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The Compass

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Store owners open their doors to 40 Days for Life vigil participants

BY SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

ASHWAUBENON — Heidi Lemke and Kari Trzinski, members of St. John the Baptist Parish in Howard, believe that God has opened doors for them and their families. This fall, the two friends and business partners decided to do the same for others.

Lemke and Trzinski own Green Bay Olive Oil Company, located in a strip mall off of Oneida Street, four doors west of the Planned Parenthood clinic. Every year, dozens of people participate in silent, prayerful vigils on the sidewalk adjacent to Oneida Street as part of 40 Days for Life.

After Lemke learned about the silent protests from Deacon Dave and Denise Parker of Pulaski, she and Trzinski decided to open their store's doors to walkers who needed a bathroom, a place to rest or something to drink.

On Sunday, Nov. 3, the two women hosted a reception for 40 Days for Life participants as they concluded their fall walking vigils.

"What they are doing is so wonderful for everybody,



SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

Kari Trzinski, center left, and Heidi Lemke, center right, owners of Green Bay Olive Oil Company in Ashwaubenon, pose for a photo with their families. The women hosted a reception for 40 Days for Life participants on Sunday, Nov. 3, the final day of the group's prayer vigils.

because they are showing these women or these families that they have other options" than abortion, said Lemke. "If we can help in any way, just to save a life, that would be great. Kari and I feel very strongly about that."

"They have a mission, the same way Heidi and I have a mission," said Kari. "We love our Catholic faith for what it has done

for us personally, professionally, and how it truly builds community. We feel that's what Jesus is — he is all about helping people in any and every way."

According to Lemke, an open door is a sign of welcome and love.

Our full story appears in the Nov. 8 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us continue our "journey" with the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. After the trials experienced in Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea, Paul arrived in Athens, the very heart of Greece (cf. Acts 17:15). This city that lived in the shadow of its ancient glory despite its political decline, still held the primacy of culture. Here the Apostle's "spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols" (Acts 17:16).

Today, let us ask the Holy Spirit to teach us to build bridges through culture, with those who do not believe and those who have a different belief from ours. ... Let us ask him for the ability to inculcate the message of faith with sensitivity, to have a contemplative gaze towards those who do not know Christ, to be moved by love that warms even the hardest of hearts.

+ Pope Francis,
Nov. 6, 2019

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Catholic Charities immigration counselor knows, firsthand, the life of a refugee

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

ALLOUEZ — Even after 36 years at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay, So Thao isn't thinking about retirement. His job, as an accredited immigration counselor, is too fulfilling. Especially so, since Thao and his family were refugees themselves after the Vietnam War.

In 1969, the 16-year-old Thao joined a

special unit of the United States' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Laos working against the communists. It was also called "the Secret Army" and made up of Hmong people.

"The (U.S.) government said, 'We have to use a (local) group,'" Thao recalled. "The Hmong people had a history of fighting communism. ... That's why we got the special duty."

Thao joined for two reasons: First, in

third grade, he chose to learn English at a private school. This meant he was able to pass the English exam to join the Secret Army. Secondly, there weren't "many career opportunities" in Laos. He said the choices were teaching, nursing, truck driving or joining the army.

Our full story appears in the Nov. 8 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

About sheep and shepherds

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 The Nativity story mentions sheep and shepherds. As the Bible notes, sheep, known for docility, do recognize and follow the voice of their shepherd.
- 2 The first shepherd in the Bible was Abel, the son of Adam and Eve (Gen 4:4).
- 3 Abraham, Isaac, Moses and David were all shepherds.
- 4 Sheep were animals of sacrifice at the Temple. A ram was sacrificed by Abraham after God had given him back his son, Isaac.
- 5 Today, the wool of specially raised lambs is used to make the white *pallia* (shoulder bands) given by the pope to new archbishops. The lambs are raised by Trappist monks and the *pallia* are made by Benedictine nuns.

A Day for Healing: Sharing God's love with others

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

I recently had the pleasure of spending a day with parish and diocesan staff and volunteers at the KI Center in Green Bay.



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

This gathering was a continuation of the discipleship seminars we have held the past few years. This year's theme, "Jesus the Healer," was chosen in part based on feedback from last year's seminar, where attendees shared some of the pain and hurt they are experiencing. So, we invited Jesus the Healer to walk among us, to accompany us as we strive to bring souls to the Kingdom of God. After all, how can we

be leaders who love Jesus and share his mission when we are weighed down by so much pain and brokenness?

We began by reflecting on the healing ministry of Jesus and how we can turn to our loving Father, through Jesus, to receive the healing our hearts so desperately desire. Leading us through this process were Fr. Mathias Thelen and Patrick Reis of Encounter Ministries, which exists to train and disciple Catholics to demonstrate the power and love of God through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Their mission is rooted in the belief that if we want the name of Jesus to spread, we need to participate in God's power and miracles. As they shared, when we proclaim the truth of the Gospel and demonstrate it through signs and wonders, people come to faith.

Perhaps as you read this, you find yourself thinking that miracles and healings are a thing of the past, something Jesus could do because he was God, but not something that we can do. Maybe you've heard stories about miraculous healings today, but you've always felt that those are unique exceptions, and something only someone who is especially holy could bring about.

But this was the great news that Fr. Mathias and Patrick shared with us; as baptized Christians, each of us has received the grace to participate in these miracles. This means that each of us can be a source of healing to others when we open ourselves to what God wants to do for that person!

The beauty of this day was that we didn't just talk about these things, we actually tried it. After receiving training in how we can pray for others who are in need of healing, in particular physical healings, we intentionally made time to ask God to heal people. And the results were incredible! Dozens of people came forward to share that after receiving prayers for various physical ailments, they began feeling less pain and, in some cases, no pain at all!

Now, not everyone who received prayers experienced a miraculous healing. We don't know why God brings healing to some people immediately, while others must wait, and others never receive the healing they are seeking. As the speakers said, "It's our job to pray, it's God's job to heal." But we witnessed that God does bring healing to people, and we can be instruments of that healing!

The entire column appears in our Nov. 1 issue.

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Parish SNAPSHOT



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Teachers and staff from St. John Paul II Classical School in Green Bay dressed up as their favorite saints for All Saints Day on Nov. 1.