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The Compass IN THE Bulletin

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Bellevue parishioners create their own holy doors of mercy

BY SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

BELLEVUE — While holy doors were being opened last Sunday at cathedrals and shrines around the world, Prince of Peace Parish was already teaching families to practice opening doors of mercy.

As a way to illustrate the parish's Advent theme of mercy, Prince of Peace invited six families to take home real wooden doors donated by a parishioner and turn them into doors of mercy. They used paint, paper, metal, glass, rocks, mirrors and other materials to decorate the doors.

Using mercy themes featured in an Advent daily reflection booklet, "A Season of Mercy," published by Twenty-Third Publications, the families created doors of mercy that have attracted the attention of everyone who enters the church gathering space.

The idea to create and illustrate doors of mercy came from the pastor, Fr. Dan Viertel, who, before entering the priesthood, owned five gift stores in Berlin, Wis. Fr. Viertel and the parish's



SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

A table in the gathering space at Prince of Peace Church offers materials on the topic of mercy, which is the theme of the Holy Year proclaimed by Pope Francis. It includes a description of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

arts and environment committee chair, Anne Counard, attended a diocesan meeting about the Holy Year of Mercy that got the parish project rolling.

"We were talking about decorating one of our big doors and the diocese said, 'Well, it's really for the cathedrals more than it is for the parishes,'" said Fr. Viertel.

Since the parish's Advent theme of mercy — which will continue during Lent — was already set, the parish decided to tie it in with something parishioners could relate to, added the pastor, and doors were "just a natural."

Our full story appears in the Dec. 18 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Turning our gaze to God, merciful Father, and to our brothers and sisters in need of mercy, means focusing our attention on the essential contents of the Gospel: Jesus, Mercy made flesh, who renders the great mystery of the Trinitarian Love of God visible to our eyes. Celebrating a Jubilee of Mercy is equivalent to placing once again the specific nature of the Christian faith, namely Jesus Christ, the merciful God, at the centre of our personal life and that of our communities.

It is a Holy Year, therefore, so as to live mercy. Yes, dear brothers and sisters, this Holy Year is offered to us so that we may experience in our lives the sweet and gratifying touch of God's forgiveness, his presence beside us and his closeness especially in the moments of greatest need.

+ Pope Francis,
Dec. 9, 2015

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Bishop Ricken begins Year of Mercy with opening of Holy Door

BY SAM LUCERO | FOR THE COMPASS

GREEN BAY — After opening the Holy Door of Mercy at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Dec. 13, Bishop David Ricken said it is now time "to walk across the threshold from selfishness and to claim our freedom in Christ."

This message came during his homily on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, which marks the joyful anticipation

of Christmas and is often symbolized by rose-colored vestments worn by clergy at Mass.

Joyful expectation filled the Bishop Wycislo Center, where a large crowd gathered prior to Mass, for the Rite of Opening of the Door of Mercy. The rite inaugurated the Year of Mercy in the Diocese of Green Bay, an extraordinary holy year proclaimed by Pope Francis from Dec. 8 through Nov. 20, 2016. The pope asked that Holy Doors be opened at cathedrals and shrines of special signifi-

cance around the world as a sign of God's mercy.

Two other Holy Doors designated by Bishop Ricken were blessed and opened in the diocese Dec. 13. The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion and the National Shrine of St. Joseph, located at Old St. Joseph's Church on the campus of St. Norbert College, held rites of opening for their Holy Doors.

Our full story appears in the Dec. 18 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

About Epiphany

PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 Epiphany (or Twelfth Night) is traditionally celebrated on Jan. 6: the 12th day after Jesus' birth. This year, it is marked on Sunday, Jan. 3, in the Western church.
- 2 The word "Epiphany" is Greek and means "to show forth" or "to come into light." In church teaching, Epiphany encompasses three events that reveal Christ.
- 3 The first event of Epiphany is the story of the three Magi who appear in Matthew's Gospel (2:1-12).
- 4 Eastern-rite churches focus their Epiphany celebration (Jan. 19 on the Gregorian calendar) on the event of the Baptism of the Lord, marked this year on Sunday, Jan. 13, in the Western church.
- 5 The third Epiphany event is the wedding at Cana.

RESOURCES FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD: PART II



Bishop David Ricken

I would also like to recommend that you read my reflection entitled, "Teach My People to Pray," along with a fine resource for you. It is a five-part study guide, also called "Teach My People to Pray," which you can use in your home with family, friends or even alone to deepen your prayer life. These resources can be downloaded from the

diocesan website at www.gbdioc.org/teachmypeopletopray.

These will be my gifts as bishop to you.



Your gift to me and to the church could be the increased prayers of your household and attendance at Sunday Mass. As you grow in faith together our parishes and our diocese become even stronger and more faithful. Together we can transform our world for Christ!

Will you join with me this year to increase our prayers and to strengthen the lives of families in our diocese and throughout the world?



Parish SNAPSHOT

Families at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Newton celebrated a stewardship weekend in November by having their picture taken with signs what they are grateful for. With the theme "Every Knee Shall Bend," the photo area included a backdrop banner with the words, "Be Joyful, Give Thanks." A kneeler and poster board were also placed where people could write what they are thankful for.

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New Subscribers Only

Teen's Eagle Scout project nets 300 pounds of soccer gear

BY JEFF KUROWSKI | THE COMPASS

NEENAH — Scouting and soccer are among Joe Kerwin's passions, so the St. Mary Catholic High School junior welcomed the opportunity to combine the two for the benefit of young people in Africa.

For his Eagle Scout project, Kerwin, a member of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Neenah, collected more than 300 pounds of soccer equipment for Matoso Academy, a school just outside Kisumu, Kenya.

"We shipped shoes, balls and sent them pumps," said Kerwin, who plays soccer for both the Zephyrs and a club team. "To compact the space, we deflated the balls, so we could fit more in the box. We sent jerseys as well."

Kerwin, a member of Troop 81, found the project, "Kicking in for Kenya" online. He promoted the collection through email and set up a tent for donations at a club tournament.

Our full story appears in the Dec. 11 issue.

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