FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fr. John Girotti to lead pilgrimage to Hungary and Poland in October 2020

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Feb. 18, 2020) – The Compass, diocesan newspaper for the Diocese of Green Bay, will sponsor a 13-day pilgrimage to Hungary and Poland Oct. 2 to Oct. 14. Fr. John Girotti, vicar for canonical services and Catholic Charities & Living Justice mission team leader for the Diocese of Green Bay, will lead the pilgrimage, along with Amy Kawula from The Compass and Juan Landa from Mater Dei Tours.

“Poland is the birthplace of St. John Paul II, who was pope for 27 years. He’s a saint, a beloved figure, and to see where he lived, grew up and the country that formed him is an inspiration for all of us,” said Fr. John Girotti. “Poland and Hungary are really the two places in Europe where the faith has remained strong, despite persecution and communism. To be able to see that vibrant faith is a wonderful thing.”

Some of the trip’s highlights include a stop at Jasna Gora, Poland, home of the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa; Wadowice, Poland, birthplace of St. John Paul II; the salt mines of Wieliczka, Poland; and Auschwitz, Poland, home of the World War II Nazi concentration camp. Pilgrims will also visit the Divine Mercy Shrine, which houses the tomb of St. Faustina Kowalska as well as one of the original Divine Mercy images. Nearby is the beautiful Shrine of St. John Paul II, with astonishing mosaic-decorated walls and chapels with relics and some of the most popular devotions of Polish Catholics. Pilgrims are schedule to celebrate Mass at the same chapel where young Fr. Karol Wojtyla celebrated his first Mass, in the same Castle/Cathedral where he was installed Bishop of Krakow. A walking tour of Old Krakow will leave an unforgettable impression of beauty, in architecture and decorations, that has inspired citizens over the centuries and continues to teach visitors about faith, life, and culture today!

Cost for this pilgrimage is $4,599 per person if paid before April 10, 2020. This includes hotels, double occupancy, tips and most breakfasts and dinners. An optional roundtrip coach bus is available from Green Bay to Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport for an additional $80.

For more details or to receive a brochure with more information, contact Amy Kawula, (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.

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