



THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS OF THE DIOCESE OF BAKER

Published every two weeks for the sake of the unity of the Diocese and the
"greater good of souls"

January 16, 2011

Volume 2, Number 2

PARISH NEWS: The Catechism classes of Saint Patrick Parish in Lakeview performed a Christmas program entitled "Simple Gifts of Christmas" on Saturday, December 18, and Sunday, December 19. The cast of children acted out the Christmas story with special emphasis on the simple contributions from the animals: A ride for Mary from Gentle Donkey, a soft bed of hay from Mother Cow, a warm wool blanket from Curly-Horned Sheep and trusty directional navigation from the camels. Joanne Murphy directed the group. Miranda Philibert and Cindi Havelly helped with costuming and face painting. Shirley Steward, Lisa Shullanberger and Karen Zamudio taught the songs, many of which were humorous take-offs on popular Christmas carols. A good-sized crowd enjoyed each of the performances and meals with the cast afterward.



Angels singing the joyous news are left to right: Emily Philibert, Jaylene Kerr, Anna Felder, and Bridget Shullanberger.



Michael Douglas, Allison Hahn, Jose Villalobos, Bridget Shullanberger, Emigen Barber, and Collyne Havelly look on as the "three kings" Danny Cordero, Cotter Shullanberger, and Arturo Mejia present their gifts to the baby Jesus.

PARISH NEWS: Our Lady of the Valley Church in La Grande now regularly offers Mass in both the Ordinary and Extraordinary Forms. Fr. Christopher Agoha, SMMM, pastor, announced in a recent parish bulletin that Mass in the Extraordinary Form is offered every Sunday at 3 p.m. In addition, low Masses (*missa recitata*, or "re-cited" Mass) are offered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at noon.

Fr. Christopher noted that Pope Benedict XVI's 2007 Apostolic Letter *Summorum Pontificum* freed the offering of Mass in accord with the 1962 Roman Missal from prior restrictions, and that Bishop Vasa has given his support to the celebration of Mass in the older form.

The Extraordinary Form of the Mass is open to all who wish to participate and booklets to help guide attendees through the Mass are available for use. The booklets include the Latin prayers and an English translation, as well as cues as to when to stand, sit or kneel.

A small *schola cantorum* (choir) provides the Gregorian chant for the weekly Sunday High Mass (*missa cantata*, or "sung" Mass). Anyone interested in learning to sing chant is welcome to join the schola; simply see the schola director after Mass. Additionally, any men or boys who would like to learn to serve Mass in the Extraordinary Form may contact Fr. Christopher.

The Extraordinary Form of the Mass is now being offered at several locations throughout the Diocese.

For more information on the Mass in the Extraordinary Form, call the Society of St. Gregory the Great at (541) 923-0574.



Fr. Christopher incensing the Gospel.

MIND AND HEART OF BISHOP VASA: The New Year is always a time of grace and a part of that grace is reflected in the intensity with which most of us enter into the arena of resolutions. These resolutions, which are, in my experience, hanging around at the fringes of our brains for the whole rest of the year, take on a renewed vibrancy and determination during the first couple of weeks of January. This is a good sign. It is a sign of our awareness that conversion is an ongoing process. It is a sign of our willingness to acknowledge that we know we are not yet perfect. It is a sign that we recognize the need to engage our will in response to the grace of God and actually do that which we idealistically “wish” for at other times of the year. God’s grace impels us to something greater at the beginning of each year and it is good and necessary for us to seize that grace, cling to it and translate it into definitive, concrete and, hopefully, positively transformative action. May this be the case for all of us in 2011.

I would suggest, as one small portion of this New Year’s Plan, to take up and read Pope Benedict’s Apostolic Exhortation titled, *Verbum Domini* (The Word of the Lord). This is an invitation by the Holy Father for all Catholics to take the Word of God, the Scriptures, much more seriously. It is written in an understandable and attractive style and the reading of it, like the New Year, is a grace. The grace of this Exhortation invites and perhaps challenges us to approach the Word of God with greater eagerness, expectation and reverence.

For instance, in paragraph 73 of the Exhortation we find an invitation to let the “Bible inspire all pastoral work. This does not mean adding a meeting here or there in parishes or dioceses, but rather examining the ordinary activities of Christian communities, in parishes, associations and movements, to see if they are truly concerned with fostering a personal encounter with Christ who gives himself to us in his word.”

In relation to catechesis, he writes in paragraph 74: “Here I wish first and foremost to stress that catechesis must be permeated by the mindset, the spirit and the outlook of the Bible and the Gospels through assiduous contact with the texts themselves; yet it also means remembering that catechesis will be all the richer and more effective for reading the texts with the mind and heart of the Church.”

The Holy Father renews the call to enter into a practice known as *lectio divina*. This is a method of reading the Scriptures which incorporates the following questions: 1) What does the biblical text say in itself?; 2) What does the text say to us?; 3) What do we say to the Lord in response to his word; 4) What conversion of mind, heart and life is the Lord asking of us? Finally, the Holy Father adds: “We do well to remember that the process of *lectio divina* is not concluded until it arrives at action (*actio*) which moves the believer to make his or her life a gift for others in charity.” (paragraph 87) This is where we started, for this is “resolution”.

DIOCESE OF BAKER - OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Pastors, Administrators and Parochial Vicars:

Reverend Augustine Okwuzu, SMMM - Formerly Pastor at Saint Mary in Wasco and Saint John the Baptist at Grass Valley, recalled to Nigeria by his Community.

Reverend Andrew Szymakowski - Temporary Administrator of Saint Mary in Wasco and Saint John the Baptist at Grass Valley.

Reverend Daniel Ochiabuto, SMMM - Pastor of Saint Bridget of Kildare at Nyssa.

Reverend Gabriel Ezeh, SMMM - Associate Pastor of Our Lady of the Valley at La Grande, Saint Mary at Elgin, Sacred Heart at Union and Saint Anthony at North Powder.

Reverend Juan Carlos Chiarinoti - Pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi at Milton-Freewater.

Reverend Michael Fitzpatrick, S.J. - Pastor of Sacred Heart at Athena, in addition to present duties.

SAINTS AND FEASTS: January 25, The Conversion of St. Paul - A feast commemorating a conversion to Christianity is unique in the annals of the Church, but St. Paul’s conversion was a turning point in the spread of the kingdom Christ brought to earth. Without it the new dispensation preached in the Gospels might have taken much longer to reach the Gentiles.

Although Paul was a Jew, he became the Apostle to all who were not. He argued with Peter that Christ’s law of love did not require Gentiles to observe all the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. While many Jewish converts to Christianity grumbled, Paul prevailed when he pointed out that Christ fulfilled the law of the Old Testament and that circumcision and dietary restrictions were not part of the essence of Christian practice. The law of love of God and neighbor was.

Pius Parsch in his Church’s Year of Grace, stresses that Paul’s conversion on the way to Damascus was a direct intervention by God to advance His saving work. He compares this event with our own “Damascus hour,” when Christ comes to us in Holy Mass. “I bring my human wants and weaknesses to the altar and in return receive divine life and strength.” Like Paul, let us make our conversion lasting by meeting the Lord at Mass often and giving grateful hearts to God for the gift of faith he has given us.

RETREAT CENTER NEWS: The first Catholic Mothers Retreat was held in December. Due to the overwhelming response, Fr. Radloff is offering another retreat from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Thursday, January 20 at the Diocesan Retreat Center.

Come and spend time to reflect on our faith, have group prayer with other mothers, time for private prayer in the St. Mary Chapel, participate in group discussions and much more. To register, please call (541) 388-4004. A \$15.00 registration fee includes lunch and a prayer journal.

CONSIDER LITURGY: Father Jeremy Driscoll writes about the ineffable beauty and mystery of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass: “What happens during this prayer is stunning. The mind reels before the mystery. The heart is thrilled. Belief strains. And yet in every generation people keep coming back again and again to hold themselves before the unbelievable experience with this prayer, hoping each time to penetrate its mystery more deeply, to participate in it more entirely, to perceive what happens during the prayer and to be a part of it. It is the biggest prayer the Church has. She exists to pray it, and she comes into being by praying it.” (*What Happens at Mass*, 70) May the revised translations help each of us to approach the Mass more deeply and reverently. May God bless you. +Bishop Vasa

CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER EXTENDED FOR 2010 AND 2011:

Among the multitude of items included in the Tax Relief Act, signed into law by the President on December 17, was an extension of the Charitable IRA Rollover provision through the end of 2011. The tax provision offers a wonderful opportunity between now and the end of the calendar year. There are several important points to be aware of:

- Individuals age 70 ½ and older may once again request direct transfers of funds from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to qualified public charities without income tax on gifted funds.
- The funds must be directly transferred from IRA accounts to the charities (donors should ask their IRA custodians for special forms to make these requests).
- Each individual is entitled to make a total of \$100,000 in gifts to charities each year under this provision.
- 2010 IRA rollover gifts can be made through January 31, 2011.

For those individuals who have not yet taken their IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) for 2010, they may partially or wholly satisfy that requirement through an IRA rollover gift made by January 31, 2011.

Only standard IRAs and Roth IRA accounts qualify under this law; other retirement accounts such as 401(k), 403(b), SEP, KEOGH, and SIMPLE IRA plans cannot be used to make an IRA rollover gift.

This legislation is a significant opportunity for donors who hold assets in their IRAs that they do not need, would like to make a large one-time gift; are subject to the two percent rule that reduces itemized deductions; do not itemize; or plan to leave a part or all of their IRA to the Church upon death.

If you would like additional information please consult your tax advisor, or you can call or email John Schiemer at the Diocesan Offices, (541) 388-4004 or jschiemer@dioceseofbaker.org.

NOTICIAS HISPANAS: Es posible “dar la vuelta” San Pablo dio una vuelta total a su vida. Pasó de perseguir ferozmente al cristianismo, a ser un enamorado de Jesús y un apóstol incansable de la Iglesia. Aquella transformación de Saulo ha pasado a ser el modelo de la conversión cristiana, si bien es cierto que no todas las conversiones son tan espectaculares, ni repentinas. Las hay discretas y, sin que por ello dejen de ser profundas y eficaces.

Hoy reflexionamos no en el “formato” de la conversión, sino en la posibilidad de la conversión. En el ambiente cultural en el que vivimos, es fácil decir de una persona, que ha experimentado una conversión religiosa “le han lavado el coco”. Curiosamente, nadie piensa que antes de su conversión pudiera haber tenido “lavado el coco”. Y, sin embargo, es claro que el Evangelio, no a nadie, se presenta siempre con toda claridad y transparencia, mientras que las tentaciones de Satanás, nos seducen con el engaño. ¿Se le puede proponer al hombre de nuestros días el ideal de la conversión? ¿Es esto posible, hoy? ¿Puede un joven romper, como lo hizo San Pablo, con un ambiente tan materialista y alejado de Dios, para volverse radicalmente a Cristo? Me permito dar unas pistas para nuestra conversión personal: Pasión por la verdad. Saulo, “el azote de los cristianos”, a quienes hizo sufrir hasta el extremo, era un luchador por la verdad. No fue una persona indiferente ante el mundo que le rodeaba, y probablemente, ésta sea una de las claves de su conversión.

Decía la Madre Teresa de Calcuta que “el mayor pecado en nuestros días es la indiferencia”; y ésta es la causa principal de la dificultad para la conversión. El libro del Apocalipsis lo expresa con palabras contundentes: “Conozco tu conducta: no eres ni frío ni caliente. ¡Ojalá fueras frío o caliente! Ahora bien, puesto que eres tibio, y no frío ni caliente, voy a vomitarte de mi boca”. (Ap 3, 15-16)

Según la tradición, Saulo cayó del caballo cuando Jesús le salió al encuentro, camino de Damasco. Nosotros utilizamos la expresión “caer del caballo” para referirnos a las circunstancias de las que Dios se vale para salir a nuestro encuentro.

En ocasiones, Dios se sirve simplemente de una peregrinación, de una Eucaristía celebrada con particular devoción, de un retiro... ¡Cuántas personas han tenido su primera conversión en un retiro, al que habían acudido sin especial motivación,! ¡Cuántos jóvenes han podido encontrarse con Dios gracias a los campamentos Juveniles diocesanos, a los que fueron, quizás, por pura curiosidad! Dios tiene también otras muchas formas de hacernos “caer del caballo”: la muerte de un ser querido, el nacimiento de un hijo, un desengaño amoroso, un examen reprobado, una experiencia personal con los pobres... Son muchas las mediaciones que Dios pone en juego para sacarnos de nuestras falsas seguridades, y abrimos a Él como “fuente de gracia” y darle “sentido” a nuestra vida. Pero por encima de las circunstancias, lo esencial es el encuentro con el Dios vivo, propiciado por el Espíritu Santo.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS: At St. Edward the Martyr Parish in Sisters the high school youth group is very much alive, thriving, growing and learning. Much of that is due to the dedication and energy of Matt Deppmeier, youth group leader, and the teaching and insight of Father Radloff. Also a significant contributing factor to the enthusiasm and interest of the youth at St. Edward's has been the use of meaningful activities that they have been employing as a teaching tool for more than a year. These activities include such exercises as an obstacle course, a secret path maze, a money game, the ball of yarn, spider web and the nuclear fence.

These special activities work effectively on several different levels to make youth education at St. Edwards a positive, educational and fun experience. They are primarily used to introduce that day's lesson and are selected specifically to do so. They provide a physical and mental anchor to which they relate the material and intent of the lesson. Often the activities are both mentally and physically challenging, require good communication skills, teamwork, self-sacrifice and strategy. They are also fun. The youth have a good time doing them and enjoy working with each other. The skills they learn will be needed and used again as adults working in a parish, in their families and society.

For example a few weeks ago the aim of that night's lesson was "we need each other" and studying church as the Body of Christ, and we need everyone to offer their gifts to the church if we are to be successful in our mission. To introduce this concept they used the "Secret Path Game". It was a checkerboard made out of blue masking tape on the floor (6x6 18" squares or 12x12 if you have a large group). There was a secret path only the facilitator had access to. The object was to get the entire group to go from the beginning at the top to the bottom, but there was only one way to do so, only one person at a time could go, and if anyone made a wrong move (stepped off the path) that person had to go back the way he came and the next person had to figure it out. The game required lots of teamwork, paying attention, good listening to each other, planning and self-sacrifice. It led very easily and well into the lesson of how everyone's gift is needed if we are to be successful as a church.



Matt Deppmeier is helping Sara Rietmann through the secret maze. Zoe McAllister is cheering Sara onward.

PARISH NEWS: St. Thomas Parish in Redmond is very proud to call Pat Carpenter their own. Pat's family moved to Redmond in 1936, when his father, Roy, was made manager of US National (now US Bank), the only bank in Redmond at that time. Pat was three years old. At this time St. Thomas, built in 1912, was located at 5th and Black Butte and was a mission church under St. Francis Parish and the Capuchin Franciscans of Bend.

When Father O'Donovan was made the first pastor of St. Thomas in August of 1941, Pat became one of his first altar servers. Pat's face always lights up and a grin slowly spreads when he reflects on the many funny stories he could tell about the experience.

In 1954, Pat and Shirley were married in the then new St. Thomas Church which had been built in 1950 at 12 Street and Forest. They had three children. Following in their father's footsteps, their son Jim also became an altar server. He married Carrie and they had three children that all became altar servers. Now in 2011, Brise, their oldest son, and his wife Colleen, have two sons, who will probably grow up to be altar servers. Pat and Shirley have ten grandchildren and ten great grandchildren with twins due in June.

"Working with the Knights of Columbus and many other aspects of St. Thomas has made our family many great friends. It is good to be involved," said Pat.



Shirley and Pat Carpenter at the 2010 Starlite Gala.

RETREAT CENTER NEWS: The 2011 calendar is filling up fast. There are several Retreats and Events scheduled in early 2011. They include the following:

- January 20: Retreat for Catholic Mothers
- January 22: Mass for Life
- February 12: St. Francis Bend Confirmation Retreat
- February 16: Clergy Days with Fr. Mahan
- February 19: High School DDA Retreat
- March 4: Sacred Heart, KFalls Confirmation Retreat
- March 11: Catechists Retreat

For details and more information or to view the full schedule of events for 2011 please see the Powell Butte page on the Diocesan website www.dioceseofbaker.org