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The Compass

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Wautoma parish collects clothing, other items for area's migrant population

BY DAWN BLAKE | FOR THE COMPASS

WAUTOMA — Lupe Cervantes, Hispanic ministry coordinator for St. Joseph Parish in Wautoma, accepts donations year-round for people in need in Waushara County. But this Lenten season, he had a specific mission.

Enlisting the help of the Diocese of Green Bay and working with Sr. Martha Escobar and Erin Guerrero in the Office of Hispanic Ministry, Cervantes requested warm clothing for farmworkers and migrants.

"We do a couple drives a year," he said. "We did one for blankets and one for towels. This is our first time collecting coats and shoes."

Donations from parishioners included work boots, gloves, long pants, socks and heavy jackets, all especially helpful for workers who arrive in early spring and find themselves struggling with the cold weather, transportation issues and financial resources. This time of year, they're seeding, taking care of plants in the



DAWN BLAKE | FOR THE COMPASS

Lupe Cervantes, Hispanic ministry coordinator for St. Joseph Parish in Wautoma, displays two coats that will be given to farm and migrant workers thanks to donors.

greenhouses and getting ready for the outside work of transplanting cucumbers, peppers, squash, sweet corn and flowers later in the season.

According to Cervantes, who has been a member of St. Joseph Parish since 1992 and the Hispanic ministry coordinator there since 2018, most migrants

in the Wautoma area are single men from Mexico coming to Wisconsin on work visas.

"Obviously, down in Mexico, it's warm 24/7, 365 days, so they left their home probably without even a sweater," he said.

Our full story appears in the March 19 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The first gift of every Christian existence is the Holy Spirit. It is not one of many gifts, but rather the fundamental Gift. The Spirit is the gift that Jesus had promised to send us. Without the Spirit there is no relationship with Christ and with the Father, because the Spirit opens our heart to God's presence and draws it into that "vortex" of love that is the very heart of God. We are not merely guests and pilgrims journeying on this earth; we are also guests and pilgrims in the mystery of the Trinity. We are like Abraham, who, one day, welcoming three wayfarers in his own tent, encountered God. If we can truly invoke God, calling him "Abba — Dad," it is because the Holy Spirit dwells in us; he is the One who transforms us deep within and makes us experience the soul-stirring joy of being loved by God as his true children.

+ Pope Francis, March 17, 2021

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Appleton's St. Therese Parish breaks ground on major renovation

BY SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

APPLETON — St. Therese Parish broke ground Oct. 25, 2020, on a major construction project last fall, and when completed, the project will allow the church campus and its buildings to better serve the mission of the parish for the next century, according to Fr. Ryan Starks, pastor.

The project is expected to be complete late summer 2021.

In an email to The Compass, Fr. Starks explained that the project "started with an obstacle and opened up into an opportunity."

"The obstacle was the school building," he said. "This was the first building constructed on the campus, starting in 1927." Over the years, he said the school "blessed the parish and community with the education of tens of thousands of children, not to mention other uses over the decades."

In its heyday, the school enrolled around 1,000 students annually. "But since 1983, when the school closed its doors, it has been increasingly difficult and costly to maintain a building that now is only utilized at 5% capacity," said Fr. Starks. A few years ago, St. Therese formed a special committee to explore the school building's future.

Our full story appears in the March 19 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Alleluia returns

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

1 During Lent, the Alleluia is not sung at Roman Catholic Masses. It is used in Eastern (Catholic and Orthodox) churches all year. (The Latin-rite church does sing the Alleluia on March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, even when it falls in Lent.)

2 Some parishes symbolically "bury" the Alleluia prior to Ash Wednesday. The Alleluia returns triumphantly at the Easter Vigil.

3 "Alleluia" comes from the Hebrew phrase: "Hallelujah." *Hallel* in Hebrew means "making a loud and joyful noise." *Jah* signifies the name of God.

4 Hallelujah means "make a joyful noise in praise of God."

5 In the fourth century, St. Augustine noted that, "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!"

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Teaching the truth in love

Dear friends and followers of Jesus:

Lately, I have been reflecting on the words "truth" and "love" and the relationship between them. These two short words are rich in meaning, yet often misunderstood in our modern world. As Christians, understanding the correct meaning of truth and love is essential if we are to live as disciples of Jesus. In my role as teacher of the faith for the Diocese of Green Bay, I want to share a bit more about the meanings of these words and how they relate to each other.



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

A common misconception in our world today is that the truth is whatever a person makes it. We hear people speak of "my truth" and "your truth," but this reveals a fundamental misunderstanding. You and I don't get to decide the truth; it has been revealed to us by God. As children of God, our responsibility is to seek the truth, to embrace the truth and to live in the truth, even when it's difficult. As Jesus says in John's Gospel, "the truth will set you free" (Jn 8:32). The trouble is that sometimes knowing the truth hurts like "you know what."

There is likewise a common misunderstanding today of the word "love." Many people associate love with a feeling, but the Christian understanding is that love is an action, not a feeling. To love is to will or desire the good of

another person, to put their good before our own. Loving in this way is difficult because it requires us to put someone else's needs before our own.

The mistaken notions of truth and love lead to another common misconception in our world today. Some people believe that sharing a difficult truth with another person is not loving. After all, they might say, how can upsetting or hurting someone be good? While it's understandable that we don't want to hurt those who we love, by failing to share the truth, we are actually putting our own good before theirs. Imagine a mother who refused to tell her young son to keep his hand away from a hot stove because she knew saying "no" would upset her child. Would this be a loving thing to do? Of course not. As you can see, sometimes we need to share the truth with others because failure to do so could lead to their harm.

Two recent events illustrate the importance of understanding the relationship between truth and love. Last week the Holy Father, through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), reaffirmed the church's teaching that same-sex unions cannot be blessed by the church. The statement made clear that all people are to be welcomed by the church and are loved by the church. Still, the church cannot bless that which is spiritually harmful to an individual or a couple. To do so would be to fail to authentically love that person.

The entire column appears in our March 26 issue.

Parish SNAPSHOT



SUBMITTED PHOTO | FOR THE COMPASS

Focusing on the corporal works of mercy, young people from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish and Holy Family School in Green Bay took part in an indoor "sock snowball fight" in February. More than 300 socks were donated to St. John's Homeless Shelter.