



# THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS OF THE DIOCESE OF BAKER

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"greater good of souls"

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**PARISH NEWS:** **Hermiston** - Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church in Hermiston celebrated with great joy the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish on the weekend of August 6-8. Special honored guests in attendance for the occasion were the Most Reverend Bishop Robert Vasa, Fr. Peter Mushi, A.J., Fr. Paul Mbatia, A.J. - Pastor, Fr. Elias Munyaneza, A.J. - Associate Pastor; Fr. Godfrey Ocun, A.J., Fr. Ricardo Carrillo, Fr. Peter Auer, - former Pastor of Our Lady of Angels, and Deacon Jesus Esparza.

The festivities kicked off with a Friday Family Fun Night at the local swimming pool, continuing with food, music, games, Mexican Folk Dancing, and Mass on Saturday afternoon. Following the Saturday afternoon Mass was the annual Umatilla County Fair Parade with a special 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade float sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Sunday, the excitement of the weekend continued with an 11:00 a.m. Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Vasa with local and visiting priests. The Mass concluded with the blessing of the newly completed parish Memorial for the Unborn. Bishop Vasa thanked the volunteers for their generous service and then gave the attendees a special blessing. Entertainment at the event featured the Spanish Children's Choir and the Mexican Folk Dancers. The weekend festivities concluded with a Family Dance with several area bands.

Fr. Paul and the Our Lady of Angels' staff are very grateful to all who participated and contributed to the wonderful success of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.



Following the Centennial Mass the Bishop blessed the Memorial for the Unborn built by the Knights of Columbus.



**PARISH NEWS:** After joyfully serving in the Diocese of Baker for 7 years, I am leaving to study Clinical Pastoral Education in Cleveland, Ohio. I wish to express to the priests and parishioners my gratitude for the kindness shown to me during these years. I arrived together with Fr. Paul Mbatia, A.J. on November 27, 2007, from Nairobi, Kenya where I served as a rector of the Shrine of Apostles of Jesus. It was planned for me to begin my CPE training, but God did not want me to do so immediately. In agreement with my superiors, I joyfully accepted Parish work and was appointed Assistant Administrator at St. Bridget Catholic Church in Nyssa; St. Bernard Parish in Jordan Valley for 5 years and St. Patrick Catholic Church in Vale (6 months) before I was sent to Our Lady of Angels in Hermiston, where I have been until now. I am grateful to the Bishop for allowing the Apostles to share our Charism and Spirit of **"following Christ the Good Shepherd, imitating the compassionate, active and joyful zeal of his heart for his sheep"**(Jn.10:1-21). I thank my brother priests with whom I have shared a lot of fun and faith wherever and whenever we met. And above all, I am grateful to the parishioners I served and the people of Oregon who have all been very nice to me. I will greatly miss the good people of Oregon, especially the parishioners, inmates, those in nursing homes whom I have served for nearly 7 years and I promise to pray for everyone and I ask for your prayers too as I embark on my studies. God bless you and thank you to all. - Father Elias D. Munyaneza, A.J.

**MIND AND HEART OF BISHOP VASA:** Harvests in general are not new to me. I am familiar with wheat, oats, corn, soybeans, alfalfa, brome grass and a variety of other agricultural products. Reflecting on ‘harvests’ has always been a kind of meditation on stewardship. It is clear that wheat, oats and corn, as well as fruit trees and various kinds of berry bushes, have a specific purpose and goal. They each produce a unique kind of ‘fruit’ and that fruit is useful for mankind. If a wheat field is planted, allowed to produce mature ‘fruit’ and is then harvested and placed in permanent storage, we would know that its ‘purpose’ has not yet been achieved. The grain has not yet completed its mission of being food for the hungry. If the ‘owner’ of that wheat simply keeps it permanently, then there is a kind of betrayal of the farmer who planted and harvested the grain, a betrayal of the soil that gave of itself to help produce the crop and a betrayal of God who provides for the growth of all things. As we know, permanent storage is not feasible or even possible. This is easily seen in the case of fresh fruit. It has a time, a season beyond which it loses its appeal. If it simply stays on the tree or vine or bush, it will very quickly lose its appeal entirely, drop off the tree and return to the soil from which it took its nurture. It is almost as if the tree understands that it cannot hold on to the fruit for next year. In order for it to produce new fruit, it must let go of last year’s fruit. It is also indiscriminate when it comes to giving its fruit away; one can imagine the tree ‘delighting’ in having its fruit picked and utilized and enjoyed. It is almost as if the tree ‘understands’ the joy of giving.

The fruit of the vine, the tree, the field, the stalk has a purpose, an end, a goal. We understand that purpose and we work with nature to assure that the product reaches and achieves its ultimate purpose. The ‘fruit’ of our labors is certainly the produce of the land and the economic benefits which the sale of that produce generates, but there is more. Just as it is not enough for the tree to produce the fruit, so also it is not enough for us to produce the ‘fruit’ of our labors. That ‘fruit’ has purpose and meaning that goes beyond us, just as the purpose of the apple goes beyond the tree. Ultimately the purpose of the ‘fruit’ of our labor is to give praise and glory to God and to contribute to our eternal salvation.

If this ‘fruit’ is seen as belonging entirely to us and as being entirely for our present, temporal benefit then we would have to say that a tree produces apples simply so it can look good for a while. As there is someone beyond the apple tree who has a right to expect a produce of fruit, so there is ‘One Beyond Us’ who likewise looks to us for our ‘fruit in due season’.

So often we strive to imitate the apple tree in productivity and succeed. We must also strive to imitate the apple tree in its total giving of its produce to the one beyond; in our case the ‘One Beyond Us’. The apple tree ‘recognizes’ that it receives from the soil, the rain, the

air, as well as from man and ultimately from God all that it needs to produce a fruit and it gives back to the ones beyond itself. The tree is ‘generous’ with what it has received and there is rejoicing in the harvest. Whether there is rejoicing in heaven depends upon how we view our part in this ongoing mystery of creation and whether we are generous with what we have received.

Saint Robert Bellarmine, S.J. summed up the purpose for our striving to be fruitful quite well.

“If you are wise, know that you have been created for the glory of God and your own eternal salvation. This is your goal; this is the center of your life; this is the treasure of your heart. If you reach this goal, you will find happiness. If you fail to reach it, you will find misery. May you consider truly good whatever leads to your goal and truly evil whatever makes you fall away from it. Prosperity and adversity, wealth and poverty, health and sickness, honors and humiliations, life and death, in the mind of the wise man, are not to be sought for their own sake, nor avoided for their own sake. But if they contribute to the glory of God and your eternal happiness, then they are good and should be sought. If they detract from this, they are evil and must be avoided.” - **On the Ascent of the Mind to God**, Saint Robert Bellarmine, S.J.

**SAINTS AND FEASTS: SEPTEMBER 8—THE NATIVITY OF MARY** Most saints are celebrated on the day of their death, but for two great role models, the Church makes an exception: The Blessed Virgin and St. John the Baptist are lauded on their birth days.

The latter was freed from original sin before his birth. However, Mary is the only example of a mere mortal free of all stain of sin from the moment of her conception, which we celebrate on December 8. This day, says Pius Parsch in his **Church’s Year of Grace**, “observed since the eighth century in the Western Church, is primarily a redemption feast, a preparation for the Messiah. It is a feast close to our hearts, for as members of God’s great family, we love to celebrate family events; today is our Mother’s birthday.”

The Mass is filled with rejoicing, as the Introit proclaims: “Hail, Holy Mother, who brought forth the king who rules heaven and earth forever and ever.” At the offertory, says Parsch, we show Mary our birthday present, “a costly one and most acceptable—the paschal Lamb, her divine Son, whom we are offering to the heavenly Father in her honor. The Eucharistic banquet is our Mother’s return gift, the most precious she can give ... flesh and blood of her own flesh and blood.”

Although the feast this year falls on a Wednesday, it would be fitting to attend a weekday Mass to honor Mary. At the very least all Catholics can say “Happy Birthday, Mother”, with a special prayer, the Salve Regina, the Angelus or the Memorare.

**RETREAT CENTER NEWS:** More than 1,000 people (youth and adults) have participated in an event at the Retreat Center during 2010. There is often need of volunteers to help in the kitchen on various occasions. If you would like to offer your assistance, please call the Diocese of Baker at (541) 388-4004.

The Diocesan Schools Retreat for teachers and administrators begins on September 2. The Serra Club Annual Retreat is scheduled for September 11, while the Diocesan Pro-Life Conference will take place on September 17.

On Tuesday, October 12, beginning at 11:45 a.m., Father Dan Mahan from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will be giving a workshop to all parish councils and finance councils. The topic will be "Building an Engaged Parish." Father Mahan will also be presenting G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Today) talks to the laity beginning at 7 p.m. each evening from October 11 to 13. On October 14, beginning at 7 p.m., Bishop Vasa will give a talk as part of the G.I.F.T. program on "How the Language of Liturgy Shapes Our Prayer and Our Relationship to God."

#### **A NOTE FROM A VISITOR:**

August 6, 2010

Hello,

We were on vacation and attended the Church in La Pine. We saw the story about the Camp Store in the bulletin. We are sending a few things that our bible group pulled together.

Have a great Summer!  
Mary & Tom Keeney  
Whittier, CA

*A number of religious articles were sent for the Camp Connolly Store which were used as prizes which the youth participating in our Camps were able to purchase with "Camp Connolly Cash".*

**PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN:** "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."

There are many suitable strategies for helping assure the safety of our children. The Parishes and the Diocese is doing what they can but everyone in the Church needs to take an active role. Parents, particularly, must be engaged. The Video / Workbook series titled, Healthy Families - Safe Children is one very important part of our Diocesan effort. The series 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. Without active parental participation there will always be a very serious deficit in efforts to keep children safe. Join us in our efforts to keep your children safe.

**CONSIDER LITURGY:** The one change that will possibly cause the most confusion and conversation is that which touches the Institution Narrative. The words of consecration recited over the bread, which change it into the Body of Christ, remain unchanged. One word of the consecration recited over the cup of wine changes. In the midst of the consecration we hear: "It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven ..." The Latin has the words, "pro multis" which can readily be seen to be different from "for all". In keeping with the Latin the words in the future will be: "It will be shed for you and for many so that sins may be forgiven. ..." In Aramaic and in Greek "for many" is not distinguished from "for all" and so the intention is still to be inclusive even though our language does not carry that same nuance. Since one of the intentions of the new translation was to be much more faithful to the historical Latin text it has been decided that, since "for many" is a more accurate literal translation of "pro multis" than the current translation, in the future we will hear "for many". May God bless you. +Bishop Vasa

#### **SEPTEMBER PRIESTHOOD ANNIVERSARIES:**

Very Reverend James Logan, St. Edward the Martyr Church, Sisters – September 3, 1986

Reverend Fabian Nwokorie, St. Alphonsus, Dufur and Saint Mary, Maupin – September 11, 1990

**DIOCESAN YOUTH:** Thank you so much for the Junior High Youth Camp at the Connolly Retreat Center in July. I met a lot of nice kids and made new friends. The camp gave me a chance to learn more about God. I liked the talk about Marriage, Confession and a talk on Vocations and going into the priesthood. Each night we had a campfire where we made s'mores, sang with Nick and his guitar, listened to witness talks from people who talked about how God has affected their life, and to end the evening we said the Rosary. I learned how to say the rosary in English and I was able to help say some of the rosary in Spanish so others could learn the Spanish Version.

The theme of the camp was Armor Yourself with God. I learned how God will always be with me and he is someone I can always depend on. I learned ways to defend my faith and how I need to not be afraid to be different and to live the way God wants me to. I learned what to say when kids make fun of my faith.

We even had a Renaissance Dinner and ball. style. All 60 kids participated and we danced for a couple of hours. It was fun. There was even a live snake who showed up and wanted to dance with us.

God bless you and thank you,  
Jovanne Alvarez – Age 12





## Powell Butte Retreat Center Anniversary Mass and Open House

Please join us in celebrating our  
1 year anniversary!

Saturday, September 4, 2010

10:00 am Mass

12:00 noon-3:00 pm Barbeque Lunch

We hope you take advantage of this opportunity  
to visit the Retreat Center!

**MONASTERY NEWS: Gilchrist** – On August 6, Father Arsenius and guests celebrated the tenth anniversary of the erection of Annunciation Hermitage as a monastery of the Diocese of Baker. Joining in the festivities were visitors from as faraway as Los Angeles. Guests included Prior Bernard, superior of the monks of the Order of the Most Holy Savior, founded in the 14th century.

The Catechism states: Hermits ‘devote their life to the praise of God and salvation of the world through a stricter separation from the world, the silence of solitude and assiduous prayer and penance.’ [Canon 603]

The hermitage site, nestled on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains an hour’s drive south of Bend, was established by Bishop Connolly in 1975. Sisters Mary Magdalene and Mary Diana founded the Hermitage of Our Lady of the Pines at that site. The two hermit nuns lived there in near-primitive conditions, surviving 23 winters. In 1998 they relocated to Springfield. Brother Bruno, a former Carthusian and Benedictine monk, established Annunciation Hermitage in the Willamette Valley in 1983.



At the invitation of Bishop Connolly, he relocated his hermitage to the former hermitage site south of Bend in 1998 when the hermit sisters left. In 2000 Bishop Vasa approved Brother Bruno’s rule of life and raised Annunciation Hermitage to the rank of a monastery, establishing it as an institution of the Diocese. The following year Bishop Vasa formally consecrated him as an anchorite of the Diocese, giving him the religious name “Arsenius.” In 2006 he ordained Monk Arsenius a priest of the Diocese of Baker.

The icon of the Blessed Virgin Father is holding was created for and given to him by the Brigittine monks from Amity, Oregon.

Father Arsenius is grateful to God and the Christian Faithful for the love and support he has received.

### OUR LADY OF ANGELS CENTENNIAL FLOAT:



Following the Saturday afternoon Mass was the annual Umatilla County Fair Parade with a special 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade float sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Riding on the float were Fr. Peter Mushi, Fr. Elias Munyaneza, two Knights towing the float, three Knights in their full regalia, and parish families dressed in pioneer clothing. The theme of the float went along with the Fair theme: “We’ve got a good thing growing- 100 years of Faith.”