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Couple cast as extras in 'The Chosen'

BY MONICA SAWYN | FOR THE COMPASS

STURGEON BAY — It's not everyone who gets to visit the scene of one of Jesus' miracles — and never has to leave the country.

Last June, Sue and Shaun Melarvie became one of 5,000 extras on the set of "The Chosen," the Angel Studios' streaming series about Jesus' life.

The couple spent three days near Midlothian, Texas, in heat over 100 degrees, to help depict the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes.

Shaun has put together a PowerPoint presentation of the experience. The couple recently spoke before members of the St. Ann's Society at their parish, Corpus Christi in Sturgeon Bay.

It all began when the Melarvies started watching The Chosen on their phone before it became easier to find on other venues.

"I was hooked," Shaun said. "It's a crowd-funded enterprise, so I donated a small amount, about \$100." That got the couple on the mailing list and, about a year later, they were notified of the opportunity to become an extra for a donation of \$1,000.

"I sent them the \$1,000, but



SUBMITTED PHOTO | SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

Shaun and Sue Melarvie, of Sturgeon Bay in their homemade costumes, stand near the set of The Chosen streaming series. They were among 5,000 extras in film a scene about the multiplication of the loaves and fish. Filming was near Midlothian, Texas.

it was first-come, first served," Shaun said.

They were two of the lucky ones.

Three months before filming, they received directions for everything they needed to provide their own costumes. Some people scoured second-hand

stores, but since Sue is a seamstress and quilter, she made their costumes, choosing from among the four or five available patterns with no buttons, buckles or other modern embellishments.

Our full story appears in the April 7 issue.

FRANKLY, FRANCIS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We now turn to the example of the martyrs, ... who have given their lives in testimony to the Gospel. In an outstanding way, the martyrs bore witness to the love that we celebrate in every Mass: the love that led Christ to lay down his life for us and that we in turn are called to imitate (cf. 1 Jn 3:16).

While all Christians must be prepared to testify to their faith ... martyrdom represents, in the words of the Second Vatican Council, "the highest gift and supreme proof of love" (*Lumen Gentium*, 42).

Martyrs for the faith in our own time are even more numerous than in the early days of the church. ... May the example of the martyrs continue to inspire our efforts to bear witness to the Gospel as we await the coming of God's kingdom of universal reconciliation, justice and peace.

+ Pope Francis, April 19, 2023

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Marian Shrine of Our Lady changes name in Champion

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

CHAMPION — Life changed in October 1859 for a Belgian immigrant woman named Adele Brise living in northeast Wisconsin. She met "the Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners," a spiritual encounter that led to what is today the only approved

Marian apparition site in the United States.

Meeting the Blessed Mother brought huge changes to Adele's life and, ultimately, to the faith life of Catholics in northeast Wisconsin.

Another big change was announced on April 20 this year: The name of the apparition site, located at 4047 Chapel Drive in New Franken, is now "The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion."

The site was most recently called "The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help." The official name change comes after Vatican approval was received of an annual feast day Mass to be celebrated at the Shrine each Oct. 9, beginning in 2023.

Our full story appears in the April 21 issue.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Pentecost

BY PATRICIA KASTEN | THE COMPASS

- 1** Pentecost falls on May 28 this year, celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit — bringing gifts. The gifts of the Spirit unite us with God and with each other. Church history designates seven gifts of the Spirit:
- 2** Wisdom brings the ability to recognize God and God's works. Related to that is Knowledge, which gives clear insight in discerning truth from error.
- 3** Understanding applies knowing about church teachings. It is related to Counsel which imparts the ability to know what to do in any situation.
- 4** Fortitude is the strength to persevere in the crosses on the way.
- 5** Piety increases the desire to give God glory and to do good." Fear of the Lord is similar, but also adds "reverence" for God.

Allowing God to transform your life through his word

Have you ever been at Mass and, as you listen to the readings, you feel as if God is speaking directly to you? You feel as if he knows your situation and needs and is speaking directly into your life.



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop David Ricken

The reason you and I feel that is because he is speaking directly to us! The God of the Universe, who created all things, has given us his word — sacred Scripture — to reveal himself and speak directly to us. It is as if God had looked over your whole life and took the time to write to you a personal love letter.

Since God's Word is so personal and precious, we ought to take time to read it. Ideally, we should do that each day to receive his comfort, care and guidance for our busy lives. As Pope Francis said in *Evangelii Gaudium* (152), "There

is one particular way of listening to what the Lord wishes to tell us in his word and of letting ourselves be transformed by the Spirit. It is what we call *lectio divina*."

Yes, God's word, prayerfully read and pondered over, can transform us through the power of the Holy Spirit. I don't know about you, but I am always seeking for my life to be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

How do we experience this transformation in *lectio divina* (Latin for "divine reading")? We do this by pausing from our busy lifestyles to ponder God's Word. We let go of our agenda and open ourselves to what God wants to say to us.

Lectio divina is a simple four-step process that old and young alike can do. I always begin by asking the Holy Spirit to guide my reading of Scripture and allow him to reveal what he wishes.

Our full column appears in the April 21 issue. Follow Bishop Ricken on Twitter, [@BpDavidRicken](https://twitter.com/BpDavidRicken).

Schools SNAPSHOT



SUBMITTED PHOTO | SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

The choir at St. Anthony School, Oconto Falls, sang at the diocesan Rural Life Day celebration held at St. Anthony Parish on March 23. The choir leader is fourth grade teacher, Amanda Manning. The choir included 4th and 5th grade students at St. Anthony School.

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