

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

May 2019

## Mary's Easter

What do you think the days following the death of Jesus were like for his mother, Mary? The Bible doesn't give us much to go on. Luke's gospel tells us that after Joseph of Arimathea claimed the body of Jesus, "The women who had come with him from Galilee followed along behind. They saw the tomb and how his body was buried. Then they went home to prepare spices and perfumes. They observed the Sabbath as a day of rest, in accordance with the law" (23:55-56).

Since Mary was far from her home in Nazareth, she must have stayed with a friend in Jerusalem. If you have ever lost someone close to you, you can imagine her grief and exhaustion after the day she had just endured. The Sabbath rest and the rituals of Jewish tradition were probably a welcome relief for her. But what about her faith?

From the time that the angel asked her to be his mother, Mary knew that Jesus was the son of God. She knew that he had come to save his people. But she didn't know what that would be like. She was able to see in Jesus, probably better than anyone else, the compassion of God. She saw him heal both body and spirit. She heard him teach about a faith that seeps deep into the heart

and changes the way we approach all aspects of life. But she also saw that some people wouldn't listen and that others would be afraid of so deep a change.

And now her son was dead, killed with the cooperation of both religious and secular leaders. She must have wondered: Could God be defeated in this way? What is going to happen next?



But this is the woman who knew Jesus best, the most faithful of all his followers. She had known pain and confusion since his infancy, when she and Joseph had to flee to Egypt to save their

son from Herod. She had known confusion in feeling out how best to raise this child. She knew it, too, in watching the people who would not accept his teaching. So pain and confusion were no strangers to her. She must have had questions, but she must have remained faithful. She had seen so much of God's work in her son!

Mary doesn't appear in any of the stories of Jesus' resurrection or his appearances after his rising, yet her loving son would surely have come to her, though such a visit is unrecorded in the gospels. And she must have been living with the other dis-

## Have you decided?

If your answer is "not yet," you still have time to think and to pray about what your response will be to the Annual Diocesan Appeal this year. It's sometimes difficult to know just how much we can afford to take from our income or our savings to support our Church family.

Yes, the Diocese of Peoria is our Church family in the near time. Giving financial support to the diocese is, in a way, like giving to help out our parents or grandparents. We are all members of the Church, just as we are all members of the human family, and as such we have an obligation to help one another, as help is needed. Just as the human family is sorted out into nations, so our Church family is sorted into dioceses, with each diocese also sorted into several parishes.

In order to provide for the needs of the several parishes of our diocese, our closest family relations, the Diocese of Peoria, depends on income from its family members. We've seen how its income is dispersed to enable the diocese to provide the help needed in so many ways – for educating seminarians who will eventually fill our need for priests, for social services that benefit many, for educational programs and teachers, and the like. Our local Church family, our parish, has itself benefited in many ways from diocesan funding.

The appeal for funding this year is expressed in terms of "Sharing God's gifts, transforming lives." What can you give from what you've received, so that lives may be transformed, perhaps even your own?

see **Mary's Easter** on page 5

## Environmental Stewardship ministry follows Pope Francis' call to care for the earth

On March 25, St. Patrick's Environmental Stewardship ministry sponsored a movie showing and discussion in the parish hall. "Before the Flood" is an emotional and well-researched National Geographic documentary. The narrator is actor Leonardo DiCaprio, who has traveled the world to research and advocate about our climate crises. DiCaprio is the U.N. Special Peace representative for Climate Change.

DiCaprio led the audience on a global investigation of the effects of climate change, including arctic ice melt in Canada and Greenland, flooding in India, dying coral reefs, and disappearing Pacific island nations of Palau and Kiribati. He also sought the causes of systemic climate differences such as fossil fuel use, destruction of forests, and large-scale beef production.

How is climate change an issue for Roman Catholics? Care for God's

creation is one of the principles of Catholic social teaching. The earth is all humanity's home and we have a sacred duty to care for it. Pope Francis' prophetic encyclical "Laudato Si" ("Praised Be") calls all people to join in caring for our planet. And as Catholics we must always work to limit the effects of climate events on the poor and vulnerable.

People in poverty, indigenous communities, and war refugees are the most affected by floods, wildfires, high prices, storms, pollution, and water scarcity related to climate change. Politicians and charities must work to prevent and reduce such climate events.

The Environmental Stewardship ministry is exploring ways to make St. Patrick's more ecologically "green" in recycling, renewable energy use, and advocacy. If you are interested in environmental issues or would like to join an upcoming book group studying "Laudato Si," please contact John Dorsey (jdorsey@ameritech.net).



*John Dorsey leads discussion of the film "Before the Flood."*

## Stations of the Cross featured beautiful Stabat Mater performance

St. Patrick's parishioners experienced a special Stations of the Cross service on Friday, March 22. It featured a performance of the Stabat Mater by G. B. Pergolesi, an Italian composer of the Baroque era (1710 - 1736). The short individual movements of the Stabat Mater are aligned with each of the fourteen Stations of the Cross. Two female vocalists, six string players, and an organist playing a portable Baroque organ performed the music. Franklin Gallo, our Director of Music, who also did the planning and preparation for this unique event, conducted the ensemble.

Deacon Cliff Maduzia presided over the solemn ceremony, assisted by Mardia Bishop, who performed the "Reader" passages with her expressive speaking style that emphasized the text's meaning.

As Deacon Cliff finished the opening prayer in the darkened church, the tones of the violins filled the sanctuary and the intertwining melodies of the soprano and mezzo-soprano voices established the somber character of the service. The dark minor mode of the music helped convey the grieving of Mother Mary as the rich tones of the viola, cello, and bass undergirded the lamentation of the Stations text.

When the celebrants moved to the First Station, the accented soprano melodies expressed the passionate cry of the Mother. As the music for the Third Station was underway, the setting sun brought out the yellow and golden tones of our stained glass windows to the side of the altar, contrasting with the dim sanctuary and making

St. John and St. Anthony of Padua and the Holy Child in the stained glass windows on either side of the altar glow with an intriguing radiance. Perhaps this was a foreshadowing of the joy of Jesus's resurrection!

As the service proceeded to each of the Stations, the musicians continued to express the melancholy sensibility of the ancient Latin text with hushed dynamics that occasionally rose to insistent fortes. At the Fourth Station, the clarity of the soaring soprano voice filled the sanctuary as Dr. Gallo conducted the ensemble for a refined, gracious ritard at the end. At the Fifth Station, the forward momentum of the music seemed to echo the footsteps of Simon helping Jesus carry the cross. At the Eighth Station, the women's voices sang in florid, close harmonies, cascading downward like the tears of the weeping women of Jerusalem. Occasionally, however, Pergolesi's score modulated to the brighter major keys, tempos became more lively, and rhythms more animated, perhaps expressing the hope we have in the promised glory of paradise with Christ.

Throughout the service, St. Patrick's parishioners genuflected and added their voices to the well-attended ceremony.

The musicians included Carolee Fairbanks, soprano; Emilie Williams, mezzo-soprano; Sun Young Gemma Shin, violin; Minjung Kim, violin; Sharon Chung, viola; Stephen Fairbanks, cello; Guilherme Ehrat Zils, bass; Martha Stiehl, organ; and Franklin Gallo, conductor.

## Our Lady of Fatima

Many of us who grew up attending Catholic school in the 1950s probably remember the story of the apparition of The Blessed Virgin Mary to three young peasant children in the village of Fatima, Portugal, on May 13, 1917. The children – Francisco, Jacinta, and Lucia, aged 10, 9, and 7 – were tending their family’s sheep when “a Lady all in white, more brilliant than the sun . . . indescribably beautiful” and standing above a bush, appeared to them. For five months, from May to October, 1917, Our Lady appeared and spoke to them on the 13th day of each month.



*The children of Fatima: Lucia Santos and Jacinta and Francisco Marto*

In 1917 the world was in the throes of World War I, which has been known as “The war to end all wars.” Our Lady sent a message through the children to the world, promising that God would grant peace to the entire world if her requests for prayer, reparation, and consecration were heard and obeyed. The Blessed Virgin made it known that when she visited the children for the final time on October 13, 1917, there would be a sign that would convince many disbelievers of her apparitions, that she was of God. As she had promised, there was a spectacular unearthly event, which has come to be known as “The Miracle of the Sun.”

We all know that WWI was not the war to end all wars since what followed a little more than 20 years later was World War II, plus many ongoing wars. Mary’s urgent plea

to the children was that the whole world perform acts of prayer and sacrifice and reparation for our sins to save souls, including our own. Mary particularly emphasized praying the Rosary and offering devotion to her Immaculate Heart. The Blessed Virgin’s message is the same now as it was in 1917, as emphasized to those Catholic high school girls in the 1950s, and to all Catholics up to and including these

tumultuous times of today.

The short prayer traditionally said at the end of each decade of the Rosary is a prayer taught by the Blessed Virgin to the shepherd children at Fatima in 1917 and is known as The Fatima Prayer: “Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sin, save us from the fires of Hell, and bring all souls to Heaven, especially those in need of Your Mercy.”



*People looking at “The Miracle of the Sun”*

### Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue

Lovely Lady dressed in blue,  
Teach me how to pray!  
God was just your little boy,  
Tell me what to say!

Did you lift him up sometimes,  
Gently on your knee?  
Did you sing to him the way  
Mother does to me?

Did you hold his hand at night?  
Did you ever try  
Telling stories of the world?  
O! And did he cry?

Do you really think he cares  
If I tell him things—  
Little things that happen? And  
Do the angels’ wings

Make a noise? And can he hear  
Me if I speak low?  
Does he understand me now?  
Tell me—for you know!

Lovely Lady dressed in blue,  
Teach me how to pray!  
God was just your little boy,  
And you know the way.

—Mary Dixon



## From Susan Nagele

March 26, 2019

To all the good people of St. Patrick,

It is with a very grateful heart that I am able to report that we Maryknoll Lay Missioners have met our goal of raising funds for the retirement program and will receive the matching grant of \$250,000.

All of you have contributed to this effort, with the following donations from the parish:

2018 Lenten collection	\$ 597
2018 Parish collection - \$6154 with match	\$12,308
2018 Women of St. Patrick donations - \$3245 with match	\$ 6,490
TOTAL	\$19,395

A big thanks to each and every one of you. I will continue working as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner until I turn 65, when I will be able to retire and benefit from this program.



*St. Patrick clinic in Mombasa*

I have heard from the St. Patrick Dispensary in Mombasa, Kenya, where I used to conduct a clinic every month. This is the only reputable health clinic in an informal settlement that has a population of 50,000. They struggle, having difficulty making ends meet. The government should be providing the salaries for the staff but does not provide any assistance or health care in this, the largest slum in Mombasa.

Patients must pay for clinic visits, lab, and medicines. Because people are poor, they cannot afford to pay any more. I have contributed to help them pay their expenses. Kathy Flatoff, a Maryknoll Lay Missioner nurse, is working with them to try to find a way that they can become self-sufficient, while caring for those with the greatest need free of charge. I would suggest that this is a good ministry to support in the future.

A member of St. Patrick's Parish here asked me if there was anyone who could use his mother's hearing aids after she passed on. I contacted Fr. Charlie Dittmeier, who has worked with Maryknoll Lay Missioners in Cambodia for 20 years while serving the hearing impaired. They have an organization that can fit and tune these hearing aids for use by someone else.

More information on

his ministry can be found at the following link: <https://parish-without-borders.org/>.

Minette Sternke, a member of St. Patrick's, met Fr. Charlie in November 2009 at the Vatican Conference on Deaf People in the Life of the Church. She can support the importance of this ministry. If anyone in the parish has hearing aids that they are no longer using, please pass them on to me. I will send them to Fr. Charlie so that others can benefit and hear better.

At the end of February I was able to attend a re-entry workshop for missioners coming back to the United States. It has been an adjustment for me; I miss many people whom I will never see again. But I am finding my way and happy to be back as a full member of the parish.



*Fr. Charlie Dittmeier and one of his graduating students in Cambodia.*

With gratitude, peace, and God's blessings,

*Susan*

***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](http://www.mklm.org), or call toll free 1-800-867-2980.***

## Mary's Easter from page 1

principles, gradually understanding more and more about the wonderful work that her son had accomplished.

She is mentioned just once more, in Acts 1:14. There, she is among the disciples gathered in an upstairs room when the Spirit came upon them at Pentecost. The Spirit shed new light on the many things that Jesus had said and done, things that she held close to her heart.

And then what? Can you imagine her doing anything other than continuing her son's work? She must have served alongside the apostles, teaching, caring for the poor, reaching out to those who did not yet believe. And that's our role too, in imitation of her, and in imitation of Jesus.

### 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 (stpaturbana.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.



Recently the Women of St. Patrick were able to fill the request of Fr. Charles Tomb in Cameroon for a censer for his church there. But it was not really a gift from the Women of St. Patrick; it was a gift from everyone in the parish who support the fundraising work of the group. Whether you bought a dozen cookies or a gorgeous gift basket at the Holiday Cookie & Basket Sale or picked up a great bargain at the Cellar-to-Garret sale, you helped with the purchase for a grateful Fr. Charles and for other items that come from Women of St. Patrick funds. We thank you!

## Cupcakes, anyone?

The silent auction to benefit CREW's Mission Trip this summer was astonishing in so many ways, not the least of which was the lively bidding for Shirley Splittstoesser's lemon meringue pies or Angela Barden's cupcakes, each topping out at more than \$100. Other tasty treats, the homemade eggrolls and Stephanie Smith's brownies, also made the winning bidders extremely happy!

In addition, of course, teens volunteered hours of spring yard cleanup, lawn mowing, and pet sitting—one

of the pet sitters even agreed to polish furniture instead.

Tom Costello managed the role of auctioneer with aplomb, with the able assistance of Adam Smith, Mission Trip coordinator. The total funds raised by the auction is not known just yet but may be announced in the parish bulletin by the time you read this.

Congratulations to all who bid, to each and every teen who volunteered in any way, and to the

donors of the delectable goodies that drove the bidding through the roof!



## Around the world, a day of prayer for vocations

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is often called Good Shepherd Sunday because the readings are about the care we receive from Christ, our true Shepherd. It is also a world-wide day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood.

This may appear to be difficult time to appeal for acts of generosity from individuals who feel a calling from God. The Church and priests have been in the headlines too often and mostly for the wrong reasons in recent times. But in this turbulent era God is still calling individuals to serve on behalf of his people, whose needs do not change.

Sometimes those who are called may not feel up to the task and wonder why God is calling them. The Bible is full of such examples, from Jonah, the reluctant prophet who tried to escape his calling, to Peter, whose first reaction to Jesus' invitation to follow him was "Leave me Lord, for I am a sinful man."

Others in more modern times have sometimes found themselves called to lead and to serve amid dramatic and even historic events. Fr. Robert Byles, a quiet priest from rural England, could never have imagined, as he set sail for New York in April 1915 to celebrate a family wedding, that he would comfort and inspire terrified passengers in their last hours and minutes on the sinking Titanic. Fr. Mychal Judge, chaplain to the New York Fire Department, didn't suspect, as he raced to the scene of disaster at the World Trade Centre on September 11, 2001, that he would become one of the victims of the tragedy and be seen by millions praying with and for the firemen and victims as the Twin Towers fell.

Yet the need continues to be great for priests: to celebrate Mass and provide Eucharist for those hungry for God, to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick; to console the grieving, comfort the sorrowing, rejoice with the joyful, counsel the troubled; to speak for the Church.

God, it seems, has always provided shepherds for his people in their hour of need. But this doesn't just happen – shepherds appear as the call is answered, the response to serve is heeded, and a leap of faith in the power of God to see one through is taken.

On Good Shepherd Sunday, pray that many will have the generosity to listen when God calls and find the courage to respond.



### Vocation Prayer

Loving Father, you speak to us and nourish us through the life of this Church community. In the name of Jesus we ask you to send your Spirit to us so that men and women among us, young and old, will be moved to respond to your call to service and leadership in the Church. May those who are opening their hearts and minds to your call be encouraged and strengthened through our prayers and enthusiasm in your service.

In my hurry, I often forget that You desire to seek those who have gone astray, even me, and that my work is to free myself of myself so that You can be born in me, and so Your joy in seeking meets my joy in having been found.  
—Meister Eckhart

Certain vocations, like that of raising children, offer a perfect setting for living a contemplative life. They provide a desert for reflection, a real monastery.

—Ronald Rolheiser

#### Save the date

On Saturday, June 8, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., Paul and Wanpen Anderson will host a chicken dinner and silent auction fundraiser in the St. Patrick parish main hall. All proceeds will go to Stevens Johnson Syndrome research. Watch the bulletin for more details.



**Q: Why is there a little twig with leaves near the top of the crucifix behind the altar?**


**A:** So you've noticed it! It's not simply a whim of the artist who crafted the crucifix, it serves as a symbol of new life after death, of the resurrection. The brochure "St. Patrick Catholic Church: Guide to Art and Architecture" has this to say about the crucifix:

Above the tabernacle is a crucifix created by Todd Frahm, a North Carolina artist whose older brother was baptized at St. Patrick. Christ crucified is sculpted in bronze, while the cross is sculpted from locust wood. The use of wood represents in real terms the liturgical reference to the cross as a tree. The roots you see at the bottom of the cross continue that representation. One additional detail, a small bronze branch at the top sprouting new leaves is a powerful symbol of hope and the eternal life that Christ's resurrection confirms for us.

If you haven't yet seen this beautifully illustrated brochure, you might look for a copy of it in the Gathering Space at the top of the stairs or at the Main St. entrance to the church. It contains a great deal of interesting information about the art and architecture of our newly expanded church.

\* \* \*

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



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of In Focus is **May 5**.



## in our parish library

Our focus, this month of May, is on books available in the library pertaining to Mary, our Blessed Mother. Here is just a sampling:

**Lourdes: A Modern Pilgrimage**, by Patrick Marnham. 232.9 MAR. Marnham reveals both the difficulties and wonders of Bernadette's evidence of the mysteries of faith at work in an age of doubt.

**Maria: Pope Benedict XVI on the Mother of God**, by Pope Benedict XVI. 232.91 BEN 2009. This is a coffee table book with pictures of famous statues, paintings, sculptures, and other art of the Blessed Virgin Mary from all over the world. Pope Benedict offers in-depth inspirational reflections on the unique spiritual role Mary plays as the Mother of the Savior.

**Mary and Your Everyday Life: A Book of Meditations**, by Bernard Häring. 232.93 HAR.

**Mary with Us: Readings and Prayers**, by Rev. Joseph A. Viano, SSP. 232.93 VIA. Each chapter contains a brief meditation and prayer.

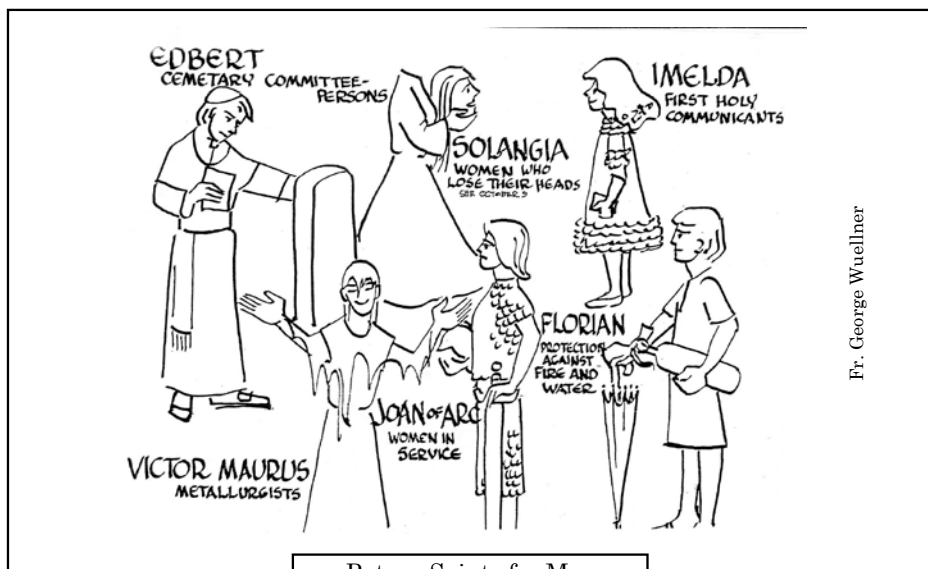
**Meditations on Mary, with Essays**, by Kathleen Norris. 232.9 NOR 1999. This book uses text and images to describe the many faces of the Virgin Mother of God. The meditative essays are joined by the biographical details of Mary's existence, from the gospels.

**Understanding the Mother of Jesus**, by Eamon R. Carroll. 232.93 CAR. The author presents four areas of development: scriptural insights; Mary, Model of the Church, as illustrated in the liturgy; Our Lady and the Holy Spirit; and ecumenical hopes.

Many others can also be found; come to browse and stay to enjoy!

\* \* \*

If you need help locating materials in the library, please contact Megan Raab (raab41987@gmail.com), parish library coordinator. She will be happy to help.



Fr. George Wuellner

## Did you know?

Jon McCoy, our religious education coordinator, recently attended a one-day seminar provided by the Diocese of Peoria. The diocese is looking to improve its connection with parish religious education programs by having Sr. Ana Pia of the Office of Evangelization and Faith Formation visit each parish on a day when religious education classes are held.

\* \* \*

Why all the construction inside the Main Street entrance to the church? The space there seemed ideal to store musical instruments used by the Youth Orchestra – or perhaps something else. It is intended to provide badly needed storage space.

\* \* \*

Where is our Lost and Found? In the chest of drawers located in the conversational area between the Gathering Space and the parish lobby. The drawers are getting rather full, so look carefully for any item you may have left in the church!

\* \* \*

The Communications Committee is looking to expand its membership to help with brainstorming for upcoming issues of In Focus, writing articles, taking photographs of parish events, editing articles to create a file for page layout, preparing the page layout for an issue to ready it for printing, and communicating with The Catholic Post about parish upcoming events. We've lost a couple of members recently, leaving us a little short of resources. Can you help?

## 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](mailto: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.

**Editorial board:** Judy Fierke, 352-7670 ([j-fierke@comcast.net](mailto:j-fierke@comcast.net)); Denise Green, 553-7110 ([dgree1@gmail.com](mailto:dgree1@gmail.com)); Elizabeth Hendricks, 328-2184 ([elizabethwahlend@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethwahlend@gmail.com)); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 ([mmenches@illinois.edu](mailto:mmenches@illinois.edu)); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 ([csalika@illinois.edu](mailto:csalika@illinois.edu)); and Patsy Schmitt, 607-1594 ([patsy.schmitt@gmail.com](mailto:patsy.schmitt@gmail.com)).

**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 Wanpen Anderson, Brenda Collenberger, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Ryan Hughes, Jon McCoy, Mary Lou Menches, Susan Nagele, Nancy Olson, Sam Reese, Cathy Salika, and Patsy Schmitt. 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 . . . Brenda Collenberger

#### Corn Salad

- 2 (15 oz) cans of whole kernel corn, drained
- 2 c grated cheddar cheese
- 1 c mayonnaise
- 1 c green pepper, chopped
- 1/2 c red onion, chopped
- 1 (10.5 oz) bag of chili cheese Fritos



Mix the first five ingredients and chill. Just before serving, crush the Fritos on top of the salad.

\* \* \*

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