



St. Francis Xavier Cathedral reopens Bishop Ricken blesses newly renovated church during Dec. 3 Mass

BY JEFF KUROWSKI | THE COMPASS

GREEN BAY — “Welcome home,” said Bishop David Ricken to open the 9 a.m. Mass, Sunday, Dec. 3, at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. The liturgy marked the reopening of the cathedral following a three-month closure for renovations.

Four major projects — new flooring, cleaning and restoration of the artwork, refurbishment of the pews, and restoration and cleaning of the organ — were completed since the church closed on Sept. 4.

The complete restoration process for the 136-year-old cathedral began in 2015. A number of upgrades, including a new copper roof, restoration of the bronze doors, brick work, bell repair, sacristy renovations and a new sound system, had been completed in advance of the recent projects. The \$2.4 million restoration effort featured a total of 18 projects completed by 25 contractors.

Coordination was the most challenging aspect during the last three months, said Steve Motl, volunteer project coordinator. Work on the murals required



SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

Bishop David Ricken blesses the 28-foot-by-40-foot Crucifixion mural on the west wall of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. All 11 murals in the cathedral were cleaned extensively and restored as closely to the original artwork as possible by Conrad Schmitt Studios Inc. of New Berlin, Wis.

scaffolding in the church. The pews were taken apart and removed for refurbishment. Pew removal also allowed for work on the floor. The new porcelain tile, installed by HJ Martin and Son Inc. of Green Bay, was placed over the top of the previous floor.

“That saved a tremendous amount of dirt, dust and cost,” said Motl. “The old floor was

actually two different heights, so it would have made (removal) even worse. The aisle tile was a different depth.”

The pews are now a tint darker, said Motl. DeWitt Church Goods Inc. contracted work on the pews to Wood Renovators of Iola, Wis.

Our full story appears in the Dec. 8 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our continuing catechesis on the Eucharist today centres on the importance of Sunday Mass. As Christians, we celebrate the Eucharist in order to encounter the Lord, to hear his word, eat at his table and, by his grace to fulfil our mission in the world as members of his Mystical Body the church. As the day of the resurrection and the pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Sunday is the Christian holy day par excellence. How could we pass this day without encountering the Lord? Sadly, in many secularized societies, we have lost the sense of Sunday. The Second Vatican Council asked us to celebrate the Lord’s Day as a day of joy and rest from servile work, precisely as a sign of our dignity as children of God. Each Sunday is meant to be a foretaste of the eternal bliss and repose to which we are called and which we share, even now, in holy Communion.

+ Pope Francis,
Dec. 13, 2017

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Cathedral will host Jubilee Year liturgies in 2018

BY SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

ALLOUEZ — The Diocese of Green Bay will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2018. In thanksgiving to God for this milestone anniversary, Bishop David Ricken invites Catholics from around the diocese to join him each month for a Jubilee Year liturgical celebration to be held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

Every month, the Jubilee Mass (a vespers service will take place in December) will be dedicated to one area of ministry or ministers. The first Mass on Jan. 14 is the Jubilee for Youth and Youth Ministers.

“The youth are not just the future, but part of the present of the Church of Green Bay,” according to Michael Paradek, diocesan director of Divine Worship, who is coordinating the

liturgies. “There is no better way to begin our 150th Jubilee Year than to highlight the energy of our youth and youth ministry programs.”

Paradek added that the Jubilee Mass is a way to “celebrate their role and to give thanks for the ministers and leaders who are dedicated to this vital ministry.”

Our full story appears in the Dec. 8 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Timothy and Titus

PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 Timothy and Titus are honored on Jan. 26. Each was appointed, by St. Paul, to be bishops.
- 2 Timothy served as bishop of Ephesus. Titus was the first bishop of the island of Crete.
- 3 Timothy had a Jewish mother (who had become a Christian) and a Greek father. His mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, were prominent in the early church at Lystra (in present-day Turkey).
- 4 Titus was a Greek gentile who converted because of Paul, whom he served as a secretary and travel companion. While Timothy died a martyr, Titus lived into his 90s, continuing to serve at Crete.
- 5 Paul wrote two surviving letters to Timothy and one to Titus. All three were written between 64-67 A.D., shortly before Paul's martyrdom in Rome.

Violence and the culture of death

Like many of you, my heart broke as I heard the news of the recent shooting at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, where 26 people were killed. Sadly, because of the frequency of these



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

tragic events, we have become rather numb to the news of these terrible acts of violence.

It was less than a week before that terrible shooting, that an individual drove a truck down a bike path in New York, killing eight people. In October, we woke to the news that a gunman had shot concert-goers in Las Vegas, killing 58 and injuring hundreds more. Even as I was preparing my thoughts

for this column, another shooting was being reported. In this case, innocent children were targeted. This seemingly endless violence has wreaked havoc not only on the lives of those killed and injured, but also on the families and communities left behind. It must stop!

In his encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae* ("The Gospel of Life"), Pope St. John Paul II stated that "every threat to human dignity and life must necessarily be felt in the church's very heart." As Christians, we ought to feel these assaults on life as our own. But feeling it is not enough. We must be moved to action.

One initiative we can work on is to recapture

the sense of true, respectful dialogue. In the wake of these tragedies, many people have voiced their opinion on a variety of issues, including gun control, the accessibility of mental health services and what truly constitutes an act of terror. Regrettably, too often these opinions are voiced, not so much in a spirit of productive dialogue but rather with the intent to shout louder than the other side; a style of communication that has become far too prevalent in our society today. We are losing sight of our moral obligations of common respect for each other.

As a community, we need to listen more to others and trust they have good intentions, even when we disagree, and be willing to make sacrifices and offer compromise. Issues this complex and difficult are not resolved by one side acquiring everything they want. One-sided problem-solving leads only to resentment and further challenges in the future. However, if each side is willing to compromise, real progress can be made to reduce these acts of violence and murder. I call upon all of us to engage in meaningful and respectful dialogue with a common goal of solving these problems together.

We also must identify best practices when responding to a crisis situation like this. While we pray these things never happen at our schools, our churches, or our places of work, we must also remain vigilant.

The entire column appears in our Dec. 1 issue.

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Parish SNAPSHOT



The third grade class at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Shawano, instructed by Jamie Gegare, recently held a pajama drive in support of Scholastic Book Club's "Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive." For each pair of pajamas the class donated, Scholastic donated a book. The pajamas and books were then given to families in need.

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