



THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE DIOCESE OF BAKER

March 9, 2014

Volume 5, Number 5

Catholic School News: Marian Academy



National Catholic
Schools Week
Participation



The Marian Academy in La Grande was excited to participate in National Catholic Schools week this year. The celebration began by distributing a “Good News In School” update to all Union County Catholic parishioners. The newsletter highlighted academic achievements in each classroom ranging from arctic explorations in preschool; reading fluency in kindergarten and first grade; math and science accomplishments in the combined class of second, third, and fourth grade; to the individual growth and development of the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. More of Marian Academy’s “Good News In School” can be found on the website at: www.themarianacademy.com/goodnews.pdf.

In expressing Marian Academy’s dedication to community service and teaching the importance of empathy for others, our students, in partnership with Union County Catholic Youth Ministry participated in a service project called The Valentine Project. The Valentine Project is a service organization based out of Ohio that sponsors children whose lives have been affected by chronic illness. Marian Academy students made and collected Valentine gifts the week of National Catholic School’s week for patients at Randall Children’s Hospital in Portland, OR. Catherine Clark, RN Case Manager at Randall Children’s Hospital, shared her appreciation in our reaching out to the children in their rehabilitation clinic, “It means the world to our patients and to their families that others are out there caring about them and their needs. Many of our kids want to give back in the same way once they are in a position to do so. It creates a wonderful circle of giving.”

In addition to the Valentine project and in answering the call of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to commit to 40 hours of community service, Jennifer Collins, Marian Academy’s Service Committee chairperson, is organizing our next local community service project for the Friday Backpack Program. This is a non-profit organization that provides prepared food packs of nutritious, child friendly food in non-descript bags that are delivered to elementary schools in Union County. Personnel at each school discreetly distribute the bags to the identified children in most need before the weekend

or holiday vacation. Marian Academy students will be collecting food items for the backpacks during the month of February and will have the opportunity to pack each bag for distribution. More information on the Friday Backpack Program can be found at www.lfbp.org.

National Catholic School’s week came to a close with an Open House to our families, parishioners and community. It was a hands-on, interactive session highlighting Marian Academy students and our faculty. Visitors were able to learn from student presentations and exhibits, participate in experiments, take-home projects, and interact with current Marian Academy families. We had guests that were interested educators from around the valley, Eastern Oregon University faculty members, Union County Catholic parishioners and potential new students from outside the county. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase how the call to grow in God’s love enriches Marian Academy student’s moral and ethical conduct as well as to draw attention to the academic, faith development and service activities students pursue all year long.

Parish News: St. Pius X, Klamath Falls

In January, the 22-voice Children’s Choir at St. Pius X Parish in Klamath Falls presented the Christmas musical, *Fear Not Factor*. This inspirational musical was set in heaven as the angels were preparing for the biggest event in the history of the world – the incarnation of Jesus! The glorious story was told using song and drama.

St. Pius has had a children’s choir, under the direction of Deborah Scaravilli, for six years and has performed many wonderful musicals for their parish family. They are currently working on a new musical about social justice, *God of This City*, to be presented April 26 and 27. The children’s choir is also the Mass choir twice a month in their parish.



Thoughts Along The Way

—Bishop Cary

Health Care Lawsuits

For months the implementation of Obamacare has dominated the news: spectacular failures of computerized enrollment, emerging threats to confidentiality and coverage, the repeated extension or postponement of deadlines. Through all the flux, however, one feature has remained unchanged: the determination of the Department of Health and Human Services to enforce its mandates for health insurance coverage of abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives, and sterilization. No exemptions will be granted from the federal assault on religious freedom.

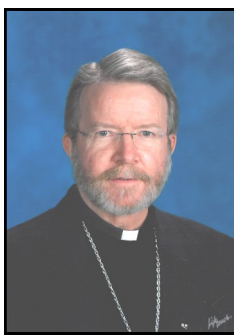
In the face of this manifest hostility, throughout the country defenders of religious liberty have filed nearly ninety cases in federal courts seeking to throw off the Obamacare overreach. Hundreds of for-profit and non-profit plaintiffs are represented in these suits—an Evangelical arts and crafts retail chain, a Mennonite cabinet-making company, Catholic dioceses, Protestant and Catholic universities. Thus far their prospects are encouraging as the cases work their way up to the Supreme Court.

They contend that the HHS mandates violate the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). Under this law four questions come into play: (1) Is an employer exercising religious faith when he refuses, on religious grounds, to provide employees health insurance that covers abortifacients and contraceptives?; (2) Do the HHS mandates “substantially burden” this exercise of religion?; (3) Do they further a “compelling government interest”?; (4) Do they do so in the “least restrictive” way?

A Christian employer who heeds the Commandment “Thou shalt not kill” surely means to put his faith into practice when he refuses to subsidize drugs that can take innocent life in the womb. But crippling fines from HHS would “substantially burden” this free choice to exercise religion. Belmont Abbey College faces an annual penalty of \$340,000; Colorado Christian University would be fined \$500,000 a year.

Increased access to contraceptives is the “government interest” the mandates claim to advance, but it can hardly be considered a “compelling” interest in a land where contraceptives are widely and inexpensively available. Nine out of ten employer-based insurance plans cover a full range of prescription contraceptives, and community health centers and public clinics dispense them at little cost.

How “compelling” can this government interest be when HHS has exempted so many employers from the mandates for purely secular reasons? HHS projected that, in 2013, 55% of large-employer plans and 34% of small-employer plans would be “grandfathered”—that is, dispensed—from the obligation to cover “protective services” for a total of roughly 88 million Americans. Yet



HHS refuses to grandfather plans in order to accommodate objections of conscience from a host of religious believers. We may hope that the Supreme Court decision in the RFRA cases will give HHS a compelling reason to do so.

As for the last RFRA question, forcing conscientiously objecting employers to subsidize readily available contraceptives is certainly not the “least restrictive means” of advancing the government interest in increasing access to contraceptives. A less restrictive means would be to increase direct governmental subsidies for distribution of contraceptives; another would be to grant tax credits or deductions to purchasers of contraceptives. Neither of these means would force citizens’ consciences; neither would be as restrictive of religious liberty as the HHS mandates clearly and needlessly are. There is reason to hope that those who have brought these lawsuits for liberty of religion will be rewarded with the justice they seek. But these days health care is only one arena of a broader struggle, and we must be prepared to stand up for our freedom again and again.

Pensamientos Del Camino

—Obispo Cary

Demanda al Cuidado de la Salud

Durante meses la implementación de Obamacare ha dominado las noticias: espectacular fracaso de la inscripción computarizada, surgen amenazas a la confidencialidad y a la cobertura, se dan extensiones o prorrogas. A través de todo el flujo, sin embargo, una característica no ha cambiado: la determinación del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos para hacer cumplir sus mandatos para la cobertura de seguro de salud de los fármacos que inducen el aborto, los anticonceptivos y la esterilización. Desde el asalto federal sobre la libertad religiosa, no habrá excepciones.

Frente a esta hostilidad manifiesta, en todo el país los defensores de la libertad religiosa han presentado casi noventa casos en los tribunales federales tratando de quitar la extralimitación de Obamacare. Cientos de demandantes con fines de lucro y sin fines de lucro están representados en estas demandas la cadena comercial Evangélica de artes y manualidades, la compañía Menonita de gabinetes, las diócesis Católicas y universidades Católicas y Protestantes. Hasta el momento las perspectivas son alentadoras ya que los casos se abren camino hasta la Corte Suprema.

Ellos sostienen que los mandatos del HHS violan la Ley de Restauración de la Libertad Religiosa (RFRA). Bajo esta ley, cuatro cuestiones entran en juego: (1) ¿Esta un empleador ejerciendo su fe religiosa cuando se niega, por motivos religiosos, a proporcionar a los empleados un seguro de salud que cubra los abortivos y anticonceptivos, (2) ¿Los mandatos de HHS “sustancialmente interfiere” este ejercicio de la religión?; (3) ¿No es, además, un “interés gubernamental convincente”?; (4) ¿Lo hacen de

la manera “menos restrictiva”?

Un empresario cristiano que guarda el mandamiento “No matarás” eso significa el poner en práctica su fe al niega a subsidiar los medicamentos que pueden acabar con una vida inocente en el seno materno. Pero muchas paralizantes de HHS serían “sustancialmente interferentes” al elegir la libertad de ejercer la religión. Belmont Abbey College enfrenta una sanción anual de 340.000 dólares, a la Universidad Cristiana de Colorado le impondría una multa de 500.000 dólares al año.

Incrementar el acceso a los anticonceptivos es el “interés del gobierno” los mandatos pretenden avanzar, pero difícilmente puede considerarse como un interés “convinciente” en una tierra donde los anticonceptivos están amplia y económicamente disponibles. Nueve de cada diez planes de seguro base provistos por empleadores abarcan una gama completa de recetas de anticonceptivos y los centros de salud comunitarios y clínicas públicas los proveen a un bajo costo.

¿Qué tan “convinciente” este interés gubernamental puede ser cuando el HHS ha eximido a muchos empresarios de los mandatos por razones puramente seculares? HHS proyecta que, en 2013, el 55% de los planes a grandes empresas y el 34% de los planes de pequeñas empresas serán dispensados de esta obligación un total de aproximadamente 88 millones de estadounidenses. Sin embargo, el HHS niega la dispensa a los que por razones de conciencia religiosa se oponen a proveer dichas coberturas. Podemos esperar que la decisión de la Corte Suprema en los casos RFRA darán HHS una razón de peso para hacerlo.

En cuanto a la última pregunta RFRA, obligando la conciencia de las empresas que niegan subsidiar anticonceptivos que ya son de fácil acceso, no es ciertamente el “medio menos restrictivo” de avanzar en el interés del gobierno de aumentar el acceso a los anticonceptivos. Un medio menos restrictivo sería aumentar los subsidios gubernamentales para la distribución de anticonceptivos, y otra sería la de conceder créditos o deducciones fiscales a los compradores de anticonceptivos. Ninguno de estos medios obligaría a las conciencias de los ciudadanos, ni sería tan restrictiva de la libertad religiosa como clara e innecesarios son los mandatos del HHS.

Hay razón de esperar que los que han llevado estas demandas por la libertad de religión serán recompensados con la justicia que buscan. Pero en estos días la atención a la salud es sólo un escenario de una lucha más amplia, y debemos estar preparados para defender nuestra libertad una y otra vez.

Supporting Hispanic Ministry through the Bishop’s Annual Appeal

As the Hispanic population in the Diocese of Baker continues to grow, there is a pressing need to strengthen and nurture the faith life of Hispanics in the diocese. By our participation in this year’s Bishop’s Annual Appeal, we will help Bishop Liam Cary and our diocesan Hispanic ministers promote the participation and integration of Hispanics more deeply into the spiritual life of our family of faith.

Approximately 37% of the registered families in the Diocese of Baker, about 14,000 people, are Spanish speaking. The number of unregistered Hispanics in the diocese is perhaps as high as 45,000 according to the most recent census, and it is estimated that more than 70% of this segment of the Spanish speaking population is Catholic as well.

Deacon Gustavo Ruiz is the diocesan Director of Hispanic Ministry, and an essential aspect of this ministry is to invite new leaders in the Hispanic community to begin leadership formation, to assist in the formation of catechists, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and youth leaders, and to support the sacramental preparation for both Hispanic parents and youth.

The ministerial outreach to Hispanics also includes organizing, coordinating or facilitating Hispanic retreats, Bible study groups, diocesan Hispanic family camp programs, Marriage Encounter, evangelization retreats, and Natural Family Planning workshops. Deacon Ruiz serves as a resource for Bishop Cary on issues involving the Latino community; and Spanish language translations and publications are also made available from his office.

Our gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, to be launched in the spring, will help fund this important pastoral priority. The Bishop’s Annual Appeal is a pledge program, allowing us to spread our gift over several months, which is an easy way to give and allows us to make a more generous and affordable gift.

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal will offer a way for everyone in the diocese to become involved in supporting ministry to our Spanish speaking sisters and brothers. Through the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, we will help to strengthen the faith of Hispanic Catholics and integrate into our life of faith those who bring with them a rich Catholic tradition.

10TH Annual Chrism Mass Retreat & Pilgrimage - sponsored by Mother Mary’s Daughters

“Come to Me” to Jesus through Mary—A Marian Retreat of prayer for our Holy Father, Cardinals, Patriarchs, Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and for all the people of God. You are invited to join us at the Powell Butte Retreat Center from 4 PM on Friday, April 4 through 1 PM on Sunday, April 6. Then travel at your leisure to St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City and join Bishop Liam Cary and all the Clergy and Religious of the Diocese for the Chrism Mass at 7 PM on April 10. At the Chrism Mass the three oils used in the celebration of the sacraments for the coming year are blessed and the priests are asked to renew their commitment to priesthood. Check the Diocesan website for more information.

Parish News: St. Patrick, Heppner

The start of Heppner's St. Patrick's Day Celebration will once again be marked with an original drama production featuring the St. Pat's Players and directed by Fr. Gerry Condon. This marks the 11th year of such a production. The play will be presented in Ione on Sunday, March 9 at 3 PM and again in Heppner on Thursday, March 13 at 7 PM. Admission is free but donations are accepted and are given to a local charity of the cast's choosing.



This year's production features a cast of 15 and a production crew of eight and will chronicle the life of Saint Lawrence O'Toole. Lawrence O'Toole was born into a noble family in 1130 A.D. He was taken hostage at an early age by Dermot MacMurrough, the King of Leinster. He was eventually released to live at a famous monastery at Glendalough and at a later age became the abbot of that monastery. The same king who had earlier held him hostage nominated him to Rome to become the Archbishop of Dublin and he was installed as Archbishop. However, he then came to realize that manipulation on the part of Dermot MacMurrough was involved and he sided with King Rory O'Connor against him.

Vikings attacked Dublin and conquered the city under King Rory's watch but Lawrence encouraged King Rory to fight back. He was successful in regaining control of Dublin. After that Lawrence was called to Rome to participate in the Third Lateran Council. About the same time, King Henry made it known that he was going to impose restrictions on Church Authority in Ireland which was contrary to the Windsor Treaty that had previously been agreed upon. Archbishop Lawrence set off to England to clarify the matter. King Henry refused to meet with him and left for Normandy. Archbishop Lawrence was persistent and followed him there and convinced King Henry to honor the treaty. Lawrence started his journey back to Ireland but unfortunately, he fell ill on the way home and died in Normandy in 1180 A.D.

Parish News: St. Patrick, Lakeview

A Light of the World Evangelization retreat was held at St. Patrick parish in Lakeview on February 7-9. The retreat was encouraged by Father Francis Akano and coordinated by Teresa Squires as a way for parishioners to deepen their faith lives. This retreat presented the gospel message and encouraged people to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. Fifteen people participated from the Lakeview/Paisley area. The retreat consists of a series of talks that present the individual components of the gospel message along with personal testimonies by the presenters of how God touched their lives. In addition, there are small-group discussions, prayer, music, and ways to renew your relationship with Jesus.

This retreat was led by Vic Scaravilli and was assisted by Deb Scaravilli, Ipo and Mary Ross who are all from St. Pius X parish in Klamath Falls. They, along with several other team members, have been providing evangelization retreats in Oregon and California for ten years. At one time, Bishop Emeritus Thomas Connolly was part of the team. The group provides retreats to parishes as a ministry in response to calls for the New Evangelization by all of the popes beginning with Blessed John Paul II.

If your parish is interested in a retreat, please contact Vic Scaravilli at 541-884-6905 or vscaravilli@q.com.



Lakeview and Paisley Retreat attendees pictured above.

Office of Youth Ministry: All Ages Event

Announcing an awesome event occurring at St Francis of Assisi, Bend, on Sunday, March 16th from 3-5:30 PM. **Journey to Truth** will feature Matt Fradd, who - after experiencing a profound conversion at World Youth Day in Rome in 2000 - committed himself to inviting others to know Jesus Christ and the Church He founded. Matt will be giving us his wonderful story of conversion from agnosticism to Catholicism. He will be joined by Ike Ndolo, internationally recognized Catholic artist, and James Salas, one of his band members, to lead us in worship. This event is for all ages. For more info, contact David O'Neill david@dioceseofbaker.org.

Bishop Cary's Schedule

Mar. 9: Rite of Election 2 PM, Redmond
Mar. 12: Oregon NW Assoc. of Bishops and Religious Superiors meeting in Portland

Mar. 15: Rite of Election 11 AM, The Dalles
Mar. 16: Rite of Election 2 PM, Baker City
Mar. 21: Mt. Angel Seminary 125th Anniversary