



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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OUR DIOCESAN YOUTH: The messages have already been coming in praising High School Kick-Back Camp: "My son is having a great time helping at the camps and being a part of the Youth Council. I have seen an improved change in his communication and personality toward us and he's been very helpful and has a healthy, happy, positive attitude toward the church and life. The Camp and Youth Council is a Wonderful way to bring the kids together and open their hearts and minds and delegate responsibility upon them."

There are different ways to learn and there are different ways to teach. Catholic Youth Camps and involvement on the Diocese of Baker Youth Council are two important ways to help our youth remain strong in the Catholic faith. But it really must begin with the parents. We hear all the time youth telling us that they were forced by their parents to go to Camp and then they ended up having the best time of their lives. Parents should never feel they alone are responsible for passing on the faith. A successful way parents can do this is by taking advantage of the Youth Ministry and Religious Education opportunities in the Diocese and in the local parishes.



Campers at the recently completed, High School Kick Back Camp show off the "Armor of God"

OFFICIAL NOTICE: I am pleased to announce the planned Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Joseph Levine presently serving in Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Bend. His Ordination is set for Tuesday, September 14 at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Bend.

Bishop Thomas J. Connolly celebrated his 39th Anniversary as Bishop on June 30. Ad Multos Annos.

PARISH NEWS: The Superior General of the Sons of Mary Mother of Mercy, A Religious Community based in Nigeria which has eight priests serving in the Diocese of Baker, came to visit Our Lady of the Valley in La Grande and celebrated Mass on June 22 in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He also met parishioners and held an early celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Congregation, which will officially be celebrated in Nigeria in October, 2010.



Superior General of SMMM, Fr. George Okorie, concelebrates the Mass with Fr. Christopher Agoha and Fr. Anthony Ihemekwele.

From the Introduction to our DIOCESAN GUIDELINES:

The purpose of the Church is spiritual but it operates within a human society with all the same complexities. Good administration is essential to assure that the structures necessary for the promotion of the Gospel are in place. The mutual cooperation of the Faithful, clerical and lay, is essential to the well-ordered administration of the Diocese. The structures of the Diocese are intended to be effective means of nurturing the Faith in our portion of the Vineyard of the Lord. All should contribute generously the varying gifts and talents with which they have been blessed by God.

We are very grateful to the many dedicated priests and laity who help provide this administration.

MIND AND HEART OF BISHOP VASA: There is something that occurs this week that has a direct bearing on the Diocese of Baker and on the readers of this column. The Baker Edition of *The Catholic Sentinel* ends its fifty-two year run of providing news and information to its subscribers. The Baker Diocese Edition has been nearly identical to the Portland Archdiocesan Edition, which is more than 140 years old, with the exception of the front page banner and this column. Since there are only about 400 subscribers to the Baker Edition, it is simply not economically feasible to continue to generate it separately from the Archdiocesan Edition. I am certainly saddened that there will no longer be an official newspaper of the Diocese of Baker but, as I have mentioned several weeks ago, the Diocese will try to provide local news and information to parishioners by way of *The Diocesan Chronicle*, a bi-weekly newsletter sent to all the parishes of the diocese. This column now appears in that publication and the entire newsletter will likewise be posted at the Diocesan website. It is not my intent to post this article separately from *The Diocesan Chronicle*. The site address is: www.DioceseofBaker.org.

I am very grateful to Oregon Catholic Press, which has provided the Diocese of Baker information from the diocese and making *The Catholic Sentinel, Baker Edition*, available. Access to Catholic news and a Catholic perspective is critical for our advancement and growth in the faith. Maintaining a "faith perspective" is often difficult, if not impossible, if one's primary or exclusive source of news is secular programming or the secular press. Catholic media brings a "faith perspective" which means that events and headlines are looked at differently. The faith view offers the possibility of seeing all things in the light of God's providence without ever questioning His motives or His essential goodness. In other words, God already knows that the most recent headline, whatever it may be, can become for us an impetus for advancement in grace and holiness. This does not mean that we will be preserved miraculously from all distress or discouragement as a result of reading the Catholic headlines, but the resurrection-based silver lining will never be lacking. It is important to remember that every headline, besides announcing the dramatic events of the day, also announces another opportunity to look for the most hopeful and godly response. Anything which drives us closer to God or leads us to greater dependency on Him has already been used by God for a spiritual good. This is not always easy to see. In fact, in the midst of trial it is almost impossible to see beyond the tribulation that immediately confronts us.

While Catholic Press must faithfully report the news, it must also, with equal faithfulness, support and embrace the faith perspective. It must remember that Christ has already conquered sin and death. And it must, therefore, maintain a joyful hope even in the midst of tragic events of various proportions.

MESSAGES AND MUSINGS FROM OUR PRIESTS:

Fr. Christopher Agoha, SMMM, La Grande

It often seems that people today have cultivated habits that cause them to abhor moral laws and see regulations as limiting to their lives. This attitude causes many Catholics to ignore the instructions of canon law and even the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Sometimes lay people say, "Oh well, that is meant for the clerics alone." This is an incorrect notion and results in ignorance of the divine and ecclesial life.

The code of canon law contains regulations meant to clarify the Church's teaching on natural law, Divine Revelation and the moral code. Canon law is necessary because the Church is a society and requires a legal system ("ubi societas ibi ius" - where there is a society there is need for law). The Code of Canon Law should be known, at least generally, by all the faithful. A deeper study could clear up some confusion and provide an answer to what it means to be "Catholic".

The first thing necessary for membership in the Roman Catholic Church is the Sacrament of Initiation - Baptism. In addition, the baptized must participate actively in the sacramental communion of the mystical body of Christ. An initiation membership in the Church by baptism is not enough to qualify a person for this active Christian life in the Church of Christ. Baptism establishes an individual as a "person" in the Church of Christ and gives him or her some rights as well as duties in the Church. However, such initial status alone does not suffice to give him or her full membership. In this regard, it should be made clear that without full belief, full communion with the Mystical Body and loyalty to the hierarchy of the Church, a person falls short of full membership.

This definition of membership was initially given in Canon 12 and Canon 87 of the 1917 Code of Canon Law. The encyclical of Pope Pius XII "Mystici Corporis" (Of the Mystical Body), promulgated in 1943, is theologically consistent with this canonical description of membership in the Church. Vatican Council II did not change any of this concept, but instead, added new and supportive ideas. Membership in the Church is no longer based on stagnant belonging, but rather on the dynamic participation laid out in *Lumen Gentium* (The Light of Nations). Full membership means being part of a diocese and a parish and is usually established by residence in a particular territory. Membership is manifested and strengthened by the participation in the Faith through the sacraments, by upholding strong Catholic beliefs and by engagement within a Christian community.

In summary, the canons of the Code recognize the elements of incorporation and membership to the Church through baptism, faithful belief, participation in the community of Christ faithful and the acceptance of the Church's hierarchy.

SAINTS AND FEASTS: St. Bridget of Sweden, whose feast in the revised calendar is July 23, was a woman who combined two vocations: wife and mother and founder of a religious order. She is an example, therefore, for both those in the world and those who have consecrated their lives to God as priests, brothers and nuns.

Born in 1303 to a distinguished official and wealthy landowner, Birger Persson, Brigitta Birgersdottter was a relative to Swedish royalty. At 13 she was given in marriage to Ulf Gudmarsson, himself a prince, and she bore him four sons and four daughters. One of her children became St. Catherine of Sweden and abbess of her mother's first monastery.

During her married life, Bridget practiced great piety and charity and had a strong spiritual influence on her husband. Together, they made a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela during the years of 1341-1343. Shortly after their return, Ulf died in a Cistercian monastery and Brigitta devoted herself solely to religion.

She founded the Order of the Holy Savior, known commonly as the Brigittines, which operated under an Augustinian rule. This group enjoyed the favor of the Swedish king, quickly spread throughout Europe, but had many of its monasteries suppressed after the Reformation.

Today there are eight houses of Brigittine nuns around the world, mainly in Europe, but only one establishment of monks. In 1976, after several centuries with no male Brigittine establishment, an American founded a priory for Brigittine monks, that of Our Lady of Consolation, now located in Amity, Oregon. The brothers there earn their living by making and selling fudge and also offer a guest house for retreats.

St. Bridget had a particular devotion to the blows that Christ endured at His crucifixion and much of her piety was based on praying to the suffering Savior. Thus the motto of the Brigittines: "My Love is Crucified." The saint's fifteen prayers, sometimes called the "Fifteen Oes," because they all began with an "O," are addressed to the pains and humiliation Our Lord endured for sinners during His Passion. The concluding prayer is:

O Sweet Jesus! Pierce my heart so that my tears of penitence and love will be my bread day and night; may I be converted entirely to Thee, may my heart be Thy perpetual habitation, may my conversation be pleasing to Thee, and may the end of my life be so praiseworthy that I may merit Heaven and there with Thy saints, praise Thee forever. Amen

RETREAT CENTER NEWS: High School Kick Back Camp finished in late June and almost 50 youth and staff participated in this week-long event. Family Camp took place over the 4th of July Weekend and was full with more than a dozen families and 60 children. Father James Radloff directed the Camp with much assistance, including that of Sister Sabina and Sister Irene.

RETREAT CENTER ACTIVITIES: On Sunday, June 27, more than 200 people from St. Patrick Church in Madras and other parishes in the central deanery attended Mass in St. Mary Church and later enjoyed a picnic lunch. The occasion which was a Parish Picnic for Saint Patrick's in Madras also served as an opportunity to mark the fourth anniversary of Fr. Luis Flores' priestly ordination, June 17.

In early July a group called the Militia of the Immaculata used the Retreat Center for a youth camp for 13-17 year-old children. The MI is a spiritual movement with over four million members worldwide, and was founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM, Conv., in 1917. The aim of the MI is to bring the world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The group had been using a Christian Camp near Glide in the Willamette Valley, but heard about our new Retreat Center and got in contact with us about using the facility. About 30 youth are expected to attend this retreat.

Leadership Camp began on Tuesday, July 13 and ran through Friday, Friday July 16, followed by Middle School Camp which began on July 17 and continues until July 21. The high school age youth from Leadership Camp, which is a Camp designed to train them to assist in future camps, help lead the middle school camp and participate as counselors and serve in other leadership positions at the camp.

There will be a men's Discernment Retreat from July 23 to 25 and a Hispanic Leadership Retreat from July 30 to August 1. Call the Chancery at 541-388-4004 and ask for Gustavo, if you are interested in the Hispanic Retreat. For the Discernment Retreat, you can check the website at dioceseofbaker.org for more information and registration.



Family Camp was blessed with a significant number of families with children of various ages.

PRIEST ANIVERSARY CORRECTION: The date for the ordination of Father Augustine Okwuzu, SMMM, was given incorrectly in the last issue. The correct date is July 10, 2004.

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Catholic Resources For Parents and Catechists : Good Christian Movie Review: Having a movie night with the kids? Not sure what movies are “decent?” *Focus on the Family* has created a website that thoroughly reviews most released movies. Not to mention, they also write reviews for video games, music and TV shows from a Christian perspective. Check it out at: www.pluggedin.com.

www.Catholic.com is a website sponsored by Catholic Answers, one of the nation’s largest lay-run apostolates of Catholic apologetics and evangelization. If you are looking for a quick answer to a Catholic question, www.catholic.com is a great source. If you have any other resources you would like to share, please email them to Jill Schwartz: jill@dioceseofbaker.org

CHILDREN’S CORNER: Seven Sacraments - Try to find all 7 Sacraments in the word search! Good Luck!

k	c	i	s	e	h	t	f	o	g	n	i	t	n	i	o	n	a
b	a	p	t	i	s	m	g	a	d	a	h	r	e	a	i	n	i
t	o	n	o	i	t	a	i	l	i	c	n	o	c	e	r	n	i
o	n	o	i	t	a	m	r	i	f	n	o	c	m	s	r	s	c
m	a	r	r	i	a	g	e	u	c	h	a	r	i	s	t	u	a
f	o	r	e	r	n	n	t	a	r	e	p	c	a	c	t	k	i
n	t	n	r	a	h	r	p	o	l	a	o	f	t	y	h	i	n
f	r	h	o	r	e	n	t	m	i	g	m	r	l	e	a	c	a
f	c	o	i	c	e	c	m	s	r	e	d	r	o	y	l	o	h

Baptism - Confirmation - Reconciliation - Eucharist - Marriage - Holy Orders - Anointing of the Sick



Congratulations to the youngsters of St. Patrick’s Parish in Heppner who recently made their First Holy Communion: Pictured with their Pastor, Father Gerald Condon are Jordan Sweeney, Drew Coe, Daniella Sanchez and Evan Kollman Heppner

PARISH NEWS: St. Pius X in Klamath Falls, Oregon recently completed its second year of Fishers of Men Summer Camp. The camp was an incredible success with more than 100 individuals involved this year; sixty of whom were the camp participants, ages kindergarten through sixth grade, and forty of whom were 7th through 12th grade and adult volunteers. The camp theme this year was the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church, which were presented through adaptable teachings, music, saints, crafts, and activities. Camp participants were fortunate to have the participation of singer/song writer and children’s author, Julie Hoy. In addition to presenting the issue of Stewardship through her new book title, *Could I Paint the Sky*, Julie also performed a concert in the evening for participating families and the community. Corina Moore, Religious Education Director St. Pius X Roman Catholic Church stpiusre@piusxkf.com (541) 884-4242



Camp attendees in Klamath Falls act out truths of their faith at Fishers of Men Camp.



Congratulations to the children of Saint William Parish in Lone who made their First Holy Communion on May 2 of this year: Pictured with their pastor, Father Gerald Condon are Megan Doherty, Jillian Rudolf, Jason Rea and Renea Peterson.