



Packers fan with months to live has wish granted

BY SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

ALLOUEZ — It was a depressing day for David Marosek last April. He had been battling stage 4 rectal cancer since July 2016 and the treatment seemed to be working. "As of August of last year I thought I was in the clear," he said.

But then something changed. It was during a visit to his oncologist five months ago that Marosek learned the cancer had returned, spreading into his lungs and spine.

"I was told that it was terminal and they gave me like six months to a year" to live, he told The Compass in a telephone interview from his Oshkosh apartment. Marosek traveled to Milwaukee for a second opinion, which concluded the same findings. Rather than begin new treatments he chose to enter hospice.

"I've been in hospice now for a few months," he said. With the assistance of Aurora at Home Hospice, Marosek receives medical care and home visits from hospice staff, including Jayne Syrjamaki, Aurora at Home volunteer coordinator.



SAM LUCERO | THE COMPASS

David Marosek of Oshkosh is pictured with Jayne Syrjamaki, left, and Shelly Sedo outside of Lambeau Field in Green Bay Sept. 9. Marosek, who has terminal cancer, was granted a wish to attend a Packers game.

When hospice staff met Marosek in July, they posed a question to him: "If you had one wish, what would it be?" It's part of the hospice program's "Drop in the Bucket" initiative to grant small wishes to patients. The wish was then turned over to Syrjamaki. "He said he had always wanted to go to a Packer game," she said.

"I put out a message to a lot of businesses in the Oshkosh area

that I was in need of tickets for a hospice patient to make his last wish come true," she said.

Syrjamaki waited for weeks, but got no replies. However, she was determined to fulfill Marosek's last wish because she could relate to his situation.

Syrjamaki decided to contact the Diocese of Green Bay.

Our full story appears in the Sept. 14 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
In our catechesis on the Ten Commandments, we have been reflecting on the third commandment: to keep holy the Lord's Day. In the version of the Decalogue found in the Book of Deuteronomy, the command to rest on the Sabbath is linked to the memory of Israel's liberation from the slavery of Egypt. Slaves, as we know, cannot rest. In our own day, so many of our brothers and sisters suffer various forms of enslavement, injustice and inner torment; they long for rest and freedom. Yet, as the example of the martyrs shows us, even in the darkest prisons, it is possible to experience profound interior freedom and repose. True freedom is more than choice. It is liberation from the bondage of selfishness, sin and lovelessness; from such slavery there can be no rest. As Christians, we read, and observe, the third commandment in the light of Christ's coming.

-Sept. 12, 2018

@Pontifex
Follow Bim On
twitter

Deacon's medal, lost for 37 years, found on Abbey grounds

BY JEFF KUROWSKI | THE COMPASS

ALLOUEZ — Deacon David Parker gazed at the small, four-way scapular medal in the palm of his hand. He had forgotten about it; understandable considering he had not seen it since the fall of 1981.

"It's very sentimental. It's very cool," he said. "It looks like it's been in the ground for 37 years.

I'm surprised there is this much left of it."

Deacon Parker lost the medal during a football game on the St. Norbert Abbey grounds only weeks after he entered the Norbertine Order at age 21. The chain survived the game, but the medal had been missing until Mike Counter recently discovered it.

Counter, director of media relations at St. Norbert College, has been metal detecting on

the St. Norbert Abbey grounds for a special project in cooperation with the Norbertines.

"I didn't find a lot of medals out there, maybe three or four," said Counter. "I've spent 50 to 60 hours so far. I'm waiting for the crops to be removed out of the field, so I can get down by where Minahan Stadium used to be located."

Our full story appears in the Sept. 14 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Guardian angels

PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1 On Oct. 2 we celebrate the Memorial of the Guardian Angels.
- 2 In 1608, Pope Paul V set a specific feast day honoring guardian angels. The feast became part of the universal church calendar under Pope Clement X (1670-76).
- 3 The church teaches that each of us has an angel, during our entire life, "as protector and shepherd" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 336).
- 4 Church teaching on guardian angels traces back to Matthew's Gospel (18:10), where Jesus says that the guardian angels of children always look upon the face of God.
- 5 In the 19th century, St. John of Vianney, a French priest, advised: "If you find it impossible to pray, hide behind your good angel and charge him to pray in your stead."

Disciples on the Way: An update

It is hard to believe that it has been four years since we began our journey on the mission map of discipleship formation! In 2014, we began with two years of formation in prayer and holiness — in learning more about prayer and meditation and increasing prayer in our homes and parishes. This foundation tilled the soil so that our efforts in discipleship could take root in our hearts, homes and communities.



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

In 2016, we began the formation process to "Discover Jesus" and "Follow Jesus" for the leadership of the diocese, including diocesan staff, pastors, deacons and school administrators. We also welcomed key volunteers from our parishes to attend a series of seminars throughout the diocese, including parish council members, boards of education and other key volunteer roles.

At this time, over 3,000 leaders have gone through training and formation experiences in the last two years through Discipleship Seminars I and II followed by a "Discover Jesus" process called "Alpha." In the coming years, Alpha will be presented to more and more people in your parish, as it is the first step (alpha) in beginning or deepening our relation-

ship with Jesus Christ. I will be sharing much more about these experiences in a series of columns that I will write over the next year. Through these columns, I hope to give you a high-level understanding of all that is going on in this wonderful diocese.

In 2018-20, on the leadership level, through "Worship Jesus," we will strive to understand the importance of the Mass and reclaiming Sunday as the center of our life as disciples. In these upcoming years we will, with your invaluable assistance and participation, implement simple ways to enhance our Sunday experience at Mass by making a few strategic and faithful improvements in sacred music, preaching, welcome and hospitality.

God willing, in 2020-2022 we will be learning more about how to "Share Jesus" and to witness to our faith by inviting others to follow the Lord in and through our parish communities. We will also learn how to impact our communities with the Good News through witness and especially service by intentionally contributing as a faith community to the life of the communities where we are located.

The diocesan staff has been working very hard to bring the new vision and mission statement, which you will see below, to life at the diocesan level and assist our parishes in bringing missionary discipleship forward to all those in our communities.

The entire column appears in our Sept. 7 issue.

Please mail \$23 payment to:

The Compass

P.O. Box 8474
Carol Stream, IL 60197-8474

For faster service, call:
920-272-8208 or

Toll-free 877-500-3580, Ext. 8208
Email: compasscirc@gbdioc.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____

Phone _____

Parish _____

New Subscribers Only

Subscribe: Save \$5 NOW!

Parish SNAPSHOT



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY GINA LARSON | FOR THE COMPASS

Children receive a "blessing of the backpacks" from Fr. Dennis Bergsbaken at St. Margaret Mary Church in Neenah on Sept. 3. The parish prayed over the children for a successful, safe and enlightening school year, and each child received a small backpack tag featuring St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of students and universities.