

News of the Diocese of Baker

December 1, 2019
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THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE



Christmas Bazaar

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church
503 W. Chocktoot St. in Chiloquin

Saturday, December 14, 2019

9 AM to 3 PM

Come pick out that perfect gift for family and friends.

Our kitchen will be open for lunch.
Bake sale items will be available!

TABLES ARE AVAILABLE FOR VENDORS
COST - \$10 (CALL 541-783-2411)

Priestly Ordination Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following as they celebrate their ordination anniversaries during December.

Reverend Paul Antao, La Pine	Dec. 18, 1999
Reverend Eduardo Nebelung	Dec. 21, 1984
Reverend Thomas Philip, Lakeview	Dec. 28, 1998
Reverend Tomy Chowaran, Hood River	Dec. 29, 1999
Reverend Thankachan Joseph, Hood River	Dec. 31, 2002
Reverend Saji Thomas, La Grande	Dec. 31, 2005
Reverend Anish Philip, Nyssa	Dec. 31, 2009

We are most grateful for the years of service of all our Priests and Bishop. Please keep them in your prayers.

#iGIVECATHOLIC
December 3, 2019



Support our Parishes Outreach Ministries!

Participate on #GI^{VE}INGTUESDAY

On December 3rd dioceses across the nation are joining together to provide online charitable giving through a new platform called #iGiveCatholic.

This year, #iGiveCatholic and the Diocese of Baker have partnered to offer a web-based opportunity for our friends and families across the country to help support our local ministries that support the **7 Corporal Works of Mercy**.

Pastors are encouraged to highlight their own Parish Outreach ministries for two purposes: 1) engage their parishioners to spread the word beyond their local community and 2) request financial support from monies raised through this event.

Contributions can make a big impact on: the hungry, thirsty, homeless, sick, imprisoned, burying the dead, and the needy among us. 100% of all donations will go to those parishes requesting support.



www.baker.igivecatholic.org

Tuesday, December 3, 2019
(Advanced giving now open)



Thoughts Along The Way

Bishop Liam Cary

Advent: A Season of Hope

This column was last published in the 3 December 2013 Issue of the Diocesan Chronicle.

Advent is here. Once again we find ourselves in the midst of the Season of Hope. “Are you ‘he who is to come,’” John the Baptist’s disciples ask Jesus, “or do we look for another?” Faith tells us that Someone is coming; hope keeps watch for His arrival.

If we are to live out our faith in love, our heart must beat with hope. Faith without hope is like a ship stuck at sea. The maps aboard the ship of faith (the Scriptures, the *Catechism*) serve no purpose unless the winds of hope catch its sails and move it onward across the waters to the goal of life’s journey. Against the fierce counter winds of an unbelieving world it takes strong faith to sustain the hope that is within us and live it out in love day by day.

Each Advent we witness anew the world-changing faith of the Virgin who bore our Hope in her womb toward the first Christmas. Throughout her pregnancy Mary knew that the One who is to come was with her, as close as He could be. Like any mother, she longed to see His face; but He dwelt invisibly within, and she had to live in hope until Hope came to birth. Her husband Joseph shared her hope, and so do we: to look upon the face of the Father’s only Son and to feel his gaze upon us, to see and be seen by the Love of God Incarnate in the Son of Mary of Nazareth. It was altogether too much to hope that for our sake the great and all-powerful God would make Himself every bit as small and defenseless as we were when we first drew breath. Yet that is precisely the hope which Advent proposes to us, because it is the Hope of the Church.

If Advent were taken out of our lives, what would we have to hope for, to whom would we go to hope in? “Hope springs eternal in the human heart,” it is true; but earthbound hope does not spring far enough; it cannot ferry us over the horizon of death. To make that passage we need a hope that comes to us from the other shore, the shore of eternal life.

That hope leads us home to “the end of all our desires,” St. Thomas Aquinas teaches. As we learn from repeated, painful experience, “in this life no one can fulfill his longing, nor can any creature satisfy man’s desire. Only God satisfies. . . . That is why man can rest in nothing but God.”

But resting in God—our last best hope—will not cut us off from one another. To the contrary, St. Thomas teaches, “eternal life consists of the joyous community of all the blessed, since everyone will share all that is good with all the blessed. Everyone will love everyone else as himself, and therefore will rejoice in another’s good as in his own. So it follows that the happiness and joy of each

grows in proportion to the joy of all.”

This is the hope Advent invites us to make our own. To whom shall we go for a greater?

Pensamientos A Lo Largo Del Camino

Obispo Liam Cary

Adviento: El tiempo de la Esperanza

Esta columna fue publicada en la edición del 3 de Diciembre del 2013 de la Crónica Diocesana.

Ha venido el tiempo de Adviento y nos encontramos de nuevo en el tiempo de la esperanza. “¿Eres Tú ‘el que ha de venir?’ le preguntan los discípulos de Juan el Bautista a Jesús, “¿o buscaremos a otro?” La fe nos dice que Alguien ha de venir; La Esperanza nos mantiene alerta a Su llegada.

Para vivir nuestra fe en amor, nuestro corazón debe latir con esperanza. La fe sin esperanza es como un barco atrapado en el mar. Los mapas a bordo del barco de la fe (las Escrituras, el *Catecismo*) no sirven de nada si los vientos de la esperanza no despliegan sus velas y lo mueven a través de las aguas hacia la meta de la vida. Contra los vientos feroces de un mundo incrédulo se necesita una fe fuerte para sostener la esperanza que hay en nosotros y vivirla día tras día en el amor.

Cada Adviento somos testigos de la fe maravillosa de la Virgen que llevaba nuestra esperanza en su vientre hacia la primera Navidad. A lo largo de su embarazo María sabía que Aquel que ha de venir estaba con ella, lo más cerca que podía estar. Como cualquier madre, ella ansiaba ver Su rostro, pero Él se mantenía de manera invisible en su interior, y ella tuvo que vivir en la esperanza hasta que la Esperanza nació. Su marido José compartió su esperanza, y nosotros también: a mirar el rostro del Hijo único del Padre y sentir Su mirada sobre nosotros, a ver y ser visto por el Amor de Dios encarnado en el Hijo de María de Nazaret. Del punto de vista puramente humana era totalmente demasiado esperar que por causa de nosotros el gran y todopoderoso Dios se hiciera a sí mismo tan pequeño e indefenso como nosotros al nacer. Sin embargo, eso es precisamente la esperanza que el Adviento nos propone, porque es la Esperanza de la Iglesia.

Si nos quitaran el Adviento de nuestras vidas, ¿cuál sería nuestra esperanza, en quién pondríamos nuestra esperanza? “La esperanza es eterna en el corazón humano”, es cierto; pero la esperanza terrenal no es suficiente para transportarnos al otro lado del horizonte de la muerte. Para dar ese paso necesitamos una esperanza que viene de la otra orilla, la orilla de la vida eterna.

Esa esperanza nos lleva a la casa “al final de todos nuestros deseos,” dice Santo Tomás de Aquino. A medida que aprendemos de repetidas experiencias dolorosas, “en esta vida nadie puede cumplir su deseo, ni criatura alguna puede satisfacer el deseo del hombre. Sólo Dios satisface.

. . . Es por eso que el hombre no puede descansar nada más que en Dios”.

Pero descansando en Dios—nuestra última y mejor esperanza—no nos separa de los demás. Por el contrario, enseña Santo Tomás, “la vida eterna consiste en la comunidad alegre de todos los bienaventurados, porque todo el mundo va a compartir todo lo que es bueno con todos los bienaventurados. Cada uno amará a todos los demás como a sí mismo, y por lo tanto se regocijará en el bien de los otros como en el suyo propio. Por lo tanto, se deduce que la felicidad y la alegría de cada uno crece en proporción a la alegría de todos.”

Esta es la esperanza de Adviento que nos invita a hacerla nuestra. ¿A quién iremos por una mayor?

BISHOP CARY'S SCHEDULE

- Dec 5 3:00 PM Legacy of Faith Foundation meeting
Dec 8 10:00 AM Bilingual Mass, The Dalles,
50 Year Anniversary followed by a Potluck
Dec 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day
6:00 AM Spanish Mass, Redmond
7:00 PM Spanish Mass, Ontario



RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION

The annual collection for the Retirement Fund will be conducted in our diocese the weekend of December 7-8. 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. The Diocese of Baker also makes payments to the dioceses of our international priests based on years of service in our diocese.

As many of you already know, the Priest's pension plan is significantly underfunded. Because of our large unfunded pension liability and our outstanding retirement liability for our international priests, the diocese will again allocate the majority of this collection to the Priest's Retirement Program. This collection and our own Bishop's Annual Appeal are two of their major funding sources.

We urge you to continue to support this important and necessary collection. Please pray for its success and **thank you** for your generosity and support.

Living Our Faith

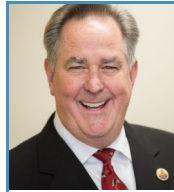
With \$62,000 to go to reach our BAA19 goal, please help us to complete our mission in serving the 14 key ministries of our diocese.

Faith comes alive when we work together to spread it.

Viviendo Nuestra Fe

Con todavía \$62,000 para alcanzar nuestra meta de la BAA19, por favor ayúdenos para completar nuestra misión de servir a los 14 ministerios clave de nuestra diócesis.

La fe cobra vida cuando trabajamos juntos para difundirla.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

“If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!”
Benjamin Franklin

When I worked for Hewlett Packard many years ago I had a Franklin Planner that I still have today and it reminds me of my Bible because of the leather-bound cover. As we all know, if we don't effectively use what's inside the Franklin Planner and the Bible, we are setting ourselves up to fail in our earthly and eternal pursuits.

Can you believe December is almost here? Where does the time go? This month is a wonderful time of year when we think about our loved ones in a special way, we celebrate, and we give a lot of ourselves. Historically December is the biggest month of giving in the nation.

We at Legacy of Faith Foundation support giving all year and all during our lives on earth. It is an intentional giver who plans and gives “first fruits”. 2019 has been especially good to those with Real Estate, Technology Stocks, and even boring US Treasury Bonds. It was only one year ago, on Christmas Eve, that many people realized there would be no “Christmas Rally”, it was dreadful and the 2018 year ended with a thud in the market. But what a difference one year makes! Growth Stocks are up 40%, Industrial Stocks up 29%, Communication Services companies up 28%, even Financials are up and Real Estate Trusts are up 27%: all beating the S&P Index which is up 25%.

A good friend once told me, a strategic giver should first be thankful that Jesus has blessed me with profitable investments, and secondly, I should strategically use some of the proceeds to help those who have less. The most recent changes by the government have enabled us to make our gifts go a lot further!

Establishing a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) is simple and a great way to leverage your same stewardship. It is easy to estimate one's normal charitable giving pattern for the next 3-4 years, and take advantage of those aforementioned appreciated assets. By doing so, one minimizes their tax burden of capital gains and maximizes their philanthropy power. Lastly, one may again be able to take advantage of itemizing to save yet more money. Like Robin Hood, pay the government less and provide support to the less fortunate.

Sound like a loophole for the rich? No! You can open a DAF with the Legacy of Faith Foundation for as little as \$5,000 and join those donors who planned wisely and now give every year to Catholic value charities by a simple phone call or email.

And just like the Magi were wise to follow a Star — you have a board of trustees and talented advisors who will help you follow the stars and use the tax laws to benefit your family on earth. With more of your tax dollars at work, you know the benefits will be eternal.

Mark French,

Executive Director, LFF
Director of Stewardship, Diocese of Baker



A Light Among Us

Encuentra este artículo en español en
<https://www.dioceseofbaker.org/la-cronica-diocesana>

Deacon Martin Omar Torres was born into a devoted Catholic family on March 4, 1965, in Guadalajara Jalisco, Mexico. As a boy he was pious and faithful in his religious activities. He was brilliant in his studies and a hardworking man. Omar married Laura Cecilia Cuevas Preciado on November 23, 1985, and they raised three daughters. On May 27, 2000, he was ordained a Deacon for the Diocese of Baker by Bishop Robert Vasa and was assigned to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pendleton where he has continued to minister to the families of the parish, both in Spanish and English.

Deacon Omar's ministry is to provide assistance, support, guidance, and instruction in all aspects of the spiritual needs of all parishioners at St. Mary's parish, but especially to the Latino parishioners because he understands the struggle of the language barrier and does not want families to be discouraged in their faith due to the language. He is the consulter and spokesperson for the pastor on Latino matters. His impact is not only felt by the Latino community, but also by many other clergy and staff throughout our vast rural diocese. He is loved and respected by the Spanish-speaking people and they look to him as their spiritual father.

"Without my faith in God as a Catholic, I couldn't face the many challenges and confusion of this world. The Teachings of my faith has been a light in times when I have to make important decisions in my family life and in my ministry. I have had **good spiritual fathers** (priests) who have guided me in my formation as a deacon. I have no words to describe the peace and strength that I received through Adoration, the Holy Rosary and the Holy Mass, praise be to God for His Holy Church." **Deacon Omar Torres**

Deacon Omar wears many hats at St. Mary parish such as: baptismal classes for families, scheduling and teaching for RE classes, marriage preparation, tribunal matters, weekly homilies, altar server training, annual parish vocation camp, and the annual NW Catholic Men's Conference. He is invested in helping the Latino community at St. Mary's to grow, from their registering as parishioners to receiving sacraments; from marriage to funerals; and from camps and Knights of Columbus to conferences and retreats. He is not only the parish facilitator, he is the carpenter, the counselor, the moderator, and sometimes the speaker.

"I have known Deacon Omar for over 20 years; and in those 20 years I have seen the amazing **work of God** through His servant Omar. . . . I think his passion to get others to follow Christ grew when he was ordained a deacon."

Angela Rios, Religious Education Volunteer

In 2017 Deacon Omar organized Diabetes Education classes for the Hispanic community. He then worked with the hospital to offer First Aid/CPR Classes for the Hispanic youth in the community.

Deacon Omar has also been a long standing Religious Services volunteer with the Oregon Department of Correction (ODOC), specifically involved with the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institute (EOCI) earning him the Outstanding Volunteer Award in 2017. He has not only lead prayers services at the facility, but has also encouraged others from the parish to participate as volunteers. He has arranged for the local pastor, as well as the Bishop, on occasion, to offer Mass for the inmates. His greatest endeavor so far was to coordinate baptismal/confirmation program for the men. It was not an easy task to take men through the year-long program that adults attend to become members of the Catholic faith. He went the extra mile to get special permission through the ODOC to arrange Godparents for each participant.

"If we could clone Deacon Omar's mild manner, his faithfulness in communication with staff, his strong example as a man of faith, his commitment to the ethics and Code of Conduct of the ODOC and his care and leading by example for the adults in custody he interacts with, we would have an unbelievable force of volunteers **effecting and enabling change** in those we seek to help re-enter society."

L. Schwarz, Chaplain, EOCI

Deacon Omar is compassionate within the community and "walks the walk" by working with the homeless who come to the church for help. He works within the parish to supply gas vouchers and hotel rooms as funds are available. He gives them hope and Jesus for them to hold on to. Deacon Omar also makes regular visits to the hospital to offer communion and to visit with patients. He is on-call 24 hours a day. Although he is always excited to lead successful large events that impact hundreds of people at a time or teach a religious education class, he finds the greatest joy in his daily opportunity of sharing Jesus with a stranger - whether a homeless person or a newly incarcerated man in the local prison. To sit with him, pray with him and share Christ's love with him is truly how he finds the most joy living out his vocation.

"He has always shown **reverence and loyalty** to the Holy Priesthood and has led many to the Church by his humility. He is prayerful and has a solid understanding of the faith which has been crucial to the growing evangelization of the Hispanic community in the area."

Most Reverend Liam Cary

In 2018 Deacon Omar Torres was nominated by the Diocese of Baker for the **Catholic Extension "Lumen Christi Award"**. Although he was not selected as a finalist, we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you, Deacon Omar, for your dedicated service and devotion to your community. You are a **"Light of Christ"** in the Diocese of Baker.