



Two Rivers youth draw Stations of Cross, hold Lenten exhibit

BY BENJAMIN WIDEMAN | FOR THE COMPASS

TWO RIVERS — Mydasia Zipperer enjoys drawing all kinds of things, especially flowers. But the 11-year-old holds a special place in her heart when it comes to religious art.

"Drawings like that are powerful in what they represent," she said. "I like how important they are."

Mydasia is one of 15 young parishioners at St. Peter the Fisherman Parish who utilized their artistic talents for the Children's Stations of the Cross exhibit. Each child (two brothers worked together on one station) drew a different station using pencils, markers, colored pencils, pastels or mixed media.

The creative drawings, each of which are framed with matting, went on display Ash Wednesday in the interior gathering space just outside the main church doors. An artists' reception was held at the conclusion of the morning Mass on March 5, and the works will



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Sophia Soukup stands in front of the 11th station that she drew, showing Jesus nailed to the cross. Fifteen children teamed up to draw the 14 stations, which are now on exhibit at the Two Rivers church.

remain up through Good Friday.

Sheila Bialek, ministries coordinator at St. Peter the Fisherman, said students from the parish were offered the opportunity in January to create Stations of the Cross.

"As the work was handed in, I was able to see the love

and effort they put in and hear their thoughts about their work depicting the last moments of Jesus' life," said Bialek, a former art teacher who serves as the event organizer.

Our full story appears in the March 17 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Apostle Paul wants to encourage us and rekindle hope in us. Indeed, everyone has the experience of not living the commandment of love fully or as we should. But this too is a grace, because it makes us understand that we are incapable of truly loving by ourselves: we need the Lord constantly to renew this gift in our heart, through the experience of his infinite mercy.

Then, indeed, we will return to appreciate small things, simple, ordinary things; we will once more appreciate all these little, everyday things and we will be capable of loving others as God loves them, wanting their good, that is, that they be holy, friends of God; and we will be glad of the opportunity to make ourselves close to those who are poor and humble, as Jesus does with each one of us when we are distant from him.

+ Pope Francis,
March 15, 2017

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Kiel Catholic school students honor classmate battling cancer

BY SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

KIEL — Lent kicked off with lots of prayers and songs by students at Divine Savior School on Ash Wednesday, March 1. Not only did students receive their ashes during an all-school Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Church, they gathered at the end of Mass to bless classmate and friend, Grace Hunsader, a third grader who was diagnosed with cancer last fall.

"Grace's struggle this year has been a real rallying point for the school community and in many ways has been a year-long Lenten experience," said Kerry Sievert, Divine Savior School principal, as Grace, her parents, Kelly and Jason, and brothers, Grant and Reed, were called up to the sanctuary.

"Through all these months, Grace has truly been an inspiration to our school community," continued Sievert. "She traveled to

Chicago many, many mornings for radiation and was back in school around 10 a.m. Only when the chemotherapy dropped her blood counts did she miss any school."

Fellow classmates and teachers wore coats or jackets. In unison they removed their outerwear to reveal special T-shirts made for the occasion.

Our full story appears in the March 17 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

About Easter animals

PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 Easter lambs recall both the Passover lambs and Jesus, "the Lamb of God."
- 2 Rabbits, which can produce a litter a month, traditionally begin mating around the spring equinox. That was also when pagan Anglo-Saxons celebrated their goddess of spring, *Eostre*. (She had a hare as a companion.)
- 3 Easter chicks come from hard-shelled, tomb-like eggs, but also remind us of St. Peter and the cock that crowed.
- 4 Butterflies spring from tomb-like chrysalises or cocoons, reminding us of the resurrected Christ.
- 5 Donkeys carry a cross in the fur on their backs. Jesus rode "the foal of an ass" on Palm Sunday. There is a tradition that a donkey stood at Calvary. The cross' shadow fell on its back and remained.

An update on parish boundaries

We have some very good news! After years of arduous labor, we now have completely updated and redefined parish boundaries.

Your pastors have just received thorough descriptions of the geographical parameters of your parish and this will be very helpful for the present and future, especially as we prepare to launch the "New Evangelization" in 2020.



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

Pope Francis calls on a renewal of "missionary discipleship" (*Evangelii Gaudium*). As Jesus sent his followers to spread the Gospel message, the Word of God challenges us as believers to "go forth" into our communities and be involved directly in spreading the love of Christ.

By doing this, we are able to ensure that as a diocese, we are considering all the people of God without gaps or areas of unaccountability. As Pope Francis continues to proclaim, we are called to be in a "permanent state of mission" and by the refining and affirming of geographic service areas, we can continue this call as noted in Canon 518, "Pastors assume responsibility for the care of all souls within a specified geographic area."

In the past, boundaries were used as a means to direct people where they cannot

worship or become a member. I do not want the boundaries to be used in this way. Rather, in the light of the "New Evangelization" and our mission to enhance discipleship in our households, schools and parishes, let us look to seize this opportunity by allowing our defined boundaries to become parameters of our "mission field." It is here in our neighborhoods that we ought to be reaching out first to offer all the people within our mission field the joy and the mercy of the Gospel, just as Jesus did.

Along with the boundaries opportunity, we will begin using a software program called, "MissionInsite." This program provides demographics and lifestyle and religious belief information for those who reside in your neighborhood. Together, the parish boundary information and the "MissionInsite" program will assist us greatly as we launch the "New Evangelization" in 2020.

Over time, all of us in pastoral leadership and all of you, our parishioners, can be very missionary by reaching out to our own neighborhood within the parish boundaries far more effectively than ever before. We will also, over the next period of time, be looking at ways to engage our virtual neighborhoods more vigorously, which are also very important.

What wonderful opportunities lie before us! Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. His mission continues through us today!

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Parish SNAPSHOT



Faith formation students from Immaculate Conception Parish in Oneida created welcome signs for Bishop David Ricken on his March 12 pastoral visit to the church, where he celebrated Mass and recognized the parish religious education program as the second in the diocese to receive accreditation.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Submit your snapshot Email your digital photo to us at compassnews@gbdioc.org