



July 2018

The Compass IN THE Bulletin

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St. Mary Catholic High School grad heeds Mom's advice

JEFF KUROWSKI | THE COMPASS

NEENAH — Noah Johnson set a goal when he started at St. Mary Catholic High School in the fall of 2014. He wanted his achievements to allow him to go to the college of his choice in the program of his choice. Goal accomplished.

Noah, the son of Sean Johnson and the late Dr. Gay Johnson, will attend Wichita State University in the fall of 2018 to study aerospace and mechanical engineering.

"Their program is one of the better programs in the country for aerospace," he said. "My dad works for Insider Publications. They always do stories on the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association), so he met the CEO and he led us to Wichita."

Noah received support for college in the form of the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Initiative Scholarship. The recipient is selected by teachers and administrators. Requirements for the scholarship include the ability to overcome personal obstacles



BRAD BIRKHOFF | FOR THE COMPASS

Noah Johnson, a member of the St. Mary Catholic High School Class of 2018, received the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Initiative Scholarship, selected by teachers and administrators.

or other adversity, an academic record that represents maximum effort, and strong promise for success in a postsecondary environment.

Dr. Johnson, died on Aug. 17, 2017. She was initially diagnosed with melanoma before Noah's first year at St. Mary Catholic.

"She always told me to pursue what made me happy," added Noah, a member of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Neenah. "She

knew that in the end that's what really matters."

"I'm very proud of what Noah has accomplished, particularly with the events of the past year," said Sean. "His drive to overcome and excel has been both a joy — and, quite honestly, a relief — to observe. His mother would be extremely proud of him."

Our full story appears in the May 25 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, we shall begin a new series of catecheses on the theme of the Commandments of the Law of God. To introduce it, let us draw from the passage just heard: the encounter between Jesus and a man — he is a young man — who, on his knees, asks Jesus how he can inherit eternal life (cf. Mk 10:17-21). And in that question is the challenge of every life, ours too: the desire for a full, infinite life. What must we do to achieve it? What path must we take? To truly live, to live a noble life. ... How many young people try to "live" and destroy themselves by following things that are fleeting? I would like to say, especially to young people: our worst enemy is not practical problems, no matter how serious and dramatic: life's greatest danger is a poor spirit of adaptation which is neither meekness nor humility, but mediocrity, cowardice.

+ Pope Francis,
June 13, 2018

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Notre Dame Academy student promotes dyslexia awareness

BY KENDRA LAMER | THE COMPASS

GREEN BAY — A diagnosis in third grade was the catalyst for Caragan Olles to improve what has been called the "black hole" of awareness for dyslexia in Wisconsin. She is now receiving national recognition for her work.

Olles, co-founder and president of Bright Young Dyslexics (BYD), received a bronze

medallion on May 24 after being selected as a Distinguished Finalist for Wisconsin in the 2018 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, by Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, recognizes youth who have volunteered in their community. Each year, one middle and one high school student from each state is

awarded and a handful of distinguished finalists are selected, according to a press release from Prudential Financial.

Olles, a 16-year-old student at Notre Dame Academy from De Pere, began BYD with her brother, Carter, in March 2013 to help all persons with dyslexia, grades K-12, in Wisconsin.

Our full story appears in the June 15 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

About St. Thomas

PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 St. Thomas the Apostle's feast is July 3. (Eastern Orthodox and Byzantine Catholic churches celebrate his feast Oct. 6.)
- 2 Thomas' name comes from the Hebrew ta'am, meaning "paired, twin." John's Gospel calls him "Didymus."
- 3 Called "doubting Thomas," he was not present at the risen Christ's first appearance to the Apostles, according to John's Gospel.
- 4 Legend says Thomas was not with the Apostles at Mary's Assumption, and doubted it had occurred. It is said the Blessed Mother later appeared and gave Thomas her sash, called "the Cincture of the Holy Theotokos" in the East.
- 5 Thomas is said to have preached in India and is considered the founder of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, which is in union with Rome.

Refugees and missionary disciples

As the Diocese of Green Bay celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, I find myself reflecting on its history. Knowing its stories of the past helps us to understand who we are, as a diocese today. A key part of our identity, as the church in northeast



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

Wisconsin, has been our commitment to serve those in need. This service is beautifully illustrated in a story I heard recently that I want to share with you.

In the early 1960s, communist revolutionaries took control of Cuba, and many Cuban parents were concerned for the welfare of their children. This sparked the beginning of "Operación Pedro Pan," a time when Cuban families sent more than

14,000 children to the United States to escape communist indoctrination. The Diocese of Green Bay played a role in this dramatic story, welcoming 37 Cuban children to the St. Joseph Home for Children (currently the Chancery building on our diocesan campus).

In 2002, these children (now adults) presented a plaque to the diocese and community of Green Bay in gratitude for the support offered to them over the years. The plaque, which hangs in BonaHall, reads, "The community welcomed us with open arms and hearts, took us into their homes, made us feel loved, and

a part of their family. Thirty-seven homesick children found a second home. Words can never express how deeply you touched our hearts."

I share this story, not to pat ourselves on the back, but rather to remind us of the situation in our world today. Many people today face the difficult decision to leave their home in search of a better life. This unfortunate reality provides us once again with a beautiful opportunity to help our neighbors in need, just as the church did back then.

Through the years, I am proud to say, the church has responded to this call. We have played a critical role in welcoming those, who, like the Cuban children, flee their country due to violence and persecution. In 1975, the Diocese of Green Bay officially opened a refugee office which still operates today through our Department of Catholic Charities, working closely with the federal government to assist refugees in resettlement of their lives.

Recently, however, our ability to provide this assistance has been restricted. Due to changes in federal policy, no refugees have been resettled in the Diocese of Green Bay so far this year. The United States, which has historically been a leader in welcoming refugees, is on pace to resettle fewer refugees this year than in any year since 1980. This is happening at a time when there are more than 20 million refugees worldwide.

The full column appears in the June 15 issue.

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Parish SNAPSHOT



The first Communion class from St. Michael Parish in Keshena are pictured following a May Crowning celebration at the church May 13.

SUBMITTED PHOTO | FOR THE COMPASS

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