



THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS OF THE DIOCESE OF BAKER

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"greater good of souls"

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VOCATION NEWS: Holy Family Parish in Burns was the site of a Vocations Roundup sponsored by the Baker Diocese Serra Club on Saturday, June 19. The intent of the event was to motivate parishioners to encourage vocations in their families and community and to inspire young people to consider vocations to the priesthood and religious life. About 80 people were in attendance, which included parishioners from Holy Family, as well as its mission Churches: Saint Thomas in Crane, Saint Charles in Juntura and Our Lady of Loretto in Drewsey and other Parishes of the Diocese and Deanery. The children were treated to games, followed by a BBQ/potluck lunch and talks from five priests who shared their vocation stories.

The event was sparked by a realization that a majority of the priests in the Baker Diocese are from outside the country, and could possibly be called home by their bishops, leaving parishes without pastors and the Diocese without many priests. Over the past 10 years Holy Family has had pastors who have come from China, Poland, and Nigeria.

Holy Family's pastor, Fr. Francis, opened up the talks by welcoming everyone to this important occasion. He emphasized how crucial the parents' role is in developing vocations. He shared how he still remembers his father reading Bible stories to the family and how his father had dedicated his son to God to be a priest, yet never told Fr. Francis this until after he was ordained. Fr. Francis explained how parents can nurture a desire for a vocation to the priesthood and religious life by living out their faith, keeping the commandments and receiving the sacraments. He noted that parents must instill in their children a love for God and their Catholic faith and help them to set their spiritual life as a priority over all other secular activities.

Sue Fitzpatrick, who is the president of the Baker Diocese Serra Club, described the purpose of the organization and how parishioners can get involved in helping promote vocations through prayer and active participation in the club's activities. Fr. Radloff, the Serra Chaplain, also spoke about the ministry of the Serra Club and what a great support they are for the diocesan priests.

The event reminded everyone that as a Church community we are responsible not only for praying for our priests and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, but more importantly for encouraging vocations among our youth so the Church may continue into the future.



SERRA CLUB ROUND-UP: Each priest had an opportunity to share his different story about his call to the priesthood. Each one seemed to have a persistent voice that called him to the ministry, even though their lives took other turns along the way.

Fr. Francis, Pastor of the hosting Parish, as mentioned above, welcomed the laity as well as his brother priests and emphasized the critical role which parents play in the promotion of vocations.

Fr. Jude, pastor of Jordan Valley and Arock, spoke of following his dream to be a priest, even though his father wanted him to be a doctor, and how this led him to secretly pursue this vocation until he and his mother could convince his father it was the right path for him.

Fr. Maxwell, associate pastor at St. Francis in Bend, mentioned that he was intrigued by the sound of church bells and the Catholic liturgy, even though his family was not churched, but believed in God. He thought that if bells were so beautiful on the outside of church, something must be really beautiful inside the church. He found he was correct in his suppositions. He called becoming Catholic the "best decision he ever made" in his life.

Fr. Bartholomew, pastor from John Day and its Missions, shared how his vocation call came later in life after he had worked as a trader of motorcycle parts, which reminded us that it is never too late to say "yes" to a religious vocation.

Finally, Fr. Jim Radloff (not pictured), Diocesan Promoter of Vocations and Chaplain to the Serra Club, spoke of the joy that his priesthood gives him and the interesting route he took to the priesthood after his career in Chicago in horticulture design left him feeling that there had to be more to life than tending plants.

MIND AND HEART OF BISHOP VASA: I spent the week back in Nebraska where I went to participate in the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the priestly ordination of Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz. I spent eight of my 24 years as a priest under the very capable leadership of Bishop Bruskewitz and it was good to come back and recall some of the events of those years. Having served in the Diocese of Lincoln for all those years, there is a nearly inexhaustible supply of recollections, many of which have lain quite dormant for these past ten years during which I have served in the Diocese of Baker. I have tried to be careful about making any references to my original Diocese since it is easy for people to get the impression that I am somehow longing for the “good old days” or even longing to return to the state of my origin. Neither of these things is true and though I may, on occasion, make reference to that period of time in my life, my heart is really here. The reality is that I was born and raised on a farm in Nebraska and that I served as a priest in Lincoln, thirty miles from my ancestral home, for 24 years. Over those years, I established many deep and wholesome friendships and these are still dear and precious to me, though I very rarely see them or talk to them. This in no way diminishes my love for the people of Baker, my commitment to the Diocese or my desire to serve here for the whole of the rest of my life.

It was undoubtedly true, when I first arrived, that there would be an occasional inadvertent slip of the tongue when I would say “Lincoln” when I intended to say, “Baker”. I can recall a number of times when this happened and I was always chagrined and embarrassed, for it gave support to the erroneous notion that my heart was still in Nebraska. I do give myself fully and unreservedly to the Diocese of Baker but I do, even after ten years, still have connections in Nebraska. You may find it interesting to note that, while giving a sermon at a Vespers Service, which was a part of the fiftieth anniversary celebration, I mentioned my congratulations and gratitude for Bishop Bruskewitz’s years of service to the Church Universal, the Church in the United States and the local Church in the Diocese of Baker. Even though I had written “Lincoln” and fully intended to say “Lincoln” I uttered that to which I have grown so accustomed.

This slip no more indicates a loss of affection for my former compatriots than my previous habituation to say Lincoln implied a lack of affection for or commitment to the Diocese and people of Baker. It was very good to see priests with whom I served for those many years. It was good to see my family. It was good to greet many of the laity with whom I had worked over the years. All of this was very good, but most especially it is good to be back home, and by this I mean without reservation the Diocese of Baker. I hope each of you, likewise, maintains affections for your places of origin and persons dear to you, but that you also foster a deep, abiding affection for your local Parish and for the Diocese of Baker of which we are a part.

SAINTS AND FEASTS: The Church celebrates the feast of St. Jean Baptiste Marie Vianney on August 4, the day he died in 1859. Born in 1786 in Dardilly, France, the young Jean had to attend Mass in secret. The French revolution in 1789 had resulted in religious activity being suppressed and Catholics were persecuted. Humble and devout from his early years, Vianney worked as a shepherd on his family farm and used to play “church” in his spare time.

Because of the atmosphere in the country and family needs, Jean did not start formal schooling until he was 20 and he struggled with academics. When he entered the seminary at age 24, he found the classes, taught in Latin, very difficult. Because of his learning problems, he was initially rejected for ordination. After meeting with the vicar general of the diocese, however, Jean was judged to be a man of great faith. Once he had convinced himself of Jean’s sincerity and piety, the vicar said, “Let him be ordained. The grace of God will do the rest.”

A few years after becoming a priest, Father Vianney was assigned to a tiny mountain town, Ars en Dombes. He found a great deal of immorality in his new parish, where the people often worked on Sunday or went out drinking and dancing instead of observing the Lord’s Day. Father Vianney set out to change this, preaching that Sundays were to be reserved for the worship of God. He himself also led an austere life and spent much time doing penance for his parishioners and caring for the sick and poor, as well as teaching catechism to the children.

Father Vianney was very gifted in the confessional and showed great empathy to those who sought forgiveness of their sins. He offered careful direction to his penitents and became such a popular confessor that he sometimes spent as much as 16 hours a day administering the Sacrament for those who flocked to his church from miles away.

Beatified in 1905 by Pope Pius X, Vianney was canonized in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. In 1959, one hundred years after his death, Pope John XXIII issued an encyclical on Vianney, titled *Sacerdotii Nostri Primordia* (First among Our Priests). In 2009, the 150th year after his death, Pope Benedict XVI declared Vianney the patron for his Year for Priests, to run from the Feast of the Sacred Heart in 2009 to the same date in 2010. Many priests from around the world have made the pilgrimage to Ars in the last 12 months to draw inspiration from St. Jean Vianney.

From the Liturgy of the Hours, we get this prayer concerning this simple priest who gave his life to his parishioners for the sake of the kingdom of God:

Father of mercy, you made St. John Vianney outstanding in his priestly zeal and concern for your people. By his example and prayers, enable us to win our brethren to the love of Christ and come with them to eternal glory. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

RETREAT CENTER NEWS: A Women's Discernment Retreat will take place from August 6-9, 2010, at the Powell Butte Retreat Center. The theme will be taken from John 1:30: Come and See. The Sisters who will conduct the retreat want everyone to take advantage of this time to come and listen to God's call to discern her vocation in life.

Each day we hear voices and the clamor of needs from every direction so loudly that it is nearly impossible to hear God's voice. As one begins a discernment process it is necessary to open oneself to Christ and to let the Holy Spirit lead throughout this important process. Learning to truly listen to the Holy Spirit as He whispers gently to the heart takes time, prayer, patience and silence. Perhaps you are called to the special service in the church as a Religious woman.

As Sisters of Mary, we have embarked on a journey that can be understood and lived only in faith and love. Our trust as Sisters of Mary is founded on the example and loving intercession of Mary Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. We continue to rely on Mary so that we may be faithful to our call. We invite you to come and see and to take this opportunity to prayerfully reflect upon your vocation. -- Sisters of Mary, Sr. Sabina and Sr. Irene.

Call the Diocese of Baker at 541-388-4004 for more information and registration.

RETREAT CENTER NEWS: The Militia of the Immaculata (MI) Youth Camp had a successful retreat and finished on July 11 with 30 youngsters participating, 26 of them from outside of the Diocese of Baker. Another such retreat is planned at Powell Butte next summer. Leadership Camp began on July 13 with 15 youth in attendance. Middle school camp began on July 17 with almost 50 youth signed up.

The camp season continues with upper elementary camp beginning on August 10. Registrations for this Camp continue to arrive. The final youth camp of the summer, "YAK" Camp, begins August 22 and runs through August 27. We expect about 50 middle school participants.

The Diocesan Ministry training retreat is set for the weekend of August 27, 28 and 29. This is followed by a Diocesan Catholic School Retreat for teachers and administration. This begins on September 2.

Father Dan Mahan from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will be giving a workshop for all Parish Councils and Parish Finance Councils on "Building an Engaged Parish" on Tuesday, October 12, beginning at 11:45 a.m. with lunch. Father Mahan will also be giving G.I.F.T (Growing in Faith Today) talks on October 11-13 for the laity, beginning at 7:00 pm each evening. Bishop Vasa will be giving a talk as part of the G.I.F.T program on "How the Language of the Liturgy Shapes Our Prayer and Our Relationship with God" on October 14, beginning at 7:00 pm.

PARISH NEWS: St. Pius X in Klamath Falls recently held a Parish Ministry Appreciation Dinner. Approximately 300 parishioners attended the dinner, which honored all of those who serve in different ministries around the parish. Father Rick, along with the Pastoral Council, planned the dinner as a way to say "Thank you" for all of the work that is done around the parish. Children were thanked for their roles as altar servers and being part of the children's choir, youth for the community service they do in and out of the parish and the adults for their work around the parish and in the various groups or organizations they belong to. It was apparent looking around the room at all of the volunteers how many hands it takes to do the work of the parish.

MARY AT THE FAIR: Deschutes County Fairgoers will be able to visit the beautiful Marian Fair Booth featuring "THE STORY OF MARY" as told through the Holy Rosary. There will be a beautiful picture of Our Lady of the Rosary framed with the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary from the early 1800s. Also the pictures of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Schoenstatt will be displayed along with their story and messages. Free rosaries and leaflets will be distributed until they are gone. The Shalom Shop will be present at different times with gift items of Mary, Jesus and the Holy Family to be sold. The booth is sponsored by Family Life with Mother Mary's Daughters of the Diocese of Baker, Judy Newport, Jeanette Meiwes and Lisa Meiwes.

PRIEST NEWS: In the July anniversaries, the ordination of Father Gabriel Ezech, SMMM was not listed. Father Ezech was ordained July 23, 2005.

AUGUST PRIESTHOOD ANNIVERSARIES:

Rev. Francis Akano 8-21-1999
Rev. Saul Alba-Infante 8-21-2002
Rev. Innocent Diala 8-10-1991
Rev. Ronald Maag 8-14-1978
Rev. Elias Munyaneza, A.J. 8-4-1991
Rev. Theodore Nnabugo 8-19-2000
Rev. Fabian Nwokorie 8-11-1990

Though the Year for Priests has been completed there is still need to continue to remember our priests in our prayers.

OUR DIOCESAN YOUTH: Holy Family Catholic Church at Burns parishioners Richard and Colleen Roy recently announced that their eldest son, Andrew, has committed to play lacrosse at Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmetsburg, Maryland. Andrew was awarded a Mount Saint Mary's Leadership Scholarship for his academic, leadership, community and church involvement.

In 2010, Andrew was named First Team All Conference attack and Honorable Mention All State midfielder.



SISTERS OF MARY (SOM): The Sisters of Mary made their initial visit to the Diocese of Baker this Spring. From left to right: Sr. Dorothy Radoli, Mother Maureen Oyiolo, Superior General, SOM, Bishop Robert Vasa, Sr. Sabina Mbenge, Sr. Irene Njoki. Since their initial visit Sr. Sabina and Sr. Irene have moved to the Diocese and have been helping with the Diocesan camps. When the other Sisters receive their visa clearances and arrive they are slated to take up apostolic positions in the Parishes of Saint Francis in Bend, Saint Thomas in Redmond, and Blessed Sacrament in Ontario.

AROUND ONE TABLE - THE DIOCESAN CHURCH: Consider Liturgy: Last month we looked at the change to the priest's invitation for the acceptability of the sacrifice. The people's response likewise has a slight variation. Before I get to the variation, however, I want to comment on the desirability of everyone in the congregation saying the same prayer. This can most readily be accomplished by following the text given to us by the approved translators. Thus the congregation is to say: "May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of *His* name, for our good and the good of all *His* holy Church." The italicized words are the same as the present translation but the habit of some is to insert "God's" in their place. This is not conducive to unity. The word holy is restored.

After the Offertory Prayers the priest recites the Prayer over the Gifts and then enters into the well known "dialogue" which introduces the Preface and the Holy, holy, holy. As described earlier the response to "The Lord be with you" will be, "And with your spirit". The priest adds: "Lift up your hearts" and the unchanged response: "We lift them up to the Lord." Then: "Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God". The new response: "It is right and just." I do not add the present response here as a little test. I have found that it is difficult for me to recall the present response. I suspect the same may be true for you. As stated elsewhere, the revised translation is truer to the Latin from which it is taken.

It looks like Advent of 2011 might be the date for the changes to take effect. May God bless you. +Bishop Vasa

MINISTRY TRAINING CONFERENCE: A conference for Catechists, Directors of Religious Education and Coordinators of Youth Ministry Friday August 27 to Sunday August 29 at the Powell Butte Retreat Center.

The Conference starts at 7:30pm Friday night and finishes at 11:00 am Sunday morning.

A few of the topics include:

Make Youth Ministry Come Alive! Get middle school and high school youth interested in their faith.

Teamwork: Getting Parents Involved

Parish Integration: Creating unity and bridging gaps in a parish with different cultures and languages.

The Tricks of the Trade: Practical teaching tools for a successful class

Where's That in the Bible?: The importance of teaching the why's, where's, how's and what's about our Catholic faith to the youth.

Faith and Life Series User's Guide

For more information contact your DRE or Jill Schwartz:

jill@dioceseofbaker.org, 541-388-4004

PARISH NEWS: Our Lady of Angels Parish in Hermiston will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary on the weekend of August 6-8. A full weekend of festivities are scheduled, beginning with a Pool Party and Potluck Friday evening at the Hermiston Aquatic Center from 5-9 p.m.; a Potluck with games and fun for the whole family on Saturday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the classroom's yard, followed by a bilingual Mass at 4 p.m. The Knights of Columbus will top off the evening with their parade float entry in the Umatilla County Fair parade. On Sunday there will be a morning Mass at 8 a.m., the Bilingual Centennial Mass at 11 a.m., celebrated by Bishop Vasa, a Parish Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Hermiston Community Center at 1 p.m., a Spanish Mass at 6 p.m., and a Parish Family Dance at the Community Center from 8-11:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to join in celebrating a century of blessings and looking forward to God's graces for the next 100 years.

