



## Diocese celebrates Jubilee Mass for sick, caregivers

SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

**GREEN BAY** — On Feb. 11, the World Day of Prayer for the Sick, Bishop David Ricken welcomed those who are sick, those with disabilities and all those who care for them to a special Mass in their honor. The occasion was the second of 12 monthly liturgies in 2018 marking the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Green Bay.

Each month, a special celebration is being held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral and February's event was called a Jubilee Mass for Persons with Disabilities, the Sick and Caregivers.

"To those who are struggling with illness, with some kind of challenge in your health, we're so grateful that all of you have come," said Bishop Ricken in his opening remarks, welcoming guests from around the diocese. "I am also grateful for all the caregivers who are gathered here."

Joining Bishop Ricken at the Mass were three priests whose ministries are related to health care. Fr. Hillary Andebo, who



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Guests attending the Jubilee Mass for Persons with Disabilities, the Sick and Caregivers Feb. 11 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral join in a hymn.

serves as chaplain at Aspirus Langlade Hospital in Antigo; Fr. Richard Klingeisen, who serves as diocesan health services coordinator; and Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

In his homily, Bishop Ricken gave a brief description of the Catholic Church's history in northeastern Wisconsin.

"I really think that this 150th anniversary is a chance for all of us to renew our gratitude to God for the local church, he said. "We are so blessed in this diocese in so many ways, and I think often we take that for granted, or we think that it will always be here."

Our full story appears in the Feb. 16 issue.

### FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are continuing with the catechesis on the Mass. To what does listening to the Bible readings, which are elaborated upon in the homily, respond? It responds to a right: the spiritual right of the People of God to receive abundantly from the treasury of the Word of God (cf. General Introduction to the Lectionary, 45). When we go to Mass, each of us has the right to receive in abundance the Word of God read well, said well and then, explained well in the homily. It is a right! And when the Word of God is not read well, not preached with fervor by the deacon, by the priest or by the bishop, then the faithful are deprived of a right. We have the right to hear the Word of God. The Lord speaks for everyone, pastors and the faithful. He knocks at the heart of those who participate in the Mass. ... His Word knocks at the heart and changes hearts!

+ Pope Francis, Feb. 14, 2018

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## Oconto Falls Lutheran church offers support to children attending Catholic school

BY TOM BESCHTA | FOR THE COMPASS

**OCONTO FALLS** — In the past, the idea of Lutherans attending a Catholic school was, as Grace Lutheran Church Pastor Gary Olson put it, like cats and dogs living together. It just didn't happen.

Today, St. Anthony School and Grace Lutheran of Oconto Falls are challenging

that mindset to bring everyone in their small community closer to Jesus. With the help of parish funding, children of Grace Lutheran are enrolling at St. Anthony to receive a faith-based education. "What we're looking at is not a denominational kind of thing — us versus them — but more of a community-minded type of approach to it," Pastor Olson said.

There are currently eight active members

of Grace Lutheran enrolled at St. Anthony. A portion of each student's tuition is provided to St. Anthony on behalf of their families through Grace Lutheran's Benevolence Fund.

St. Anthony Principal Alex Wolf said he and Pastor Olson have spoken at length about how their parishes can continue to support each other.

Our full story appears in the Feb. 16 issue.

# 5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

## About St. Patrick

PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 Patrick was born in the late 4th century in Kiltpatrick, in what is now Scotland, to a noble Roman family.
- 2 As a teenager, he was kidnapped by pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland, where he served as a shepherd.
- 3 After he escaped to Britain, Patrick studied for the priesthood, under St. Germain, in France and was later ordained a bishop.
- 4 Patrick went back to Ireland as a missionary, eventually to become the "Apostle of Ireland." He is famous for teaching about the Trinity using a shamrock.
- 5 Patrick died in Sabhall, Ireland, on March 17, 493, near where he had founded his first church. It is said he is buried at Down Cathedral in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland.

## Another school shooting

It happened again. As you know by now, another mass shooting occurred last week.

This time, 14 students and three staff members were senselessly killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. And



### BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

as much as we are surprised when this happens, the reality is that it doesn't surprise us, because it happens far too often. In fact, it was just this past fall that I wrote about the prevalence of these tragedies.

As we've learned more about this situation, we've learned about the many opportunities to intervene that went unaddressed. While not trying to blame anyone specifically, we see many

issues contributed to this situation: mental health challenges and lack of sufficient care, breakdown of the family, law enforcement ignoring red flags, access to weapons (legal or not) that make events like this possible. While I don't have solutions to all of these problems, I cannot believe that a country that is so advanced in technology and social media cannot use our resources to make sure the slaughter of innocents in a supposedly safe place of a school cannot be stopped.

As your bishop, I am concerned and want to enhance the safety of our parishes and schools. We must increase the levels of our own vigilance and training to keep our schools

and parishes safe from those who seek to do harm. Just this week, we offered special training to our parish and school leaders to help them prepare for these and other types of emergencies. As much as I would prefer to avoid these discussions, as your shepherd, I must take responsibility for helping you prepare for the realities we face today.

But taking steps to address these issues alone is not enough. The fact of the matter is we live in a world where evil exists. This message is repeated throughout the Scriptures and throughout human history. Though we've spent the past few hundred years trying to convince ourselves that humans can solve the problem of evil on our own, the reality is we cannot. No amount of enlightenment can bring evil to an end. We must turn to God and stop trying to solve these problems without him. As Christians, we must become the ambassadors of goodness and love that Jesus modeled for us and calls us to be.

To do this, we must return to the cross, the site of one of the greatest evils ever committed. The importance of the cross struck me in one of the images I came across as I've followed this story over the past couple of days. It's an image of two unidentified women embracing and crying in agony. One woman appears to be a mother or teacher, the other perhaps her daughter or student. In the image, we clearly see a cross on the forehead of one woman, marked in ashes for Ash Wednesday, the day of the shooting.

Read the entire column in our Feb. 23 issue.

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## Parish SNAPSHOT



SUBMITTED PHOTO | SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Shawano celebrated National Catholic Schools Week with the theme of "Jesus Christ our Superhero!" As part of the celebration, students and staff received "Jesus is our Superhero" T-shirts provided by Mark Bolin of Bolin Speedy T's.

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