



November 2019

# The Compass

IN THE

# Bulletin

www.thecompassnews.org | www.gbdioc.org

## Oshkosh Catholics gather twice a month for night of rosary making

BY JAYE ALDERSON | FOR THE COMPASS

**OSHKOSH** — On two Friday evenings a month, a small, dedicated and genial group of volunteers gathers at Father Carr's Place 2B. There is a lot of laughter, chatting and a lot of treats.

But they gather for a serious mission — to create handcrafted rosaries to provide a means and encourage others to pray the rosary.

"We want to recapture the beauty of our faith," said Fr. Dave Duffeck, who presides at Masses at Father Carr's. "We're trying to reignite and bring back the Marian devotion."

October is traditionally observed as the month of the rosary, and Fr. Duffeck said the group wants "people to get back to praying the rosary. It's a lost great treasure of the church. We don't give the rosaries as gifts. We're here to give teaching tools."

The rosaries are eagerly received. In the five years Fr. Duffeck has facilitated the effort at Father Carr's, about 5,000



MICHAEL CONNEY | FOR THE COMPASS

Joanne Wertz hangs a nylon cord rosary on a rack with hundreds of other handmade rosaries at Father Carr's Place 2B in Oshkosh. A group of volunteers gathers twice a month on Fridays to make the rosaries. Over the past five years, approximately 5,000 rosaries have been made.

rosaries have been made and distributed to groups such as March for Life participants, confirmation classes, first Communion classes, Spiritus and other retreat groups.

In return, the rosary group asks only freewill offerings and earnest use of the rosaries.

"Every grace we need we get from Christ," Fr. Duffeck said.

"Christ is the revelation of God. The power of God, the grace of God to live the life of Christ — that's what the rosary is."

The rosaries are made using a generations-old pattern: colorful nylon cord that is washable and durable.

Our full story appears in the Oct. 11 issue.

### FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on the Acts of the Apostles, we have seen how the outpouring of the Holy Spirit led the early Church to realize that God's offer of salvation in Christ is intended for people of every nation. A critical moment in this process takes place when, in a dream, Saint Peter is told that henceforth no food is unclean in God's eyes. Almost immediately, a Gentile, the Roman centurion Cornelius, comes to Peter and, while hearing him preach the Gospel, receives, together with his household, the gift of the Holy Spirit and is baptized (cf. Acts 10). These events led Peter to open his mind and heart to the "creativity" with which God was extending to all people the blessings promised to Israel. Peter's discernment of God's universal saving will was the mark of a true evangelizer, who desires to share the joy of the Gospel with everyone.

+ Pope Francis,  
Oct. 16, 2019

@Pontifex

Follow Him On

twitter

## Golden retriever is Roncalli High School's first service dog

BY SUZANNE WEISS | FOR THE COMPASS

**MANITOWOC** — Roncalli High School has a furry new friend this year. Benson, a 1-year-old, 60-pound golden retriever, is the Manitowoc Catholic high school's first service dog.

His emphasis is on serving students, said Shannon Pritzl, admissions and alumni coordinator at Roncalli. Shannon, an alumna

herself, spent the past year raising and training Benson, and is his certified handler.

The need for service dogs in schools and other institutions has been growing, Shannon said. "We are identifying more individuals who have physical or cognitive disabilities, or emotional needs," she said.

Benson, who wears a navy-blue vest with a patch that reads "Roncalli Jets," is

a mother-daughter project. He came from Custom Canines Service Dog Academy, a nonprofit organization based in Madison, where Shannon's daughter and Roncalli graduate Payton Pritzl is a senior trainer and puppy raiser. The organization raises, trains and places service dogs at no cost.

Our full story appears in the Oct. 4 issue.

# 5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

## About St. Andrew

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 The Apostle Andrew's feast day is Nov. 30, placed so it falls near the start of Advent on the church's calendar.
- 2 Andrew, brother of Peter, was the one who told Peter about Jesus in John's Gospel (1:35-42).
- 3 For this reason, the Eastern Orthodox churches call Andrew, *Prōtoklētos*, or "first-called."
- 4 After the first Pentecost, Andrew went east and preached the Gospel in what was then called Scythia, now a part of central Eurasia that includes Ukraine, the Balkans and Russia.
- 5 Andrew is the patron of Scotland, which is why St. Andrew's Cross — the symbol of his martyrdom — appears on the Scottish flag.

## Our commitment to the unborn

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

During the month of October, the Catholic Church celebrates Respect Life Month. This year's theme, "Christ Our Hope:



### BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

In Every Season of Life," reminds us that the Gospel message calls us to view every life as sacred, regardless of age, health, ability or anything else. The message of Respect Life Month challenges us as Christians to speak out in support of life that is under attack, whether as a result of abortion, violence, terrorism, poverty or assisted suicide.

The Catholic Church has long been a leader in advocating for life, in particular when it comes to the issue of abortion. Recently, we received some good news in regards to abortion when the most recent abortion statistics were made available. The data, tracked by the Guttmacher Institute, indicates that the number of abortions in 2017 decreased by nearly 200,000 compared to the last time the data were collected in 2011. At the same time, the rate of abortions, that is the number of abortions per 1,000 women, is 13.5, down 3.4 from 2011. In fact, the abortion rate today has decreased by over 50% since 1980!

While pundits will debate the exact reasons for this decrease, the fact that the number of abortions is in decline is very good news! This is evidence that the culture of life is powerful and more people are coming to

recognize the inherent dignity of the unborn. Through the powerful witness of people who participate in events like 40 Days for Life and the March for Life, we are seeing more people who identify as pro-life, especially among youth and young adults, whom some have referred to as the pro-life generation.

I have to say it again, this is good news! We thank God for the progress we are making on this issue.

Yet, in the midst of this good news, there remain concerns. One abortion a year is one human who will never get the chance at life, and that is one too many. The data also indicate that medical, or chemical, abortions are increasing. Medical abortions occur when a woman ingests two pills, one that ends the baby's life and a second that induces labor. While these pills are regulated, there is some evidence that women can access these pills online, and therefore the number of medical abortions may be even higher than the data show.

Even here in the Diocese of Green Bay, we recognize this challenge. Though we are happy that the clinics in our diocese that once performed abortions have closed, data from the State of Wisconsin indicate that roughly 21% of medical abortions within the state occur within the Diocese of Green Bay, meaning abortions continue to take place in our diocese.

So, while we celebrate the progress that has been made, we remain steadfast in our commitment to support the lives of the unborn and of all human beings. Let us never forget that we are people of the resurrection.

The entire column appears in our Oct. 18 issue.

Please mail \$23 payment to:



P.O. Box 8474  
Carol Stream, IL 60197-8474  
For faster service, call:  
920-272-8208 or  
Toll-free 877-500-3580, Ext. 8208  
Email: compasscirc@ghdioc.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

New Subscribers Only

## Parish SNAPSHOT



SUBMITTED PHOTO | FOR THE COMPASS

Sturgeon Bay's tri-parish faith formation program sponsored a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse Sept. 11 and 12. They also visited Mary of the Angels Chapel on the grounds of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, and the Grotto Gardens honoring Our Lady of Lourdes in Rudolph.

Subscribe: Save \$5 NOW!