



Faith Shows the Way *Homily given on May 15*

Every spring, as new life pops up from the earth, Easter Scripture readings remind us of the unstoppable growth of the early Church in the wake of the Great Commission the Risen Lord gave to His Apostles. “Go . . . and make disciples of all nations,” He told them. They did. They really did.

From our distant vantage point in time, we can only marvel at their courage in the face of so many, many unknowns. Unlike us, they could not look back in hindsight to see what worked well and what failed to work at all; for theirs was an adventure without historical precedent. No one had ever before set out to convert the entire pagan world to belief in a Crucified Lord. How on earth would Paul and Barnabas do it?

According to The Acts of the Apostles, the new Christians in Antioch simply turned to “the Lord, in Whom they had put their faith,” and “commended . . . to the grace of God” their carefully chosen ambassadors. All Paul and Barnabas had to go on was that faith they shared in Antioch, the faith of the Church. Faith would have to find the way.

The Way led through Pisidia, Pamphylia, Perga, and Attalia—before it finally brought them home to Antioch. There they “reported . . . how [God] had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles” through their preaching of the Gospel. Two millennia later the Good News they announced way back then has reached Bangalore and Bogata, Mbai and Manila, Shanghai and Stockholm. The door of faith is open still, and Gentiles do not cease to pass through it. In Paul’s day, as in ours, Faith shows the Way.

Our Scripture readings for the season trace the swift spread of the Way back to its source in Apostolic astonishment. That first Easter eve, Jesus of Nazareth broke into the

locked-door fear of his huddled disciples and stood right in their midst—fully, invitingly *alive*. Only days before, He had “breathed His last” on a cross. Now, all of a sudden, there He was, breathing, just an arm’s reach away. Jesus’ sudden appearance spoke for itself: “Once I was dead, but now I am alive” (Rev. 1:18).

His astounded companions could not deny the abundant evidence of sight, sound, and touch that testified convincingly to the reality of His presence. They saw Him, heard Him, felt Him. All their senses seared the experience unforgettably deep into their memory. “We are witnesses of these things!” they would say again and again. For they were not meant to keep the memory to themselves. “As the Father has sent Me,” He said to them, “so I send you.” Breathing on them, He added, “Receive the Holy Spirit”—the promised Paraclete, Who would remind them of all He had told them.

Every Easter the Spirit reminds us that we share life with those who stood shoulder to shoulder with the Victor over death on the night of His rising. A century and a half ago the tiny Catholic population east of the Cascades took the Paraclete’s reminder seriously and built up a network of churches in Eastern Oregon that we now call the Diocese of Baker. They bequeathed to us a rich

legacy of faith to hand on to those who come after us. Like Peter and John in the Acts of the Apostles, “We cannot *not* speak of the things we have seen and heard.” In the spirit of Paul and Barnabas, we continue to spread the word of our Easter amazement from Hood River to Hermiston, from Lakeview to La Grande, from Baker City to Bend.

We all belong to the Diocese of Baker, but it takes a parish to give faith a home. As you build up your parish home,



Bishop/Obispo Liam Cary

La Fe Encuentra el Camino *Homilía dada el 15 de Mayo*

Cada primavera, a medida que brota nueva vida de la tierra, las lecturas de las Escrituras de la Pascua nos recuerdan el crecimiento imparable de la Iglesia primitiva a raíz de la Gran Comisión que el Señor Resucitado dio a Sus Apóstoles. “Vayan . . . y hagan discípulos a todas las naciones”, les dijo. Lo hicieron. Realmente lo hicieron.

Desde nuestro punto de vista distante en el tiempo, sólo podemos maravillarnos de su coraje frente a tantas, tantas incógnitas. A diferencia de nosotros, no pudieron mirar hacia atrás en retrospectiva para ver qué funcionó bien y qué no funcionó para nada. La de ellos fue una aventura sin precedente histórico. Nunca antes nadie se había propuesto convertir a todo el mundo pagano a la creencia en un Señor Crucificado. ¿Cómo demonios lo harían Pablo y Bernabé?

Según Los Hechos de los Apóstoles, los nuevos Cristianos de Antioquía simplemente se volvieron “al Señor, en quien habían puesto su fe” y “encomendaron . . . a la gracia de Dios” a sus embajadores elegidos. Todo lo que Pablo y Bernabé tenían para continuar era esa fe que compartían en Antioquía, la fe de la Iglesia. La fe tendría que encontrar el camino.

El Camino conducía a través de Pisidia, Panfilia, Perge, y Attalia—antes de finalmente llevarlos de vuelta a Antioquía. Allí ellos “informaron... cómo [Dios] había abierto la puerta de la fe a los Gentiles” a través de su predicación del Evangelio. Dos milenios después, la Buena Nueva que trajeron entonces ha llegado a Bangalore y Bogata, a Mbaí y Manila, a Shanghai y Seattle. La puerta de la fe aún está abierta, y los Gentiles no dejan de pasar por ella. En los días de Pablo, como en los nuestros, la Fe encuentra el Camino.

Nuestras lecturas de las Escrituras Pascuales trazan la rápida expansión del Camino de regreso a su origen en asombro Apostólico. Esa primera víspera de Pascua, Jesús de Nazaret irrumpió a sus discípulos amontonados en temor y se paró justo en medio de ellos—completamente, indudablemente *vivo*. Sólo unos días antes, Él había “respirado Su último aliento” en una cruz. Ahora, de repente, allí estaba Él, respirando, a solo un brazo de distancia. La repentina aparición de Jesús habló por sí sola: “En otro tiempo estuve muerto, pero ahora estoy vivo” (Apoc. 1:18).

Sus asombrados compañeros no pudieron negar la abundante evidencia de vista, de oído y de tacto que testificaba convincentemente a la realidad de Su presencia.

Lo vieron, lo escucharon, lo sintieron. Todos sus sentidos grabaron la experiencia inolvidablemente en lo profundo de su memoria. “¡Somos testigos de estas cosas!” decían una y otra vez. Porque no estaban destinados a guardar el recuerdo para ellos mismos. “Como me envió el Padre”, Jesús dijo, “así los envió yo”. Soplando sobre ellos, añadió: “Reciban el Espíritu Santo”—el Paráclito prometido que les recordaría todo lo que les había dicho.

Cada Pascua, el Espíritu nos recuerda que compartimos la vida con aquellos hombres que estuvieron hombro con hombro con el Victor sobre la muerte en la noche de Su resurrección. Hace un siglo y medio, la pequeña población Católica al Este de las Montañas Cascades tomó en serio el recordatorio del Paráclito y estableció una red de iglesias en el Este de Oregon que ahora llamamos la Diócesis de Baker. Ellos nos legaron un rico legado de fe para transmitir a los que vienen después de nosotros. Todos nosotros pertenecemos a la Diócesis de Baker, pero se necesita una parroquia para darle un hogar a la fe. Allí, en el espíritu de Pablo y Bernabé, continuamos difundiendo la palabra de nuestro asombro Pascual desde Hood River hasta Hermiston, desde Lakeview hasta La Grande, desde Baker City hasta Bend.

Como Pedro y Juan en los Hechos de los Apóstoles. “No podemos NO hablar de las cosas que hemos visto y oído”. Para ayudarles a ustedes a seguir construyendo su hogar parroquial, la Diócesis brinda apoyo espiritual, financiero y administrativo, especialmente a través de la Campaña de Apelación Anual del Obispo 2022, que comienza hoy. Se llama *La Fe Encuentra el Camino*. Favor de revisar el folleto explicativo y contribuir este año. Cualquiera que sea el tamaño de su donación, ayudará a mucha gente a encontrar su camino hacia la fe.

Faith Shows the Way, *continued*

the Diocese lends spiritual, financial, and administrative support—especially through the 2022 Bishop’s Annual Appeal, which begins today. It’s called *Faith Finds the Way*. Please look over the explanatory brochure and think prayerfully about contributing this year. Whatever the size of your gift, it will help some people find their way to faith and others to find their way deeper into faith. Spiritually speaking, that’s not a bad return on your investment. God bless you for giving whatever your means will allow.

St. Vincent de Paul-We Help People!

Redmond Conference

Spirituality – Friendship – Service

Submitted by **Leah Bickett**, *SVdP Redmond, Secretary*

Vaccines, variants and supply chain woes are not the only milestones to look back at from the past 12 months of 2021, which proved to be a year of milestones and accomplishments for the Redmond SVdP Conference. Bi-annually the Redmond Board of Directors holds its strategic planning meeting to review accomplishments of prior goals and develop plans to be carried forward into the next five years. Each board member serves on committees pertaining to the areas of Program Development, Marketing, Finance, Personnel, and Facilities and Resources.

The Program Development Committee was ready to start home visitation services, which were quickly canceled due to the Covid-19 shutdown. In the face of adversity, the committee developed a new service for the community called “Laundry Love.” On the 10th of each month, members of SVdP gather at Cathy’s Eco-Laundry Mat with laundry supplies and a phone application that operates the washing machines and dryers. Low income and homeless clients are able to launder their items with the bill being paid by SVdP. Volunteers begin the evening in prayer and generally bring a light meal to be enjoyed by those utilizing the program while they wait for their laundry to finish. We are eager to restart home visitation services with the goal of addressing the systemic needs of the clients we serve in the spring of 2022.

Marketing efforts have focused on expanding the involvement of St. Thomas parishioners and the Redmond Community at large. St. Thomas Church holds an annual Recruitment Sunday where parishioners

commit to volunteer time. In addition to the volunteer drive, SVdP has a presence in the vestibule at St. Thomas Church, sharing information on services we provide as well as thanking the St. Thomas Community for their donations from the school food drive, the school hygiene drive, and from an innovative program called the “Reverse Collection.” The reverse collection takes place on the third Sunday of every month. Before announcements and the final blessing, parishioners pull a slip of paper from a collection basket that lists one item needed for the food pantry. They take the slip of paper to the store and bring the item purchased to church the following week, placing the donated item in the SVdP donation box.

Two community-level efforts have led to increased awareness of our mission and services. First, SVdP made a public service commercial, which broadcasts free on local stations. The second community network is provided by The Redmond Food Project. Neighborhood Coordinators sign up friends and neighbors to be regular food donors. Every food donor gets a reusable green bag to fill with nonperishable items. Every two months food donors put their green bags outside their front doors. Neighborhood Coordinators pick up all the full green bags in their neighborhoods and leave empty ones for next time. They take the bags to SVdP where volunteers unload their cars, empty the bags, and sort all the food.

I invite you to read Part 2 of my article in the next Diocesan Chronicle. We are looking forward to another great year and opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship. Thank you to all who have been such an integral part of our success.





High School Leadership Camp

"Abide in Me" - John 15:4 // **June 23-25, 2022**

High school students who have completed grades 9-12 are invited to grow in their faith and leadership skills and are encouraged to serve as Youth Leaders at the Middle Grades Summer Camp.

Middle Grades Camp

"Abide in Me" - John 15:4; Witnesses to Jesus

June 26-29, 2022

This camp is for all youth who have completed 4th-8th grade.

▶ Register now @ DioceseOfBaker.org

For more info, contact Marie Becker:

marie@dioceseofbaker.org & 541-388-4004

Catholic Family Camps

Family outing adventures, prayer, learning, games, crafts, men's & women's sessions, campfire & s'more!

Family Camp (A) - **July 9-12, 2022**

Family Camp (B) - **July 14-17, 2022**

▶ Register now @ DioceseOfBaker.org

For more info, contact Bryce Herrmann:

bryce@dioceseofbaker.org & 541-388-4004



Pro-Life Corner

Venerable Jérôme Lejeune

Did you know that it was a Catholic, pro-life French pediatrician, and geneticist who discovered the extra copy of chromosome 21 that causes Down syndrome?

His whole being was oriented towards the search for the truth, even to the detriment of his career and threats to himself and his family for his pro-life beliefs.

It is said that he is the "father of modern genetics." Venerable Jerome Lejeune's cause for canonization began in 2012.

Bishop Cary's Schedule

Confirmation Schedules:

May 22

9:00 a.m. (English) & **11:00 a.m.** (Spanish), for Nyssa and Jordan Valley at St. Bridget's in Nyssa

May 29

10:00 a.m. Holy Redeemer, La Pine

3:30 p.m. Our Lady of the Snows, Christmas Valley

June 4-10

Archdiocese of San Francisco Priest Retreat

NOW HIRING!

Catholic Summer Camp & Event Assistant

Great resume builder for a college student or recent graduate. Gain experience planning and running Catholic events for youth and families.

~Jun 15-Aug 10, 2022, Redmond/Powell Butte, OR.

For more info, contact Marie Becker:

marie@dioceseofbaker.org & 541-388-4004 - OR - www.DioceseofBaker.org

