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The Compass IN THE Bulletin

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Hundreds turn out for 150th 'Miracle of the Fire' candlelight rosary procession

BY SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

CHAMPION — Several hundred people took part in a candlelight rosary procession at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help to mark the 150th anniversary of an event known today as the "Miracle of the Fire."

The miracle that took place on Oct. 8, 1871 — almost 12 years to the date of Mary's last appearance to Adele Brise — happened at the shrine grounds. While the Great Peshtigo Fire incinerated some 2,400 square miles and killed between 1,500 to 2,500 people, those who came to the shrine (then known as the Chapel) were spared.

In a story published last April in The Compass, Pat Kasten wrote, "Adele Brise and her companions at the Chapel knew they could not escape the fire. So they took up a statue of Mary and bore it in procession around the grounds. They were joined by local people fleeing to the site. Fr. (Peter) Pernin, in recording what Adele told him later, said they processed on their knees, praying the rosary."



SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

A cross bearer, followed by a fourth degree Knights of Columbus honor guard, leads a procession around the rosary path at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help on Oct. 8. The procession marked the 150th anniversary of the "Miracle of the Fire."

Since then, every year on Oct. 8, the shrine hosts an anniversary rosary and all-night prayer event beginning at 7 p.m. It starts with a remembrance service, where a retelling of the "Miracle of the Fire" is shared.

This year, Father of Mercy John Broussard recited the story, as told by Fr. Pernin. The Cana-

dian missionary priest served as pastor at St. Mary Parish in Peshtigo and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Marinette. He lived through the fire and wrote a book entitled "The Finger of God Was There!"

Our full story appears in the Oct. 15 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our itinerary of catechesis on the Letter to the Galatians, we have been able to focus on what was for St. Paul the core of freedom: the fact that, with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have been freed from the slavery of sin and of death. In other words, we are free because we have been freed, freed by grace — not by payment. Freed by love, which becomes the supreme and new law of Christian life. This, in fact, is the key point.

Today I would like to emphasise how this novelty of life opens us up to welcoming every people and culture, and at the same time opens every people and culture to a greater freedom. In fact, Saint Paul says that for those who follow Christ, it no longer matters if they are Jewish or pagan. The only thing that counts is "faith working through love" (Gal 5:6).

+ Pope Francis, Oct. 13, 2021

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New bishop of San Juan, Dominican Republic, visits Green Bay Diocese

BY JEFF KUROWSKI | THE COMPASS

ALLOUEZ — Bishop Tomás Alejo of the Diocese of San Juan de La Maguana, Dominican Republic, delivered a simple, heartfelt message at the close of Mass on Sept. 30 in St. Joseph Chapel on the Diocese of Green Bay campus. Through Fr. Mike Seis, who served as his interpreter, Bishop Alejo expressed his gratitude for a nearly 60-year friendship: It was 1963 when

the Diocese of Green Bay began operation of a mission in the province of Elías Piña in the Dominican Republic.

"I'm very grateful for that relationship and Bishop (David) Ricken's enthusiasm for the mission," said Bishop Alejo in an interview with The Compass following the liturgy. "I'm very happy that Bishop Ricken expressed that he wants to continue the relationship between the two dioceses."

Bishop Ricken plans to travel to Elías Piña in 2023. Mission trips to the Dominican Republic have been postponed until 2023 due to the pandemic, including a group from the Diocese of Green Bay that initially intended to build a chapel in 2021. Twenty concrete block chapels have been built for the mission by diocesan volunteers, including eight by deacon-led groups.

Our full story appears in the Oct. 8 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

About Advent

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

1 Advent starts on Nov. 28. Many people make or buy Advent calendars to count the days until Christmas.

2 The word "Advent" comes from a Latin verb, *advenire*, meaning "to come."

3 The first Advent calendars marked time until Christmas would come, using items like chalk marks or burning candles at home. This began in the 1700s, as a Protestant tradition in Europe.

4 Handmade paper Advent calendars date to the 1850s. The first commercial calendars came to Germany in the early 20th century.

5 Commercial Advent calendars were very popular until World War II, when paper and cardboard were rationed throughout Europe.

Listening to the Holy Spirit

Dear friends and followers of Jesus:

A couple years ago, I had a chance to meet with Pope Francis. During our time together, I shared with him the progress we are making in our effort to build a culture of missionary discipleship. He encouraged me (and us) to "lean into the Holy Spirit," listening for where the Spirit is guiding us.



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

In my column reflecting on our visit, I wrote of the pope: "He also said that we need to remember that it is not so much that we bring the Holy Spirit to others; the Holy Spirit is already there. We simply help the people realize how close God is to them already

and help them respond to God's love." I remember how powerful his words felt at the time.

Well, it seems that the pope's message was not just for me; this is something he desires for the entire Catholic Church. This weekend, the church around the world will begin a two-year process of prayer, dialogue and listening to help us hear how the Spirit is moving us in this third millennium of the church. This process is known as a "synod" and the theme of this synod is "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission."

Now, you may be wondering, "What is a synod and what does it mean to be a synodal church?" A "synod" is another name for a "church council," and synods have been around since the church's foundation. They can take place at a local level, such as a parish or a diocese, or they can take place in the universal church.

Since Vatican II in the 1960s, the Vatican has regularly held synods of bishops, to bring together bishops from around the world to discuss important topics and help inform the pope's thinking on key issues. Recent synods at the Vatican have addressed the new evangelization, families and young people.

The word "synodal" is the adjective form of synod. It describes a church that, by its very nature, emphasizes the importance of listening to the people of God. Some may hear this and wonder if the church is becoming a democracy. The answer is no.

Listening to the people of God is not about everyone having a vote and Catholic teaching being decided by majority rule. Rather, it is an invitation for all people to listen attentively for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and then gathering to discern how the Spirit is leading the church. Ultimately, the Holy Spirit is in charge. Our job is to be attentive and remain open to the surprises of the Spirit!

Read the entire column in the Oct. 8 issue.



The Compass

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Parish SNAPSHOT



SUBMITTED PHOTO | SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

St. Bernard Parish in Appleton completed a September collection, followed by a Service Sunday, to sort and package supplies that will be delivered to Friends of Haiti, then shipped to Haiti. Pictured are parish volunteers sorting and packaging donated items on Sept. 28. Friends of Haiti began at St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Green Bay in 2000.