



# 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"

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**PARISH NEWS:** Our Lady of Angels Parish in Hermiston had the honor of hosting the Catholic Charities Cycling for Change group on the night of June 8<sup>th</sup> as they make their way across the United States in hopes of raising awareness of Poverty in America. The Cycling for Change team is a group of concerned Catholics, lead by Jesuit priest, Matt Ruhl, who are making a 5,052 mile bicycle pilgrimage across the United States in 100 days. They began their trip in Cape Flattery, Washington on May 29 and will finish their trek at Key West Florida on September 5, 2010. Their goal is to reduce poverty in America by 50% by the year 2020 by teaming with communities on their route to get their message out. The team is made up of 12 riders and 4 support vehicles.

Upon arriving at Our Lady of Angels, Fr. Matt celebrated Mass with his team. The Knights of Columbus served the riders dinner before parish host families gathered up their guests to take them home. The Catholic Daughters of America prepared breakfast for the cyclists before they continued their journey.

**DIOCESAN YOUTH:** Congratulations to Celina Fuzi, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade parishioner at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City. On the Feast Day of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Celina was presented with the second place award for the Oregon Right to Life Education Foundation State Essay Contest in the 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Division. Celina is also a repeat member of her parish Relay for Life Team and hopes to attend the Diocesan Middle School "Life on Fire" Camp this July at Camp Connolly in Powell Butte. Her family and her parish are very proud of her.



One hundred and ten children received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on May 1, 2010 at Our Lady of Angels Parish in Hermiston. Fr. Paul Mbatia, A.J. celebrated the 9 a.m. Mass and Fr. Elias Munyaneza, A.J. celebrated the 1 p.m. Mass. Students began their formation and studies in September of 2009, finishing in April of 2010. Many parish catechists and parents assisted the students with their preparation.

Our Lady of Angels Parish in Hermiston was honored to present 85 students to the Most Reverend Bishop Robert Vasa for the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 23, 2010. Bishop Vasa celebrated two Masses which were necessary to accommodate the large group.

Students receiving the sacrament of Confirmation were made up of 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, home schooled students, and students who had prepared for and received the sacraments of First Reconciliation in April and First Holy Communion on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Parishioners of Our Lady of Angels would like to thank Bishop Vasa for coming to confer the sacrament on our young people. Thank you as well to all those who helped prepare the students to receive these sacraments.



## READER RESPONSES:

I just finished reading the first issue of the Diocesan Chronicle. Thank you so much for providing this most informative bulletin. It was great! I'll be looking forward to the future issues. - Hood River parishioner

Just wanted to tell you that I think the Diocesan Chronicle is a great idea and that it will do a lot to bring the diocese together. - Summerville parishioner

**MIND AND HEART OF BISHOP VASA:** I have been associated with the Catholic Medical Association for almost as long as I have been in the Diocese of Baker. Since the organization is composed of Catholic physicians and other persons in health care related fields, there is much concern about how the new national health care plan will affect the practice of medicine. There are a number of reasons for concern, but they are not exclusively tied to abortion, contraception, sterilization or assisted suicide. These are certainly critical areas, but much more pervasive is the concern about a further erosion of the relationship that ought and really must exist between a physician and a patient. There is also concern for a further erosion of the physician's ability to fulfill the Hippocratic Oath without undue interference by government. The primary rule of the Hippocratic commitment is, "First, do no harm." For Catholic physicians, who strive to live their faith in the context of their medical practice, that harm must include abortion, sterilization, contraception and assisted suicide.

My role with the CMA is to provide encouragement. Such encouragement is critical for it really does give courage to remain and persevere. This, in contrast to discouragement which literally has the power to diminish the courage in one's heart.

The theme of courage was also the topic of the Priests' Day of Recollection held at Powell Butte Retreat Center a few weeks ago. While encouragement from our brother priests is very important, we are reminded that courage is founded ultimately on trust in God. Reverend Adolph Tanquerey says: "The secret of our strength (courage or fortitude) lies in the distrust of self and absolute confidence in God."

Many of the thoughts for the day were drawn from the book, *Men of Brave Heart*, by Archbishop Jose Gomez, recently named as Coadjutor Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The book, while beneficial for priests, has messages applicable to all of us. He writes: "In this hostile climate the priest, no different that other believers, faces dangers -- on both the levels of personal spirituality and public witness. In his spiritual life, under the relentless and corrosive proselytizing of a secular and materialistic culture, he may be tempted to question the wisdom of continued relevance of certain Church teachings. He may be tempted to make concessions or compromises in his ascetical life, to quietly loosen or even abandon certain standards of discipline, habits of life, and pious practices intended to foster his virtue and strengthen the effectiveness of his ministry." It takes courage, born of trust in God, to remain and persevere.

Saint Thomas Aquinas notes: "The priest should see everything in his ministry in the light of the Eucharist. He is either celebrating Eucharist or preparing men and women for that encounter with the living God. All the mundane issues in the priest's daily work must be ordered and prioritized in this Eucharistic light." All the

mundane issues in the lives of Christians must likewise be ordered and prioritized in the Eucharistic light.

The encouragement which priests have received during this Year for Priests has been exemplary and edifying. Thank you to all who have prayed so assiduously for priests during this year. I ask that you continue to hold priests in your hearts and in your prayers. I conclude with a paragraph from Karl Rahner on the priest, an appropriate citation for the close of this year: "You are only what you should be as a priest when you bring your whole life into your vocation. You are only a priest such as a priest must be, and that by the roots of his office, if you drain all the strength of your life in carrying out the duties of your office in faith, hope and love. Your life-work is to establish an ever closer intimacy between yourself and your office. Your vocation is your life and your life is your vocation. ... The candle on the candlestick in the house of the Church that you are to be must burn by the oil of your own heart, must burn all your life away. Only then will it burn as it must."

#### **PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN:**

There is a new Video / Workbook series titled, *Healthy Families - Safe Children* which is required viewing for all Parents with children in Catholic School or CCD programs unless the Parents specifically opt out in writing. Contact your Pastor for details.

"Our children are a treasure and the future of our Holy, Catholic Church. Jesus said, 'Let the children come to Me and do not hinder them.' Let us pledge ourselves to love and protect our children as Jesus calls us to love one another." Pray for the safety of all children.

May God bless you. +Bishop Vasa

**DIOCESAN STAFF: Gifts of love and affection** – From time to time, parishes make contact with the Diocese regarding gifts received by the parish priest. It is not uncommon for parishioners to offer a monetary gift to their pastor on the occasion of a milestone anniversary of ordination, birthday or something of that nature. This is a very generous gesture. However, for it to be a true "gift" (at least in the eyes of the Internal Revenue Service) the person giving the gift must give it directly to the priest just as you would a friend or relative. The gift is not tax deductible for the giver, and it is not taxable to the recipient. On rare occasions, though, checks intended as gifts to the priest get made payable to the parish instead. In this scenario, due to the nature of the priest and the employee/employer relationship with the parish, if the parish were then to process these checks and forward the funds to the priest, it would become taxable compensation to the priest and not a "gift" at all. So it is important to take this opportunity to remind parishioners, if they consider a token of appreciation of this manner in the future, the gift must be made directly to the priest, so he can truly enjoy it as it was intended.

**SAINTS AND FEASTS:** The feast of Blessed Kateri Tekawitha, whose name graces the chapel on the Warm Springs Reservation, a mission of St. Patrick's Church in Madras, occurs on July 14.

Blessed Kateri Tekawitha was born to a Mohawk chief, Kenneronkwa, and a Catholic Algonquin woman, Kahenta, in 1656. The family lived in the Mohawk fortress of Ossernenon, near the current city of Auriesville, New York. After her brothers and parents died in a smallpox epidemic which left her face heavily scarred, Kateri lived with her chieftain uncle, who discouraged her Christian leanings and took away the rosary her mother had given her. Defiant, she refused to consider marriage and pursued her religious bent, despite the ridicule of her tribe.

Kateri was zealous in practicing physical mortification, often putting thorns on her bed. After the settlement was burned down by rival tribes, Kateri and her family moved to the north bank of the Mohawk river. There at the age of 20 she was baptized by a Jesuit priest, Father Jacques de Lamberville. She took the name Kateri, which is a Mohawk version of Catherine.

When the persecution from her own people became unbearable, Kateri fled to a settlement of Native American Christians, where she devoted herself to prayer, penance and caring for the sick and elderly. Kateri took a vow of chastity in 1679 and died a year later at the age of 24, with these words on her lips: "Jesus, I love You."

Kateri Tekawitha is the first Native American to be honored with beatification. Pope John Paul II elevated her to this status on June 22, 1980. Although there have been reported miracles through her intercession, Kateri's canonization as a Saint awaits the Church's verification of at least one of those incidents.

**RETREAT CENTER NEWS:** The estimate is that during 2010 there will be more than 1,500 people participating in events at the Retreat Center; these include Adult Retreats and Days of Recollection, as well as Youth Camps and Retreats. Several parishes have called to schedule one-night Confirmation Retreats for their 2011 Confirmation candidates. If your parish would like to schedule a retreat, (Adult or Youth) please call or email the Chancery Office to get more information. The phone number is (541) 388-4004 and the address is P.O. Box 5999, Bend, Or. 97708.

Thirty priests attended a one-day "Clergy Day" of recollection in early June which included a talk from Bishop Vasa entitle "Raising the Spiritual Bar." The day also included Mass, Reconciliation, Adoration and opportunities to share a meal with their brother priests. Such Clergy Day Retreats will occur once per quarter.

The crew is busy finishing the final touches to the grounds before the summer schedule. Grass is starting to grow in the upper field and two outdoor eating tents have been set up, as well as 120-foot long water slide.

High School Kick Back Camp is at the end of June and there will likely be 50 youth and staff participating in this week-long event. Family Camp takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend and is already filled with more than a dozen families and more than 60 children.

Group members from Hermiston and Madras gathered at Camp Connolly June 13-16, 2010 for a Parish Retreat. The retreat was based on the importance of the sacraments in our lives. Fr. James Radloff, Fr. Stan Strzyz, Deacon Gustavo Ruiz, Diocesan DRE Jill Schwartz, Sara Ramirez and Youth Minister Vincent Trevino of Hermiston assisted at the retreat with Masses and presentations. 26 youth and five adults from Hermiston and two youth from Madras attended. The staff at Our Lady of Angels wishes to thank Fr. Radloff, Fr. Strzyz, those who made presentations, the youth who provided music for the retreat, those who chaperoned, and all those who supported fundraising efforts for the retreat. Thank you to Bishop Vasa for providing this camp for our spiritual growth. We would also like to thank the staff at Camp Connolly who did an outstanding job of hosting us and making us feel so welcome. Mostly though, we thank God for His loving presence at the retreat and for keeping us safe during our travels and at the camp. (Submitted by Kathy Moore)

**CLERGY NEWS:** Congratulations to the following as they celebrate their ordination anniversary during July:

Rev. Christopher Agoha, SMMM, July 13, 1996;  
Rev. Camillus Fernando, July 12, 1980;  
Rev. Dennis Homes-Retired, July 1, 1972;  
Rev. Bartholomew Ifiono, SMMM, July 10, 2004;  
Rev. Anthony Ihemekwele, SMMM, July 2, 1983;  
Rev. Anthony Mbaegbu, July 18, 1992;  
Rev. Paul Mbatia AJ, July 17, 1992;  
Rev. Jude Nwachukwu, SMMM, July 23, 2006;  
Rev. Francis Obijekwu, SMMM, July 22, 2006;  
Rev. Daniel Ochiabuto, SMMM, July 28, 2007;  
Rev. Kieran Okoro, July 8, 1978;  
Rev. Augustine Okwuzu, SMMM July 22, 2006;  
Rev. Peter Umekwe, July 14, 2001.

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

**AROUND ONE TABLE:** Consider Liturgy: I cannot do a complete explanation of the entire Creed and its various parts but I offer one small reflection which, in my mind, lends a rationale for the new translation. At present we say that we believe that God is the Creator of all things "seen and unseen". This is not an adequate translation of the Latin. God created not only what is seen (like the ocean) and not only what is unseen (like every creature hidden in the ocean) but He also created that which is invisible. Seen and unseen both refer to that which can be seen, namely the physical world, whether we see it or not. Visible and invisible refer to that which can be seen and that which cannot be seen, for example the physical world and the spiritual. God bless you. +Bishop Vasa



**OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** As a high-school student in a public school - and the only Catholic in my class - I was often challenged by my classmates and friends on the teachings of the Catholic Church. "Why do you have to read out of those books during Mass; why don't you just bring the Bible?" or "Are you saved? Those who aren't saved are going to Hell," were some of the questions I would receive. Most of the time, I welcomed the challenge and enjoyed the opportunity to share my faith, especially when I was able to explain the answers quite well. However, there were times when I was not able to give an answer "on the spot," and I had to try to find it later. This experience in high school is probably very common in the unchurched Northwest. To have some tools to help me know how to better defend my faith would have been helpful in my teenage years.

This year at the Diocesan Summer Camps, we hope to offer the youth just that. It will be a fun and exciting way to learn our faith: studying why we believe what we believe and where these teachings come from in the Bible and tradition. However, it's not too late to register middle schoolers and upper elementary children. Their days will be packed with games and activities and they'll be some of the first to try out the new waterslide. For more information and to print a registration form, go to [www.dioceseofbaker.org](http://www.dioceseofbaker.org) - Jill Schwartz

**OUR DIOCESAN YOUTH:** The theme for this Summer's Camps is **Armor Yourself: Fight for Faith**. Hebrews 4:12 and Ephesians 6:10-17 provide the inspiration for this year's theme. The **Word of God** will be the weapon of choice in the battle for the faith.

Besides educational and inspiring talks, the camps are filled with an abundance of activities and fun. A renaissance motif, complete with lords and ladies and knights and jesters, permeates the activities. Every camper is welcome to bring other appropriate costumes as well. This year's Camps will cover Sacred Scripture



and the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**. Participants will learn the source for the seven sacraments in the Bible. Just as last summer, there will be a **Ye Olde Camp Tournament**. An addition this year will be the **"Souls In Jeopardy" Game Show**. There will also be a **Renaissance Dance**. Once again Religious Sisters, this year the Sisters of Mary of Kakamega, Kenya, will be on hand to help with the camp regimen.

**MINISTRY TRAINING CONFERENCE:** This is an opportunity to brainstorm and share ideas with other catechists, youth ministers and DREs at this year's Diocesan Ministry Training Conference. There will be great hands-on and practical tools for an effective religious education program for next year.

The dates are August 27<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> at the Powell Butte Retreat Center.

**CHILDREN'S CORNER: Break the Secret Code:**

Follow the directions to break the code to this challenge. \*Hint: Take a letter and move two letters forward in the alphabet. Ex. J=L, Y=A, U=W.

**Can a piece of bread really be Jesus' Body and Blood?** Break the code to see what the Church has to say and where it is found in the Bible!

**HCQSQ AYJJC B FGKQCJD "RFC ZPCYB MD JGDC." - HMFL 6:51**



Some of the thirty priests at the Clergy Day of Recollection share meal and visit with one another.

**NOTICIAS HISPANAS:** Hace unas semanas los sacerdotes de la Diócesis tuvieron un día de reflexión en el Centro Diocesano el tema fue el valor. El aliento para nuestros hermanos sacerdotes es importante, el valor viene de la confianza en Dios. El Reverendo Adolfo Tanquerey dice: "El secreto de nuestra fuerza (valor o fortaleza) es, desconfiar de uno mismo y confiar absolutamente en Dios." El Arzobispo José Gómez dice en su libro, "Men of Brave Heart": "En este ambiente hostil, el sacerdote, no es diferente que otros creyentes, también se enfrenta a peligros en la espiritualidad personal y en el testimonio público. En su vida espiritual, bajo el proselitismo de una cultura secular y materialista, pueden verse tentados a cuestionar la sabiduría de ciertas enseñanzas de la Iglesia, es por eso que necesita el valor, que nace de la confianza en Dios, para poder perseverar. El sacerdote necesita del estímulo y oraciones de sus feligreses, no los olvidemos."