**HIGH SCHOOL STUDY GUIDE**

**150th ANNIVERSARY DOCUMENTARY**

**DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY**

**Section 1 – INTRODUCTION**

Prayer: Pray the Diocesan Jubilee Prayer.

Introductory Discussion:

* What is a diocese?
* What are the five dioceses in Wisconsin?
* Why do you think it is important that our diocese takes time to look back at its history as we celebrate this Jubilee Year?
* View Section 1 of the documentary.

**Section 2 – THE MISSIONARY ERA**

Prayer: Read Matthew 28:16-20.

Pray: Lord Jesus, almost four hundred years ago missionary priests braved many hardships to bring the Gospel to the Wisconsin territory. Today our state has its own kind of spiritual wilderness. Help us to follow the invitation of your Spirit and to courageously proclaim your sacred story in our world today. Amen.

Present Action:

* How did you learn about the history of Wisconsin?
* Did you go on any field trips to enrich your study of the state? Where did you go?

Critical Reflection:

* What is the general impression you get from your recalling of the study of the history of our state?
* Why do you think missionaries came to the state?

The Story And Its Vision:

View Section 2 of the documentary.

Sharing The Story:

* Where is Red Banks? (It is along the northeast shore of Green Bay, not too far from the city.)
* Have you seen the statue of Jean Nicolet? (It is at Wequiock Falls, at the intersection of Highway 57 and VanLanen Road, northeast of Green Bay.)
* What will you want to remember about Jean Nicolet? About Fr. Claude Allouez? About Fr. Marquette? (Jean Nicolet was looking for route to China. When he got out of his canoe at Red Banks, he was wearing a Chinese robe. Later he died up north, in Lake Huron. He drowned because he didn’t know how to swim! Fr. Marquette and his companion, Louis Joliet, crossed the state diagonally. They traveled from Lake Michigan to Green Bay, to the Fox River, to Lake Winnebago, and back again on the Fox River, to what is now Portage. They carried their canoes for about six miles and got on the Wisconsin River and traveled to the Mississippi River. Later on, their boat capsized in Lake Michigan and Louis Joliet lost all of the note he had been taking!!)
* The name “Jesuit” means Society of Jesus. The Jesuits are a congregation of men who make vows to God of poverty, celibacy, and obedience, and follow the Rule of St. Ignatius of Loyola. They characterize themselves as “contemplatives in action”. They are men who pray deeply and carry on the work of Jesus. How do the lives of St. Francis Xavier and Fr. Claude Allouez reflect this characteristic?
* What are the things that attracted immigrants to Wisconsin?

Sharing The Vision:

* Visit the statue of Jean Nicolet.
* Make a list of places or organizations in the Green Bay area that are named after Jean Nicolet.

**Section 3 – GROWTH IN THE IMMIGRANT ERA**

Prayer:

Pray: Sing to God a new song! Sing to God all the earth! Sing to God, bless his name. Proclaim his salvation day after day. Tell of his glory among the nations; tell his marvelous deeds to all people. (Psalm 96:1-2)

Present Action:

* From which countries did your ancestors come?
* Where did they settle when they arrived in the United States or in Wisconsin?
* What customs did they carry on in their new homeland?

Critical Reflection:

* How important was religion to your grandparents and their families?
* How has their faith influenced your own faith development?

THE STORY AND ITS VISION:

View Section 3 of the documentary.

Another Story:

The founding date of Diocese of Green Bay is March 3, 1868. On February 2 of that year another historical event was taking place. Father Edward Francis Daems, a Crozier priest from Belgium, who had previously served in Little Chute, began gathering a group of five women to help him minister to the people of the parish of Holy Cross, Bay Settlement, a few miles from the city of Green Bay. On February 12 they opened Holy Cross School, Bay Settlement, which remains open to this day. Three of those women would remain and would become the pioneer members of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross. In this year of 2018 they, along with Holy Cross School, also celebrate their 150th Anniversary.

Sharing The Story:

* What evidence is there that the Catholic Faith was very much alive in this era?
* What challenges would the Church have had to face as it served people of various cultures?
* Why do you think Fr. Daems found it necessary to call those women together to help him in his ministry?

Sharing The Vision:

* Visit St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.
* Take a tour of the museum located on the lower level of the cathedral.
* Attend Mass at the cathedral.

**Section 4 – THE SHRINE**

Prayer: Pray the rosary or a decade of the rosary.

Present Action:

* What do you know about the story of the apparitions of the Blessed Mother and The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help?
* Have you visited The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help at Champion?
* If you did visit The Shrine, what impressed you the most?

Critical Reflection:

* When and how have you prayed to the Blessed Virgin Mary?
* How important has the praying of the rosary been to you and/or your family?

The Story And Its Vision:

View Section 4 of the documentary.

An Additional Story:

Adele Brise died in 1896. In 1902 Bishop Messmer requested that the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross from Bay Settlement be responsible for The Chapel at Robinsonville (Champion). This community of Sisters served at The Chapel, now known as The Shrine, for ninety years. In 1992 the Sisters terminated their ministry at The Chapel. During those ninety years the building adjacent to the chapel had served as a boarding school, a crippled children’s home, a high school for girls discerning a vocation to religious life (St. Francis Pre-Novitiate), a house of prayer, and a retreat center. With great dedication the Sisters compassionately responded to the needs of the times.

Sharing The Story:

* Why do you think it is important for Catholics to have a devotion to Mary?
* Must we believe that the apparitions actually happened? (No, we are not required to believe it.)
* What would lead you to believe that they did happen?
* What can be gained from making a pilgrimage to The Shrine?
* How did the work of the Sisters at The Shrine imitate Mary’s care for the Christ Child?

Sharing The Vision:

* Make a pilgrimage to The Shrine.
* Attend Mass or a special prayer service at The Shrine.
* Contact the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross and arrange for an interview with one of the Sisters who lived at The Shrine.

**Section Five – RELIGIOUS ORDERS**

Prayer: Reading Jeremiah 1:4-8.

Pray: O God, throughout the centuries you have called men and women to follow Jesus by living a life of prayer in a religious community and responding to the needs of the people. We thank you for the ways in which religious order priests, Sisters, and Brothers have touched our lives. We ask that you will bless our Church with more people willing to consecrate their lives to the service of the Church. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Present Action:

* What Sisters or Brothers have you known?
* Do you know to which religious order or community they belonged?
* Do you know any priests who are members of a religious order? Who are they?
* Do you know the names of some religious orders that serve in the Diocese of Green Bay?

Critical Reflection:

* If you personally have known a Sister, Brother, or religious priest, what kind of impression did they make on you?

The Story And Its Vision:

View Section 5 of the documentary.

Continuing The Story:

As noted previously, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross celebrate their 150th Anniversary in 2018. The first Sisters joined Father Edward Francis Daems in early February, 1868. On February 12 they opened Holy Cross School, Bay Settlement, across the road from the rectory where they were living. Throughout their history the Sisters have served mainly in the Diocese of Green Bay, compassionately responding to the needs of the times through their ministries in schools, parishes, hospitals, nursing homes, and retreat centers. For a period of about thirty years the Sisters served as missionaries in Nicaragua and British Columbia, Canada. Rooted in the Cross, Word, and Eucharist, the Sisters today have identified prayer, presence, and hospitality as the core of their charism.

Sharing The Story:

* Have you ever visited a convent, monastery, or abbey in our diocese?
* What did you learn about that place?
* What made an impression on you?
* Men and women who join religious orders make three vows: poverty, celibacy, and obedience. What do they promise in each of these vows?
* How does each of the vows contribute to bringing about the Reign of God?
* What are some things that would attract a person to living religious life?

Sharing The Vision:

* Visit a convent, monastery, or abbey and have a member of the community give you a tour and share the story of its history.

**Section 6 – MODERN CHALLENGES, MODERN OPPORTUNITIES**

Prayer: Read Joel 3:1-2.

Pray: Come, Holy Spirit, and enkindle in us the fire of your love. May you continue to breathe upon the Church today that spark and energy that led to a dynamic renewal during the last century. May that renewal be ongoing in our time; may we listen to your invitations and respond with generous hearts. Amen.

Present Action:

* What do you know about the Second Vatican Council?

Critical Reflection:

* Why would you think that St. Pope John the 23rd thought it was necessary to have an ecumenical council in the 1960’s?

The Story And Its Vision:

View Section 6 of the documentary.

Sharing The Story:

* What are some positive changes that resulted from the Second Vatican Council?
* How did the role of the laity change as a result of the council?

Sharing The Vision:

* Interview someone who was living at the time of the Second Vatican Council. Discuss that person’s experiences in the Church before and after the Council.

**Section 7 – A CHURCH FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM**

Prayer: Read I Corinthians 12:4-11.

Pray: Heavenly Father, you have blessed each of us with personal gifts that we can use for the building of your Kingdom. Help us to accept these gifts with gratitude and to share them generously. In the midst of the challenges we face today, help us to be courageous in proclaiming the Gospel. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Present Action:

* At this time in history, what are some challenges that the Church is facing?
* What challenges have you personally been confronted with?

Critical Reflection:

* What things are happening in our American culture that are keeping away from Christ or the Church?

The Story And Its Vision:

View Section 7 of the documentary.

Sharing The Story:

* In what ways have you personally ministered in the Church?
* How fulfilling has that ministry been for you?
* Have you had the opportunity to participate in a mission trip? If so, share your experience.
* How do you think our parishes can help children and teenagers to be more involved in the life of the Church?

Sharing The Vision:

* Volunteer to serve at one of the places in our diocese that offers food or shelter to those in need.
* Consider going on a mission trip with your youth group.

**Section 8 – MISSIONARIES IN A NEW ERA**

Prayer: Read John 15:12-17.

Pray: Lord Jesus, you call us to be missionary disciples. Help us to know you more clearly, to love you more dearly, and to follow you more nearly, that we may bear abundant fruit, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Present Action:

* What is your understanding of the term, “missionary disciple”?

Critical Reflection:

* Can you be a missionary without being a disciple?
* Can you be a disciple without being a missionary?

The Story And Its Vision:

View Section 8 of the documentary.

Sharing The Story:

* Discipleship involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Describe your personal prayer.
* How has your prayer grown over the years?
* In what situations have you shared the Catholic Faith with your family or friends?
* Share about a time when you explained the Catholic Faith to a non-Catholic. How did that person respond to what you said?

Sharing The Vision:

* Go forth to evangelize, continuing the good work begun in the Diocese of Green Bay about three hundred fifty years ago.