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The Compass IN THE Bulletin

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Bishop Ricken visits prison inmates Visit to Redgranite facility part of Year of Mercy

BY SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

REDGRANITE — Behind a makeshift altar standing in the shadows of a basketball hoop, Bishop David Ricken celebrated Mass Nov. 2 in a gymnasium that could have been mistaken for any Catholic school gym in the Diocese of Green Bay.

But the uniformed security officers stationed at the gym's entrance, as well as the two security checkpoints situated in areas outside of the athletic facility, made it clear that this was not an ordinary gymnasium.

Nor was it an ordinary Mass.

As part of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Bishop Ricken celebrated Mass for inmates at Redgranite Correctional Institution, a medium security adult male correctional institution located in Redgranite, a village in Waushara County about 80 miles southwest of Green Bay. The prison is operated by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections with a staff of 293 and an inmate population of approximately 1,000, according to the facility's 2016 annual report.

About 75 inmates, both Catholic and non-Catholic, attended



SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

Bishop David Ricken makes a point as he addresses inmates at Redgranite Correctional Institution Nov. 2.

the liturgy and received a special blessing from Bishop Ricken on behalf of Pope Francis at the end of Mass.

In addition to Bishop Ricken, several diocesan staff members, clergy from the Green Bay and Madison dioceses and prison ministry volunteers from local parishes attended the Mass. Mary Ambrust, Pastoral Care and Min-

istry coordinator for the Green Bay Diocese, organized the visit. She said it was the last of three Year of Mercy activities she has helped organize. The other two included care ministry coordinators, parish nurses and volunteers serving adults with disabilities.

Our full story appears in the Nov. 4 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis for this Holy Year of Mercy, we now consider the spiritual work of mercy which is bearing wrongs patiently. In showing patience to those who wrong us and, by extension, to those we find irritating, we imitate God's own patience with us sinners. Exercising patience with others also challenges us to reflect on our own conduct and failings. Patience is also required in two related spiritual works of mercy: admonishing sinners and instructing the ignorant. We think of the patience shown by the many parents, catechists and teachers who quietly help young people to grow in faith and knowledge of the important things in life. Helping others to look past the ephemeral, to discover the Lord's will in their lives and thus to find lasting joy, is a great act of charity.

+ Pope Francis,
Nov. 16, 2016

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Hands and Hearts with Haiti hosts Haitian guest during Green Bay visit

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

ALLOUEZ — When Golds Mithe Joseph was growing up in Mirebalais, Haiti, with her two brothers, her sister and her mother, she loved school, even when she had to go to middle school and high school in another town about 20 miles away from home.

Golds also loved doing community service, even cleaning streets. That service and her

grades gained her a United States Agency for International Development scholarship. The scholarship brought her to Wisconsin in 2013, to earn a business administration degree at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau.

"I was happy but scared," Golds said about coming to the Badger State.

However, she found other scholarship students at the school, from Haiti, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador.

"American culture is a different culture — and the weather," she said. "I had to learn. I came here in August and I was freezing all the time."

Golds soon adapted and even ended up touring the ice caves on Lake Superior. She also learned about American football and now says the Green Bay Packers are her favorite team.

Our full story appears in the Nov. 18 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Advent wreath

PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 The Advent wreath has five candles — one for each of the four Sundays of Advent.
- 2 Three of the candles are purple — to symbolize the preparation season of Advent — and one is pink, to symbolize rejoicing. The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday or Joy Sunday.
- 3 Using an Advent wreath in church dates to the 16th century when Lutherans adapted an earlier secular farm custom of decorating wagon wheels in winter to symbolize the sun.
- 4 Candles, bringing light into darkness, have long been symbolic of Christ. Some Advent wreaths have a white Christ candle in the center that is lit at Christmas.
- 5 The evergreens in the wreath symbolize God's eternal love.

Jubilee Year of Mercy for prisoners

This past Sunday, the Holy Father reached out to another group needing to hear of the love and mercy of Jesus. In a beautiful Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, with 1,000 prisoners present, Pope Francis extended the medicine of mercy and hope to those who are incarcerated.

He said in his homily on Sunday, "Hope is a gift of God. We must ask for it. It is placed deep within each human heart in order to shed light on this life, so often troubled and clouded by so many situations that bring sadness and pain. We need to nourish the roots of our hope so that they can bear fruit; primarily the certainty of God's closeness, despite whatever evil we have done."



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

It is this hope that opens the heart to the healing balm of God's mercy. As I often mention to inmates, "Your prison cell can become a monastic cell, where isolation, fear, hatred, regret, remorse, even confusion and despair can be turned into an oratory, filled with prayer and the love and presence of Jesus."

In the last several years, I have taken the opportunity to visit the prisons in Green Bay and in Oshkosh to celebrate Mass with the

inmates. Last week, I was able to celebrate the Mass for the first time with the inmates of Redgranite Correctional Institution. What a beautiful experience it has been this past year to explain the great medicine that is the merciful love of Jesus! The receptivity among the inmates of all three facilities has been genuine and appreciated.

Throughout this Year of Mercy, I have had the unique privilege to extend the special blessing of Pope Francis and the indulgence of the Jubilee Year of Mercy to those who would be otherwise unable to pass through one of our holy doors in the diocese. In a few minutes of personal exchange with Pope Francis last February, he encouraged me to press forward in this outreach.

I want to thank the priests, deacons, diocesan and parish personnel who consistently provide religious services and holy Masses to those who cannot leave their confinement; it is important that we go to them. Jesus said, "When I was in prison, you came to visit me."

May this Jubilee Year of Mercy, now in its last official days, instill an abundant flow of oceans of God's mercy to all of those whose hearts are broken, confined, hardened and lost. May the merciful love of the Father and Jesus continue to flow abundantly by the power of the Holy Spirit!

(This column appeared in the Nov. 4 issue.)

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JEFF KUROWSKI | THE COMPASS

German Strollers — Helmuth Bresser and Darlene Bresser — entertain diners at Oktoberfest, Oct. 29, in the Bishop Wycislo Center at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay. The event, the 10th annual, featured a presentation by Annette Aubinger, a descendant of architect Erhard Brielmaier, who not only worked on St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, but also designed the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee. Proceeds from Oktoberfest benefit the Green Bay Diocesan Museum, located at the cathedral.



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