



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”

June 6, 2010

Volume I, Number 1

GENERAL INFORMATION: Welcome to the First Edition of the Diocese of Baker Newsletter to be known as *The Diocesan Chronicle*. This project is undertaken by the Staff at the Diocese with the goal of producing every two weeks a chronicle of news and events of importance and interest to the people of God of the Diocese of Baker.

Besides contributions to this effort by Diocesan staff it will also be possible and encouraged for parishes to send in news items that would be of interest to the other parishes of the Diocese. Each department of our Diocesan Office will have the opportunity to announce and report on its activities and events. I hope that parish news comes from parishes and I am confident there are a sufficient number of events in the Diocese each month to fill some portion of this bi-weekly publication. I think, for instance, of the many pictures of Confirmation classes, First Communions, Retreats, Parish Socials and the like which occur regularly in our parishes.

It is also possible that other parish and diocesan organizations such as the Catholic Daughters or the Knights of Columbus of particular parishes may want to note special Fourth Degree Exemplification Ceremonies or provide a picture when they provide an Honor Guard at the parish.

Since *The Chronicle* originates at the Diocesan level, one of its major purposes will be to connect parishes to the Diocese and Diocesan or Deanery events. Thus the Office of Religious Education will utilize a portion of each edition of *The Chronicle* to instruct, inform and edify both parents and catechists.

OUR DIOCESAN YOUTH: The Office of Youth Ministry will likewise provide regular updates on the most recent plans and activities. It is even possible that local news items involving Catholic Youth from the Parish might be noted particularly if that young person participates in Parish Catechesis, Diocesan Youth Council, Camps, Mass serving and the like. Comments from youth who have just completed a Retreat, Confirmation or First Reconciliation or Communion could likewise be very edifying. I sent a note recently to a young man from Hermiston who is earning his Eagle Scout Award and I suspect that there are a number of Catholic Youth of the Diocese who are involved in some newsworthy and noteworthy endeavor or activity. It may be impossible or impractical to try to publish local sports news but an individual athletic achievement by one of our Catholic young people would be of interest.



CHRISM MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL: This annual event took place on March 25 when nearly 40 priests serving in the Diocese gathered with Bishop Vasa and Bishop Connolly to bless the various Sacramental oils for use in the Diocese of Baker. The three oils: the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and Sacred Chrism are seen in the three urns on the table in front of the altar.

PARISH NEWS: The Catholic Daughters of the Americas from Pendleton presented the Bishop with a Cope, Stole and Humeral Veil for use at Saint Mary's Church at the Diocesan Retreat Center. These are the vestments used by a priest or deacon in the celebration of Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. Since Eucharistic Adoration is a common feature at our retreats and camps the receipt of this gift will allow Retreat Masters to assure a proper dignity and solemnity to Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration and Benediction. We are very grateful to the Catholic Daughters for beautiful gift.

MESSAGES FROM OUR PRIESTS: One of the unique features of *The Chronicle*, we hope, will be contributions and reflections from the priests serving in the Diocese of Baker. We are blessed with a rich international, cultural heritage with priests from Oregon, Ireland, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Sri Lanka, India, Poland, Argentina and Mexico. Many of these priests have written articles, dissertations and even books and while trying to provide a very concise and condensed message may be a bit of a challenge, I do believe that this can be a very rewarding and unifying feature. I do hope that the priests of the Diocese respond by sending in their reflections and articles. It may happen that particular priests will be asked well in advance to provide a comment for an upcoming issue.

MIND AND HEART OF BISHOP VASA: I have written a regular column for the *Catholic Sentinel* every week for the past ten years. Those articles appeared in the Baker Edition of the *Catholic Sentinel* as well as on various websites. Some parishes have occasionally duplicated these as an insert for the Parish Bulletin but from now on those articles will occur every other week, they will be published here and they will be a bit shorter than the weekly offerings of the past. The articles will also appear on the Diocesan website and perhaps on the website of the *Catholic Sentinel*. Since there were only about 400 subscriptions to the Baker Edition of the *Catholic Sentinel* I have decided that this *Chronicle* might be a more effective tool and method of communication with the people of the Diocese.

The topics covered in these articles are as wide-ranging as the Church Herself, but in the past have almost universally begun with some trip or experience in the Diocese. A vast majority has concerned weekend outings to the Parishes for Confirmation and the ruminations that have occurred during the hours of travel. Since we are drawing near to the end of our year for priests it would be good to hear about that priest who is the Patron of Parish Priests and who is certainly a great model for all priests, Saint John Marie Vianney, the Curé of Ars. Dear brother priests, let us ask the Lord Jesus for the grace to learn for ourselves something of the pastoral plan of Saint John Marie Vianney! The first thing we need to learn is the complete identification of the man with his ministry. In Jesus person and mission tend to coincide: all Christ's saving activity was, and is, an expression of his "filial consciousness" which from all eternity stands before the Father in an attitude of loving submission to his will. In a humble yet genuine way, every priest must aim for a similar identification. Certainly this is not to forget that the efficacy of the ministry is independent of the holiness of the minister; but neither can we overlook the extraordinary fruitfulness of the encounter between the ministry's objective holiness and the subjective holiness of the minister. ... As his first biographer tells us: "Upon his arrival, he chose the church as his home. He entered the church before dawn and did not leave it until after the evening Angelus. There he was to be sought whenever needed". Holiness is the first responsibility for all of us, but especially for our priests.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: From time to time there are changes affecting parish priests, parish boundaries, parish and Diocesan Regulations, Diocesan Staff or Offices. These have not always been properly communicated throughout the Diocese. With the advent of *The Diocesan Chronicle*, I will make a concerted effort to include any official appointments, changes or direction in this location. It may often happen that this segment is either eliminated or contains only a very brief message.

DIOCESAN STAFF: The nature of this column will develop over time but it is the original intent that it be used to inform parishioners about the Diocesan Staff positions and their duties. This may include a picture of the Staff person under consideration, a brief bit of biographical information, perhaps even something about their length of time with the Diocese, outside interests, family etc.

While this is a bit of a public interest element it is also important for the sake of understanding the job and often jobs, plural, which someone might be engaged in at the Chancery. For instance, it may not be very well known that the Diocese has provided the services of an auditor to the parishes. Over the past five or six years Mr. Ray Buselli, has contacted and visited every Parish of the Diocese on two or three occasions. The goal is to provide a financial and compliance audit every other year. The service he provides to parishes is quite valuable. It can often happen that routine sets in and people become a bit lax about various types of accountability. He oversees bookkeeping practices, documentation of financial activities, protocols for the handling of collections and other matters of financial importance. In addition, he visits with Parish Finance Council members to help assure that they understand their duties and responsibilities. The "audit" helps Parishes assure that the practices and policies they have adopted are carefully followed. This is a service provided by the Chancery, which largely goes unnoticed and yet it is a very valuable and necessary service.

RETREAT CENTER NEWS: The Retreat Center is gearing up for a busy summer of activities. There have already been a number of retreats at Powell Butte with very positive results. Youth retreats and camps will be the primary focus during the summer, but this does not by any stretch of the imagination describe all of the activities. The schedule on the back page lists the various camps and the dates. Registration Forms may be obtained from the Parish, The Diocesan website (www.DiocesefofBaker.org) or by calling the Diocesan Office (541) 388-4004.

Much could be said about High School Camp, Leadership Camp, Middle School and Upper Elementary Camp, but suffice it to say for now that there is still room for registration for these camps but the spaces are not unlimited.

I also call your attention to Family Camp. We are all part of a family; it is in families that we experience our greatest graces and often our greatest challenges and meeting God in the context of those family relationships is an opportunity for great grace. The camp schedule is all set, the presenters, including a couple of Religious Sisters from Kenya known as the Sisters of Mary of Kakamega, are eager for the arrival of the youth and the camps promise to be a tremendous opportunity for grace for our youth.

RETREAT SCHEDULE: While additional information will be provided in future *Chronicles*, I wanted to mention three future events at our Powell Butte retreat Center, which should be of interest to members of our Diocese. The first is the First Diocesan Quo Vadis Retreat. This is a retreat for young men who have some sense that God may be calling them to a vocation to the Priesthood or religious Life. The Latin, *Quo Vadis*, is a question: Where are you going? These retreats have become very popular in the Northwest and have been instrumental in helping young men discern a possible priestly vocation. The date for this Retreat is July 23-25.

Very similar to a Quo Vadis Retreat for men is a Women's Discernment Retreat, which, like the Retreat for men, is intended to help young women discern a possible call to Religious Life for them. The date for that retreat is August 6-8.

Third, still a number of months into the future, is a Diocesan Stewardship Conference. The details of this will be worked out in the future but it is recommended that members of Parish and Finance Councils give serious attention to attending this Conference. It is scheduled for October 30-31.

VOCATIONS: Another feature of *The Diocesan Chronicle*, which will undoubtedly come to be known as *The Chronicle*, will be a section on Priestly and Religious Vocations. Over the past several years a number of young women from our parishes have joined Religious Communities and these have not been well noted. There have been events of Admission, completion of Novitiate, taking of First Vows and even taking of Perpetual Vows which are of great significance for the life of the Church and yet which have gone, sadly, largely unnoticed in the Diocese. I hope this can be corrected in our *Chronicle*. Furthermore, most people of the Diocese would have no idea of how many Seminarians the Diocese currently sponsors, where they are studying, how long they have to ordination and how one might go about inquiring about studies for the priesthood. This too needs to be remedied.

Our Diocesan Director of Vocations, Father James Radloff, who is also Chaplain to the Diocese of Baker Serra Club (A National Lay Organization dedicated to the promotion of vocations) will be appointed to oversee this portion of *The Chronicle*. It will be good to be reminded frequently of the need to pray for vocations, perhaps using the Serra prayer for Vocations, and to receive an occasional update on the who, what and where of our seminarians and novices. The seminarians and novices themselves could likewise contribute something occasionally.

For an increase in vocation to the Priesthood and Religious Life from and for our Diocese, we pray to the Lord.

SAINTS AND FEASTS: Besides news and information there will be a number of other "regular features" which we envision. Throughout the course of the Liturgical Year, the Church celebrates or commemorates a number of Saints and Feast Days. These events provide a wonderful catechetical and spiritual opportunity for us to learn more about the Communion of Saints as well as the doctrines of the Church.

If this were a regular issue we would focus on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), which we celebrate today, as well as the memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary which falls on June 12.

PRAYER REQUESTS: There is always need for prayer and requests for prayer are certainly suitable for *The Chronicle*. In general these would include the Apostleship of Prayer intentions of the Holy Father for the Month, as well as more global intentions. It is not at all possible for us to list all of the sick, suffering and dying, since such requests are more appropriate for the Parish Bulletin, but requesting prayers for those recently departed during the previous month would be included here.

NOTICIAS HISPANAS: Reconocemos que hay un número significativo de feligreses que hablan español y si bien no es posible producir todo el (Periódico) Crónica en Inglés y Español, habrá una parte de cada numero traducido también al español. Bienvenidos a la primera edición del periódico de la Diócesis de Baker que será conocido como La Crónica de la Diócesis. Este proyecto será producido por el personal de la Diócesis con la meta de producir cada dos semanas una Crónica de las noticias y acontecimientos de importancia e interés para el pueblo de Dios de la Diócesis de Baker.

AROUND ONE TABLE – THE DIOCESAN CHURCH:

Consider Liturgy: The texts for the Liturgy of the Word remain unchanged, but I would imagine that there will be serious consideration given to a renewal of the Scriptural translations at some point in the future.

The next element, which is a part of the Liturgy of the Word, is the Creed. Along with the *Gloria*, this text will need to be followed carefully for quite some time before it becomes automatic. Imagine! We want the Creed to become automatic. Unfortunately, if it becomes too automatic it can also become routine and unthinking and the Profession of Faith, every time we recite it, should be a true and personal Profession of what we believe. Perhaps the changes will help us become more conscious what we say and what we believe. God bless you. +Bishop Vasa

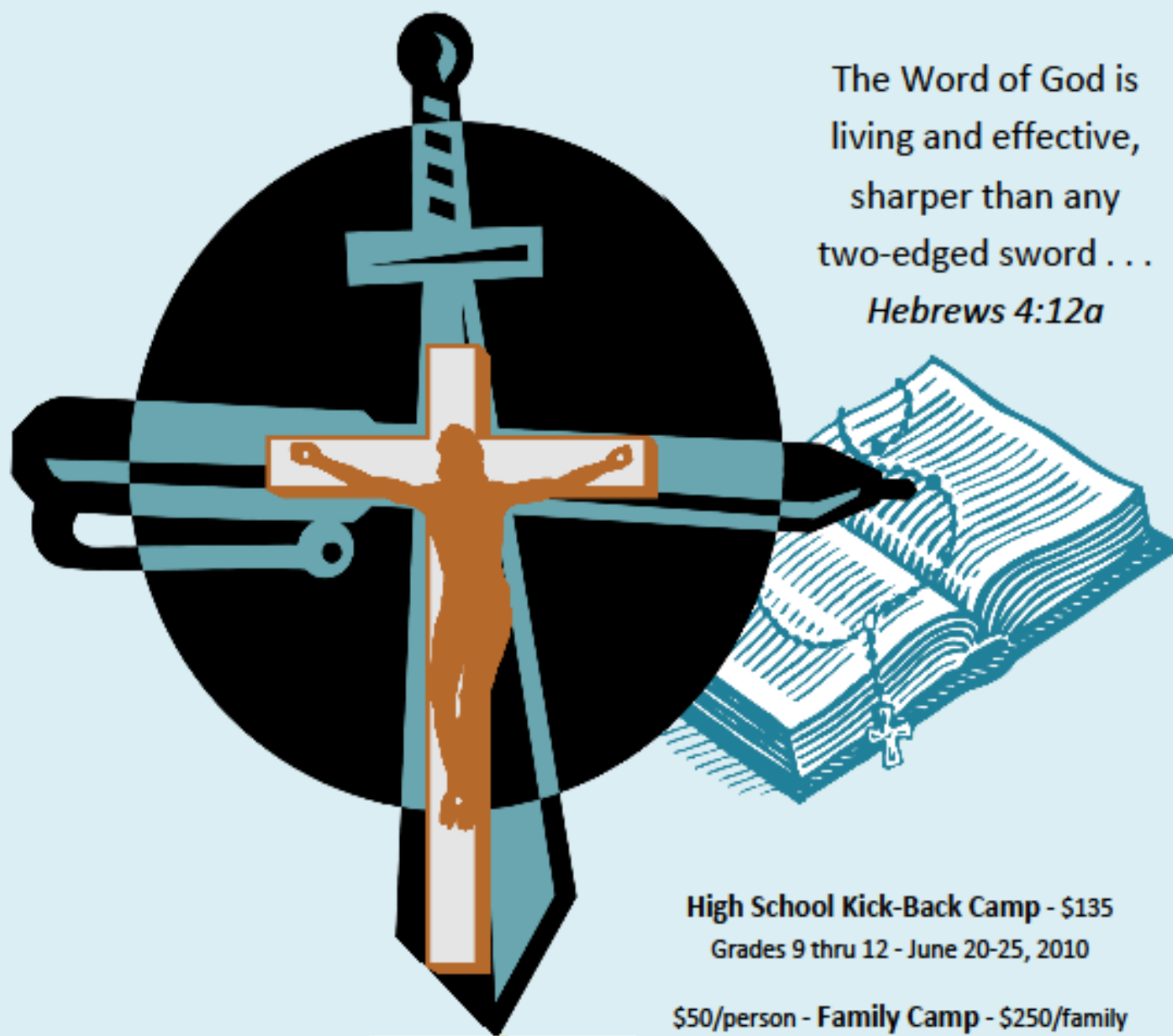
PROTECTING CHILDREN: Pray for the grace of healing for all victims of child abuse, particularly child sexual abuse. Take time to learn more about what you can do to prevent a child from being harmed.

DIocese of Baker 2010 Youth Camps

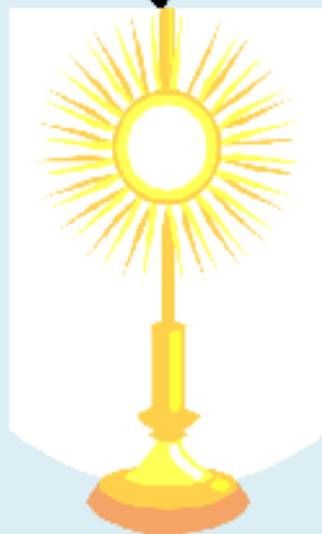
CAMP CONNOLLY – POWELL BUTTE, OREGON

The Word of God is
living and effective,
sharper than any
two-edged sword . . .

Hebrews 4:12a



**In God we
find our
protection
& strength!**



High School Kick-Back Camp - \$135

Grades 9 thru 12 - June 20-25, 2010

\$50/person - Family Camp - \$250/family

All Ages - July 2-5, 2010

Leadership Camp - \$50

Grades 11 & 12 & freshmen in College
July 13-17, 2010

Middle School Life on Fire Camp - \$105

Grades 6 thru 8 - July 17-21, 2010

Upper Elementary T.Y.G. Camp - \$105

Grades 4 thru 6 - August 10-13, 2010