

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

June 2023

Encountering the Spirit

The best way to get to know someone is to listen carefully to what they say. This is true even of God. The Bible gives us many things said by the Father. He speaks the world into being. He guides Adam and Eve. He calls the patriarchs and prophets and gives them direction. He patiently forms the people of Israel to prepare them to encounter his son. From these words, we come to know that the Father is loving, that he wants only what is good for us, and that he wants to return us to intimacy and cooperation with God.

The Bible also gives us many words spoken by Jesus. We can learn from them of his compassion for the poor and those in pain. We can see the things that make him angry and the things that give him joy. We can see his wit and his skill in repartee. We can see his power over evil and his power to persuade. We can see his desire to show everyone how to come to salvation. We can see his patience with those who try, fail, and try again as they struggle to understand him.

Because we know their words, we have a way of coming to know the Father and Jesus. The Holy Spirit is a bit different. There are only a few places in the scriptures that

quote the Spirit directly. These are in the book of Revelation, which can be difficult to understand. But you know the saying: Actions speak louder than words. The scriptures tell us a great deal about the ac-

tions of the Spirit. From these actions, we can learn about Spirit.

Some of the Spirit's actions helped Jesus to learn his sonship and his mission. The Spirit was visibly present at Jesus' baptism. The Spirit led Jesus to the desert for a time of concentrated reflection on his mission. And the Spirit led him out of the desert to begin

his ministry of preaching and healing. (See Luke 3:22, 4:1, and 4:14.)

The Spirit offered guidance to many other people. The Spirit led Simeon to the temple where he met the infant Jesus, the fulfillment of his life's dreams. The Spirit sent Peter to the house of Cornelius, and showed him that the faith was for Gentiles as well as Jews. The Spirit told Philip to catch up with the carriage of the Ethiopian eunuch and tell him about Jesus. The Spirit guided the missionary journeys of Paul, and prepared him for the trials and hardships that he would encounter in Jerusalem. (See Luke



Thank you, Mora!

Mora Novy has been serving our community as Interim Director of Music for the past 10 months. We've been blessed to have her! She has enlivened our worship with her music and enabled the gifts of our parish musicians. She gave us time to seek out a permanent, full-time musician to lead us in the longer term.

Mora hopes to complete her master's degree in organ performance in the coming year. It will be a busy time, studying, teaching, and preparing for recitals. She is also planning to be married in September. We wish her and her fiancé, John Matthew Wolff, every blessing as they begin their life together.

Thank you, Mora, for all you have done for St. Patrick!



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"One bread, one Body, one Lord of all"

For those of us who have participated in the Easter Vigil liturgy, who have shared the new fire while exulting in Christ's victory over death and been washed once again in the newly blessed water of our baptism, the welcoming of the catechumens and candidates who have journeyed long to become one with us in the Body of Christ holds a special place in our celebration. We can only imagine — if we can even do that — what they must be experiencing, what memories they will later savor, as their understanding of the significance of this night deepens and expands in their minds and their hearts.

We invited each of them to introduce themselves by reflecting on and responding to these two questions: *What called you to pursue receiving the Sacraments? Did something (or someone) draw you to St. Patrick's? And please tell us a little about yourself.*

Charlotte Yoder

While there are many books and many people who encouraged and instructed me in my pursuit of truth and thus ultimately my Confirmation, one book in particular served as a tipping point. *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*, by Brant Pitre, presented compelling evidence that by some miracle it was truly Christ's body and blood in the Eucharist. Once convinced, I had no other choice but to obey Jesus' command to partake of his Body and Blood and join the Church. I owe the introduction and guidance in reading this book to my sponsor, Elizabeth Poston.



I'm the eighth child in a family of twelve. My mom and dad are both Christians of the Evangelical strain, so I had excellent role models grow-

ing up for what it looks like to look to Jesus as "the author and perfecter of [my] faith" (Heb. 12:2a). I'm currently a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in the Computer Science department at UIUC, with a focus on improving pronunciation in second language learning. I pack all sorts of different kinds of playing, resting, and crafting into my spare time. For instance, I made my confirmation dress! (Though I guess that wasn't exactly spare time.)

Kaitlyn Hale

My fiancé, Isaac Dallas, and I joined St. Patrick's Parish in July 2022. We joined shortly after we got engaged because we wanted to find a parish that felt like home to both of us. (I was attending St. John's on campus, and Isaac was attending St. Charles Borromeo in his hometown of Charleston.)



I was raised in Meridian, Idaho. I attended Purdue University for my undergraduate degree, then joined the U.S. Air Force as an Engineering Officer. I moved to Champaign in August 2020 to pursue a Ph.D. in Systems Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign.

Mallory Cooper

My partner, Drew, led me to St. Patrick's. He grew up Catholic, and I began attending Mass with him around a year ago. This past winter, I decided that I wanted to learn more about the Catholic faith and enrolled in RCIA. I came to understand that receiving the sacraments was the answer to how I could deepen



my relationship with God.

I'm a speech-language pathologist, and I work with preschool-aged children. I am passionate about working with children who require assistive technology to communicate. In my free time, I enjoy reading and playing board games. I also love gardening and spending time outdoors. Drew and I will be relocating to Maine in June, and I'm excited to have more opportunities to spend time out in nature.

Melinda (Lindy) McIntyre

It is hard to put my journey into words. I grew up in a Lutheran family and my mom instilled a deep faith in me.

After getting married, Jeff and I joined a charismatic church. But I always felt empty, and I knew my relationship with God was lacking. After many trials in my life I just put God on a shelf and went on with my life. I thought a relationship with God was impossible for me — he just couldn't love me.

During the pandemic, I felt a yearning in my heart and a deep desire for God. We started going to



a Lutheran church, but it didn't fill my yearning for God. One day Jeff was watching a Mass on TV and I was drawn to it and watched with him. Father Anthony was so inviting and loving and I felt that I'd really seen the love of a father. Okay, it surprised even me.

I watched more and more services and knew this was what I was searching for. I asked Jeff to find out from Father Anthony if it would be possible for me to become Catholic. We soon met with him, and I never thought I could do everything

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I needed to do. But he listened to my concerns and gave me materials to study and videos to watch. I couldn't learn enough; I found myself watching the videos all the time.

After my first confession, I felt so forgiven and loved by God. And our marriage was blessed — my love for Jeff has deepened with a new love. Thanks for allowing me to become a part of the St. Patrick's family. You have welcomed me with loving kindness. I feel like I'm finally home. Taking the Eucharist is my very life now. It has become a very important part of my life. And I want to grow in my understanding of this sacred sacrament.

Jeff and I have three children and 16 grandchildren. I retired after working 27 years in special education. We moved from Gilman to Urbana about 9 years ago. We enjoy spending our days together, especially going to daily Mass.

Jeff McIntyre

I was raised Catholic, but never confirmed; I left the Church when given the choice by my dad to get confirmed or not. As a high school senior I had an encounter with God while reading a Gideon bible that had been passed out at our school. I tried the Lutheran church for about a year, then I was introduced to a small charismatic group holding meetings in the pastor's house. I met my wife Lindy there. We continued in this type of church for 40-plus years.

Around 2008, I began to experience disillusionment in many of the practices of that church, and we bounced around to three different charismatic churches until 2020, when COVID hit. I found I had plenty of time to look deep into church history, its very beginning. I found Eastern Orthodoxy and the Roman Catholic Church was the one Holy Apostolic Catholic Church — until they split a thousand years later.

I met with a father from the Antiochian Orthodox Church in Urbana to look into their beliefs. At this point we were attending a Lutheran

church in Urbana in our search for return to a traditional church. Having my roots in the Catholic Church, I began watching Mass on YouTube. I found St Patrick's there and went for a visit to see this in person. I continued watching on YouTube, and really liked Father Anthony's homilies. I set up a meeting with him.

I was Catholic because of my baptism and I had received my First Communion. Father Anthony laid out the steps I had to take to get in right relationship with God and the Holy Catholic Church. My marriage had to be validated, and I needed reconciliation through confession and to be confirmed with chrism in the Holy Spirit. I met with Father Anthony again with my wife, and my homecoming to the Church began, with my wife joining me. It has been a wonderful experience, returning to the Church through St. Patrick's Parish.

Paul Zimmerman

In 2017 I came to live at Brookstone Estates (Assisted Living) in Tuscola to be near my sister, Mary Ann Dier-Zimmermann. Mary Ann converted to Catholicism in 2017, and I was very interested in why. To answer my questions, I read several Catholic catechisms and watched daily Mass on EWTN.

Through the guidance of Father Anthony and Frances Drone-Silvers, I completed RCIA with my sister, Mary Ann, as my sponsor. (His sister comments: "I am so proud of Paul. Best big brother in the world!")

It is with great joy that I received Eucharist as a full member of St. Patrick's on Easter Sunday.

I have an avid passion for music — particularly sacred music. From a very young age I played the piano and then the church organ. In high school, I had the honor of accompanying choral performances and continued to do so in college.



I played the organ in countless churches before I settled into my role as church organist at Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Louisville, Kentucky, where I played the pipe organ for over 50 years. My gifts of music continue to be shared at my residence, Brookstone Estates, where I give impromptu concerts and occasionally play for Sunday morning chapel.

My wife, Judy, passed away from cancer in 2017. We had been married for 50 years and had two children. Our son John and his wife, Brenda, live in St. Louis. The couple have three adult children, all of whom are in college. Our daughter Angela and her husband, Jason, live in Louisville. They have two children in college.

Philip Wiley

I am a graduate student who moved here for vet school two years ago. At the time, I had no intention of joining the Catholic Church. I had nothing against the Church, but at that point I had no real reason to change my Protestant ways. However, about a year into school I stumbled onto Pope JP II's theology of the body. Even the small part I found was so complete and rang of so much truth that I realized that all of Catholicism was probably that way.

I found St. Patrick's church online, walked in, went to Mass. One year of prayer and study later, I was confirmed and able to receive our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

It has been a phenomenal journey and I look forward to continuing it!

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We have had difficulty reaching Nikolay Shatalov, who was also received into the Church. His photo and self-introduction will be shared with you when we hear from him. Meanwhile, do keep all of them in prayer as we continue our journey of Faith together.



St. Patrick's "Bread Ladies" recognized by the diocese

Wednesday is "Bread Lady" day, so it is fitting that on Wednesday, April 26, three volunteers of our Saint Vincent DePaul (SVDP) Bread Ladies were honored by the Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women at the 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Mass and Luncheon. This year St. Patrick staff chose SVDP head Sally Czapar and volunteers Toni D'Urso and Judy Lubben for this award.

Toni has worked as a bread lady some 30 years, and Judy started volunteering first with the SVDP Food Pantry and then the Bread Ladies when she first joined St. Patrick seven years ago. The two were accompanied on their trip by Barb Beckett, a relative Bread Lady newbie who nonetheless performed an important role in driving the two veterans to the celebration. Sally, who heads the SDVP Food Pantry and all its many moving parts, was unable to attend the celebration but certainly should be congratulated for her outstanding leadership in our parish.

What is a Bread Lady? On Wednesdays, some half-dozen volunteers – aka the Bread Ladies --re-package bread and sweets donated by Panera Bakery and St. Joe's IGA for the SVDP Food Pantry. For decades volunteer bread ladies have lived the beatitude: Feed the Hungry. Thanks to all of them!

At the volunteer celebration, our Bread Ladies participated in the rosary and May crowning, enjoyed Mass celebrated in the cathedral by Bishop Louis Tylka, and attended a lunch and the awards ceremony. Toni said she really enjoyed meeting fellow volunteers from all over the diocese. At the luncheon they sat at a table designated for the volunteers from the diocese's various St. Patrick parishes! Judy commented that she was honored to receive the Eucharist from Bishop Lou and that offering a flower for the crowning of Mary, our Mother, brought back fond memories from her childhood. Barb was struck by the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Museum, which she said was amazing. They all said it was a lovely and memorable day.

Please congratulate each of our St. Patrick volunteer awardees, Sally Czapar, Toni D'Urso, and Judy Lubben



Judy Lubben and Toni D'Urso



Sally Czapar



Deadline for submission of articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* (July-August) is **Sunday, June 7.**

Encountering the Spirit

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2:27 and Acts 10:19, 8:29, 16:7, and 20:22.)

Guidance is only one of the gifts of the Spirit. At Pentecost, the Spirit set the disciples on fire with a desire to preach about Jesus and helped everyone to understand their words. The Spirit cooperates with the redeeming work of Jesus. The Spirit animates the body of Christ by giving different gifts to each of us, its members. The Spirit helps us to sing our praise and faith together. The Spirit gives love, joy, peace, patient endurance, kindness, generosity, faith, faith mildness, and chastity. (See Acts 2:4, 1 Cor 6:11, 1 Cor 12:3-13, Eph 5:18-19, and Gal 5:22.)

So what do we learn about the Spirit from all this? We see that the actions of the Spirit are completely aligned with the actions of the Father and the Son. The persons of the Trinity are one in their loving care for us and the way they call us to holiness and joy. We learn that there are many, many gifts and inspirations that the Spirit will give us to help us along this path. And we find that the Spirit is vibrantly active among us.

Pray for the gifts of the Spirit. Pray that you will be ready to accept the Spirit's gifts even when they aren't quite what you expected. Pray to grow in trust in the Spirit's actions. Come Holy Spirit!

Vocation Prayer

Loving Father, you ask us to heal the broken-hearted, to dry the tears of those who mourn, to give hope to those who despair, to rejoice in your steadfast, immeasurable love. Through our hearts and our deeds you will continue to heal and love your people. We realize our call to serve; help us to understand how.

Holy Cross Happenings

By the time this issue of In Focus is printed, the 2022–23 school year will be history. It has been a big, busy year as usual. And with the most restrictive covid precautions largely in the past, “as usual” has been an absolutely wonderful thing for it to be!

On the first weekend of April one of the dearest Holy Cross School traditions, the spring musical, delighted as always. The kids (and their crew of older kid/adult helpers) did a bang-up job of bringing Kansas, Munchkinland, the Emerald City, and the other iconic locales of The Wizard of Oz to life. The talent our students have is undeniable, but the role their music and drama teachers play in training them to take the stage is equally impressive.

Something new to the school this year that will hopefully become a part of the fabric of life at Holy Cross is a bowling team. An article about them in the News-Gazette

detailed how they went from being a group of very mixed-experience bowlers to a state-bound group in year one, courtesy of some thrilling sectionals victories. Congratulations, team! Parents should keep this in mind for next year and maybe take advantage of the free bowling programs (through the website Kids Bowl Free) that take place at our local lanes throughout the summer to help their young keggers get a start on next season.

The last IESA sport to wrap for the year was track, with sectionals being held on Saturday, May 6. Quite a few Holy Cross runners advanced to state. Just the week before that, one of them, eighth-grader Farah Scott, was crowned the female winner of the Illinois Marathon 5K! She secured her victory with a stunning 19 minute 20 second finish. Congratulations on the title, young lady!

As this issue is being distributed, the school year will already be over

and the Holy Cross eighth-graders will have graduated and are focused on their high school careers. Please pray that God will guide and bless their future endeavors. May these young people keep their years of formation at Holy Cross in their hearts and minds always as they choose their next steps in becoming the young men and women they are called to be!

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Please contact rachmcmill@gmail.com if there is anything you'd like to see featured in an upcoming installment of Holy Cross Happenings or if you have any additions or corrections to report.

Interested in having your children attend Holy Cross School? Schedule a tour of the school by calling Principal Greg Koerner (217-356-9521). Financial help may be available; contact St. Patrick's parish office (217-367-2665) for details.

Holy Cross School honor roll, Third quarter, 2022–23

Highest Honors

Sarah Surratt
Grace Arend
Eireann Byard

High Honors

Brendan Byard
Faith-Ann Kumpi
Elizabeth Withers-Sickles
Miles Hamby
Prunella Tembo

Honors

Love Samu



Cast members of The Wizard of Oz.



Fourth- and fifth-graders visited the Lincoln Tomb on their trip to Springfield in April.



Students participate in a 'Walk To School Day' in early May.

A First Communicant's experience

My name is Eddie Palermo and I am writing about my experience in preparing for my First Holy Communion. When I went to religious education on Sundays, God always asked me to be the best version of myself. This means to me that God wants me to be kind, loving and sorry. During class, we did a lot of activities to show how God wants me to be. During Advent, we made a 3-D model of the Last Supper where Jesus turned the bread into his body and the wine into his blood. Understanding this made me realize how much God loves me. In March, I attended the Seder meal with my family where I got a better understanding of Passover. I was amazed on all of the prayers there were and how they brought me closer to God. We learned these prayers through Prayer Ninja and we would get ninja beads if we knew our prayers. In November, I made my First Reconciliation where I confessed my sins to God. I was amazed when Father Anthony told me that God loves me so much



that he forgives me for all of my sins. I actually went again to confession at Easter time, and I was still amazed by God's love. It is God's love that makes me thankful. I am thankful for my family, friends and my teachers for all the things they taught me.

Everybody was there for me in helping me in this journey. When I first tried the Eucharist, I didn't care for the taste. But Mr. McCoy gave me extra hosts so I could practice for my big day. For three days, I ate unblest host so that I can get used to the taste. On May 6, I was nervous that I wouldn't be able to eat it, but I got relaxed when Father Anthony gave his homily and he asked us to repeat "thank you, I'm sorry, and I love you." When it was my turn to go up to the altar, I went up with my dad, my mom, my brother Paulie, aunt Reggie, uncle Bill, my cousin Jimmy and my grandparents, Moomoo and Pup. I ate the Holy Eucharist with no problem. Father Anthony gave me a

small piece, but I really could have eaten the whole thing. I will next time because I can now go to communion with my family. I no longer receive just a blessing, I receive the body of Christ. Every day I wear my crucifix around my neck to remind me of God's love. I feel so blessed to have received this sacrament.

Come for a little bit of heaven

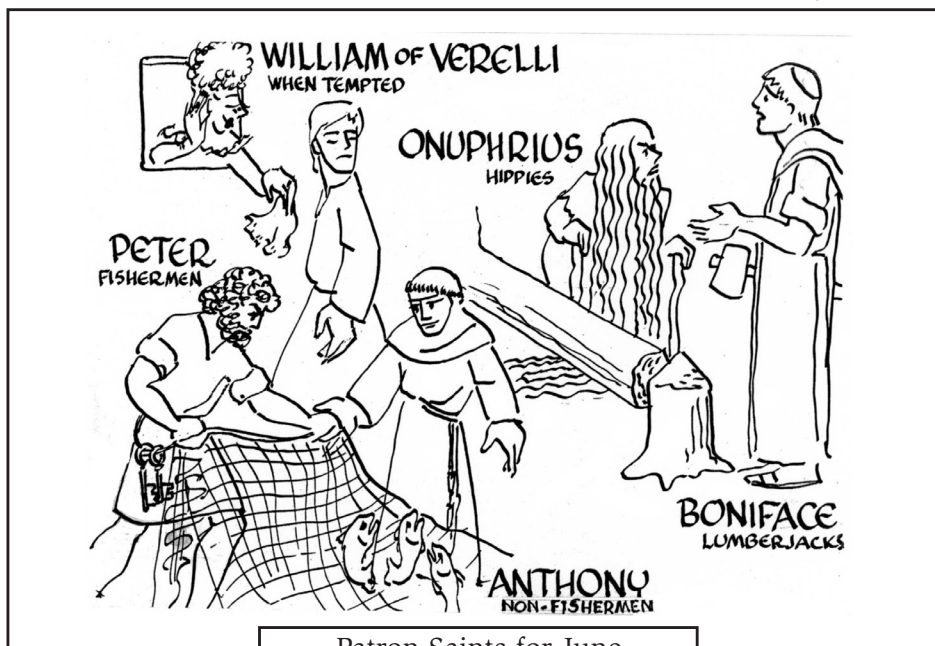
Every Friday, St. Patrick parishioners have the opportunity to participate in "a little bit of heaven." At 11:00 a.m., prior to the 12:10 Mass, Father Anthony opens a holy hour of adoration with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, leading those present in singing the familiar hymn "O Salutaris Hostia" (O Saving Victim). During this hour of adoration, confessions are also heard.

Around noon, Father returns, wearing the cope, to open Benediction. After leading the singing of the familiar hymn "Tantum Ergo" (Come Adore), he dons the humeral veil and raises the monstrance in a blessing while altar bells are rung. Benediction is completed with the recitation of the Divine Praises, the return of the Blessed Sacrament to the tabernacle, and singing the final hymn, "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name."

The holy hour of adoration is a time to reflect on our week, discuss our lives with Jesus, and just enjoy Jesus' presence.

Upon request, St. Patrick's offers a holy hour of adoration to groups, such as Cursillos, during their retreats. The Young Professionals often meet at St. Patrick's and, as part of their meetings, a holy hour of adoration is offered. Our second-graders were introduced to the monstrance and its special purpose during a recent religious education class.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a beautiful gift that Jesus provides for us through our parish's holy hours. Please consider coming for "a little bit of heaven."



Patron Saints for June

Fr. George Wuellner

Our Eucharistic Revival with Father Luke Spannagel

What a rewarding four days! Our parish met together from Saturday, April 29, to Tuesday, May 2. We worshiped together, prayed together, celebrated Mass together, and ate and socialized together. It was so educational and inspiring that we didn't want it to end.

What a perfect leader we had in Father Luke. He is one of fifty priests selected to serve as a preacher for the National Eucharistic Revival. We all know how joyfully friendly he is, and how reverent he is toward the Eucharist. After his three lectures we now know how prepared



he was to deepen our love of the Eucharist.

Father Luke celebrated the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday with a dinner afterwards. On Sunday he celebrated two Masses. After the 8:00 a.m. Mass the Knights of Columbus served

a pancake breakfast. Father Luke concelebrated the 10:00 a.m. Mass with Father Fortunatus from St. Mary. The Congolese choir enlivened our hymns of praise. Since this was an explanatory Mass, Father Luke stopped at appropriate places to explain what was happening.

Before Father Luke's first lecture, he led a Eucharistic procession outside from St. Brigid Hall to our altar where children and other parishioners placed white balloons and flowers at the feet of the statue of Mary. Much of the lecture was about Blessed Carlo Acutis. He was an Italian teenager who died in 2006, three days after being diagnosed with acute leukemia. He was a normal fifteen-year-old who liked sports, computers, and animals, especially his dogs, but he would stop at his church daily to say "Hi" to Jesus. He called the Eucharist our highway to heaven. He worked for



four years on a website of Eucharistic miracles. His funeral overflowed into the streets of Milan. Hundreds of miracles were attributed to him. He showed us how to be a holy person in our digital age.

Our church was open all day Monday for

adoration which ended with the 6:00 p.m. Mass celebrated by Fathers Luke and Anthony. Following Mass, Father Luke spoke on the true presence of Christ in the host. He spoke with conviction on the many analyses of hosts that had turned red and were sent to labs as the coloring was of unknown origin. They were identified as heart tissue, and one showed evidence of trauma indicating that the person had suffered greatly. They all were all blood type AB, which is found in only 5% of people.

After this moving lecture, we adjourned to St. Brigid Hall for a chocolate fest featuring a chocolate fountain with fruit and cake on wooden skewers to dip in the fountain of chocolate. There was also a table full of chocolate desserts, cookies, candies, brownies, and fudge. Since Father Luke is from Pesotum, this was a great opportunity for his parents and other relatives to see him and us to meet them.

On Tuesday, our last day, there was a 12:10 p.m. Mass and the lecture at 6:00 p.m. was on Holy Communion as a sacrament of unity with God and each other. There are 7,000–9,000 Masses being celebrated on Earth at any time. The wine mixed with water symbolizes Christ's blood mixed with the united people.

Theologian St. Thomas Aquinas says the Mass is a taste of heaven on Earth. Father Luke says he feels his sister, who died of cancer twelve years ago, when he celebrates Mass. He also sees us all united in a procession to heaven.

Father Luke ended his last lecture by telling us how great it was to come back to us, and he asked us to please pray for him. He also exhorted us to follow the National Eucharistic Revival by logging on to eucharisticrevival.org on our computers to receive updates. As we left church for St. Brigid Hall we were all handed a small loaf of home-made bread.



This last social of bread and wine and cheeses reflected the unity of the Mass. Everyone was happily talking to each other and seemingly did not want the revival to end. Father Anthony wrote in the following Sunday's bulletin that we will have more adoration, more education, and more celebration.



Parish Council news

At their April meeting Parish Council members shared information acquired during their interviews with leaders of 29 of the 60 or so parish ministries.



Many they interviewed were optimistic about the revival of their ministries with the decline of the pandemic. Several were hoping to stimulate more interest and participation in their ministries during Time and Talent.

Time and Talent may look a little different this year. Brief presentations of selected ministries at Mass will begin in early September, with a table in the gathering space for

ministry representatives and handouts. A template will be available for sign-up sheets. And it was suggested that a booklet (similar to the former "Who and What Is St. Patrick's?") be used to describe parish ministries, drawn from information on the parish website.

In previous meetings members have discussed revisions to the Parish Council's bylaws. Copies of the proposed revision were distributed for consideration at the May meeting.

The Parish Council now has 11 members from the parish, with three ex-officio members (pastor and parish trustees) and one non-voting member (recording secretary). As yet there is no secretary, although the need for this position has been questioned and may have been dealt with in the coming revision of the bylaws.

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is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by the first weekend of the month for an upcoming issue. Materials must include the name and telephone number of the person submitting them.

Please send news items to infocusstpats@gmail.com. You may also send them to any Communications Committee member (listed with contact information below). 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 . . . Pat Mayer

Quiche Lorraine

4 eggs
1 T cornstarch
1/2 c milk
1-1/2 c grated cheese*
1/3 c chopped green onion
Salt to taste
Dash of black pepper
1/2 c cooked meat*
9-in unbaked pie shell



Blend eggs, cornstarch, and milk until smooth. Add cheese, onion, salt, pepper, and cooked meat. Pour into unbaked pie shell and bake at 350 degrees until set (about 30 minutes).

*For cooked meat: ham, crumbled bacon, ground beef, fish, etc. Cheddar pairs best with ground beef, Swiss blends well with ham.