

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

November 2020

Everyday Saints

When you read the lives of the saints, they're such a mixed bag of people! There are theologians and missionaries, religious and martyrs,

kings and popes. But they are not saints because of these things, and that's fortunate. We might get the idea that, because we're not a theologian or martyr or whatever, we aren't likely to be a saint.

The saints also have a mixed bag of interests. There are artists and scientists, shepherds and shoemakers, lawyers and leaders, doctors and beggars. One thing this list tells us is that they aren't saints because of their professions or skills. There are introverts and extroverts, lovers of solitude and founders of communities, hotheads, peacemakers, and people with mental illness. Being a saint isn't limited to certain kinds of personalities either.

Saints are those who love God, love their neighbor, and make it their business to live out this love. Some

saints are already in heaven. Some have died and are being purified in preparation for heaven. And some of us are still walking the earth. Wherever one

is on this journey, the love of Christ binds us into one Body, one community, called the Communion of Saints. Because of this, we share Christ's love with one another, give witness to one another, be examples to one another, and pray

for one another.

The saints who are recognized by the Church with canonization are the heroes among us. They are people who gave their lives, either literally or through lifelong effort. It's good to have heroes, to be inspired by their stories. It is a blessing to have them as companions on the journey and as intercessors. But it can be just a bit intimidating to take them as role models!

Much more common are the everyday saints. They are the people

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Can you help with Thanksgiving baskets?

SVPD will again distribute Thanksgiving baskets of food items on Saturday, November 21, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Food will be distributed drive-up style. Walk-ups will also be allowed, but those with a car should stay in their car. Masks are required to receive food.

If you would like to volunteer to help, please watch the bulletin for the link to the Doodle poll to sign up. Many opportunities are available: gather food from local stores, assemble the "baskets," and distribute them on delivery day. It is a great family activity to get in the mood for the wonderful season ahead!

The food pantry has done a great job setting up preparation and distribution to ensure social distancing and to provide a safe volunteering experience. All volunteers must wear a mask covering their mouth and nose.



All saints, all sorts

You don't have to search far for heroes and saints. They are in our midst - or have been. Most will probably never be canonized, all would probably say they're just doing what they know they should be doing. What brings us all together? Love of God, love of neighbor, a willingness to sacrifice time, abilities, energy, self for others. Saints already with God and saints still witnessing God's love among us are easily discovered, just look around you!



Loretta LaFave, 1933-2020



Bill McClellan, 1934-2020



Bernardine Gast, 1926-2020



Karen Newhope, 1938-2020



Jerry McArthur, 1948-2020

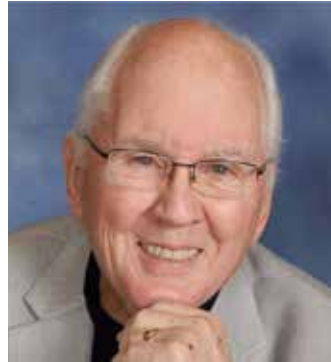


Larry Solara, 1968-2020

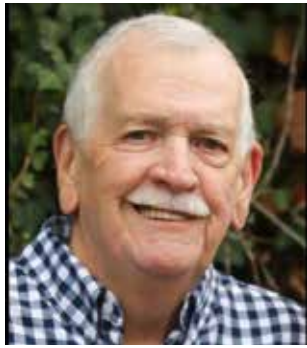




Kay Evans, 1942-2020



Don McGrogan, 1934-2020



Paul Anderson, 1940-2020



Mary Magitone, 1928-2020



Phyllis Rogers, 1946-2020



Patricia Barrett, 1935-2020



Rose Brown, 1927-2020



My family and their gift by Fr. Anthony Co

I was recently asked by In Focus to share some thoughts about the priesthood now that I am celebrating my 15th anniversary this year. I wanted to share with you some memories of my namesakes and their connection to the family gift I received at my first Mass.

I was named after my parents' two older brothers, my Uncle Bill Weber and my Tito (Uncle) Tony Yu Co. Uncle Bill has been an important part of my life ever since I was a little boy. He's also my godfather, so we've had a special bond and, as it turns out, we have a lot in common. His great loves are his faith in Jesus, his family, and serving the Church. For many years he has helped teach the faith and also helped his dioceses with annulments. His silly and playfully irreverent sense of humor is one of the characteristics of this side of the family. It has served me well, living the advice once given by him to avoid becoming a rigid and stuffy priest.

I didn't see so much of Tito Tony while growing up, because he lived in the Philippines. Yet as the older brother of my dad, there were many stories about him, especially his role in watching over the kids during the Japanese invasion and occupation. Like my dad, he was a physician. I'll remember him for his love of Marlboro Reds and secretly funding relatives' tuition so they could go to college.

Later I learned that "Anthony" means "highly praiseworthy," "William" means "resolute protector," and "Co" means "to allow or permit." If names influence us, and I hope they can, when I grow up I want to be a highly praiseworthy, resolute protector of the freedom

Jesus offers us all. That has the promises of Jesus written all over it!

Although there are no Williams on my dad's side, there has been a great devotion to St. Anthony of Padua on both sides of the family. St. Anthony is my original namesake. He was known for his meekness, bold preaching, and expectation for the miracles of God. He was so important to



my dad's side of the family that my Lola Trinidad was a member of an association of women who walked to Mass wearing full-length brown scapulars to honor him. My great-great-grandpa Volk, named Anton, no doubt brought the devotion over from Germany.

I was also named after my great uncle, the son of William Volk, Fr. William Anthony Volk CPPS. He was known for his intelligence, simplicity, and love for the Church. He was a Precious Blood Father, a religious community that arose in history to spread devotion to the Eucharistic Blood of Christ. I got to see Fr. Bill mostly when my family drove down from Chicago to the farm while he was on break. For most of his life he lived in Rome and worked in the rota for the Vatican.

Fr. Bill's visits, of course, were very special for the family. His sister, my grandma Annette Weber, made sure of that. When he came, Grandma Nettie rolled out the red carpet with some fancy Cracker Barrel cheese to be enjoyed with their modest whisky Manhattans. I liked to sniff the cherry jar, hoping Grandma would generously share a cherry while she mixed the drinks.

We didn't play with Fr. Volk, probably because he was older and also jet-lagged. As little kids, we would

run around playing outside Grandma's house making lots of noise, as kids often do. On one occasion Fr. Bill was interrupted as he prayed the Divine Office. My cousin Chrissy found him and exclaimed, "Super, duper, pooper scooper!" Apparently, it was the "it" thing for a 6-year-old to say. Grandma Weber used to retell that story with delight over the years, a sign to Christine that she was indeed the favorite. Another beloved story of hers was about the time that she and I went to KFC and I blurted out what I'd heard in a commercial: "Brown's Chicken, tastes better! Brown's Chicken, tastes better!" The word "ornery" was used quite a bit when we were kids!

When Fr. Bill Volk died, his personal chalice was given to the local parish near the farm. It remained there for many years collecting dust, I'm guessing, one among many in the sacristy cabinet.

Not every priest has his own chalice, but you can imagine how special it would be to have one. I didn't have a chalice, and I remember when I was getting close to ordination I said a prayer: "Mary, there are probably lots of chalices sitting in shoeboxes not being used. Can you find me one?" Mary did some good work because she put my cousin Celeste, one of my greatest intercessors, into action.

Cousin Celeste talked to my Uncle Bill, and Uncle Bill talked to Fr. Braun, a local parish priest. When ordination came, I was presented by the family with the personal chalice of Fr. Bill. I was so honored to have it! But I realized that this gift was too great for me to possess alone; I decided that I would only be its guardian for the priests in our family.

The chalice has a beautiful history. Fr. Bill celebrated his first Mass back in the 1950s. It was a very big deal for a small town that didn't have even a stoplight. Wendelin had a

see **Fr. Co** on next page

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Catholic cemetery, a small Catholic grade school (that also functioned as a parish hall), and a Catholic pub. Well, the pub (deridingly called by Grandma “The Boars’ Nest”) wasn’t Catholic but certainly most of its patrons were. The greatest part of this small town was the beautiful German Gothic church (Holy Cross)—tall, dark, and stoic, with a little light peering in from the narrow sanctuary’s stained-glass windows.

At Fr. Bill’s first Mass three little girls wearing their first Communion dresses accompanied the chalice during the presentation of gifts. Cousin Celeste, flanked by mom and cousin Carole holding fresh flowers, carefully carried the chalice. If you think about it, the chalice had come a long way. It was born from the Eucharistic devotion of craftsmen and was received by loving parents. Next, it was consecrated by the hands of a learned apostle in preparation for those of simple faith. Finally, it would be cherished by a young priest with an unknown adventure ahead of him.

The chalice was a gift from the family. Incorporated into it was Sophia Volk’s wedding band, given to her by my great-grandpa William. Yet Sophia’s wedding band no longer looked like a ring. It was refashioned into a Celtic cross and placed at the base of the chalice. I’m guessing Fr. Bill, or the family, just liked the style of the cross: this side of the family is a hundred percent German! Grandma Nettie would proudly demonstrate that she still remembered her childhood prayers, repeating: “...bete für uns, bete für uns.” Of the grandparents I was closest to Grandma Weber and it was clear to me that she had sauerkraut running through her veins.

The chalice epitomized Roman simplicity and that’s probably why it caught the eye of Germans’ simplicity. The hexagon base reaches up like small gold mirrors to the stem. The four-sided node features different silver symbols representing

the mysteries of God embedded in a field of black. Above the node sits the tulip-shaped cup, looking more like an austere cone than a delicate French flower. The lip is engraved in Latin: “This is the cup of my blood.” The matching gold-plated paten has a Marian symbol on the bottom in remembrance of the one who carried baby Jesus in her heart.

Years later I was to celebrate my first Mass. Well, I really had several first Masses, but of course I had to have one down south on the farm. To my delight, the three little girls, all grown up, once again presented the chalice during the presentation of gifts at Holy Cross Church. It was so moving for me that even now it brings tears to my eyes thinking about it. I remember seeing my mom and my other childhood moms, the ones that held me as a baby, coming up the main aisle at Holy Cross with big smiles. The only difference now was a little gray hair and a new engraving on the paten that represents my personal spirituality: “Through the hands of Mary by way of the Cross.”

I don’t have the chalice and paten anymore. With the permission of the patriarch, my Uncle Bill Weber, I gave it to my cousin. I was named Anthony William, and he was named William Anthony. My cousin Billy is now a priest and I thought that, after I’d had it for ten years, it was time for him to enjoy the family treasure in honor of our namesake, Fr. William Anthony Volk CPPS.

No longer is the chalice collecting dust as it did briefly after Fr. Bill’s death. Hopefully, there will be a continuous chain of priests in the family so that it will always hold the saving blood of Christ.

There you have it, my namesakes and this wonderful gift. Even though it’s no longer in my possession it reminds me that we are that chalice. We are anointed, we are filled, and we are emptied. It reminds me that through his Sacred Blood, Jesus has redeemed the world. It reminds me that I owe much to my family, that I am but one story in a long line of many amazing people.

Everyday Saints from page 1

who live out the love of God and neighbor wherever they are. They try to live this out every day, whatever their personality, talents, interests, family ties, or social status. Do you know any of them? Do you know people who are an example to you of love lived out every day? Do you think someone else reading this might be thinking of you?

Sainthood is an everyday thing. It’s how we live in relationship with God and other people. Sometimes it calls for dramatic action. More often it calls for quiet persistence. Sainthood is why we return to church Sunday after Sunday, to give witness to our faith and to receive witness from others, to learn to love more deeply the God we meet in Word and Sacrament, and to discover ourselves in the Communion of Saints.

*God our Father, may leaders
of the nations
listen to sound advice
and counsel,
exercise responsibility with
wisdom and integrity,
communicate vision with
clarity and balance
and co-operate with others
in seeking
justice, stability, and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
—Ian Stockton

For My Children
On this doorstep I stand
year after year
and watch you leaving
and think: may you not
skin your knees. May you
not catch your fingers
in car doors. May
your hearts not break.
May tide and weather
wait for your coming
and may you grow strong
to break
all webs of my weaving.
—Evangeline Paterson

Peace and Justice ministries continue to engage in the community

St. Patrick's Peace and Justice ministry members have been staying engaged and involved throughout the pandemic.

SVDP Food Pantry volunteers have worked with coordinator Sally Czapar to make sure they stay safe as they continue to fill a vital need in our community

by distributing groceries to individuals and families in the parish parking lot on Mondays and Thursdays. SVDP is also gearing up to once again prepare and distribute Thanksgiving baskets. Check the weekly bulletin to find out how you can help.

The SVDP Food Pantry Garden brought in its last harvest of fresh produce for food pantry guests in early October. Coordinator Anna Fedders is already planning fence repair and building raised beds in March.

The LGBTQ+ Ministry Coordinator, Lorraine Kim, joined with local clergy from the Community Church of Christ, Illini Hillel, McKinley Presbyterian, and other local churches in the 2020 PrideFest's Interfaith Service on September 22. She read a passage from Thomas Merton and offered a Catholic prayer. The following weekend, she participated with some of the same clergy in an interfaith panel on the intersection of LGBTQ+ identity and faith. LGBTQ+ Ministry members have also formed a book group on this subject.

Luis Cuza and Jean-Philippe Mathy, who lead our Outreach and Refugee Ministries, have been working with Immigrant Services of Champaign-Urbana (formerly CU FAIR) on a number of projects, such as trying to find single-family housing for families living in crowded situations (and therefore at high-risk for COVID transmission). Jean-Philippe has also been helping French-speaking refugees with translation of paperwork and other needs. St. Patrick will also be helping ISCU with a coat drive soon—watch for details.

Several people have been working on a mission statement for a newly forming ministry focused on racial justice, as well as exploring resources for education and action in this area.

The Peace and Justice Education Ministry has been having discussions about Church reform. They are also in discussions with parish staff about having a parish-wide study of Pope Francis' latest encyclical, Fratelli Tutti.



The Environmental Stewardship Ministry is exploring ways to extend awareness of Catholic efforts to combat climate change.

Some groups, such as the prison ministry, are inactive due to COVID restrictions. The Housing Ministry is still in need of new leadership.

The November 2 meeting of the Peace and Justice Ministry will be open to all. Luis Cuza and Lorraine Kim will report on a presentation they attended by Fr. Daniel Horan, speaking about Church Reform. The meeting will be via Zoom, at 7:00 p.m.

If you feel called to participate in any of these peace and justice ministries, and/or would like to attend the November 2 meeting, contact Eileen Mathy (emaryu@gmail.com). She will direct you to the appropriate ministry leader. We would love to have you join us!

The Knights of Columbus adapt to restrictions with delicious results

When life gave them lemons, St. Patrick's Knights of Columbus got out the grill! Because pandemic restrictions stopped them from holding their usual Lenten suppers last spring, the Knights decided to make up for it by serving the parish delicious take-home meals on three Saturdays this past September. Rain or shine, they prepared sandwiches of grilled pork chops or chicken, boxed them with coleslaw, chips, and a dessert, and delivered them curbside to parishioners who had ordered the day before.

We missed the fellowship of sitting down together, but we still got a tasty meal, and the free will offerings will help fund the Fr Martell scholarships for parish high school seniors, as well as the disabled children usually helped by the Knights' annual Tootsie Roll drive, which was also canceled. (Hope you didn't overlook the Tootsie roll in your box!) Thanks to the Knights for finding a way to continue serving, and thanks to everyone who came out to support them!





Q: Where does Advent come from—is it in the Bible?

A: The origins of Advent as we celebrate it today are obscure but were established well after Christ's birth. Sermons from as early as the fourth century used the Latin word "adventus," meaning "arrival." Initially only the clergy participated, fasting for the four weeks before Christmas, but eventually all the faithful were invited to observe this ritual of waiting.

Gregory the Great, around the late sixth century, was the first to include prayers, antiphons, and Scripture readings for Advent in the liturgical calendar, and by the Middle Ages the Church had adopted the Advent wreath to mark the time the faithful would spend waiting for Christ to come anew.

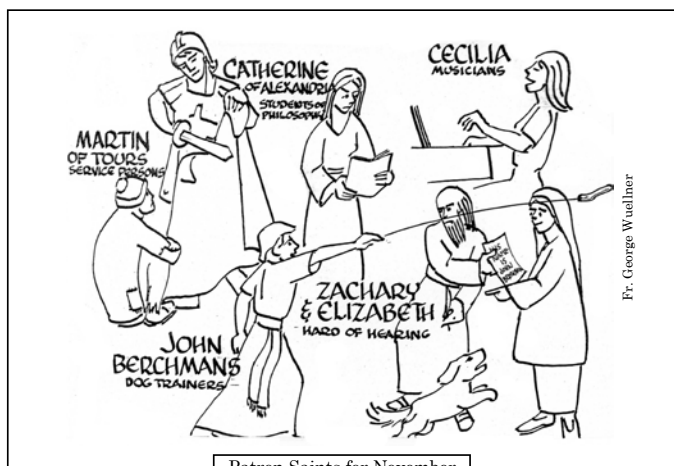
There is no explicit mention in the Bible of any Advent season before Jesus' birth, but Scripture is full of stories about waiting for the Lord: Moses and Miriam with the Israelites wait for guidance as they experience the Exodus; the psalmist prays "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope"; the prophets wait for God's justice and peace; Mary and Joseph wait too; and St. Paul reminds us that early Christians, in the midst of persecution, learned to be Christ-like even as they waited for Christ's return.

Waiting is what we do in Advent. This is not the hurry-up-and-wait we do when frustrated with a slow computer or in a long grocery line. This is a sit-down-and-watch-the-snow-fall kind of waiting, vigilant and full of expectancy. This is Advent: a time of waiting for Christ, trying how to be the presence of God today, how to love, how to offer mercy, how to inspire joy, how to kindle hope, how to bring about justice for all.

In our waiting we become neighbor and friend. In our waiting we answer the call to go where Jesus arrived, among God's people—even and especially through the many creative ways we can devise in these days of COVID-19.

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



Patron Saints for November

St. Martin of Tours

Martin of Tours was born to pagan Roman parents in 316 A.D. As a child he sought Christian instruction while growing up in northern Italy. Like his officer father, young Martin served in the Roman army in Gaul.

One cold winter day the soldier was traveling near what is now Amiens, France. Martin saw a destitute beggar in rags. He used his sword to cut his cloak in half to share with the poor man. That night he dreamed Jesus was standing near him wearing the half of his cape. The part Martin kept eventually became a treasured relic of French Kings called "capella" or little cloak.

Martin's growing Christian faith led to refusing combat and then discharge from the army. He became a priest and disciple of Hilary of Poitiers. After years as a hermit, monk, and preacher, Martin was made Bishop of Tours in 371 A.D. He didn't want to become a bishop and tried to hide in a barn full of geese. Their squawking quickly betrayed Martin's hiding spot.

As bishop, Martin organized Tours' first parish system and founded the monasteries of Ligugé and Marmoutier. He often sought mercy for criminals and heretics. Martin of Tours died in 397. He was buried, as he requested, with the poor in a pauper's cemetery. Many declared him a saint for his healings, miracles, and pious life.

St. Martin of Tours is patron saint of beggars, geese, soldiers, alcoholics, and wine makers. His November 11 feast day has sometimes marked the beginning of pre-Advent fasting and prayer.



Caring for our parish home

There's always a lot of work needed to maintain our parish facilities. The pandemic has pushed us to keep things extra-clean, but it has also allowed some projects to go forward without most of us noticing it.

The sanitizing routine is pretty elaborate. The entire parish center is sanitized every week. Spaces used by groups, such as the RCIA class and the home-schoolers, are sanitized after every use. The church itself is sanitized after every Mass. It takes time and many willing volunteers to help keep us as safe as possible.

Before the pandemic, we had one camera in the church. Now there are three, which makes it easier to stream the Mass for those who pray with us from home.

The HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system has been updated and rebalanced. This should help keep everyone more comfortable. It has also helped to reduce our utility bills.

The recent hail storm caused significant damage. All of the skylights in the parish center were broken and have been replaced. Bids are being taken to replace the damaged trim on the church—fascia, gutters, and downspouts. The roof of the bell tower (which has no bell!) also needs repair. At the priest's house, the roof and siding also need to be repaired.

Speaking of the priest's house, a group of our young people from CREW were out there one recent weekend. They did some yard and garden cleanup, and weed-whacked an adjacent common area that had grown wild.

A special thank you to all who keep our parish facilities in good condition.



Workers trained by missionaries helped eradicate polio in Africa by Susan Nagele

The recent news from the World Health Organization (WHO), declaring that wild polio has been eradicated in Africa, reminded me of my own part in this decades-long public health campaign.

I was privileged to work on the polio eradication campaign in Toposaland, in what is now South Sudan, from 1997 until 2003. There was a place called the Kauto plateau above our mission at Good Shepherd Parish in Nanyanacor. We trained local health care workers to take the polio vaccine up to the plateau for distribution.

One day I sent off two strapping young Toposa men with 1,000 doses of polio vaccine in cool boxes with tally sheets. They were to place three drops of vaccine in the mouth of every child and make a tick on the sheet. Of course, there is always wastage when the dropper misses its

mark or the kid spits it out and the drops have to be repeated. We aimed for 80 percent distribution, expecting 20 percent wastage according to WHO protocols.



Father Tim Galvin, SPS, and Maryknoll lay missionary Marty Roers on the Kauto Plateau in the year 2000.

The young men came back a couple of days later with their tally sheets carefully marked to record the distribution of 1,100 doses! I was never sure exactly what happened up there in the far reaches of Toposaland. But on August 26, 2020, the WHO declared that polio has been eradicated from the continent of Africa. This joyful news capped 24 years of the Kick Polio Out of Africa Campaign, started by Nelson Mandela in 1996.

Somehow, over the decades, the two young Toposa men and countless others across Africa did what needed to be done!

Can you help *In Focus* happen?

Many people contribute their time and talents to help *In Focus* come out each month. We're happy to have all kinds of help, but we have two special needs right now.

Page Layout: Three or four times a year, you would receive files of edited articles and photos, lay them out using whatever software you prefer, and create a pdf.

Committee Member: We meet monthly (virtually, for now) to brainstorm articles for the next issue. Meetings are usually held on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Interested? Contact Cathy Salika at 367-78761 or csalika@illinois.edu.

Thanks be to God

by Judy Fierke

This is the season of the year when people offer thanks. Is there anything to be thankful for in 2020? Many have negative feelings about this year. Some religious groups see the chaos and sudden changes brought about by Covid-19 to be a message from God that the End of Time is near. Others see all the events precipitated by Covid-19 to be politically motivated.

I can think of many positive things in my life for which I can be thankful. I'm thankful that not a single neighbor or friend has caught Covid-19. I am particularly thankful to God for watching over me while I travelled out of state in July and September to visit my children and grandchildren, the most important people in my life.



I am thankful to Father Anthony for his continual calming presence as he celebrated daily Mass online when our church was closed. Our shepherd did not abandon his sheep but kept us safe in the arms of God. His Masses were comforting; they made my soul smile.

I'm thankful for the slower pace of life, for not having to rush off to many meetings. This was an opportunity for me to read the stack of books that had grown to avalanche height next to my recliner. I discovered a beautiful little book entitled *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by French author Muriel Barbery.

I'm grateful for my backyard and its deck nestled under a green canopy of graceful tree boughs. I'm thankful to my departed husband for planting many colorful perennials that change with the season. Sprouting in the spring are clouds of yellow daffodils and forsythias complemented by purple lilacs and white magnolias. Early summer brings the big blossoms of red, pink, and white peonies on their glossy green bushes. Summer brings the orange daylilies. Annuals bloom throughout the growing year. There are coral-colored impatiens tumbling out of their flower boxes on the deck and filling the pots on my front porch. Red geraniums and ivy nod from the upstairs window boxes. What a gift from God is nature!

I'm also thankful to all our parishioners who helped to open our church safely on June 6. It is gratifying to gather finally in our beloved St. Patrick and sing with our cantors—but most of all to receive the body of Christ.

These are just a few of the things I am thankful for. Every day God helps me in myriad ways prompting my silent gratitude. I'm sure you have your own list of thanks.

Pray, pray for our loved ones

The following members of St. Patrick's faith community have, as of this writing, entered eternal life this year, joining so many others who preceded them, and now abide with our Father in heaven. We pray for them and their families—and for all of us too, that we may one day gather with all the faithful with God in peace and joy.

Paul Anderson
Phyllis Rogers
Don McGrogan
Bernardine Gast
Patricia Barrett
Mary Maglione
Kay Evans
Rose Brown
Karen Meeks Newhope
Lawrence Solava
Mary Dailey
Deacon Bill McClellan
Charles "Skip" Thompson
Loretta LaFave
George Hauersperger
Robert Leach
Betty LaBerge

*May the angels lead you into Paradise,
may the martyrs come to welcome you
and take you to the holy city,
the new and eternal Jerusalem.
May you have eternal rest.*

—Commendation, Rite of Funerals

Read In Focus online

Did you know you can read *In Focus* online at the parish web site? Click on the image of *In Focus*, or go directly to <http://www.stpaturbana.org/focus/>. From there you can

- Read recent issues
- Subscribe to receive an email when future issues are available
- Review our complete archive of issues going back to 1981
- Search the archive

It's a great resource for history buffs, genealogists, and people who love the story of our parish!

A new ministry: Video streaming!

If you've been watching the Mass on St. Patrick's YouTube page, you've probably noticed that it has been evolving since the start of the pandemic. Back in March, the shut-down happened quickly, and in the early days, the Mass was recorded on a single camera, usually managed by Fr. Anthony. He had to stop and start the camera every time he needed to move it. He had one camera on a tripod, and there was one camera permanently mounted in the church.

The readings were recorded by some of our lectors from their homes. Frank Gallo recorded the music from his



home. Sometimes a cantor recorded the singing, again from home. Sometimes there were extra videos overlaid by the words of the hymns or some of the prayers.

All this material had to be edited together to make a familiar Mass for us to pray with. It was beautifully done, but it took a lot of time to pull all of the pieces together into a single video, and that was hard to do, day in and day out. It was a real challenge for Fr. Anthony to deal with the cameras while he was trying to pray the Mass. Also, since everything was prerecorded, it was hard for viewers to feel like they were praying with other members of their parish community.

Our capabilities needed to grow. Two additional cameras, more audio equipment, and a better internet connection were installed, which took a lot of work by Chuck Shaw and Craig Goad. Fr. Anthony has a keen interest in technology, and spent countless hours fine-tuning the audio and adjusting the video. He also did much of the work to figure out the software that controls the equipment and streams the results to YouTube.

By the end of May, the diocese had established rules for sanitizing the church and other safety measures, and a few hardy souls began coming to Mass in person. At about the same time, the cameras and other gear in the church were ready, so we began to stream the Mass to YouTube as it was happening.

The cameras can be aimed anywhere in the church and they can zoom in or out. By switching from one camera to another, the video could follow the action of the liturgy without having to stop and start the action. That's what we needed to allow us to see the Mass live.

The only other thing needed is a person. During every

Mass, someone sits at a computer, aims the cameras, and decides which camera's video should be sent to YouTube. For the first couple months, Jose and Tony Schutz did this. More recently, Jose has been training others to do the work using Zoom.

It takes a couple of hours to learn and a couple more hours to practice before being ready to try it live. Diane Wilhelm provided the structure and scheduling support. We now have a team of six volunteers, so the Video Streaming Ministry is up and running.

Sometimes you'll see the Video Streamer sitting in the church, usually around the corner across from the piano. More often, the Video Streamer is sitting at a computer at home, connecting to the laptop in the church, which controls the cameras, and feeds the sound and video to YouTube. It's kind of amazing how well it all works!

Now we're able to have a live stream of the Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m., and Tuesday-Friday 12:10 p.m. Masses. In addition, several baptisms and wedding have been live streamed so that family and friends could be part of these important events, even if they were unable to attend in person.

Thank God for technology and the willing volunteers who make it all work!

Our lives during the Pandemic: Life in a retirement community by Rosemary Laughlin

What is it like to live in an independent-living senior residence during a pandemic? I live at The Windsor of Savoy with about 150 others. I count myself both lucky and grateful.

Since Windsor is an affiliate of the Carle Foundation and has an Infection Control Board, we are subject to regulations more stringent than those of the Champaign County Public Health Department.

As I write, we have freedom to go anywhere except into another building that is not a doctor's office, medical clinic or hospital. A violation or an overnight hospital stay results in a two-week self-quarantine inside one's apartment.

We receive three meals a day, brought to our apartments. We have entrée choices, which always include a meat dish or a fish dish. The food containers are recyclable, and recycling has been encouraged and made easy for us. Dining room seating has been re-started on a limited basis. I find the food not only good but often delicious. At least once a week I send a message to the chef: "The chicken pot pie was great, crust flaky" or "terrific lemon broccoli soup!"

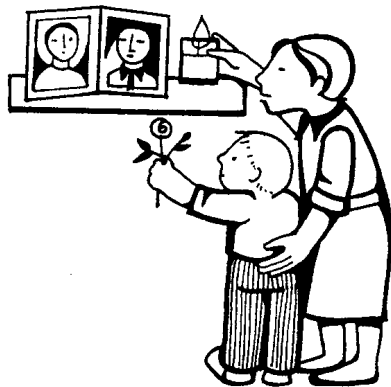
see **Our Lives** on page 11

The Consolation Ministry finds ways to help

In these times we are all being stretched to be more creative and to find new ways of completing tasks we have done many times before. This is true of St. Patrick's Ministry of Consolation team. The purpose of the ministry is to be of service to parishioners at the time of the loss of a loved one and beyond.

One of the ways the Consolation team helps, and perhaps the way you have come to know them, is at the time of a funeral, when they are present to assist the family and mourners through visitations that take place in the church and the following funeral Mass. However, two other events are sponsored by the ministry team; the Evening of Remembrance and the Ray of Hope program for coping with holidays after a death.

This year's Evening of Remem-



brance was scheduled for May, when it was not possible to be together in person. Rather than not having the evening, which is meant to celebrate the lives of the deceased and pray together, the Consolation

team determined to do it by mail. Participants received the program for the evening, along with Fr. Anthony's thoughtful explanation of our belief in the Communion of Saints.

A specific time and date were suggested to participants so that

we could all be remembering our loved ones and praying together at the same time. On May 6 at 7:00 p.m. participants and Consolation ministers alike spent an hour in remembrance and prayer. The hope is that although we were not together physically, our spirits and thoughts

were joined on that evening.

The same format will be used for the Ray of Hope program, scheduled for early November. Parishioners who have lost a loved one will receive printed materials for use in understanding grief at the holidays and other special times, such as birthdays and anniversaries. Information will be included for those who would like to speak with a trained professional about their grieving process. We are blessed to have two such persons in our congregation who graciously share their time and expertise.

Rest assured that the Ministry of Consolation team will continue to serve the parish in old ways and new, and to live the ministry's stated purpose: We strive to be a source of support and comfort for parishioners and their families and friends following the death of a loved one. Reaching out with compassion and listening with open hearts, we undertake the corporal work of mercy, to comfort the sorrowing.

Our Lives from page 10

The meals are delivered by high school/community college part-timers. These young people energize us with their friendliness and good cheer. They pen upbeat messages on entree dishes. We know and can address one another other by name.

The warm weather allowed musical entertainment to be held outside on the large patio. Families visited outside on the patio or lawn, in the gazebo, or at sheltered tables around our pond. We saw adorable great-grandchildren frolicking. There was a surprise 70th wedding anniversary, complete with balloons and champagne for all. Weekly Mass, made possible through the good graces of pastor and assistant from St. Matthews, was held outdoors too, but moved indoors with the cooler weather.

Several regular events have been added to ones long in place, like "Current Events." I particularly look

forward to "You Be the Judge"; the moderator reads the summary of an actual past case, which participants discuss. For example, a profoundly deaf person sued to retain his position as a lifeguard despite new regulation for hearing ability. Participants discuss moral and legal considerations before hearing the recorded court outcome.

Another appealing new program is "Table Topics." Residents give responses to topics such as "most memorable high school Senior happening" or "an unrealized idea, goal, or dream."

Six movies a week are screened—a good opportunity to view and discuss classics like "Casablanca," favorites enjoyed in yesteryear's theaters, or ones missed, like "Australia."

Daily at scheduled times neighbors enjoy visiting at their floor's elevator lobby. These give a strengthened

sense of community. As everywhere, masks and social distancing are required.

All will be delighted, of course, when we have our old freedoms once again. Meanwhile we appreciate to the max safety and caring in a very good life!

Vocation Prayer

Loving Father, help me to know your will for me. I know I pass through this life only once; help me understand how you want me to make a difference. Give me the wisdom to listen and the courage to answer. Above all, give me peace of mind and heart as I try to discern what you want me to do with my life..

First Reconciliation at St. Patrick's during COVID-19

In the month of September, St. Patrick's religious education students started meeting virtually on Wednesday nights. This included our nine second-grade students who are preparing for their First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Our First Reconciliation students have been learning about the Ten Commandments and forgiveness, as well as how to prepare for receiving this sacrament and how to proceed during Reconciliation. All of this has been taught through a program by Dynamic Catholic called "Blessed." If you would like to see this program, go to dynamic-catholic.com/blessed.



The students will continue to prepare for their First Reconciliation by participating in their virtual class each week, including an in-person meeting once in October and once in November. In addition, on November 4 the parents of our First Reconciliation students will participate in a retreat with Fr. Anthony while their children are in class.

All of this preparation will culminate with our First Reconciliation service on Wednesday, November 11. The students and their parents will attend the service while following the current Mass attendance protocols: wearing a mask, social distancing, sanitizing, etc.

The night will start off with a short prayer service and then the First Reconciliation students will experience God's forgiveness by participating in the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Each student and the student's family will be dismissed to their Reconciliation area, where the student will then go into the Reconciliation room with the priest. After the student has received the sacrament of Reconciliation, each of the student's parents and siblings will have the opportunity to go to receive this sacrament also.

As November 11 draws near, please say a special prayer that this evening will be special time for our First Reconciliation students and their families, and that they experience the healing power of forgiveness through this sacrament.

St. Patrick's 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 info-cusstpats@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. Bylines are generally omitted.

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Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Cathy Sarnecki

Chicken Sliders

- 1 lb ground chicken
- 4 scallions, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, grated
- 1 T grill seasoning
- 1/4 c teriyaki sauce



Mix all ingredients well. Cook in oiled skillet until cooked through. Serve on small buns.

* * *

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

Sunday November 1.