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The Compass

IN THE

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Sisters face pandemic head-on

BY JEFF KUROWSKI | THE COMPASS

ALLOUEZ — The coronavirus pandemic has heightened the need for personal protective equipment (PPE) at care facilities. In response, the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity in Manitowoc put their talents to work.

St. Paul Elder Services in Kaukauna, a Franciscan-based community whose services include long-term care and skilled nursing, contacted the Manitowoc sisters on March 19 to request face masks. Production started immediately.

“When St. Paul sent us the request, they also sent a pattern, but we altered it to make it work,” said Franciscan Sr. Linda Brandes, who worked on the project as part of a group of sisters.

The cloth face masks they produced, which are not intended to replace the N95 masks used in hospitals, are hand washable. Warm & Natural brand batting, a nonwoven material, was used as a liner.

“They use it to make quilts,” said Sr. Linda in a phone interview with *The Compass*. “It added a little warmth to the



SR. MARIELLA ERDMANN | SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

Franciscan Sr. Linda Brandes sews face masks at the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity motherhouse in Manitowoc March 25 while Sr. Marcus Steede irons them. The sisters made 100 face masks for St. Paul Elder Services in Kaukauna and 200 for St. Rita Health Care at Holy Family Motherhouse, which serves elderly and infirmed sisters.

mask, but also serves as a filter. It helps to block outside germs.”

Pipe cleaners were used on the tops to help shape the masks to fit.

“On a regular mask that you buy, it has a top where you can mold it to your nose,” explained Sr. Linda. “We had to cut all the ends of the pipe cleaners” (to make sure no one would get scratched).

Sr. Linda noted the team effort included a number of sisters who are currently students at Holy Family College in Manitowoc.

“They came full force,” she said. “Some of them could sew. First, they were cutting out and getting the pieces ready.”

Our full story appears in the April 3 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today’s catechesis is dedicated to the seventh Beatitude, the one on the “peacemakers” who are proclaimed children of God. I am pleased that it falls immediately after Easter because Christ’s peace is the fruit of his death and resurrection as we heard in the Reading of St. Paul. In order to understand this Beatitude, we have to explain the meaning of the word “peace” which can be misinterpreted, or at times trivialized.

We must look at two ideas of peace: the first is the biblical one, in which the beautiful word *shalòm* appears, which expresses abundance, flourishing, wellbeing. In Hebrew, when one says *shalòm*, one is wishing a beautiful, fulfilled and prosperous life, but also in terms of truth and justice that will find fulfillment in the Messiah, the Prince of Peace (cf. Is 9:6; Mic 5:4-5).

+ Pope Francis,
April 15, 2020

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‘Staycation 2020’ offers smiles in challenging times

SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

SHAWANO — There’s only one place Catholics can listen to a priest sing Disney tunes in falsetto voice, enjoy daily commentary on the taste and squeakiness of cheese curds and learn a lesson or two about faith or church teachings. It’s “Staycation 2020,” the Shawano Catholic community’s response to social distancing and “safer-at-home” restrictions.

While many parishes have taken to Facebook and YouTube for livestreamed and recorded liturgies since the COVID-19 pandemic forced dioceses to end the celebration of public Masses, Sacred Heart Parish is also offering lighthearted commentary on its Facebook page.

Fr. Scott Valentyn, pastor, and Deacon Jim Lonick, parish business administrator, decided a livestreamed Sunday Mass wasn’t enough to

maintain community in the 1,000-family parish, which also operates a school with 120 students. Since March 25, the priest and deacon have been hosting the Staycation 2020 videos, which last anywhere from 15 to 25 minutes.

“It’s basically a talk show,” said Deacon Lonick, whose sidekick role is Giacomo, the show’s producer.

Our full story appears in the April 10 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Ascension

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 For centuries, this feast was marked on Ascension Thursday. In July 1999, the Vatican approved U.S. dioceses transferring the celebration to the next Sunday.
- 2 Five U.S. (arch) dioceses celebrate Ascension on Thursday: Philadelphia, Boston, Hartford, New York, Newark and Omaha.
- 3 The Novena of the Holy Spirit is prayed between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday.
- 4 In many medieval times, a Christ statue was raised to the church ceiling at Ascension Mass.
- 5 Prior to liturgical changes after Vatican II, the Easter candle was extinguished after the Ascension Gospel. Today, it remains lit until Pentecost.



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Finding stability in uncertainty

Dear friends and followers of Jesus:

Happy Easter brothers and sisters! I hope that you are continuing to find joy and hope in the resurrection during this Easter season.



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

In my column a few weeks ago, I mentioned that navigating the COVID-19 pandemic is a challenge because we are experiencing something that is new to us. We find ourselves in an unknown land, and we don't have a map to guide us.

In times like these, when we find ourselves lost, we must pause, examine our surroundings and return to the sources of stability in our lives.

The Catholic faith is certainly one source of stability in our lives. However, the current situation creates challenges when it comes to expressing our faith. Typically, the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, would be a source of comfort in the midst of uncertainty, but because of the need for social distancing we must go without for a while. Though there are many options for people to participate in Mass remotely each day, we know that this is not the same as receiving the Eucharist. This is especially challenging during the Easter season.

Although we are unable to encounter the

risen Christ in the Eucharist right now, there are some other ways that we can meet him this Easter season. One particular way is through reading and praying with Scripture. In particular, you might read the Gospel accounts of the resurrection and pray to see Christ in the world as the early disciples did.

I would also invite you to read the Acts of the Apostles, as it provides a stunning example of a group of people who were lost and grasping for answers after Jesus' death, much like we are today. But by opening themselves to the Holy Spirit and following where the Spirit led, they experienced a stunning transformation that continues to be felt in the world to this day. We might ask the Holy Spirit to help us be part of the transformation that God is preparing during this time.

In addition to the Scriptures, we can also look to common symbols of our faith at a time like this. One symbolic act that has a long history within the Catholic Church is the ringing of bells. Ringing the church bells has often been used both as a call to prayer as well as a way to mark a victory over a common enemy. This is why I invited churches and individuals throughout the Diocese of Green Bay to ring bells at noon on Easter Sunday. The ringing of bells is a clarion call to hope reminding us that, although we are rightly shelter at home right now, one day we will be able to emerge victorious. It is a reminder to continue to persevere through present trials until "yesterday's trials are behind!"

The entire column appears in our April 24 issue.

Parish SNAPSHOT



FR. JIM LUCAS | SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

St. John the Baptist Parish in Howard recently tied a blue ribbon on a tree outside the church in honor of health care workers. A sign also reminded health care workers (the Blue Army) that the parish is praying for them.