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Filmmaker shares story of Sr. Maria Marciano's mission

BY JEFF KUROWSKI | THE COMPASS

GREEN BAY — Filmmaker Paige Grube describes the moment as a “random kismet thing.” A leap of faith would also be an accurate description. In 2017, she received an invitation to make a mission trip to Haiti, but would have to leave in two weeks and would be gone for two weeks. Grube was working as a video producer at a large company at the time. She quit her job to make the trip.

Grube's interest in Haiti began years earlier when she heard Jim Fitzgerald a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Newton, give a presentation about his mission experiences. Following the talk, Grube gave Fitzgerald her number in hopes of going someday.

“I met with Jim and Sandie (his wife) at their house (in 2017). They told me what to expect,” said Grube. “When I met Sister (Maria Marciano), I thought, ‘This woman is a modern-day Mother Teresa.’ Her presence is unexplainable. She is this strong, passionate woman.”

Sr. Maria, a Dominican sister from Brazil, has worked in the Dominican Republic and Haiti for



SUBMITTED PHOTO | FOR THE COMPASS

Filmmaker Paige Grube shoots footage of Dominican Sr. Maria Marciano and Haitian men working at a fish farm in February of 2020. Grube's documentary about Sr. Maria's mission, “Seeds of Life,” premiered on Jan. 13 in Green Bay.

30 years, building roads, houses, schools, community centers and water systems, and developing agriculture projects.

“I didn't bring a camera. I just wanted to experience it all; not go there for any particular reason other than to help,” said Grube. “It's a lot of physical work, building stuff. I could help, but I didn't have a lot of knowledge. I thought about how I could contribute. My specialty is filmmaking. I could do a film. I brought it up to Jim. He

said, ‘That's a great idea. We have to get Sister on board.’”

Sr. Maria agreed to the film. Julie Vargas, a member of St. Joseph Parish, Wautoma, who has served as an interpreter on mission trips, helped Grube develop a plan. Cindi Brawner, senior relationship manager with the Office of Planned Giving for the Diocese of Green Bay, assisted with fundraising.

Our full story appears in the Feb. 25 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we conclude the cycle of catecheses on the figure of St. Joseph. These catecheses are complementary to the Apostolic Letter *Patris corde*, written on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as patron of the Catholic Church by Blessed Pius IX. But what does this title mean? What does it mean that St. Joseph is “patron of the church”? I would like to reflect on this today with you.

In this case, too, the Gospels provide us with the most correct key to interpretation. In fact, at the end of every story in which Joseph is the protagonist, the Gospel notes that he takes the Child and his mother with him and does what God has ordered him to do (cf. Mt 1:24; 2:14,21). Thus, the fact that Joseph's task is to protect Jesus and Mary stands out. He is their principal guardian.

+ Pope Francis, Feb. 16, 2022

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Holy Family Conservatory Handbell Ensemble performs two concerts

BY SUZANNE WEISS | FOR THE COMPASS

MANITOWOC — The Conservatory Handbell Ensemble — also known as the Conservatory Ringers — will perform two public concerts in March, one in Green Bay at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral and one in Manitowoc at the Holy Family Conservatory of Music.

The program will include sacred and secular music, including “I Will Lift Mine Eyes Unto the

Hills,” an original piece by Cathy Moklebust; the traditional sacred arrangement of “Peace Like a River;” and “Rondo Exsultate,” an original piece by Doug Wagner.

The Conservatory Handbell Ensemble debuted in 2009 when then-Silver Lake College began offering handbell classes. The Conservatory took it over in 2021 after the college closed.

Holy Family Conservatory of Music, established in 1925 by the Franciscan Sisters

of Christian Charity, has a proud tradition and high standards for music education.

The Conservatory offers beginner group classes for handbells, piano, violin, percussion, ukulele and guitar. Private lessons are offered for piano, violin, viola, harp, guitar, ukulele, percussion, voice and wind instruments. It is located at 6751 Calumet Ave.

Our full story appears in the Feb. 25 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

About Lent

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

1 Lent promises "spring." The word "Lent" comes from an Old English word, *lencten*, dating to the 12th century and meaning "springtime." Some sources say this is the oldest English word for "spring."

2 The Germanic word, from the Saxon language, is *langtinaz*, for "long days," indicating a spring season of growing daylight. Saxons raided England from the fourth to the eighth centuries.

3 The original Greek word for what we now call "Lent" is *tessarakoste*, for "40th."

4 The Catholic Encyclopedia notes that *tessarakoste* was developed as an analogy to Pentecost, *pentekoste*, meaning 50th.

5 The corresponding word for 40th in Latin to *tessarakoste* is *quadragesima*.

Let us move together towards hope

Dear friends and followers of Jesus:

This particular issue provides me with a chance to reach more people with this column. I am so blessed to have this opportunity, and I want to use it to say "thank you" for your perseverance through a very challenging time brought on by the pandemic. I know these last two years have been difficult for all of us. I am thinking especially of those who have lost someone through death. Please count on my sympathies and prayers for the repose of the souls of your loved one.



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

Besides being a difficult period, I hope that this pandemic may also have been a time for deeper reflection on the gift of life and health which we often take for granted. Life is fragile and none of us knows the day or hour we will be called from this life. May we take each day we are given as a blessing from God!

Let us also give thanks for all our health care workers who have sacrificed tirelessly

to protect, heal and walk with people in their final moments of life. They are truly acting as the hands and feet of Jesus when they do so.

I also hope that these last two years have given you the opportunity to be more aware of the blessings you have. So often, with the pace of life and all the things competing for your time and attention, it is difficult to see the blessings that are before us. Sometimes it takes a challenging situation that forces us to slow down and be more aware, to truly recognize how God has answered our prayers in many ways, big and small. I hope that in these last two years, you have received the grace to be aware of and grateful for the many blessings of God.

Next week, the season of Lent begins. The words of the first reading on Ash Wednesday call us back to God: "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart." This is not the command of a stern taskmaster, but the gentle reminder of a loving father. God knows how difficult these last two years have been, and he wants you to come to him and let yourself be embraced by his love. God doesn't want you to live in fear, but to live in hope, trusting in his love and his goodness.

Read the entire column in the Feb. 25 issue.

Parish SNAPSHOT



SUBMITTED PHOTO | FOR THE COMPASS

Catechists from St. Leonard Parish in Laona, St. Ambrose Parish in Wabeno and St. Joseph Parish in Crandon gathered at St. Leonard Church for a training session on "Getting Our Kids Excited About Jesus." Maximus Cabey, director of Child and Youth Faith Formation from the Diocese of Green Bay, led the training session. The evening began with a chili supper, followed by Cabey's presentation. The evening wrapped up with a question and answer session. "We would like to thank Maximus for sharing his time and talents to 'teach the teachers' here in Forest County, and renew our own enthusiasm for this most important job," said Jeanie Mertens, director of religious education at St. Leonard Parish.

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