



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fr. Luke Ferris to lead pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal in May 2019

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Aug. 7, 2018) – The Compass, diocesan newspaper for the Diocese of Green Bay, will sponsor a 12-day pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal May 20 to May 31, 2019. Leading the pilgrimage to the Iberian Peninsula are Fr. Luke Ferris, Vicar for Clergy and Pastoral Leaders for the Diocese of Green Bay, Amy Kawula from The Compass, and Juan Landa from Mater Dei Tours.

“Our church has a 1,200 year-old tradition of making pilgrimages to visit the remains of St. James, one of the 12 apostles,” said Fr. Luke, spiritual director for the pilgrimage. “The Compass once again provides an excellent opportunity to grow spiritually as we journey together. I encourage you to join us on this spiritual and cultural pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal and witness firsthand the sites tied to the evangelization of Spain by the Apostle St. James the Greater and the apparition of the Blessed Mother at Fatima.”

Experience a 12-day pilgrimage to Madrid, Valle De Los Caidos, Segovia, Ponferrada, Lugo, Santiago de Compostela, Fatima, and Lisbon. Pilgrims will walk approximately 65 miles over six days on the Camino de Santiago (Road of St. James), one of the oldest Christian pilgrimage routes in the world. Hiking through towns, quaint hamlets, and breathtaking views, they will finish at Santiago de Compostela, the resting place of St. James the Greater. Please note that pilgrims have the freedom to walk part or all of the Camino scheduled for that day. Those who choose only part of the walk will be bussed back to enjoy the city around the hotel.

Pilgrims will also travel to many sites including the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, the famous site where Our Lady appeared to three little shepherds in 1917; Valle de los Caidos (Valley of the Fallen) in the Guadarrama mountain range, where a giant cross stands to commemorate all the fallen of the Spanish Civil War; Segovia, featuring the ancient Roman Aqueduct, the last Gothic Cathedral of Spain, the imposing Alcazar Castle, and Mass at the Altar containing the incorrupt remains of St. John of the Cross; and Madrid, featuring a panoramic drive of its most famous sites like "Puerta de Alcalá", the "Gran Vía", Cibeles Fountain, the Royal Palace, and the massive Cathedral of the "Almudena."

Cost of the pilgrimage is \$3,944 until Dec. 31, 2018. A deposit of \$500 must be made to reserve the price. After Dec. 31, the cost is \$4,044 per person. Departing from O'Hare International Airport, an optional roundtrip coach departing from Green Bay is available for an additional \$75. For more information, to request a brochure, or to reserve a spot on the pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal, contact Amy Kawula at 920-272-8212 or akawula@gbdioc.org. A brochure can also be downloaded on The Compass website, www.thecompassnews.org.

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Who we are: As friends and followers of Jesus, the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay is devoted to fostering households and communities of discipleship through the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church. We are missionary disciples striving to lead all people to the Kingdom of God. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

Contact: Justine Lodl, director of communications, at 920-272-8213 or jlodl@gbdioc.org; or Sarah Bradford, communications coordinator, at 920-272-8209 or sbradford@gbdioc.org.

Celebrating 150 years of making disciples in the Diocese of Green Bay.