



Congo Catholics welcome Mass in native tongue

BY AMANDA LAUER | FOR THE COMPASS

APPLETON — There's nothing like celebrating the Mass in your own native language. But for many new arrivals to the United States, English is not their first language.

When Pope Francis launched a consultation process that is leading up to the Synod of Bishops in October of 2023, part of his call to "look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say" meant for the church to listen to diverse voices.

One way that is being lived out is the celebration of Mass in Swahili at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Appleton.

Swahili is "among the 10 most widely spoken languages in the world, with more than 200 million speakers," according to the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Fr. John Katamba, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, a native of Uganda, talked about the impetus for the Swahili Mass — with music provided by a Swahili choir — that he celebrates every other Sunday at 11 a.m.

He said he was first approached in 2019 by a group of African immigrants, the majority from the Democratic Republic



SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

Fr. John Katamba, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Appleton, talks to sisters Josephine, left, and Gift Batumike following the Mass he celebrated in Swahili on Sunday, April 3. The Mass in Swahili has been celebrated every other Sunday since March 20.

of the Congo, who belong to various parishes in the area. They had been hoping to have a regular Mass in Swahili since 2019.

"But then I was just an associate pastor," noted Fr. Katamba.

After he became pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, he further considered the idea.

"They were requesting me to help them have the Mass in

Swahili because some of their members were not good in English," Fr. Katamba said. "They prefer to have a Mass in Swahili. I asked them to go back to their respective parishes so they could talk with their pastors. If their pastors accepted their idea, I could help them."

Our full story appears in the April 8 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last Sunday, we saw Christ solemnly entering Jerusalem, as though for a feast, welcomed as the Messiah: cloaks (cf. Lk 19:36) and branches cut from trees (cf. Mt 21:8) were laid before him on the ground. The exultant crowd loudly blesses "the King who comes," and acclaim "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Lk 19:38). Those people there celebrate because they see Jesus' entry as the arrival of a new king, who would bring peace and glory. That was the peace those people were waiting for: a glorious peace, the fruit of royal intervention, that of a powerful messiah who would liberate Jerusalem from the Roman occupation. Others probably dreamed of the re-establishment of a social peace and saw Jesus as the ideal king, who would feed the crowd with bread, as he had already done, and would work great miracles, thus bringing more justice into the world.

+ Pope Francis, April 13, 2022

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A fresh start for Marshall Harris, who joins church at Easter

BY SUZANNE WEISS | FOR THE COMPASS

NEWTON — God had plans for him all along. Marshall Harris just didn't know it. Until now.

Harris is one of more than 80 people in the Diocese of Green Bay who joined the Catholic Church during Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, April 16.

Harris, 30, of Cleveland, Wis., attends St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Newton, located south of Manitowoc. Originally from

Illinois, he was exposed to gang activities and drugs while growing up. His family raised him in a religion that does not believe in the Triune God, but he left it behind in his 20s. Harris admitted he lived to have fun and he lived dangerously.

The spiritual turning point came when his girlfriend and sponsor, Macy Grybush, invited him to attend SEEK21, held Feb. 4-7, 2021, in New Holstein. SEEK is a conference designed so people can encounter Jesus and

his church. Harris finally agreed to attend SEEK21, where he said he had his "expectations blown out of the water."

"I saw people on their knees asking for things that weren't for themselves," he said. "Their prayers are being sent for the world and for everyone but themselves. You could see that God was touching people in ways that they needed and that was beautiful."

Our full story appears in the April 15 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

About the Good Shepherd

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 The Fourth Sunday of Easter (May 8, 2022) is also called Good Shepherd Sunday.
- 2 The Gospel for that Sunday is Jn 10:27-30. Jesus speaks of his sheep knowing his voice.
- 3 "The Good Shepherd" is one of the oldest titles for Jesus, coming from John's Gospel.
- 4 Images of the Good Shepherd, often a beardless, young man, can be found in fourth century Roman catacombs.
- 5 May is a month devoted to Mary. In Spain and countries colonized by it, Mary is sometimes called the Divina Pastora (Divine Shepherdess), based on a vision of a Capuchin friar. Franciscans and Capuchins spread devotion to the Divina Pastora among their missions.

Alleluia, He is risen!

Dear friends and followers of Jesus:

Alleluia, He is risen! May the joy of the risen Christ bring peace and joy to your hearts and homes this Easter season!



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

These three words, "He is risen," are very familiar and often repeated during the Easter season. As can easily happen when we become familiar with something, we can take it for granted. Familiar words can lose their ability to really impact us and we can begin to say them without really considering what they mean for us.

"He is risen" is the ultimate message of hope.

These three words speak to a wonderful mystery — that God has defeated death, that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Pause and let that sink into the depths of your heart — God loves you so much that nothing can keep God away from you!

I am also struck by the use of the present tense in this phrase. The resurrection is not just something that happened in the past or

just something that we look forward to in the future, it is the reality of our present day. Every day that we are alive, it is true to say that "He is risen!"

There are many crosses that each of us bear today, both individually and as a society. Whether we are talking about war and violence in Ukraine or in countless places around the world, or the ongoing economic, physical and mental effects of the pandemic, or the social and political divisiveness that creates isolation and despair, there is real suffering in our world today.

But the words, "He is risen," mean that the hope which the disciples felt 2,000 years ago when they experienced the resurrection and the hope that we have for our own resurrection in the future, is the hope we can lay claim to today and can certainly transform the darkness of today's world into light.

Friends, each of us has the opportunity this Easter season to bring that hope into the world. I pray that we, as people of the resurrection, may reflect the words "He is risen" in our words, attitudes and actions. May we be beacons of light bringing the hope of a God who loves us to no end into a world struggling through the darkness.

Alleluia, He is risen!



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Parish SNAPSHOT



Maureen Saindon holds a candle during the Easter Vigil service at St. Agnes Church in Green Bay on April 16. She is the daughter of Elizabeth and Jared Saindon.

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