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Parish, diocese team up for Puerto Rico benefit

BY SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

ALLOUEZ — What began as an effort by two members of St. Willebrord Parish to help family and friends affected by Hurricane Maria has mushroomed into a major relief project organized by parish and diocesan leaders.

The project, "Breaking Bread with Puerto Rico: Home for Christmas," included a fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 17, at St. Willebrord Church. It continues with a trip to Puerto Rico in December to serve Christmas meals to parish families.

Like the hurricane that hit the island of Puerto Rico on Sept. 20, the "Breaking Bread with Puerto Rico" fundraiser quickly picked up momentum after Maria Garcia and Griselle Montalvo, Puerto Rican natives and members of St. Willebrord Parish, began looking for ways to assist families and friends on the Caribbean island.

"In the beginning, when everyone was trying to contribute or do something for Puerto Rico, we really had a lot of closed doors



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Griselle Montalvo, left, and Maria Garcia, members of St. Willebrord Parish in Green Bay and Puerto Rican natives, helped organize a fundraising event for Puerto Rico.

because we couldn't ship anything," said Garcia. "A lot of the items actually making it to Puerto Rico were not being distributed to other areas than the north, so we were concerned about our families in the southern part."

Montalvo is from Ponce and Garcia is from Juana Diaz, both neighboring cities in the south.

The logistics of reaching the

southern communities posed an immediate challenge, so Garcia and Montalvo chose another idea. "We were trying to figure out — if we did gather some money from the parish — what we would do, so we thought about Christmas," said Garcia.

Our full story appears in the Nov. 17 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In this new series of catecheses on the Eucharist, we begin by reflecting on the fact that the Mass is first and foremost a prayer, indeed the prayer par excellence. For at every Mass we encounter God in his word and in the body and blood of Christ. Made in God's image and likeness, we were made to know him, to love and to serve him. In prayer, we experience God's closeness and love; we speak to him, but we also learn to listen to his voice speaking in our hearts. Jesus himself teaches us, as he did his disciples, how to pray. From him we learn to call God our Father, to trust in his love, and to be constantly surprised by the signs of that love. When Jesus speaks of our need to be "reborn" (cf. Jn 3:15), he is in fact inviting us to accept his gift of new life in the Spirit.

+ Pope Francis,
Nov. 15, 2017

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Customized rosary commemorates mother church of Green Bay Diocese

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

GREEN BAY — Many people cherish special rosaries, such as family heirlooms or rosaries from a specific place or shrine.

Now, people in the Diocese of Green Bay can have a rosary that commemorates the mother church of the diocese: St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

The customized rosary — believed to be the

first commemorative rosary designed in the diocese — was made by the Italian firm, Ghirelli Rosaries. The rosary contains elements unique to the 1881 cathedral, such as the church's crucifixion mural and choir loft rose window.

The rosary's design was approved by Cathedral Book and Gifts' seven-member governing board. Fr. Joseph Dorner, cathedral rector, and Ann Kieltyka, the store's manager, serve on the board and worked directly with Ghirelli.

Kieltyka had met the Ghirelli's sales representative at the Catholic Marketing Network's religious goods trade show held in Schaumburg, Ill., in 2016. Since the cathedral was slated for major renovations this year and the diocesan 150th jubilee takes place in 2018, "it just seemed that the pieces came together," Kieltyka said.

Our full story appears in the Nov. 3 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Advent

PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* — which referred to “an arrival.” For ancient Romans, an *adventus* welcomed the emperor or the statue of a deity.
- 2 Advent has four Sundays. This year, the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Dec. 24, making this year’s the shortest Advent season possible.
- 3 Advent can last up to 28 days, or be short as 22 days.
- 4 Advent begins on the Sunday after the feast of St. Andrew (Nov. 30). Andrew is called the *Protocletus* (“first called of the Apostles”) in Eastern Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches.
- 5 In the early Middle Ages, Advent lasted more than 40 days. It was called St. Martin’s Fast, since it began on Nov. 11, the feast of Martin of Tours.

Opioid addiction

You have heard me speak out in the past against what appears to be a culture of death in our society. This culture is sinister, often lurking beneath the surface, hiding in the darkness, so that many do not see



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

it coming. To overcome this culture, then, we must shed light on these dark places.

Today, I want to shed the light of Christ onto the opioid epidemic that has taken hold in our society, bringing darkness and death that we must all recognize and stand together in solidarity to overcome.

In Wisconsin, we are not immune to this epidemic.

According to civil authorities in our state, the number of deaths in Wisconsin due to drug overdose now exceeds the number of those that die from automobile accidents, suicide, or firearms.

Authorities and experts in the study of this epidemic tell us that this addiction is not a result of individual weaknesses or desires of the flesh. Their studies show that the majority of those addicted to heroin have also abused and have an addiction to prescribed opioid-based painkillers. This addiction crosses all age ranges, genders, ethnic categories, faiths and socioeconomic classes. We cannot judge those who find themselves addicted, and if you, yourself struggle with addictions, please do not judge yourself.

It is so very important that we as Catholics pray and work together to address this epidemic, as addiction strips not only the dignity of life from our brothers and sisters, but it is robbing them of life itself.

As missionary disciples, it is so important that we stand alongside the families of those who are dealing with the effects of a loved one’s addiction, as they, too, are in deep pain.

The impact of addiction robs the individual and family of so much. We must assure our families that they do not walk alone and that God’s love is always present. We must support and accompany them as best we can through this darkness.

When we encounter difficult situations, Christ reminds us to “be not afraid.” While addiction can be scary, we are called to overcome that fear and shed Christ’s light into the darkness. We can do this by discussing this issue more openly as a church, by recognizing the reality of this need, and helping our brothers and sisters through it.

If someone you know is struggling with addiction or you are concerned about your own addictions, do not fear sharing your concerns with your pastor. If this is something you find difficult to do, I ask that you call our Catholic Charities Department of the Diocese of Green Bay. We must remember there is no shame in seeking help, but rather as crossing the threshold to God’s healing light.

The entire column appears in our Oct. 27 issue.

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Parish SNAPSHOT



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A Marian prayer wall was created at St. Anthony School in Oconto Falls this fall. St. Anthony parishioner Ron Barlament created the wall as a memorial to his wife, Marjorie, who passed away last year. Barlament and Chester Konitzer designed and performed the work of building a niche for the statue of Mary with Jesus. Parishioners Sue Malingowski and Karen Knoerzer painted the scrolls that feature the Angelus and Regina Caeli prayers. Students recite the Angelus every day following lunch.