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The Compass

IN THE

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Appleton parish opens vacant school to Loaves & Fishes meal program

BY JEAN PEERENBOOM | FOR THE COMPASS

APPLETON — When St. Therese Parish offered its vacant school activity center to Loaves & Fishes of the Fox Valley, Inc., a nondenominational Christian outreach serving free evening meals, a beautiful partnership was born.

“St. Therese is happy to welcome Loaves & Fishes. I can think of no better use for this space than to give food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty,” Fr. Ryan Starks, pastor, said of the new partnership. “It is our prayer that those involved with Loaves & Fishes will quickly feel at home here and that by their presence, our parish family will be inspired by the beautiful work they do.”

Volunteers with Loaves & Fishes offer evening meals to nearly 120 people three evenings a week. For 16 years, it was housed at Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Appleton. In 2016, Loaves & Fishes served 22,880 meals. The meals are



SUBMITTED PHOTO | FOR THE COMPASS

St. Therese Parish in Appleton has opened its vacant school activity center to Loaves & Fishes of the Fox Valley. The center is in need of renovation to accommodate the meal program’s needs. Pictured from left are Deacon Tony Abts of St. Therese; Shannon Krahn, executive director of Loaves & Fishes; and Mary Beth Nienhaus, a Loaves & Fishes board member who offered a \$50,000 matching grant for the project.

free and the service is nondenominational.

“About a year ago, Trinity told us the church was being sold,” said Shannon Krahn, Loaves & Fishes executive director. The board of directors formed a

committee and sought a new location. “A church seemed a natural fit,” she said, “and we started knocking on doors.”

Our full story appears in the April 7 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In these joyful days of Easter, our continuing catechesis on Christian hope looks to the Risen Jesus. St. Paul tells the Corinthians that Jesus himself is our hope. His resurrection is the event that grounds our faith; without our confident belief in its historical reality, the Christian faith would be a mere human philosophy, and Jesus himself simply another great religious figure.

Our belief is based on the testimony of those who encountered the Risen Christ, from St. Peter and the group of the Twelve to St. Paul, who was converted by his dramatic meeting with the Lord on the road to Damascus.

This is the reason for our Easter joy: in the risen Jesus, who dwells in our midst, we encounter the power of God’s love, which triumphs over death and brings ever new life and undying hope.

+ Pope Francis,
April 19, 2017

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Catholic school students’ Lenten project raises \$3,600 for homes in Haiti

BY BENJAMIN WIDEMAN | FOR THE COMPASS

CLARKS MILLS — Brick by brick, this community has demonstrated just how much it wants to help less fortunate people in the world.

At the beginning of March, the seventh- and eighth-grade students in Carol Schmitz’s religion class at St. Mary/St. Michael Catholic School decided to raise \$2,500 — the amount needed to build a

basic, multi-room house in Haiti.

Their House for Haiti project was inspired by information presented by Cross Catholic Outreach ministries, as well as a video clip they saw in another class.

To achieve their mission, Schmitz suggested to the students that they sell “bricks” for \$25 each. Schmitz said she anticipated it would take several months, maybe even a year, to reach the \$2,500 goal. Instead, it

took about five weeks to surpass that mark.

As of April 6, the students had raised \$3,600 from community members, area parishioners, fellow classmates, teachers, family members and the religious education program. Numerous people contributed money in honor of loved ones who have passed away.

Our full story appears in the April 14 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

About the Ascension

PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 Christ's Ascension is celebrated 40 days after Easter, traditionally on Thursday (May 25 this year).
- 2 In many U.S. dioceses, including in Green Bay, the celebration is moved to the Seventh Sunday of Easter so more people are able to attend Mass.
- 3 On the feast of the Ascension, the Paschal (Easter) Candle is extinguished and moved from the sanctuary, symbolizing Christ's Ascension to heaven.
- 4 The traditional Holy Land site of the Ascension can be found on the Mount of Olives in a domed chapel now under Muslim jurisdiction.
- 5 In that Ascension Chapel, an indentation in a rock is said to have been made by Christ's foot when he ascended.

Easter greetings!

Happy Easter to each and every one of you!

I know that so many of you are experiencing very difficult and challenging days consumed with ill health, personal struggles in relationships, job loss, worry and anxiety for the future, and concern about the national and international turmoil that seems to be prevailing each day. Others of you have lost loved ones



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

recently and some of you have lost, through death, more than one close friend or loved one in recent months.

As Pope Francis has written, "We see and will continue to see problems both within and without. They will always be there. But today it is important to shed the light of the risen Lord upon our problems and, in

a certain sense, to "evangelize" them; to evangelize our problems. Let us not allow darkness and fear to distract us and control us. We must cry out to them: "The Lord is not here, he is risen!" (Luke 24:6) He is our greatest joy; he is always at our side and will never let us down.

"Brothers and sisters, following Jesus is not easy. It includes bearing the cross of our Lord so that we can alleviate even a little bit of his suffering..."

Brothers and sisters, following Jesus is not easy. It includes bearing the cross of our Lord so that we can alleviate even a little bit of his suffering for all the people of all time and history and for all who will ever live. Can you imagine his suffering during the Passion and crucifixion? At least our suffering, offered up for love of him, may take away some of that pain and suffering. As the well-known hymn by Jack Miffleton exclaims, "But then comes the morning. Yesterday's sorrows behind. Wake it's the day of your longing. Life returns, mercy comes, it's morning."

It is the morning of the resurrection that restored hope and vision and still does today. May the peace of the risen Christ be with you every day!

Parish SNAPSHOT



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Knights of Columbus Msgr. Looze Council 4869 of Oconto Falls presented a \$1,200 check to St. Anthony School in Oconto Falls on April 8. The donation was made possible through recent council fundraisers. Accepting the check from Council 4869 members were Fr. Joel Sember, pastor of St. Anthony Parish, students, parents and teachers.

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