



Mother Mary Benedicta

She was my mother's cousin and friend, born Catherine Elizabeth Larkin on July 4, 1900, in Chicago, Illinois. My mother came along three months later on October 19. Their roots were in Ireland.

From little on and after that first visit of Catherine to my grandfather's farm in Eaton, Wisconsin, they became grand friends. My mother, Loretta, could hardly imagine the size and scope of Chicago as Catherine described it to her. For Catherine, the farm in rural Brown County, Wisconsin, was also culture shock. It was primitive living to this large city girl.

My mother was one of 17 children, the 15th born. She was the only one of her sibs to graduate high school, and that was Saint Joseph's Academy, in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

In 1924, Catherine Larkin entered the Dominican order at St. Clara Novitiate in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin. She became a teacher, teaching in secondary school and at the college level. She served as postulant mistress, novice mistress, General Councillor Lord knows what else, and spent two six-year terms as Mother General from 1955 – 1967. She was well loved and respected by the members of her community.

While Sister Benedicta was moving up in her chosen field, the religious life, my mother was working to help support her family. Mom's father died in 1919, and Mom lived with her mother and two younger brothers and brought home the bacon, so to speak, during the depression years. My mother married in 1934, had two children, and was widowed within the decade.

I first met Mother Benedicta in 1958.

A friend and I drove two Dominican sisters from Annunciation Grade School in Green Bay to the Mound for what reason I cannot remember. At the door I mentioned to the greeting sister that I was a cousin of Mother Benedicta and asked if I could meet her. If Mother Benedicta was surprised to see her old friend's daughter popping in, it did not show in her expression or demeanor in any way. She greeted me warmly, told me we would have a long visit later, which we did, and when I mentioned my friend and I would be spending the night in a hotel in Dubuque (where we would find some kind of night life), she said no, you and your friend will spend the night at the Mound. She spoke with authority and in a voice that booked no opposition. We scrapped our night in Dubuque.

I have pictures of Sister Benedicta (as we were instructed to call her—not Mother) visiting our home in summer 1967. Many pictures were taken that day, but the one that made an impression was the one of my mother, Sister Benedicta, and me in a corner of our living room. A copy of that picture was sent to Sister Benedicta . . . and she did what with it? Imagine my surprise, when in 1971, my sister, her husband, and I were visiting

cousins in Ireland to find that picture on their mantel. It had a place of honor next to John F. Kennedy's picture and not because of my mother or me, but because of the holy and important Sister Benedicta, a relative and once a Mother General of her order in the United States. They were honored and proud of Sister Benedicta and her connection to their family. Well, weren't we all.

My mother and Sister Benedicta corresponded and visited in person over the years. They would talk of the old days at the farm, the now days, and the extended family of many cousins, those in Wisconsin and Illinois, and those in Ireland.

In 1976, a friend and I were spending a long weekend visiting the southwest corner of Wisconsin and surroundings. We stopped at the Mound and once again I asked for Sister Benedicta and once again she expressed pleasure and welcomed me with a hug. She took Sue and me on a tour of some of the public rooms and into what I thought she called the museum or the archives. She held up the writing desk of the Venerable Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP, so that we could get a good look at it. And then she held out his penance chain and asked if we wanted to venerate it. I had

continued on page 5

JUNE 6, 2013 • 7:00 PM

MILWAUKEE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center (2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue)



As this will be Glenn's last meeting as Sergeant-at-Arms,
he will be providing the meal.

☘ Milwaukee Calendar of Events ☘

For More Information visit <http://shamrockclubwis.com>

JUNE

- 1 Milwaukee Highland Games and Scottish Festival; Hart Park, 7300 Chestnut Street; Wauwatosa; Heavy and Highland games; Ceilidh at 6 pm; Dublin O'Shea, Steel Bonnets, and The Finn MacCools; 414-774-0897
- 2 Milwaukee Hurling Club matches; Brown Deer Park; 9 am-5 pm
- 6 Shamrock Club monthly meeting; ICHC; 7 pm
- 7 Conference of Celtic Women; Even if the wheels are coming off of your life, you can learn to change the tires.; Speaker- Susan Knaack; ICHC; 5.30 pm
- 9 Milwaukee Hurling Club matches; Brown Deer Park; 9 am-5 pm
- 16 Milwaukee Hurling Club matches; Brown Deer Park; 9 am-5 pm
- 18 CWI Book Club; A Week in Winter by Maeve Binchy; Hostess: Nancy Vose; ICHC; noon
- 22 Monthly Set dance; ICHC; Music by the Ceoltoiri Chicago Band; Sets are Roscahill; 7.30 pm
- 23 Milwaukee Hurling Club matches; Brown Deer Park; 9 am-5 pm
- 30 Milwaukee Hurling Club matches; Brown Deer Park; 9 am-5 pm

JULY

- 11 Shamrock Club Installation Dinner; The Patio; 1421 E. Howard Ave.; Cocktails 6 pm, Dinner 7 pm. Ceremony following dinner.
- 16 CWI Book Club; Lake of Sorrows by Erin Hart; Hostess: Maureen Garry; ICHC; noon
- 27 Monthly Set Dance; ICHC; 7 pm instruction; 8 - 11 pm dance; music by Ceol Cairde

AUGUST

- 1 Shamrock Club monthly meeting; ICHC; 7 pm

ON GOING ... Set dancing at the following: Set dancing Wednesdays, 7 PM at O'Donoghue's ☘ Craobh Curtin Conradh na Gaeilge meeting at O'Donoghue's Pub, 7 PM, last Tuesday each month ☘ Irish Emigration Library in ICHC open every Wednesday 2-8 PM ☘ Irish Sing-a-long, Irish Fest Center, First Sundays, (through May) 7 PM ☘ Irish Fest Sing-a-long: O'Donoghue's Pub, First Sundays, second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 PM ☘ Irish Music Sessions at the following: ☘ Session - O'Donoghue's, Sundays 7 PM; Thursdays @ Paddy's 7 PM; and The Pub in Oconomowoc, 7:30 PM ☘ Thursdays: Barry Dodd; County Clare Inn; 10 PM ☘ Fridays: áthas and Myserk; County Clare Inn; 6 PM ☘ Sundays: áthas; Brocach Milwaukee ☘

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Celtic Women Lecture

June 7, 2013

.....
The final lecture of the season is here along with good weather and almost-summer. At last! (Summer, I mean.) Please join us for our last get-together at the ICHC for an uplifting talk that will put everyone in a mood to do anything and everything their heart desires. The knowledge that we hold our own destiny if we only will choose it, is powerful stuff. Susan Knaack will show us the way.

June 7, 2013

Topic: "Even if the wheels are coming off of your life, you can learn to change the tires."

Speaker: Susan Knaack



Drive your life by monitoring and taking responsibility for who you are, what you want and getting what you want by changing the only thing you can: YOURSELF!

Susan Knaack is a retired broadcaster who specialized in buying and selling as well as managing radio stations in Appleton, Green Bay and Madison, WI. She also served as Vice President of Woodward Communications overseeing radio stations in Lincoln, Nebraska and Dubuque, Iowa. She was inducted into the Wisconsin Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2004. Susan may look familiar to us as she greatly resembles her late sister Kathy Schaefer, CWI board member, great supporter and conference volunteer.

All lectures are held from 5:30-7:00 pm at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue. Parking lot available from the 23rd Street alley.

2012-2013 is our 16th year of lectures without interruption. The public is invited as always. We offer tea and home-made snacks and promise a delightful couple of hours. \$7 admission.

- Jean Bills

Milwaukee President's Message

Hello Everyone,

June is here and the warm summer months are ahead of us, at least we hope. I would like to begin by thanking the membership for electing me to serve another year as your president. I am truly honored. This past year we made some difficult but worthwhile decisions. One of the biggest changes was our monthly newsletter, *The Emerald Reflections*. We now offer it electronically to our members with e-mail addresses. It has saved the club a significant amount of money. It is a work in progress, so please if you know of anyone who is not receiving our newsletter, please let our membership chair Denis Donohoe know so we can rectify the situation.

We are also in the process of rewriting our Club Bylaws. It will take us some time, but the results will be worth the effort. We are hoping that in the end our Bylaws and Club Policies will be easier to understand.

Due to the Fourth of July falling on the 1st Thursday of the month this year, our general meeting will be on July 11th. It will be our annual Installation Dinner. The event will be held at The Patio, look for more information in this month's *Reflections*. Mark your calendars. It is an opportunity to meet and congratulate our newly elected officers and board members. It is also a chance to thank our previous board members for a job well done!

Summer is always a busy time for all our members, possibly First Communions, graduations and maybe even some weddings, etc.; but remember Irish Fest is just around the corner on August 15, 16, 17, and 18th. So stay tuned. We will be looking for set-up, take-down, retail and cultural help - the more the merrier. It is a good time for our new members to get involved.

God Bless and see you at the June general meeting.

- Kathy Donovan, President



Sunshine Report

Thanks to Tom McAleese for his 15 years as Saint Patrick in the St. Patrick's Day parade. Pete Fleming will be the next Saint Patrick.

Gail and Tom McAleese celebrated 55 years of marriage on May 24th.

Jacob Nowak and Ryan Dushek will be competing in the Summer Games for Special Olympics in Stevens Point on June 6, 7 and 8. Both athletes will be swimming two individual events and two relays. Kim and Glenn Nowak, Sue Dushek and Eric Dushek will be going as coaches.

Bob and Judy Towne continue to ask for prayers for their grandson Greg as he fights cancer.

We have four youth who will be graduating from high school in the next few weeks. There are Joe and Kim Kotvis (members of the pipes and drums) from Audubon High School, Jacob Nowak from Morse/Marshall High School and Erin Canon from Wauwatosa East High School. Congratulations to them and we wish them continued success as they enter the next phase of their lives.

- Maggie Blaha
Sunshine Chair



Retail Report

The Shamrock Club Retail Road Show will be headed to Oshkosh Irishfest May 31, June 1 and 2. Following that we will be getting ready for Milwaukee Irish Fest in August and the Highland Games in September.

We are already getting names of volunteers for Irish Fest. If you are interested in working a shift or shifts, please contact us so we can start filling in the schedule.

- Glenn and Kim Nowak, Retail Chairs
414-940-9032
retail.shamrockclubwis@wi.rr.com

State Advisory Board Meeting

The Wisconsin Shamrock Club State Advisory Board met in Middleton on Saturday, May 11th at the Claddagh Pub Restaurant. Six Chapters were present: Dane County, New Dublin, Green Bay, La Crosse, South Central, and Milwaukee. A total of 16 people were present for one of our largest turnouts, and attending from Milwaukee were myself and my wife Karen.

Updates and ideas were presented by each Chapter and the minutes are attached to this Newsletter. Our next meeting will be at the Milwaukee Irish Fest grounds on August 17th. Remember, any member is welcome to attend.

- Denis Donohoe



Word of the Month

La - Day, an lá - "ahn law" - (the day).
Tá an lá go maith. "Taw ahn law go mah"
or "Taw ahn law go my." The day is good.

Pete Fleming



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Shamrock Club Member

Emerald Reflections Copy Deadline

Content for Emerald Reflections is due on the 15th of the month (next deadline: June 15th to appear in the July issue.) Copy received after that date will not appear due to deadlines. While we try to include every submission possible, due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that every submission will be included immediately. E-mail submissions preferred, send to:

Brian Witt, Editor
emeraldreflections@shamrockclubwis.com

Pam Canon, Publisher

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P.O. Box 70765, Madison 53707-0765
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Web site: http://shamrockclubwis.com

To become a member of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin contact the membership chair of the chapter you would like to join. MILWAUKEE ONLY: Family membership (includes both parents and all children under eighteen) - \$25.00. Single membership - \$20.00. Membership is renewable annually on the anniversary month of the original membership. Please send all new and renewal Milwaukee club membership dues to Membership Chair, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233. Be sure to send change of address notification to Membership Chair, also. The post office will NOT forward copies of Reflections.

Celtic Women International

The CWI Book Club meetings begin at 1:00 pm at the ICHC and include discussion, tea, and treats. New members and guests are always welcome to join us!

A Week in Winter, by Maeve Binchy will be discussed on June 18th. The meeting will be hosted by Nancy Vose.

The July 15th meeting will be hosted by Maureen Garry. The book will be *Lake of Sorrows*, by Erin Hart.

There will be no meeting in August. The hostess for the September meeting will be Rosemary Baumann. The topic is TBA.

- Rosemary Walsh
rowalsh@wi.rr.com

Ceili Dance

Join us at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., for family Irish dancing at its best! Beginners and all ages welcome. Instruction begins at 7:30 P.M. and continues all evening. Music and dancing begin at 8 P.M.

The dance will be called, and direction given, by one of the Midwest's best ceili instructors, Gail McElroy.

June 2013 Calendar:

- Fri., June 7 - Cream City Ceili

Entrance is \$8.00 Adults, and \$5.00 for Students, Seniors, and Children. All proceeds benefit the work of the ICHC.

Milwaukee Highland Games



The Milwaukee Highland Games - Milwaukee Scottish Fest will take place at Hart Park, 70th and State Street in Wauwatosa, on

Saturday, June 1, starting at 9 am.

What you will experience: Spectacular Bagpipe Bands; Great Scottish Food; Beautiful Highland Dancing; See Working Sheepdogs in Action; Watch Unique Athletic Events; Join in the Parade of Tartans; Sing & Dance at the Ceilidh; Haggis Taco Eating Contest.

The Céilidh begins at 6 p.m. Throughout the day the Céilidh Tent will feature music by Dublin O'Shea, Steel Bonnets, & The Finn MacCools.

TICKETS: Adults: \$10.00. Children 12 and under: Free. Active Military in Uniform: Free.

\$3.00 off general admission before 10:00 am with a per person donation of a non-perishable food item to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Milwaukee. (Collection container at admission gate.)

NOTICE: All events will be held rain or shine. (And it never rains on the games. Well, every other year, but that is close to never.)

For more information go to:
www.milwaukeehighlandgames.com/index.html

Installation Dinner

Thursday, July 11, 2013

The Patio, 1421 E. Howard Avenue, Milwaukee

Cocktails (Cash Bar) 6:00 pm

Dinner 7:00 pm

Cost: \$25 per person, \$45 per couple

Buffet dinner of roast beef, broasted chicken and Polish sausage with salad, assorted sides and dessert.

Tickets can be ordered at the June meeting or by mailing or emailing John Fisher at jefisher1949@gmail.com by June 30th.

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no idea what that meant, but Sue quickly dropped to her knees and kissed the thing. I skipped on that.

My mother worked most of her life in an insurance office and the local health department, retiring at age 65, and dying in her sleep in 1982 at age 82.

In her later years, Sister Benedicta, spent her time at the motherhouse writing and teaching the younger sisters. When her physical health, but never her sharp mind, began to fail, she moved to the order's skilled nursing facility, St. Dominic Villa in Dubuque, Iowa, where she died on December 4, 1999, at age 99.

To my mother and Sister Benedicta:
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

- Joan Kapp Kreuser

Ceili for Peace

The 21st Annual Ceili for Peace will be held at the Irish Cultural Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Saturday, June 15, 2013. A ceili (kay-lee) is a traditional gathering of friends and family joining together in a celebration of music, song and dance. This very family friendly event runs from 7-10:30 pm. A number of Irish jigs, reels, marches and waltzes will be taught by Ceili instructor Julie Clark. Beginners are VERY welcomed. The dances are taught all evening with live music provided by traditional Milwaukee's own Irish band Ceol Cairde (Music of Friends).

Admission is \$10 ... or ... \$8 and at least two non-perishable food items or hygiene supplies for the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative. Low or fixed income \$5, children 6-12 years \$3, children under 6 free entrance. Beverages, snacks and Silent Auction items will be available too.

This year's proceeds benefit the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative, an organization that provides the services that homeless and at-risk veterans need to reach and maintain their highest level of independence. Please visit www.mke-HomelessVets.org for a full listing of services and needs or call 414-763-5596.

For more information about the Ceili for Peace, please call Kristina at 414-372-3060 or visit www.CeolCairde.com



The Shamrock Club Color Guard presents the colors at the opening ceremonies for the National Girls' High School Rugby Tournament in Caledonia last month.

Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes & Drums

The Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes & Drums have started a busy parade season. On May 4th, we performed for the staff and graduates of the University of Phoenix. On May 17th & 19th we joined with an old member of the group to provide color guard and pipers to open the weekend and championship games for the National Girls' High School Rugby Tournament in Caledonia. On Memorial Day we marched in the Elm Grove and Milwaukee parades. On June 1st, two of our members will perform with a combined Grade 5 group at the Highland Games in Wauwatosa. On June 2nd you can see us in Newburg. June 23rd will find us traveling to Wisconsin Rapids. On June 28th you can see us in Thiensville. July 4th will find us headed down North Avenue in Wauwatosa. The rest of the month of July includes the 13th - South Shore Water Frolics, 20th - South Milwaukee, and 28th - Random Lake. August is Irish Fest. Friday - Sunday we will be marching daily in the parade, and our performance is on Sunday at Crossroads. The 25th of August finds us in Muskego for our last scheduled event of the season.

Please come out and support the SCCGPD at our events. As always, at any of our events we can use banner carriers and water boys/girls.

We would like to welcome Charlie Burrbach to the group as a member of the Color Guard. We also would like to congratulate Kim & Joe Kotvis and Jacob Nowak as they graduate from high school.

- Glenn Nowak

Milwaukee Membership News

Please welcome our new members, Kelly and Kevin Kelleher, who joined our club last month. We had a total of 33 renewals and re-joins for the May. At present, the Milwaukee Chapter as of April is at 335 memberships with 137 families, 162 single, and 36 complimentary (libraries, businesses, etc.) memberships.

- Denis Donohoe
Membership Chair

Glenn's Corner Cupboard

- June: As this is my last meeting as Sergeant-at-Arms, I will provide the meal.
- July: Installation Dinner. See details elsewhere in this issue.
- August: Cookout. Bring something from your garden to share.

It has been my pleasure to serve you for the past two years.

-Glenn Nowak
Sergeant-at-Arms

Irish Dancers Making a Difference

The Boston Marathon changed the lives of the Richard family while waiting at the finish line to congratulate their friends. A wonderful family event tragically became every family's nightmare. The mother is injured, a son is lost, and the 6 year old daughter has her leg amputated. When word was spread through the media of the tragedy, it was noted that Jane was an Irish dancer, and had loved learning this beautiful art form. Irish Dancers had just all been in Boston for the world dance competition three weeks earlier, and found Boston to be a welcoming and great place for this prestigious competition.

In Wisconsin, while hearing of this disturbing news, Breeanne and Trish Johnson of Brookfield had an inspiration to show this little girl how the Irish dance community is always willing to come forward to help each other when needed. They determined that while involved in dance themselves, all the various schools had their own T-shirts. Breeanne is an instructor for Glencastle Irish Dancers, and Trish has been an adult dancer with the group. They spoke to Bridget Jaskulski, the owner of Glencastle to ask for her approval to involve the use of the school's name in the project, and Bridget was more than happy to support them in this idea. They felt the T-shirts when sewn



together, would form a large colorful quilt. To bring this idea to the world, they created a Facebook page entitled "Wrapping Jane in our Love."

The dance world was on fire to participate in this cause, and soon the shirts came rolling in from all over the USA, Ireland, Canada, Russia, Australia, Germany, to name a few. As of this date, nearly 500 shirts have been collected. The generosity has been overwhelming. One of the world champions shipped his gold medal for Jane to have, one boy sent his cummerbund from the world competition, Michael Flatley signed a T-shirt for Jane, the touring company of Lord of the Dance sent signed shirts, and this kindness continues.

The Johnson's plan to fly to Boston to give the quilt to the Irish dance school Jane was in, and those teachers will present the quilt. Just recently, Breeanne and Trish were invited to throw out the first pitch at the Brewers game on May 7th. They also are planning on putting together a book of all the photos, and memorabilia that they have received, and when they return, I'll let you know the rest of the story.

- Julie Smith

Wrapping
Jane
in our
Love 



Milwaukee Irish Fest Volunteer Fair

Do you want to be a part of the world's largest celebration of Irish Music and Culture?



Tuesday, June 11 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Milwaukee Irish Fest Center
1532 Wauwatosa Ave
414-476-3378

Please RSVP to volunteers@irishfest.com or walk ins are welcome. Come learn about exciting volunteer opportunities for a fun and dynamic organization!

**"May the roof above us
never fall in, and may
we friends beneath it
never fall out."**

Irish Saying



Irish Fest Summer School

Classes in all things Irish will take place during the 27th annual Irish Fest Summer School, August 12-16, at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, 1025 N. Broadway, Milwaukee.

Taught by internationally recognized experts in music, song, dance, art, language and culture, the schedule includes the return of popular classes such as Celtic design and basket weaving as well as a new lecture on Irish archaeology. Kevin Burke, one of Irish music's best known fiddlers, will make his summer school debut and all four members of the award-winning band We Banjo 3 will teach.

Children ages 11 and up may take adult classes with permission of the instructor. There is also an expanded schedule of children's classes in drama as well as beginning whistle, bodhran and fiddle.

A 10% discount for early registration will be applied before July 1st (excluding one-day workshops and the Friday sampler.) For a complete schedule, instructor and class information along with a registration form, please go to <http://irishfest.com/Summer-School.htm>.



ICHC Organ Committee



The ICHC organ is under wraps!

Under every pipe in the organ is a valve that is controlled by the organist seated at the console. With the stop changes, the various tones can be brought on or set to be silent. These many moving parts are affected by dirt, humidity, aging and PLASTER DUST!

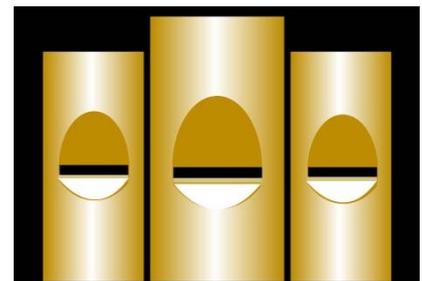
Anyone who has remodeled knows that these fine particles are able to get everywhere. With the great improvements now being made to the Hallamór, the organ needed protection. It is wrapped in plastic and safely taped closed. Soon to be returned to use, it will need additional tuning and will again be checked to see if any debris has caused "cyphers" – notes that play on their own, or "dead notes" those that even the organist can't get to play when desired.

Much care is given to the great organ here at the ICHC. Many thanks to the volunteers who help maintain the instrument. As plans are made to recondition/releather portions of the organ more volunteers will be required. Perhaps you can help through your time or financial support, simply contact the ICHC Organ Committee at an e-mail below. After all, to get all of those 3,000+ pipes to function properly, each of those small valves must be working. Watch for future organ concerts.

Thanks,

- Dennis Janzer
djanzer@hotmail.com

- Dennis Wolfgang
wolfgangorgan@gmail.com





SHAMROCK CLUB OF WISCONSIN

2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53223

For Information: <http://shamrockclubwis.com>
or: www.saintpatricksparade.org

An Old Gaelic Prayer

May the Road Rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
till the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hands.



EMERALD REFLECTIONS PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Our new Saint Patrick, Peter Fleming, shakes hands with retiring Saint Patrick, Tom McAleese.
Photo by Mary Culver