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Walk to Mary a family affair for Dodge County clan

BY SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

CHAMPION — Prayer intentions and prayers of thanksgiving are often part of the motivation for pilgrims who participate in the Walk to Mary. For the Wiebelhaus family of Dodge County, it was a little of both.

Deb and Ken participated in the first six Walks to Mary, from 2013 to 2018. This year, recovering from a bout with cancer prevented Deb from walking more than a few blocks on May 1, but she and Ken, who did walk the 21 miles, were accompanied by their four daughters and their children.

Among her family completing the 21 miles from the National Shrine of St. Joseph in De Pere to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion was daughter Janelle Finger and granddaughter Ava, 14.

Ava uses a wheelchair following a mountain biking accident that happened during a family vacation in Jackson Hole, Wyo., in August 2020. “We thought it would be fun to go mountain



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Janelle Finger pushes her daughter, Ava, along the Walk to Mary route on May 1. Janelle’s three sisters and their parents, Deb and Ken Wiebelhaus, took part in the walk, giving thanks for Ava’s recovery from a biking accident and for Deb’s recovery from cancer.

biking and the first run down, I had taken a turn and thought I could do the trail and I couldn’t,” Ava told The Compass while completing the last half-mile of the pilgrimage. “I did a few somersaults with the bike and hit my back on some rocks.”

Ava was transported to St. John’s Health in Jackson, where spine surgeons performed a

six-hour surgery to stabilize fractures. She spent two weeks in the ICU at Jackson, and was then transferred to Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago for six weeks of inpatient rehabilitation, followed by 10 weeks of outpatient rehabilitation.

Our full story appears in the May 7 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am happy to resume this face-to-face meeting, because I will tell you something: it is not nice to speak in front of nothing, to a camera. It is not nice. And now, after many months, thanks to the courage of Msgr. Sapienza, who said, “No, we’ll do it there,” we are gathered here again. Msgr. Sapienza is good! And finding people, finding you here, each one of you with your own story, people who come from all over, from Italy, from the United States, from Colombia. . . . And seeing each one of you pleases me as we are all brothers and sisters in the Lord, and looking at each other helps us to pray for each other. Also people who are far away but always make themselves close to us. Thank you for your presence and your visit. Take the pope’s message to everyone. The pope’s message is that I pray for everyone, and I ask you to pray for me, united in prayer.

+ Pope Francis, May 12, 2021

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Patty Volp says faith in God helped her through tragedies

BY DAWN BLAKE | FOR THE COMPASS

WINNECONNE — Trust in God and the faith community at St. Mary Parish in Winneconne have seen Patty Volp through challenging times in her life, and she’s on a mission to give back.

Growing up in Princeton, the youngest of six children in a strong Irish-Catholic family, Volp was shaped by her mother’s steadfast faith and involvement in church.

“It’s those roots that she set for me that really defined where I would go and what I would do,” she said. “It was tested, as many people have probably been tested — mine was, my mother’s was. But I saw her experience some stormy weather in her life and she just came out with even more faith and trust in God.”

Volp’s sister, Connie, a single mom, was killed in a car accident at the age of 29. Their parents raised her 9-year-old son. She re-

members her mother saying that she prayed to God to give her the grace to be strong and not cry at the funeral.

“And she didn’t,” said Volp. “It’s experiences like that that really help me understand how important faith in God is. It lifted her up at some pretty weak moments. And it has for me, too.”

Our full story appears in the May 14 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Sacred Heart of Jesus

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 The feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus comes to us from the visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. She said Jesus showed her his heart, on fire with love, wreathed with thorns and bleeding from a lance wound.
- 2 Jesus also made 12 promises for all who honor the Sacred Heart, by prayers and especially by receiving Communion on the First Fridays for nine months.
- 3 The universal celebration of the feast of the Sacred Heart was approved by Pope Pius IX in 1856.
- 4 On June 11, 1899, Pope Leo XIII consecrated the human race to the Sacred Heart.
- 5 The feast falls 19 days after Pentecost — on June 11 this year.

Lessons from Mary for Mother's Day

Dear friends and followers of Jesus:

As you know, May 9 is Mother's Day. Although the holiday is secular in its origin, there is much that is sacred about the celebration of Mother's Day. How fitting then



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

that we celebrate Mother's Day on a Sunday, when we can offer gratitude to God for the many roles that our mothers and those who act as mothers to us play in our lives.

My mother was a convert to the Catholic faith, and my dad often said she had the heart of the faith and passed it on to their children. One of her favorite sayings was,

"I had my children as gifts from God to love and cherish." She did that for each one of us. When I was a child, I had fairly serious asthma. That was in the days before atomizers or other aids to asthma attacks.

In the middle of an attack, Mom would take me in her lap and pray the rosary. Her loving embrace and her dependence on the gift of peace provided from the Blessed Mother helped me to recover my breath and gave me a deep peace. What a gift from a mother! I am a blessed man!

It's not surprising that my mom looked to Mary as her guide. Mary is the model of all

mothers and it's appropriate that we celebrate Mother's Day in May, a month set aside by the Catholic Church to honor Mary. Mary is also the first disciple, and there are many lessons we can learn from her about motherhood and being a disciple.

While the Scriptures do not offer us much information about Mary, we can learn so much from her life. First of all, we know that Mary was a woman of deep prayer. In the Nativity story, we hear how Mary "treasured these things in her heart."

Likewise, we know that Mary faithfully practiced the ritual prayers of her Jewish upbringing and, like any good mother, we know that Mary would have taught her son how to pray. Prayer was an essential habit to Mary and is an essential habit for all mothers and disciples.

A second lesson we can learn from Mary is the importance of placing God's will before her own. We see this most clearly in the Annunciation, when Mary says "yes" to the will of God to bear his son, Jesus. We know this could not have been easy for a young, unmarried woman, yet Mary set aside her own desires to do what God asked of her. Mary's willingness to place God's will before her own also allowed her to put others' needs before her own, which is the definition of love. Her ability to sacrifice is something all mothers and disciples can learn from.

Read the entire column in the May 7 issue.



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Parish SNAPSHOT



Three-year-old preschool students at Sacred Heart School in Shawano made banana bread from scratch in the school's cafeteria May 7 with their teachers. The students each made a loaf of bread to take home and share with their family.

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