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The Compass

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In the footsteps of Padre Serra

Young men discern vocations on pilgrimage to California's missions

DENIS GRASSKA | FOR THE COMPASS

SAN DIEGO — A group of pre-seminarians recently put the "journey" in "vocational journey."

Traveling from their homes in the Diocese of Green Bay and led by their diocese's vocation director, Fr. Daniel Schuster, nine young men ages 15 to 18 embarked on a pilgrimage that took them to 17 of California's 21 historic missions.

Fr. Schuster, who was assisted as chaperone by the grandfather of one of the participants, said the pilgrimage was intended to help young men who had already expressed an openness to the priestly vocation to take "that extra step . . . literally" on the path of discernment.

The April 2-7 pilgrimage began in San Diego, home to the oldest of the missions, and would ultimately take them as far north as Mission San Francisco de Asis in the Bay Area.

"It seemed like a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Nathan Budde, 18, explaining his decision to attend. "I needed some adventure in my life and I enjoy praying."

Still uncertain of where God



SUBMITTED PHOTO | FOR THE COMPASS

Fr. Daniel Schuster, second from left, vocation director for the Diocese of Green Bay, led a pilgrimage to 18 California missions April 2-7. The group is pictured at Mission San Francisco de Asis.

might be calling him, 18-year-old Jacob Zepp said that he is "always searching for (God's) will." It was that search that inspired him to take part in the discernment pilgrimage.

Through his participation, he said, "I hope to better be able to find the will of God, I hope to grow in friendship with Father (Schuster) and my fellow pilgrims, (and) also to learn about

the priestly life."

The idea of retracing the footsteps of St. Junipero Serra, the recently canonized Franciscan friar who personally founded the first nine of the California missions, struck Fr. Schuster as especially appropriate for high school students discerning God's call.

Our full story appears in the April 20 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The significance of baptism stands out clearly in its celebration; thus let us turn our attention to it. By considering the gestures and words of the liturgy we can understand the grace and the promise of this sacrament, which is always to be rediscovered. We recall it in the sprinkling with holy water that can be done at the beginning of Mass on Sunday, as well as in the renewal of the baptismal promises during the Easter Vigil. In fact, as happens in the celebration of baptism, a spiritual dynamic arises which passes through the entire life of the baptized; it is the beginning of a process that allows one to live united to Christ in the church. Therefore, returning to the well-spring of Christian life leads us to better understand the gift received on the day of our baptism and to renew our commitment to conform to it in the condition in which we find ourselves today.

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Students build Spanish, prayer skills reciting the rosary

BY SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

HOWARD — The voices of children praying in unison fill the classroom inside St. John the Baptist School. But the words these fifth-graders are reciting — "Dios te Salve Maria, llena eres de gracia, El Senor es contigo" — may be incomprehensible to a passer-by, unless that person understands Spanish.

The fifth graders in Riley Garbe's Spanish class are incorporating prayer into their curriculum and the combination has resulted in reciting the rosary in Spanish. It's a project that students have greeted with enthusiasm.

When Garbe was hired as a Spanish teacher at two Green Bay Area Catholic Education (GRACE) schools last January, he said he wanted to incorporate faith into his classes.

Garbe, who received his bachelor's degree in English education at UW-Green Bay last spring and spent the summer participating in an international student teaching program in Mexico, splits his time between Holy Family School in Green Bay and St. John the Baptist School in Howard.

Our full story appears in the April 13 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

About May altars

PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 The tradition of May altars honoring the Blessed Mother date back to 13th century Spain.
- 2 May crownings, which adorn statues of Mary with flowers, started with the German Dominican mystic, Henry Suso, in the 14th century.
- 3 There are two major Marian feasts in May. One is new: Mary, Mother of the Church, to be celebrated this year on May 21, the Monday after Pentecost. The other is the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on May 31.
- 4 Two flowers commonly linked with Mary are the rose and the lily.
- 5 A spring flower associated with Mary is the lily of the valley. It is also called Mary's Tears because legend says it bloomed where Mary's tears fell at the foot of the cross.

'If you see something, say something'

How many times have you heard people say, "You shouldn't wear your religion on your sleeve" or "Faith should be kept private?" Many times, I am sure. But faith, while personal, it is not meant to be kept private. It is not meant to be kept locked away for us as a treasure that we sit upon and guard. It is a gift to be shared with others.



A SPACE FOR GRACE

Julianne Stanz

Over the years, you have probably noticed many billboards and notices urging people to be vigilant to prevent crime with the slogan, "If you see something, say something." The underlying message is that we should not be silent if we see something that might warrant further attention. The timing of our words and actions make all the difference. During this Easter season, Mary Magdalene, in particular, reminds us of the importance of speaking out and not being a silent observer when it comes to our faith.

Courageously, after the crucifixion, Mary Magdalene went to the place where Jesus was entombed. And yet, when Jesus appeared before her, Mary Magdalene did not recognize him. In fact, she asked Jesus if he was the gardener! The Gospel of John paints the following scene for us: "Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means teacher)" (Jn 20:15-16).

Jesus tells Mary Magdalene to go to the disciples and tell them what she has seen. And she does. She rushes back to share the good news. In a sense, this is the choice that we must make every day for our faith. We can stay silent about the impact that Jesus and the Catholic Church has made upon our lives or we can give witness to the difference that faith has made in our lives through our words and deeds. God relies on the goodness of those whom he loves to share him with others. He does not force himself into our lives. God has given us free will. The love of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is visible in the world when we give and receive love and go and share the good news with others.

There are many today who have lost a living sense of faith. There are some who will doubt us. There are others who will reject us. They are our family, our friends and people we work with. But there are many who will come to believe because we believe, who come to see the face of Jesus because we show them the face of Jesus — in our words and actions.

During this Easter season especially, we are urged in the Scriptures to be people who reveal the joy of the risen Lord and share him with others. As St. John Paul II said, "We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song."

Mary Magdalene, in her tenacity and courageous witness, reminds us that at the heart of our faith is a relationship with a living person, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who wants us to share him with the world. Each Lent and Easter season we die unto ourselves to rise again with Christ. By our conviction of heart and mind, we, too, are a witness to the resurrection.

Read the entire column in our April 20 issue.

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Third graders at St. Gabriel School SMCS in Neenah enjoyed an integrated religion, science, and reading lesson about the Easter season. They learned that eggs are symbols of new life and they learned about the parts of an egg.

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