



May 2018

## 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



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**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.