



Appleton youth collects hundreds of Valentine cards for seniors

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

APPLETON — Most of us remember taking Valentine cards to our classrooms in school.

However, Logan Caron, age 8, has taken Valentines to a new level. He plans to deliver Valentines to all the nursing homes in Appleton.

"There's 566 cards that we have already," he told The Compass on Feb. 7.

Logan had 200 more by Feb. 11, and hopes to get 900 by Valentine's Day.

His mother, Bev Caron, said that the project started out like any other Valentine's project for school. Logan attends St. Francis Xavier Elementary School — McDonald Street campus.

"We were driving home one night and just talking about what kind of Valentines we were going to hand out in the classroom," said Bev. "And Logan started talking about putting a mailbox together where people would be able to bring cards and those cards would be given to those people who normally wouldn't get cards. As we talked



BRAD BIRKHOLZ | FOR THE COMPASS

Logan Caron and his second grade classmates at St. Francis Xavier Elementary School — McDonald Street campus — in Appleton display Valentine cards they made on Feb. 11. More than 700 cards will be distributed to local nursing homes by Caron and his family on Feb. 14.

through it a little bit more, we decided that those people would be people in nursing homes — that they might not get them. It's kind of taken off from there."

Logan hasn't been to very many nursing homes before — though he has been at Peabody Manor in Appleton because his mother works there. Bev works with Thedacare Home Hospice. Logan

has also been to Cherry Meadows Hospice at Peabody Manor, which is on his list, because his grandmother, Paula Powell, was there before she died.

The first plan was to deliver cards to Peabody Manor, which has 76 residents.

Our full story appears in the Feb. 15 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on the "Our Father," we now consider the first step of Christian prayer, which is to enter into the mystery of God's paternity. To understand how God is Father we naturally think of our own parents; yet this image needs to be purified, for none of our parents is perfect, and neither are we! When we speak of God as "Father," then, we must go beyond a merely earthly image, for God's love is that of our Father who is in heaven. Yet we only experience this total divine love — in this life — in an imperfect way, for our human love is wounded. Indeed the fragility of human love is captured well by the words of the Prophet Hosea: "Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away" (Hos 6:4). God's love, on the other hand, is a perfect kind of love; he loves us in a way that none on earth ever can.

+ Pope Francis,
Feb. 20, 2019

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UW-Oshkosh campus ministry focuses on forming missionary disciples

BY JAYE ALDERSON | FOR THE COMPASS

OSHKOSH — The Gospel of Matthew relates the Great Commission from Jesus: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them

to obey everything I have commanded you" (28:19-20).

The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) strives to live out this mission on college and university campuses. It does so by helping students to lead lives of purpose.

At the University of Wisconsin-

Oshkosh Newman Center, four full-time FOCUS missionaries are inspiring students to become missionary disciples who will, in turn, encourage more missionary disciples. Their work is supported in part by the Bishop's Appeal.

"We're striving to be saints," said Kyle Hanson of Green Bay,

one of the FOCUS missionaries. "Prayer is the foundation of what we do. Working through students' hearts, we seek to build up missionary disciples. We want to follow the Lord's example."

Our full story appears in the Feb. 22 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

St. Joseph

PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 March 19 is the primary church feast of St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus and the husband of the Blessed Virgin. The Eastern-rite churches honor him on the Sunday after Christmas.
- 2 March 19 is traditionally the date when Joseph died. Pope Gregory XV extended his feast celebration to the universal church in 1621.
- 3 The Latin-rite church dedicates the whole month of March, as well as the first Wednesday of each month, to Joseph.
- 4 In 1870, Joseph was declared patron of the universal church. He is also patron of a happy death, since it is believed he died in the presence of Mary and Jesus.
- 5 While Joseph is often portrayed holding the Child Jesus, he is also shown with carpenter tools, turtledoves or a flowering staff.

Introducing Alpha in our parishes

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Last month, as part of my series on discipleship, I wrote about how we have introduced Alpha in our diocese as a spark that we hope will help people grow in their relationship with Christ. In this column, I want to share how Alpha is beginning to transform our parishes into communities of discipleship.



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

To ensure that Alpha produces the greatest effect in our diocese, we decided to roll it out in phases. The first wave involved our priests, pastoral leaders and diocesan staff followed by a second wave that involved

Catholic school principals, deacons and key parish leaders. With this, we directed parish leadership teams to do faith and life together with Alpha during the spring and summer of 2018. Today, Alpha is being offered to parishioners, catechists and Catholic school teachers.

Helping people to discover Jesus in their everyday lives is the first step of the discipleship process. A key factor in this step is for people to develop trusting relationships with other disciples, and this is what Alpha is built to do. Accompanying people on their journey

and answering their questions about faith and life often inspires people to seek Jesus more. Alpha leaders are trained to be attentive to how the Holy Spirit is moving in the lives of the participants. Through this listening, they can help lead the participants to the promise that Jesus offers to every person: life in abundance. And who wouldn't want that!

The discipleship process is a marathon, not a sprint. As one priest said, "People overestimate what they can do in one year but underestimate what they can do in three years." Even Jesus took three years to form his disciples in relationships and spiritual disciplines. This shouldn't surprise us because discipleship moves at the speed of relationships. Quite often, the speed of relationships is determined by the time it takes for people to develop trust. Yet, relationships don't always fit neatly into time tables. Here, there are no quick fixes or shortcuts. This is why patient discernment and accompaniment are necessary when helping people take their next step in their discipleship journey.

But the good news is that what often follows trust and a sense of belonging is a curiosity about new beliefs and even openness to new behaviors. As parishes have begun to implement Alpha, we are starting to see this fruit. As one parish leader said, "The Holy Spirit has truly transformed many hearts."

The entire column appears in our Feb. 8 issue.



Parish SNAPSHOT

Emma Follett, art teacher at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Shawano, helped students create a mosaic of Jesus carrying his cross. Materials for the project were made from Follett's classroom scrap paper drawer. Pictured are Dacy Webster, left, Lilly Gee and Cora Pieper.

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