



## National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help holds blessing of grapes

BY SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

**CHAMPION** — Numerous Catholic writers have noted similarities surrounding the Marian apparitions at Lourdes, France, and Champion, most notably the timing (1858 at Lourdes and 1859 at Champion) and the visionaries to whom the Blessed Mother appeared.

Both Bernadette Soubirous and Adele Brise were young, poor and suffered from physical infirmities.

Another similarity between Lourdes and the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion was celebrated Sept. 8, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Both locations, though thousands of miles apart, are located near the same circle of latitude: 44 degrees north of the Earth's equator.

The 44th parallel happens to be a prime growing area for grapes, which are used for wine. In France and other grape-growing countries, a traditional harvest blessing of grapes is held on the Nativity of Mary.



SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

**Father of Mercy John Broussard, rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, blesses a basket of grapes during the shrine's inaugural "Blessing of the Grapes" held Sept. 8 on the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

The inaugural "blessing of the grapes" took place following the 11 a.m. Mass. The outdoor blessing was led by Father of Mercy John Broussard.

"It's another opportunity for us to give reverence and veneration to our Blessed Mother for all of the gifts that she provides for us here at the shrine," Fr. Broussard told The

Compass following the blessing of the grapes.

"It also fits very well into our own ministry here insofar as recognizing Mary as the one who gives us the fruit of her son and we take it out to everyone else."

**Our full story** appears in the Sept. 15 issue.

### FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
I implore you: let us not give credence to embittered and unhappy people; let us not listen to those who cynically recommend not cultivating hope in life; let us not trust those who extinguish all nascent enthusiasm, saying that no undertaking is worth the sacrifice of a whole life; let us not listen to those "old" at heart who stifle youthful euphoria. Let us go to the elderly who have eyes sparkling with hope! Instead, let us cultivate healthy utopias: God wants us to be able to dream like him and with him, as we journey, well aware of reality. Dream of a different world. And if one dream is snuffed out, [let us] go back to dreaming of it again, drawing with hope from the memory of the beginning, from those embers that, perhaps after not such a good life, are hidden under the ashes of the first encounter with Jesus.

+ Pope Francis,  
Aug. 30, 2017

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## Hurricane Harvey's fury leads Waupaca Catholic into action

BY JEFF KUROWSKI | THE COMPASS

**ALLOUEZ** — The devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey weighed heavily on the mind and heart of Deanna Scholz of St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Waupaca. She doesn't have a close personal connection, just a desire to help the victims of the tropical cyclone that produced nearly 50 inches of rain.

"I was feeling like I needed to do some-

thing," she said. "I prayed about it."

Scholz contacted three dioceses in Texas to find out what assistance is needed. She connected with the Diocese of Victoria, which has 50 parishes serving more than 100,000 Catholics in 10 counties in the southeastern part of the state. Coordination with the diocese is ongoing.

Based on need, a clothing drive was organized at St. Mary Magdalene Church. Pants, jeans, shirts, shorts, blouses and children's

and baby clothes are being collected. Items may be dropped off in the Holy Family Room between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily through Sept. 15.

Scholz will travel to Texas with another volunteer. The mission for Scholz extends beyond delivering clothing. She is working to arrange for portable showers for use by the victims.

**Our full story** appears in the Sept. 15 issue.

# 5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

St. Luke

PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 The feast day of St. Luke is Oct. 18.
- 2 Tradition says that Luke was a native of Antioch in Syria, a Gentile who became a Christian. He is known as the only non-Jewish evangelist.
- 3 Luke is credited with writing the Gospel bearing his name, as well as the Acts of the Apostles.
- 4 Church tradition also says Luke was a physician and a painter, as well as a writer.
- 5 Luke's symbol is a winged ox. An ox is an animal of sacrifice and Luke's Gospel emphasizes Jesus's sacrifice on the Cross. Luke also places a manger — where oxen eat — in his infancy narrative about Jesus' birth (Chapter 2).

## Our response to the sin of racism

Racism is an immensely complex, emotional and often very personal issue. It is not easy for any person to grow up without prejudice; we all seem to have our own biases and stereotypes about others.



### BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

Human beings tend to differentiate from the "other" for all kinds of reasons, often to make themselves feel superior. Racism is prejudice given unbridled reign, which turns into hatred and can lead to abuse, violence, even murder. If allowed to go unchecked by society, terrorism can ensue because racism or radical fanaticism of any ideology or religion can justify anything.

As Christians, we must combat this tendency to differentiate the "other." Jesus calls us to see all people as our brothers and sisters, whose God-given human dignity entitles them to respect and charity. In Christ, there is no "other." This truth is emphasized in the Sermon on the Mount, when Jesus challenges us: "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you" (Mt 5: 43-44).

Christ's words speak to us in the context of the current events in Charlottesville, Va., and the nation at large. These events highlight the continued need for conversion in our country with respect to racism in its many forms. It

is apparent that where racism continues to plague us, we have not fully grasped Christ's words, which serve as a strict condemnation for racist attitudes and behaviors. If we are called to treat our enemies as brothers and sisters, then certainly we are called to do the same with people who look different from us.

At the same time, Christ's words also challenge us in our response to this issue. While we must condemn racism, we must also love and pray for those who perpetuate racist ideologies intentionally and unintentionally. While we must call people to conversion, we must also take steps to accompany, knowing that each person's path to confronting their own biases is individual in nature.

In particular, we should be aware that making broad-based and generalized statements could lead parishioners to shut down. Moreover, addressing the need for conversion on this issue might be more easily received if addressed in the context of a broader need for conversion. These are not excuses for us to avoid challenging racist attitudes or behaviors, but pastoral approaches to help people grow closer to Christ.

As I said, this topic is complex; any response we have to it will be complex as well. Living the Gospel and inviting others to do so is a challenging task, but it's a task we never take on alone. Let us remember, that we have a Savior who has already claimed a victory for us. Guided by his love, let us all consider how we might make his words more present in our own lives and walk with others to do the same.

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## Parish SNAPSHOT



Students at St. Gabriel School in Neenah pose for a photo during recess. Pictured bottom row from left: Katelyn Kegley, Caroline Weber, Noelle Wautlet; Top row from left: Aubrey Wagner, Isabel Charapata, Kaitlyn Saylor.

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