



THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS OF THE DIOCESE OF BAKER

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"greater good of souls"

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PARISH NEWS: On August 29, 2010, St. Pius X parish in Klamath Falls celebrated the dedication and blessing of the new addition to the High School Youth Center. The addition doubled the size of the youth center. The \$66,000 addition will also serve as a gathering place for the newly formed "Young Adult Ministry" group. The addition, named in honor of Bishop Connolly is called the **Bishop Connolly Center for High School and Young Adult Ministry**, or, in short, the Bishop Connolly Center. This addition was needed to accommodate the growing High School Youth Ministry program.



Fr. Rick Fischer, assisted by Deacon Jim Roy, blesses the Bishop Connolly Center.

PARISH NEWS: The first Theological Conference held at Our Lady of the Valley in LaGrande on October 15, 16 and 17, was a great success. Nearly 100 people from around the Diocese and as far as Idaho attended and benefitted from talks given by keynote speaker Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers. Deacon Harold gave inspirational talks that concentrated mainly on the true teachings of the Catholic Church. He spoke with insight, directness and humor. Deacon Harold also led a Holy Hour on Saturday evening and gave the homily at the Sunday Mass at OLV.



Enterprise parishioner, Ken Kunkle, with key-note speaker Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers of the Archdiocese of Portland.

Fr. Christopher reports that eight people have asked to join the Church due to the extra encouragement (and prodding by the Holy Spirit) they received from Deacon Harold's homily. Five priests from various parishes in the Baker Diocese, along with two Deacons and many outstanding lay people, gave workshops during the Conference. This Conference was the first of what is hoped to be an annual occurrence and planning for next year's Theological Conference has already begun.

PARISH NEWS: The council at St. Francis Church in Arlington, Oregon, decided to organize an activity to celebrate the youth in their church. All ages, four through 20, were taken to Hermiston to participate in the new miniature golf course and then treated to pizza. St. Francis believes it is important to share with the youth how much their service and attendance at church is appreciated. What started out as a planned outing for youth became a celebration with each youth's family participating alongside them. The event was so successful that planning a yearly trip for the youth and their families is being discussed. Those who participated were: Father Peter Obinna Umekwe, chairman of the Church Council, Tim Wetherell, Danielle Wetherell, Jonah Davis, Calvin Davis, April Aamodt, Glory Jean Aamodt, Syllas Aamodt, Lynn Murrill, Tracy McClure, Mindy McClure, Rileigh McClure, Kylee McClure, Blaine McClure, Anthony Valdez, Julie Valdez, Marco Valdez, Diego Valdez, Analisa Valdez, Terry Shane, Elizabeth Shane, Kendrick Shane, Tory Shane, Kaity Scott, Ty Davies and Larry Wilson.



MIND AND HEART OF BISHOP VASA: “It is the Lord!” The words are those of Saint John. They were spoken to the other apostles, particularly Peter, as they fished offshore after the crucifixion and death of Jesus. They fished, certainly for a variety of reasons, but they fished to dull the desolation which sprang from the loss of their beloved Lord. These words stand, along with the words spoken by the Lord, as recorded in each of the Gospels, when He came walking toward them on the water. In those cases, it was the Lord who said, “It is I, do not be afraid!” One could imagine that the Lord was preparing the Apostles to recognize Him for that later time and circumstance when they would have every reason not to recognize Him. It is in response to that time and that circumstance that John cries out, “It is the Lord!”

In other boated encounters with the Lord one often sees a crisis and a compassionate response. We have the accounts of Jesus calming the seas. In those instances Jesus was either in the boat, asleep, or on the water walking toward them. Their plea, “Lord, save us!” In Matthew’s account Peter pipes up, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water!” Of all the things Peter could have said, I have always thought that these were words which he would have immediately regretted for the Lord simply says, “Come.” Amazingly, Peter tries. He, rightly I might add, very shortly becomes concerned and begins to sink. This is what the youth would call a “Duh” moment. Peter cries out, “Lord, save me!”

The Lord’s presence and love are much more readily sought by us in our own moments of crisis. It is in those times that we, like the disciples, tend to cry out, “Lord, save us!”; “Lord, save me!” Hopefully, we can also hear the Lord’s response, which is the same as the one He gave the disciples in their time of distress, “It is I, do not be afraid!” May we also see with the eyes of John and cry out with joy and relief, “It is the Lord!”

We have begun a new liturgical year and it is in the context of that year that we walk with the disciples regularly and routinely each Sunday. It is there that we learn to recognize the Lord. It is there that we hear in a variety of ways, “It is I, do not be afraid.” It is there that we are beautifully and gently prepared for those crisis moments, which will almost certainly come, when we will cry out with heart-wrenching desolation, “Lord, save us!” It is at our Sunday gathering and worship that we learn to recognize the Presence of the Lord. It is at our Sunday gathering and worship that we learn to imitate the boldness and trust of Peter and say, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water!” It was the time the Apostles spent in the Presence of the Lord which ultimately gave them the courage, each in their own way, to step out on the water. It is the same for us. It is our time with the Lord, especially on Sunday, which helps condition us so that we can more readily and easily face whatever difficult moments we might encounter. With John we will be able to say, “It is the Lord!”

CONSIDER LITURGY: In the new translation the Lamb of God remains the same but the introduction by the priest to the “Lord, I am not worthy” and the people’s prayer have some minor changes. The priest, holding up the host or the host and the chalice says: “Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.” I should note that this is one of the introductions which does not allow for modifications by the priest. Currently, this is not allowed either, but many priests take great liberty with this introduction. The people reply: “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.” May the wonderfully merciful and all holy God bless you. +Bishop Vasa

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION: Over the past 21 years the Diocese of Baker has sent more than \$800,000 to the national office for this collection. In 2009, we received more than \$76,000, for the Religious Retirement Collection, and 10 percent was sent to the national office; the remainder stayed in our Diocese.

As many of you already know, the Priest’s pension plan is significantly underfunded. The Diocese of Baker also makes payments to the Dioceses of our foreign-born priests, based on a vesting schedule after they have served in our Diocese. Because of our large unfunded pension liability and our outstanding retirement liability for our foreign priests, the Diocese will again allocate the majority of this collection to the Priest’s Retirement Program. Our diocesan and foreign priests have served the Church and they have done so for relatively little material reward. These dedicated priests deserve a just retirement for their committed years of service to the Diocese. We will continue to support the religious sisters and brothers who have served in our Diocese by remitting a portion of this collection to the national office. We thank you for your generous support of this important and necessary collection.

RETREAT CENTER ADVENT EVENT: From 7-9 p.m., Thursday, December 16, the second annual Schoenstatt Advent



Family Celebration will take place starting with Eucharistic Adoration, Holy Hour and Advent Scriptural Reading, followed by music and singing, entertainment, ethnic dancing, family craft, cookies, and beverages. The focus will be the Divine Maternity of Mary with the Protection of Her Loving Husband Joseph and the coming of their Son. This gathering is perfect to teach children about the meaning of Advent.

Picture: The flower which springs up from the root of Jesse is another figure of Christ. Isaiah prophesied that the Savior would be born from the root of Jesse, that He would sit upon the throne of David, and in Christ this prophecy is fulfilled.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND: Are you looking for that special Christmas gift for your spouse? Here is an opportunity to give each other a gift that can make a change in your life. Registrations are now being accepted for a World Wide Marriage Encounter Weekend, scheduled at the Powell Butte Retreat Center on April 15 – 17, 2011. This Catholic experience is available to all married couples and is an opportunity to focus on your relationship and on your sacrament.

Why not go on a Marriage Encounter Weekend? Log onto www.rediscoverthepark.org and on the right side of the page click on “Discover the Weekend”, and then click on “Why Consider It?” A Marriage Encounter Weekend has something to offer every married couple. There is room for 23 couples on this Marriage Encounter Weekend, with seven spaces for those couples who would prefer to bring their RVs. Registration for the weekend is on-line at www.rediscoverthepark.org. Scroll down the list of weekend dates on the right side of the page. Click on the “Apr. 15-17 (Powell Butte, OR)” link, and follow the instructions to register. For additional information, please contact Mike and Milly Pungercar at 541-593-3612, or at pungercar2@msn.com.

SAINTS AND FEASTS: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is often misunderstood. It does not refer to Christ’s sinlessness, which is necessary because of His Divine Nature; instead, it commemorates Mary’s freedom from original sin from the moment she was conceived by her mother, St. Anne. It comes exactly nine months before the day we celebrate Mary’s birth on September 8. However, its placement in Advent is fitting, as its themes are suited to waiting for the birth of Christ.

The liturgy of the day covers all of Mary’s life, from the eternal plan of God to select her as his Son’s mother, through the prophecies of the Old Testament, her earthly life and her heavenly life as our Mother and Mediatrix with her Son. And we are told in the Ave Maria, that first she was “*gratia plena*” – “full of grace,” something that is a positive indication to all Christians of what is required to follow the Lord.

Thus the message of Mary’s sinlessness is not the main theme of the feast; it is her consent to allow the kingdom of God to flourish in her that makes her the example for us. We, as she, must not only avoid sin, but must become pure of heart to fulfill the promise of our Baptism and our Redemption. Advent and this feast are occasions for preparation. Let us first prepare our hearts for the graces God pours forth in the Coming of His Son to us.

O God, Who by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin, did prepare for Thy Son a worthy habitation, we beseech Thee, that as Thou did preserve her from every stain, Thou would grant that we also, being cleansed from guilt by her intercession, may come to Thee. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAYS FOR CLERGY NEWS: “Some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit a hundred- or sixty- or thirty-fold.” (cf. Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23) Priests attending the recent Days for Clergy at the Diocesan Retreat Center have been sent forth to look for that “rich soil” in their parishes. They will be approaching a select group of parishioners to offer them an opportunity to grow in their holiness and to produce fruit a “hundred-fold” by first naming and then giving thanks to God for their God-given talents.

This process will utilize the wonderful Catholic Edition of *Living Your Strengths*. This book uses the Clifton StrengthsFinder to describe each person’s unique talents. (cf. Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11) The priests will then work with small groups to assist themselves and the parishioners they serve to help these “seeds” of talent produce fruit.

God has given us the Wisdom to develop tools like “Living Your Strengths” that “promote [our] integral development for the benefit of all.” (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC 2292-2294) The Diocese of Baker is promoting this tool as a way to help all parishes grow in holiness.

“Living Your Strengths” is so full of Sacred Scripture and useful practical applications that it is ripe for discussion. As the *Mystical Body of Christ* we need each other for the encouragement this process can provide. (cf. CCC 792; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-13; esp. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Pius XII *Mystici Corporis*) Plus, whenever two or three are gathered in the name of our Lord Jesus we celebrate that He is with us. (cf. Matthew 18:20) As we begin this process of Growing Engaged Parishes, let us pray that it will bear much fruit. -- Rev. James Radloff

PARISH YOUTH NEWS: Our Lady of Angels Parish in Hermiston recently held its annual All Saints’ Party on October 31 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The party was open to the general public and serves as a much safer alternative than the traditional trick or treating. Several hundred children attend the party each year and incentives are given to those children who dress in costumes portraying their favorite saints or angels.

Generous parishioners supported the event with donations of candy, cakes, and their time running the many games, such as Candy Bar Bingo, Saints Cake Walk, Fishing Booth, Pencil Toss, Dart Throw, Sucker Tree, Piñatas, and many more. Hot dogs, tacos, tamales, nachos and pop were available to add to the festivities.

Directly after the party, nearly 300 children lined up outside to take part in the very popular “Trunk or Treat” event. Volunteer parishioners park their cars in the safety of our church parking lot. They decorate their open car trunks and hand out candy, they donate themselves, to the children as they “trunk or treat” at their vehicle. Everyone has a great time, both children and adults. A very big thank you to all who helped make these events so special.

YOUTH NEWS: Our Lady of the Valley, La Grande: Scott Branen recently received the "Light of Christ" Cub Scouting medal only for Catholic scouts. Each religion has its own religious medal that is given after the scout learns about his religion in some depth. Scott had to complete this award prior to entering the 3rd grade. By earning the "Light of Christ" medal, he will be awarded a "religious knot" patch from his scout troop and this patch is one of the few that he will be able to wear on his scout uniform for the rest of his Scout life.



Saturday, Oct. 7, Fr. Christopher presented The Light of Christ medal to Boy Scout, Chris Branen, at the end of Mass and read a congratulatory letter from Bishop Vasa.

PARISH NEWS: A special 40-hour period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition will be held at St. Peter's Church in The Dalles and will begin on Thursday, December 9, with a special Mass at 4:00 p.m. After Mass the Blessed Sacrament will remain on the altar in solemn exposition. The next 40 hours will be a time for personal and public prayer in adoration before Our Lord. The Holy Rosary will be prayed before the Blessed Sacrament following Mass on Thursday the 9th, and on Friday the 10th after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and before a noon Mass (11:45 a.m.).

The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed in the tabernacle during all Masses and returned for exposition afterwards. The Devotion ends Saturday December 11 at 8:00 a.m. with morning Mass.

Traditionally, the Forty Hours Devotion is offered for protection from evil and temptation; reparation for our personal sins and punishments/sufferings due to these sins; for the Poor Souls in Purgatory, and for deliverance from political, material and spiritual calamities. It is a time to pray to the Lord not only for our personal needs, but also for the needs of our country and the world.

The Forty Hours Devotion is an excellent way to prepare for the coming of our Savior because it offers an opportunity for the spiritual growth of each person and the parish as a whole.

NOTICIAS HISPANIAS: Noviembre es el mes en que recordamos a nuestros seres queridos que se han ido al Padre, pero también es un mes mariano en varios países latinoamericanos como lo podemos ver en las siguientes advocaciones.



VIRGEN DE LA DIVINA PROVIDENCIA

Patrona de Puerto Rico. Su fiesta se celebra el 19 de Noviembre. El nombre y culto de Nuestra Señora de la Divina Providencia se originó en Italia en el siglo XIII. Era una devoción muy popular que luego pasó a España. Su imagen y devoción fue traída a Puerto Rico por Monseñor Gil Esteve Tomás. El Papa Paulo VI, el 19 de noviembre de 1969, la declaró, patrona principal de la isla de Puerto Rico.

NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA PAZ

Patrona de El Salvador. Su fiesta se celebra el 21 de noviembre. En el año de 1682 unos mercaderes encontraron en la orilla del Mar una caja abandonada; no pudiendo abrirla, pensando que contenía un tesoro dentro la llevaron a San Miguel a su burra y la llevaron a la ciudad de San Miguel y llegaron el 21 de noviembre, se dirigieron primero a las autoridades para asegurar el tesoro cuando pasaron por la iglesia, hoy Catedral, a burra se echó en tierra sin poder moverla. Entonces, sin esfuerzo alguno lograron abrir la



caja y tesoro era una hermosa imagen de Nuestra Señora con el Niño en brazos. El 25 de abril de 1953, el Papa Pío XII proclamó a Nuestra Señora de la Paz Patrona de El Salvador.

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NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA PRESENTACIÓN DEL QUINCHE

Patrona de Ecuador. Su fiesta se celebra el 21 de noviembre. La imagen de Nuestra Señora es una hermosa escultura en madera, tallada en el siglo XVI por Don Diego de Robles. Según algunos testimonios, la Virgen es igual a la que se apareció a los indios en una cueva protegiéndolos de los osos que devoraban a sus niños. La imagen fue coronada en 1943 y su fiesta se celebra el 21 de noviembre. El templo actual fue declarado Santuario Nacional en 1985.

