

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

March 2022

What will you do for Lent this year?

Many of us choose to do something inward-looking: more time of prayer, or more time with the scriptures, or the sacrament of Reconciliation, for example. But there are other possibilities.

The readings for the first few days of Lent set the season of repentance in a more social context. Consider this: "If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation, and malicious speech, if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted, then light shall rise for you in the darkness." (Isaiah 59: 9-10)

Where do you find oppression? Where do you find people who have less than you, fewer resources, fewer opportunities? You could give money to feed the poor, but why not give of yourself? You could volunteer at a shelter, or food pantry, or a Habitat for Humanity building site. You could serve as a mentor or tutor for young people. You could seek out a way to help recent immigrants. Our community is having a difficult time with gun violence; what could you do to help? What local organizations are trying to make a difference?

Where do you find "false accusation and malicious speech?" Maybe it is time to scrutinize your usual sources of news. Do they consistent-

ly try to tell the truth, or do they just try to keep you riled up or entertained? You could seek out sources that are more honest, or more balanced. Maybe you could fast from social media one day a week. When you hear someone make a statement that is untrue, recognize

it. Then, if you can with kindness and compassion, see if the speaker actually believes it, and try to discuss the reasons. Listen with your heart, and try to understand the hopes and fears that underlie the statement.

Consider the deepest values of your faith, for example, family, care

for the poor and the alien, honesty, respect for life at all stages, justice for all, peace, care for the earth. How are your values expressed in our political discourse? Use your influence in the areas that are most important to you. Attend meetings. Become more informed. Speak or write to your political leaders. Ask your family members to join you. Or ask them their priorities and join with them.

You don't have to become a social justice superhero for 40 days. You can use this Lent to explore opportunities and learn about the needs of others. Use it to consider where God is leading you to serve. Then re-



The Stations of the Cross and Lenten dinners return

How wonderful it will be to celebrate Lenten Fridays in person together again! Each Friday during Lent, beginning on March 4, the Stations of the Cross will be held at St. Patrick at 5:30 p.m. On Good Friday, April 15, the final service of the Stations will be held at 3:00 p.m.

Following the Stations, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., our Knights of Columbus will be serving their delicious Lenten fish dinners. Please check the parish bulletin for the latest information about whether there will be both curbside pickup and dining in St. Brigid Hall, or only curbside pickup. In either case, there will be no pre-ordering of food this year.

The menu for our Lenten fish dinner is the same as last year. There is a choice of a fried fish sandwich or two baked fish tacos. Each meal



includes freshly made coleslaw, mac and cheese, chips and salsa, and a dessert. Jack Parisi wants to remind our diners that the tacos are served deconstructed. You have to

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Frances of Rome, wife and mother — and servant of the poor

Frances' life combined aspects of both secular and religious life. A devoted and loving wife, she longed for a life-style of prayer and service.

She was a loving and devoted wife and mother, and eventually organized a group of women to minister to the needs of Rome's poor and gave the last years of her life in their service.

Born of wealthy parents in Rome in 1384, Frances found herself attracted to the religious life during her youth, but her parents objected and a young nobleman was elected to be her husband. She soon discovered that the wife of her husband's brother was also attracted to a life of service and prayer. It wasn't long before Frances and Vannoza set out together – with their husbands' blessing – to help the poor.

The years passed, and Frances gave birth to two sons and a daughter. The young mother turned her attention to the needs of her family and her own household. During the great plague that swept across Italy, her second son died. In an attempt

to alleviate some of the suffering, Frances sold her possessions and used all her money to purchase whatever the sick might need. When all her resources were exhausted, Frances and Vannoza went door to door begging. When Frances' daughter died, she opened a section of her house as a hospital.



It wasn't long before Frances requested and was given permission to found a society of women bound by no vows. They simply offered themselves to God and to the service of the poor. Frances chose not to live at the community's residence, but rather at home with her husband. When her husband passed away, she then came to live with the society, serving the poorest of the poor.

The life of Frances of Rome calls each of us to look deeply for God in prayer, but also to carry our devotion to Jesus living in the suffering of our world. She shows us that this life need not be restricted to those bound by vows but is open to all with the means and the will to live it.

You're the only you there has ever been. The only you there will ever be. God has been hoping to make you a saint exactly as you are. And the world needs a saint who is just like you.

—From *Saints Around the World*

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spond, as you are able, alone or with family and friends, with time, with money, with prayer. And, perhaps, continue to respond even after Lent is over. For, as Isaiah says, "Then light shall rise for you in the darkness," and you will be more ready to celebrate the rising of Christ Our Light at Easter.

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build your own tacos by adding the ingredients. The children's menu is a gourmet grilled cheese sandwich, mac and cheese, chips and salsa, and a dessert. Many consider the homemade desserts to be the best part of the meal. Thank you, St. Patrick bakers!

Here's a trip down Memory Lane. Did you know that, according to Steve Beckett and Ed Clancy, our Knights have served Lenten dinners for over 30 years? Some of the Knights who worked on the early fish fries were Terry Langendorf, Jim Ducey, Kenny Newman, Dave Palmisano, and Chuck Shaw. The fried fish recipe from the Deluxe Diner was followed. About 15 years ago, when Dave Mendoza was Grand Knight, he added a baked fish option with spaghetti sauce. Then 10 years ago when St. Patrick and St. Mary parishes combined under Father Joe Hogan, Mexican cuisine was added to the dinners. The tacos were so popular that they are still part of the menu. Last year an easy take-out menu was needed for curb service. That's the menu that will be used this year.

The best news is that the price has not gone up. The dinners are still \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors. The child's meal is still \$6. What a delicious bargain – thank you, Knights of Columbus!

Speaker shares stories and information about trauma

“Sharing Stories,” the parish anti-racism program, held its February 4 session on Zoom, with speaker Karen Simms, founder and program director of the C-U Trauma and Resiliency Initiative. Karen told some of her personal story and spoke about trauma, in particular racialized trauma. Racial oppression causes trauma because it is a form of interpersonal violence that can “lacerate the spirit, scar the soul, and puncture the psyche,” Karen said. The damage it does can affect people’s health, especially through chronic stress, and it can affect multiple generations. In order to heal from trauma, we need to build trust, safety, connection, and support. The C-U Trauma and Resiliency Initiative (www.traumaresilienceinc.org) provides many resources for individuals, groups, and communities to work toward healing.

Racialized trauma can affect White people as well as Black people and people of color. Session participants did an exercise in which they visualized themselves as a young child as they listened to a vivid description of that child being taken by a parent to witness a lynching. Then they broke into small groups to talk about their responses to the story and how they imagined that experience might affect the child’s perspective on the world, their own feelings of well-being, and how they treated other people.

After offering a closing prayer, Karen answered questions. One ques-

tion was, What is the point of talking about issues such as slavery and lynching that are so far in the past? Things have improved, so shouldn’t

we just concentrate on problems the Black community is experiencing right now? Of course, we do need to address urgent problems, Karen said, but we also need to understand how we got here. She used an analogy of a person with diabetes who needs a toe ampu-

tated. While his toe needing amputation is the urgent problem, his medical treatment must consider the rest of his body and disease.

The next session of “Sharing Stories” will be on Saturday, March 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., with an optional discussion period continuing until 11:00 a.m. The topic is Education. Two elementary school teachers, one active and one retired, will share their stories and their experiences. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please check the weekly bulletin for more up-to-date information about whether the session will be in-person or on Zoom. Also, mark your calendar for Saturday, April 2, when real estate professional Matt Difanis will talk about redlining and other past and current housing issues.

If you would like a reminder email, links to videos of past sessions, and other resources, please contact Stan Yanchus (family4yanchus@comcast.net) or Elizabeth Hendricks (elizabethwahlhend@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.



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 Sallika at 367-78761 or csallika@illinois.edu.

*Remember me.
Come. Answer,
Follow. Try.
Discontinuity is an illusion
and a lie.
(Like other ladders,
Jacob’s may consist
of rungs,
but is one ladder.)
If you respond not
with thanksgiving
to the voice of beauty,
I can speak
in other tongues.
—Ruth R. Rains*

Q&A

Q: Has the men's prayer group that used to meet early on Thursday mornings in the parish

center survived the pandemic?

Does the group still meet?

This question was answered by Jim Mayer, one of the members of the group:

A: Yes, our Thursday morning Men's Group is still going strong. At the start of the pandemic, we switched to meeting on Zoom, and then found a pavilion at Crystal Lake Park that worked well for an outdoor meeting place. We actually used that pavilion as our meeting space for the warm months of both 2020 and 2021 (and will likely return there this spring). We're currently back to meeting via Zoom. We've been meeting continuously for at least 20 years now. It is hard to describe the men's group, but it could probably be summed up as a combination of prayer group, base community, and study group.

We do spend a good part of each meeting in group prayer, and part of it in discussion of books on various spiritual topics. But there is also a wonderful sort of "spiritual support group" aspect, which is why I add the "base community" descriptor. Last summer, our friend Jim Healy

from the Joliet Diocese gave an evening retreat for the group on How to Bless and Be Blessed. We invited some of our former members who had left the group for one reason and another, and a number of them showed up. Some of them decided to return to the group, so our numbers have actually grown during the pandemic!

There are currently eight guys who come regularly. Because it is just a one-hour meeting time, we have found that eight is about the upper limit of how many the group can accommodate for everyone to have a chance to speak. However, if others are interested in starting a similar group, we would be happy to share some of what we have learned, and there are many other fine resource people in the parish who could no doubt lend helpful advice and counsel. It has been a fruitful way to give and receive support among a small group of committed souls.

I don't always have wonderful thoughts or feelings when I pray. But I believe that something is happening because God is greater than my mind and heart.

—Henri Nouwe

A day for the world to come together in prayer

The World Day of Prayer is celebrated on the first Friday of March, this year on March 4, to encourage people the world over to engage in personal or communal prayer.



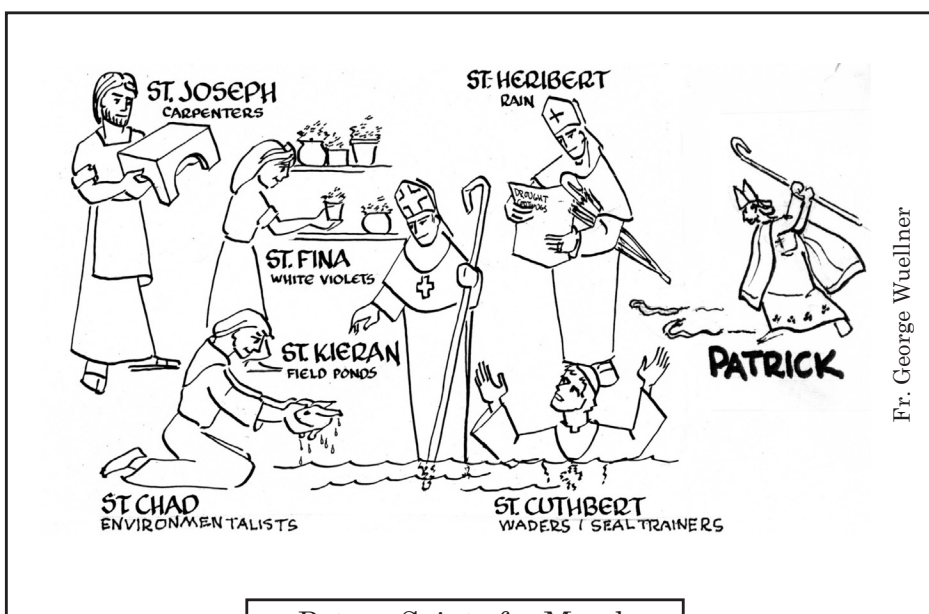
It had its beginning in the 1800s as a prayer for missions, when Mary Ellen Fairchild James, wife of the chairman of a Presbyterian National Committee for Missions, called for a day of prayer for home missions. In 1920 it was established as a joint day of prayer for missions with other churches. In 1926, the call to prayer was shared with other countries and partners in the first global observance of the World Day of Prayer.

Many churches organize prayer opportunities in observance of the World Day of Prayer. If you are unable to find one, you can always participate in a community of prayer by intention.

The World Day of Prayer affirms our belief and faith in Christ and humanity. It reminds us that good things happen when people come together for a cause, that we are not alone but part of a world-wide community of prayer.

Vocation Prayer

Loving Father, help us all to discern and pursue our vocation in life with strength and courage, making of us a priestly people. Provide from among us those who will work with us in priestly and consecrated service, and give them the generosity of spirit that will help them in the hard times ahead.



Patron Saints for March

Fr. George Wuellner

Parish Trustees: Who are they and what do they do?

Until 1930, St. Patrick's did not have trustees. At 8:15 a.m. on November 22, 1930, all churches in the Diocese of Peoria became a corporation. The corporation was made up of the bishop of the diocese, the vicar general, and the pastor and two lay trustees of every parish. This was to eliminate the possibility of a lawsuit against the diocese in addition to one filed against a parish church.

A signature was needed from all five persons in all matters pertaining to resolutions and the selling of all properties. The names of trustees were submitted by the pastor to the bishop for approval and appointment. Richard Kinder, father of Msgr. Paul Kinder, and George Pfeffer were the first trustees appointed for St. Patrick's Parish. George Pfeffer served a total of 27 years.

According to diocesan statutes, "Lay trustees are nominated by their pastor, appointed by the Bishop and continue to serve at the will of the Bishop. They serve in five-year terms that are not ordinarily renewed more than twice. They are required to submit their resignation at age 75. They should submit their resignation after the first year of a new pastor's term, although the new pastor may wish to re-nominate them. From a technical standpoint, the trustees are required to sign along with the pastor on the annual parish financial report submitted to the Diocese, as well as on resolution forms sent to the Diocese for approval of projects exceeding \$15,000."

St. Patrick's pastor, Fr. Anthony Co writes: "Currently, Pat Justice and



Pat Justice

George Fahey are the trustees of St. Patrick. Trustees are considered ex-officio members of the Finance Council. They help lead the

Council, and provide checks and balances for the financial ministry of the pastor. They help the pastor assess the current financial climate; plan ahead so as to maintain financial stability; and move forward with approved financial plans. In addition to the Finance Council, Pat and George also are ex-officio members of the Parish Council.



George Fahey

"We are very thankful for Pat and George offering their service to help oversee the financial care of St. Patrick. Of course, they serve in many other ways at the parish, and we are very thankful for this service. Please pray for them and the Finance Council as they help us carry out the mission of Jesus Christ."

"Over the years we have seen that each pastor has an idea of what role he feels the trustees should play in order to help not only him, but also the parish, to thrive," says Pat Justice. "Parishioners often come to us with concerns or comments, which we bring to Fr. Anthony and/or the staff. While we don't have the authority to make decisions for the parish, we can advise." Pat continued, "I feel it is a privilege to serve as a trustee."

The role and the legal tasks have stayed the same; it's the format that has changed. Until 1978 only men were appointed to be trustees. In 1977 Fr. Doug Hennessy and Fr. George Dorsey became co-pastors, and they appointed a man and a woman as trustees. The terms of service became much shorter than previously.

"Fr. Anthony comes to us on a one-to-one basis to talk about things that impact St. Pat's," says Pat Justice. Fr. Luke scheduled meetings

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Fr. George Remm reflects on parish trustees

Parish trustees are a characteristic of parish life that precedes and follows the enormous changes brought about by Vatican Council II. But their role and ministry became more vital and important through the Council's emphasis that the Church is "The People of God." A shift from clerical dominance to the rightful participation of the laity in worship, service, and responsibility for the life of the parish gave parish trustees a heightened task, duty, and place in parish life.

Before Vatican II, trustees in most parishes had one responsibility, to sign the annual parish report submitted by the pastor to the Chancery of the Diocese. They were seldom consulted about the ministries, service, finances, worship, education, and other needs of the parishioners, or the place of parish life in the wider community. They often served "for life or exhaustion."

In the first article I wrote for In Focus (October 1986), I stated that "the experience of shared ministry has been my most consistent and deepest first impression of St. Patrick's Parish." I was and am deeply grateful for the ministry of my predecessor, Msgr. Doug Hennessy, who recognized and used the talents of all God's people. One of his actions was to limit the term of parish trustees to three years of service.

In my 18 years as pastor here, I was graced by the assistance of 14 outstanding parish trustees. I am forever grateful for their wisdom and discernment and deep involvement in the life of the parish, and in the

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with trustees as needed. Fr. Remm prepared breakfast for trustees at the rectory for monthly meetings. They



Shirley Splittstoesser

ate and discussed the agenda. Shirley Splittstoesser relates, “Both Tom Kacich and I tried to be punctual. On Tom’s last day to be a trustee, the bacon and eggs were nearly ready and Tom had not arrived. I suggested we phone Tom and Fr. dialed Tom and handed me the phone. I

frantically searched for the right words – ‘Why are you late?’ didn’t seem right.

When Tom answered, I asked if he could smell the bacon and eggs. Tom paused and said, ‘Oh, my, he’s listening, isn’t he? Don’t tell him I forgot. I’ll be right over.’ With St. Christopher’s assistance, Tom arrived in record time. Except for slightly overdone eggs, all went well.”



Tom Kacich

Fr. Luke Spannagel (at St. Patrick’s 2017-19) shares his experiences with trustees. “Personally, I have always enjoyed great relationships with the trustees. In addition to the requirements, I generally also ask the trustees to assist me in an advisory role – sometimes reviewing parish priorities, ministry-related questions, and other advice as needed. When I am looking for someone to nominate for the role of trustee, typically I look for someone who is faithful in our Catholic life, has good leadership experience, loves the parish, and is respected by members of the parish family. I also have considered the spiritual life and experiences of the person, knowing I will also ask the trustees to pray with me for the good of the parish, as well as serving as spiritual leaders for our parish.

“When I arrived at St. Patrick’s, trustees Bruce Rogers and Ginger Timpone submitted their resignation as is normal. After talking with both and considering length of service and family and health needs, we decided to look for others to serve in those roles for our parish. After some discernment, I asked Bishop Jenky to appoint Pat Justice and George Fahey (May, 2018). I thought they

both balanced well spirituality and practical thinking. I knew Pat had been involved with the church expansion project and was serving in pastoral care work at OSF hospital. I got to know George as a daily Mass goer on campus and later through his assistance with the funeral and homebound ministries. I don’t recall any formal guidelines for them – I think I just asked them to be present at Council meetings when they could and always to be honest with me in our conversations about the parish. I thought they both did a great job in assisting me and I am thankful for their work and friendship.”

Trustees accept the appointment for various reasons. Barb Wysocki says she accepted the appointment to trusteeship because “It offers a new opportunity to serve the parish in ways that are different from service as a Parish Council member or committee member. It seems to round out the opportunity for lay participation in parish life.” She went on to say that she wanted to use this time to become more aware of the concerns of parishioners, and to see issues from the pastor’s perspective just as he seeks to see them from a parishioner’s perspective.



Barbara Wysocki

When Ellen Amberg became a trustee, St. Patrick’s had just finished its memorable centennial celebration (2001-2003) led by Father George Remm (Pastor of St. Patrick’s 1986-2004). During her years of service, the parish focused on long-range planning for parish facilities, including the purchase of nearby properties that would set the stage for a major church expansion. At the same time, St. Patrick’s also focused on revitalizing parish ministries and created the six-core-ministry structure under which the parish operates today. “It was a privilege to serve as a trustee during this significant period. I learned in new ways the meaning of ‘we are many parts, we are all one body’ and the great blessing it is to be part of a well-developed faith community.”



Ellen Amberg

Fr. Doug Hennessy (Pastor, 1977-86) relates, “My dad was a trustee at Holy Trinity for years. I don’t know that

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he was often consulted, but he didn't hesitate to offer his opinion to the pastor. I always hoped the trustees would do that for me. With the advent of parish councils, I felt like the trustees should be the institutional memory of the parish and help the pastor hear the concerns of the parish. St. Patrick's had one of the first parish councils in the diocese. It began before I arrived. Fr. Martel started it, urged on by some enthusiastic lay folk. In fact, there was a parish council at Macomb, my first assignment when I arrived in 1964. In both cases, they were feeling their way. Vatican II was the impetus for their arrival."

Edith Jendrasiak was the first woman trustee at St. Patrick's. Edith said, "I could hardly believe it when Fr. Doug asked me to be a trustee. I accepted because I felt that if he had trust in me, I knew it was okay, and it worked fine." Edith chuckled and went on to say that the only thing she did not agree with was taking down the old rectory that stood where the Parish Center is now.

Thirty-one parishioners have served as St. Patrick's trustees:

1930-1942 Richard Kinder & George Pfeffer
 1942-1943 George Pfeffer & Mr. C. E. Atkinson
 1943-1949 George Pfeffer & James J. Lynch
 1949-1951 George Pfeffer & Eugene Brown
 1951-1957 George Pfeffer & David G. Ryan
 1957-1969 David Ryan & Joseph W. Corazza
 1969-1978 John Wavering & Prof. J. B. Cunningham
 1978-1980 Jack Fonner & Edith Jendrasiak
 1980-1983 Jack Fonner & Mary Clare Uselding
 1983-1987 Cathy Rutledge & Martin Zeigler
 1987-1990 Ceil Weir & Bill Subick
 1990-1991 Ceil Weir & Tom Kacich
 1991-1993 Tom Kacich & Shirley Splittstoesser
 1993-1994 Shirley Splittstoesser & Bob Haessly
 1994-1996 Bob Haessly & Barbara Wysocki
 1996-1997 Barbara Wysocki & Joe Tobias
 1997-1999 Joe Tobias & Mary Ann Luedtke
 1999-2000 Mary Ann Luedtke & Steve Beckett
 2000-2002 Steve Beckett & Diane Musumeci
 2002-2003 Diane Musumeci & Patrick Dill
 2003-2005 Patrick Dill & Ellen Amberg
 2005-2007 Ellen Amberg & Joe Rasmussen
 2008-2010 Joe Rasmussen & Ginger Timpone
 2010-2018 Ginger Timpone & Bruce Rogers
 2018-2022 Pat Justice & George Fahey

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multiple ways they helped me serve as pastor. My practice was to select individuals who had been members of the parish for some time, who had a consistent record of volunteering, and had demonstrated a commitment to the parish and to their Catholic faith.

One of the great delights of living in the parish home on California Street, after five years of apartment living, was the opportunity to meet with the trustees each month, to prepare breakfast for them, and with them to prepare for the monthly meeting of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council's elected members, who together with the parish staff, also served as representatives of all the parish committees, were aware of the life and activity of the parish. I felt that if I couldn't convince them of the advantage of any new proposal, it wouldn't succeed anyway. So the monthly meeting with the trustees was to help me discern what I should present to the Parish Council and to prepare the agenda. The trustees, the parish staff, and the Parish Council were my most important advisors.

The trustees, of course, did not just assist me. They offered a listening ear, vision, and empathy for the concerns and needs of parishioners. Thus, they could also function as a sounding board and a source of feedback in both directions, to parishioners and to the pastor.

I admire the gifts, talents, faith, service, and commitment of all the parish trustees who served during my time as pastor. Thank you, thank you, thank you, and God bless you always!



Fr. Remm and 11 of the 14 parish trustees who served while he was pastor.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Mary Clare Uselding



Veggie Baked Stuffed Peppers

1/4 c olive oil
 1 onion, chopped
 4 garlic cloves, minced
 1 ripe tomato, finely chopped
 1/4 c chopped fresh parsley
 3/4 c Italian bread crumbs
 1/4 t salt
 1/4 t black pepper
 2 red or green bell peppers, split lengthwise and cleaned
 2 T grated Parmesan cheese
 1/4 c water

In a large skillet over high heat, heat olive oil; sauté onion and garlic 4-5 minutes, until softened. Remove from heat and add tomato, parsley, bread crumbs, salt, and pepper; mix well. Evenly fill each pepper half with mixture and place in greased or sprayed baking dish. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese, then pour water into bottom of baking dish. Bake at 400 degrees for 20-30 minutes, or until golden and tender.



Until the Next Time

If Jesus played football,
 he'd be an end.
 He'd lope out under the long,
 impossible passes,
 cradle them in his arms,
 or, if he had to, dive for them,
 his fingers owning that space
 between ball and ground.
 On short routes, his sprints,
 feints, and precise cuts
 would fake the defense
 out of their cleats;
 on his feet, still running,
 in a moment of communion
 he'd knock off their helmets
 with a stiff arm.

Once in for six,
 he'd spike the old pigskin.
 In that spot would sprout a rose,
 or a sunflower.
 By the time time ran out,
 both end zones would bloom
 with roses and sunflowers
 where we would wait for him.
 After his shower,
 he'd appear to us to ask us
 home with him for supper.
 We'd pose for pictures by his side,
 then glide from the stadium together,
 until the next time—
 happy, undefeated, unafraid—
 if Jesus played football.

—William Heyen

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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Deadline for submission of articles and news items for the next issue of In Focus is **Sunday, March 6.**