at our village home, where a traditional Kikuyu tribal ceremony offered blessings and prayers from



*Dance with Catholic women*

the clan elders, both men and women, as I begin my new religious life journey of serving God forever. What a gift and great grace from the Lord!

I am looking forward to celebrating with you in the Mass of Thanksgiving for my perpetual profession of vows at the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass on July 7. For now, I thank you with all my heart for your prayers and tremendous spiritual accompaniment in my vocational journey, which began at UIUC more than 10 years ago. May God bless you abundantly and suffice for your every need and desire of your heart! See you soon!

Love and prayers,  
Sr. Jackie Jean-Marie Gitonga, FSP,  
Daughters of St. Paul, USA/ESC  
[www.daughtersofstpaul.org](http://www.daughtersofstpaul.org)

## Cellar-to-Garrett from page 1

and chairs for the parish center, kitchen appliances and dishes, donations to Maryknoll Lay Missioners, foods for special events, and gifts to clergy and staff at the holidays. Proceeds make money available for speakers and retreat leaders to keep the cost for participants to a minimum or free to those who request scholarships.

This year the Women of St. Patrick began a grant program, making monies available for causes that align with their mission. The first grant was awarded in May, helping to defray the costs of a fundraiser held by parishioners Paul and Wanpen Anderson in memory of their daughter, Angela, to benefit Stevens-Johnson Syndrome research at Vanderbilt University. The Women of St. Patrick were also able to help fund the restoration of the St. Patrick statue in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus.

Planning for the sale begins months in advance when two enthusiastic and organized women agree to co-chair the event. This year they would be happy to have "apprentice" chairwomen to learn the ropes and take on the task in the future. Chairs are determined for various aspects of the sale that include set-up, take-down, food for volunteers, day chair persons, and others. Regular meetings are held to make sure all of the components are in order. The "Big Binder" with its notes, diagrams, photos, and all things necessary for smooth operation is brought out, so that when the sale date approaches, all is ready and the fun can begin!

This year's sale will be held August 8-10 in the main hall of the parish center. Drop-off of items for the sale begins on Monday, July 29, and ends on Monday, August 5. Many hands are needed during the drop-off period for sorting, folding, and preparing items for sale. The week of the sale itself is when the pricing is done and finally, the doors can be opened to everyone so patiently waiting! Doors open on Thursday evening, when a \$2.00 entry fee gives attendees first pick on great items. On Saturday, shoppers can purchase one or more brown paper grocery bags for \$2.00 each and fill them to the brim. It's always amazing to see all the things that can be fit into one paper shopping bag!

Also this year, men of the Knights of Columbus will be taking furniture to be offered during the sale. Pick-up will not be available and drop-off times and dates will be limited. Please watch the bulletin for more details as these become available.

Work schedules and sign-ups will be posted as the sale date draws near. To keep up with plans as they progress, add your name to the Women of St. Patrick email list by sending your request to [womenofstpatrik@gmail.com](mailto:womenofstpatrik@gmail.com). And watch the Sunday bulletin for details.

## St. Patrick Ministries Update

### SVDP Food Pantry Garden

Would you like to help provide clients of our parish food pantry with fresh produce? The SVDP Food Pantry Garden needs volunteers to help with weeding, watering, and harvesting throughout the summer. Contact Anna (304-237-3927 or annafedders@gmail.com).

### LGBTQ + Ministry

On May 21, the St. Patrick LGBTQ + Ministry hosted the Reverend Leah Robberts-Mosser, lead pastor of the Community United Church of Christ (UCC), who gave a presentation on "Biblical Self-Defense for LGBTQIA and Allies."

The LGBTQ + ministry continues to develop and look for ways to ensure that our parish is welcoming and inclusive. They will host their first all-parish social on June 29 after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Did you miss it? Don't worry--- there will be more!

### Peace and Justice Coalition

In early June, the St. Patrick Peace and Justice Coalition hosted members of FirstFollowers. Working out of a drop-in center at Bethel AME Church in Champaign, FirstFollowers peer mentors guide and support formerly incarcerated people in finding employment, housing, and other services they may need to re-enter the community. FirstFollowers has entered into a partnership with the Housing Authority of Champaign County to open the first transition house in Champaign-Urbana. The FirstSteps house will provide residents with full-time support and individualized programs to help them in their re-entry. Later this summer, the Peace and Justice Coalition plans

to provide St. Patrick's parishioners the opportunity to contribute to this and other housing projects.

### Housing Ministry

A group of St. Patrick volunteers planned to do a workday helping to build a Habitat for Humanity house in Urbana on June 15. If you are interested in joining a parish group on Habitat for Humanity builds or working on other projects concerning housing or homelessness, contact Ryan (rhughes416@gmail.com).

### Peace and Justice Education

The Peace and Justice Education group is planning a number of activities for this fall related to the clergy sex abuse crisis. There will be a study group, a guided retreat, and opportunities for parishioners to write prayers that will be compiled into a book to be shared throughout the parish. Watch the weekly bulletin for more information.

### Environmental Stewardship Committee

During the month of September the St. Patrick's Environmental Stewardship Committee is offering a four-week study of Laudato Si, Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment. The sessions will begin 7 p.m. on Monday, September 9, and will continue on the three remaining Mondays of September. No outside preparation will be required for the study. If you would like to participate, contact the parish office at 367-2665 to request that a study guide be reserved for you. In the encyclical Pope Francis calls for an "ecological conversion." If you would like to explore the "how's and why's" of that conversion, join us on Monday evenings in September.



*First Communion 2019*





**Q: Were there women apostles?**

**A:** St. Paul does include the name Junia, a feminine name, in his list of apostles in Romans 16:7: “Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives and my fellow prisoners: they are prominent among the apostles and they were in Christ before me.” The problem is that we don’t know who this person is, and some translators are convinced that the name is that of a man and add an “s” to make the name masculine: Junias.

The U.S. bishops-approved translation (New American Bible, Revised Edition) uses “Junia.” Several early manuscripts read “Julia,” overwhelmingly preferred by Church fathers until the 12th century. By the 13th century most translators had flipped Junia’s gender.

Why does “Junia” matter? To Paul, gender was significant. He was writing to Roman Christians, a divided lot. Chapter 16 of Romans is a proof-text for this teaching. Paul sends this letter by special courier, Phoebe, his sister in Christ, whom he describes as a deacon. He weaves into his greeting the names of Jews and Greeks. He acknowledges his great friends Prisca and Aquila (unusually he puts Prisca’s name ahead of her husband’s, a show of his esteem for her), and among the next 20 names he drops are many common Roman

slave names.

And somewhere in there, Paul mentions this couple, Andronicus and Junia, possibly blood kin but certainly siblings in Christ. To Paul, apostles epitomize a ministry in motion, one highly fruitful and often full of suffering. Did Paul intentionally describe both this man and this woman who did jail time for Jesus as apostles? In a lineup like that in Romans 16, he surely must have!

(In Focus is indebted to the writings of N. T. Wright for this understanding of St. Paul and his letters.)

\* \* \*

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

## Who was St. James?

The St. James we honor on July 25 is the brother of the Apostle John. He was one of the “Sons of Thunder,” who were privileged witnesses of some of Jesus’ greatest signs: the raising of the daughter of Jairus from the dead, the Transfiguration, and Jesus’ agony in the garden of olives. When you hear or read the words “James and John,” this is the James referred to. He is often called James the Greater, not to be confused with St. James the Lesser, who later became the first bishop of



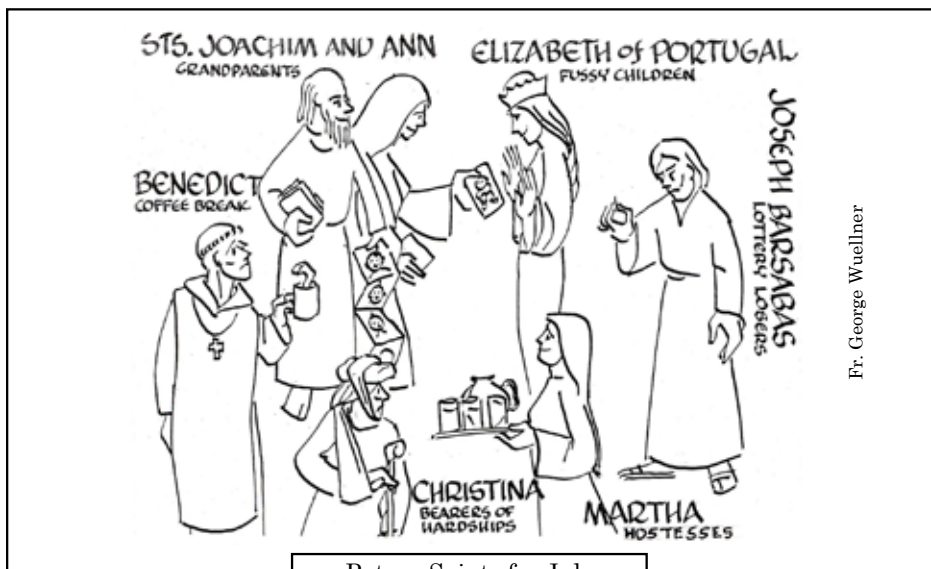
Jerusalem and is thought to be the author of the letter that is part of the New Testament.

St. James (the Greater) was the first Apostle to suffer martyrdom and the only one whose death is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. According to legend his friends carried his remains away in a rudderless boat that drifted all the way to Spain. Many centuries later they were discovered, and a great cathedral (Santiago de Compostela) was built over the spot, becoming one of the most popular pilgrimage destinations of the Middle Ages. To this day hundreds of thousands of pilgrims make their way to that remote corner of Spain to venerate the relics of James the Greater, brother of John, the “Beloved Apostle.”

In art, St. James is often depicted dressed as a pilgrim with a scallop shell on his hat, the way many pilgrims to Compostela still dress. He is venerated as the patron saint of Spain, Nicaragua, and Guatemala.

### Vocation Prayer

Loving Father, your son, Jesus, has shown us that an open heart finds the way to follow him. Help me to find my way in this world. Keep my heart open to serving others in love. Give me courage to accept the guidance you offer me through my family, my friends, and my parish community. With you, Father, I know I can find my way—Jesus’ way—of loving service.



Fr. George Wuellner

Patron Saints for July

## The CREW Mission Trip turns 20!

When the teen members of CREW and their adult chaperons head out to Winnebago, Nebraska, on July 14, they will be making the third CREW Mission Trip to the Winnebago Reservation – and the twentieth CREW Mission Trip!

When 20 teen members of CREW and their 10 adult chaperons set out for Brentwood, Maryland, in late July 2000, little did they know they were starting a St. Patrick's tradition that would still be going on 20 years later. Every summer since then a group of CREW teens and their chaperons have set out on a mission trip. Groups have traveled to serve in Winter Park, Colorado; Dunkirk, New York; Wilmington, North Carolina; Washington, D.C.; and Chicago, Illinois. They made two trips each to East St. Louis; Detroit; and Frenchville, Pennsylvania. Memphis was their destination three times; this summer they will make their third trip to Winnebago, Nebraska. However, not all trips have involved traveling physical distances: one year the group took up residence in the parish center and gave their week of service to sites in Champaign-Urbana.

Please include the latest CREW Mission trip members in your prayers as they head out this month! You can read about their trip in the September issue of In Focus.

*Have you ever taken part in a CREW Mission Trip as a teen or adult? We want to hear from you for an article on the 20 years of CREW Mission Trips to be published in In Focus sometime this fall. Contact us at infocusstpats@gmail.com.*



Work Crew 2 outside the house in Brentwood.



## St. Patrick's 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 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 (j-fierke@comcast.net); Denise Green, 553-7110 (dgree1@gmail.com); Elizabeth Hendricks, 328-2184 (elizabethwahlend@gmail.com); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 (mmenches@illinois.edu); and Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@illinois.edu).

**Associates:** Carol Bosley, John Colombo, Frances Drone-Silvers, Mary Karten, Rachael McMillan, Nancy Olson, Rick Partin, Carole Rebeiz, Jhane Reifsteck, Sue Schreiber, Shirley Splittstoesser, Adam Smith, Jim Urban, Yvona Vlach, and Jerry Walsh.

**Articles, information, and photos** for this issue were provided by Paul Anderson, Mardia Bishop, Carol Bosley, John Dorsey, Anna Fedders, Judy Fierke, Sr. Jackie Gitonga, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Chris Langendorf, Jon McCoy, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Nancy Olson, Katie O'Toole, Margy Palmisano, Cathy Salika, Susan Sondag, and Mary Tate. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Jerry Walsh, page layout by John Colombo.

### Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Chris Langendorf

#### Grape Salad

- 3 c grapes (red and green)
- 8 oz cream cheese
- 8 oz sour cream
- 1/3 c sugar
- 1 t vanilla
- 3/4 c brown sugar
- 3/4 c crushed walnuts or pecans

Mix the first five ingredients and place in an 8 x 8-inch pan. Mix brown sugar and nuts and sprinkle over the grape mixture. Best if made ahead of time and refrigerated for a couple of hours.

\* \* \*

*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 **August 11.**