



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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ORDINATION ANNOUNCEMENT:

With praise and thanksgiving to
the Most Holy Trinity
the Diocese of Baker
joyfully announces the
Ordination of

JOSEPH KARL LEVINE

to the Sacred Priesthood
of our Lord Jesus Christ
through the laying on of hands
and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by

His Excellency,
The Most Rev. Robert F. Vasa, D.D.
Bishop of Baker

On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross,
the fourteenth day of September
in the year of our Lord two thousand and ten
at seven in the evening at
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
Bend, Oregon.



On Wednesday, September 15, Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, Father Levine will say his first Mass at 6 p.m. at St. Francis. The Mass will feature chants, Latin polyphony and English Mass parts and hymns.

There will be a light reception after Mass, to which all are invited. There will also be a picnic/reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 19, at St. Francis Center, 2450 NE 27th. All those interested are welcome to attend. Father Levine will be assigned to St. Francis in Bend as Associate Pastor after his ordination.

MESSAGES FROM OUR PRIESTS: The school system that normally runs from the pre-school to the university academic level can only truly be counted as useful when it aids the development of the natural, spiritual, academic and moral powers of an individual. Parents are the natural educators of a child who teach from the earliest days of a child's life with actions, signs and spoken words. The formal school education system enhances this knowledge by introducing a more structured system of teaching. The intellect is like a two-edged sword; it can record both the good and the bad. The child's intellect is very delicate; it can absorb every experience, but lacks the ability to discern the good from the bad. It would therefore be short-sighted to define education only from an intellectual perspective. Education must include ethical, spiritual and natural wisdom meant for the realization of a complete and mature human person. This ought to be a concern for all who are responsible for the education of children. The time and culture in which we live often lacks a solid moral base and this puts the moral lives of our children at risk.

We should be concerned because lack of a solid moral base has an impact on the child's intellectual development and formation. Unfortunately, the spirit of the age also affects young families and their willingness to be moral educators. Some of these parents see moral and spiritual education as indoctrination of their children, in place of which they advocate for so-called free and liberal scientific knowledge.

It is important for parents, particularly those with young children to see the comprehensive education of their children as their most important mission. Scientific education is just a small part of the comprehensive education system; education that is void of moral and spiritual upbringing is very artificial and dangerous to the human person and the society in general.

For hundreds of years the Church has been seriously involved in natural and formal education all over the world. It is therefore important that the Christian faithful help their Church in maintaining her mission to evangelize and educate through Catholic schools. Sending children to parochial schools, when they are available, is most highly encouraged.

The Catholic schools propose an alternative to an amoral culture. Christ advised the Apostles to throw out into the deep water and spread out our net for a catch "Duc in Altum" (Luke 5:4). This is what Catholic education does. Rev. Christopher Agoha, SMMM

MIND AND HEART OF BISHOP VASA: You see listed here a set of changes in Pastoral Assignments which occur at an unusual time. There is no set time established for when such changes are made but, in general, it is more usual to see them in late May or early June. There are three factors which precipitate the changes at this time. The first is the priestly ordination of Deacon Joseph Levine, set for Tuesday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Francis in Bend. The second is the retirement of Reverend Joseph Reinig from active parochial ministry. The third is the temporary loss of Reverend James Logan, former Vicar General and Judicial Vicar. The loss of one pastor and a leave for a key Diocesan Officer, coupled with the addition of one assistant create the beginning of a small cascade, which culminates in these changes.

I suspect there are a number of Parishes which are relieved that their pastor has not been affected. There are others who may be relieved that they were affected. Still others are distressed that they were affected and finally some may be distressed that they were not affected. Finding the perfect distribution of priests which magically makes every parishioner entirely happy is an absolute impossibility. Making sure that every parish has a priest to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and to provide for spiritual needs is the first goal. The relative effectiveness or ineffectiveness of such priests is often a subject of discussion but I can only assign the priests that God gives me. It is very easy to be critical of our priests and sometimes there is justification, but the basic attitude for all of us must still be that of gratitude. We do not have perfect priests, but each Parish has a priest. Each Parish and Mission has Mass every weekend and most Parishes have daily Mass as well. This is no small matter. If our appreciation for the value and worth of the Mass was at all proportionate to the awesomeness of the Mass, then we would weep at the thought that such a marvelous Divine Gift is so readily available to us and we would further weep much more abundantly at the thought that without our priest this Gift would not be so readily available.

In our society we are so focused on the purely human gifts and virtues and these are surely significant, but these should never be allowed to be seen as essential or even primary. The number of times people have quit going to Holy Mass because the priest has a heavy accent or is not the best homilist or preaches too long or too briefly or is a poor administrator or lacks some social graces is most distressing. Certainly I do not want any of those impediments to exist but they do exist and I am powerless to affect them. Then the question may well be raised by each of us: Does my appreciation of the beauty and grace of the Mass surpass all of these? Would I rather have Mass and this priest or no Mass and no priest? Unless the priest is positively evil, as can happen, I would hope that we can strive to help the priest overcome shortcomings because of our profound appreciation for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

DIOCESE OF BAKER - OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Special Appointments:

Very Reverend Joseph Reinig, V.G. - Vicar General of the Diocese of Baker and continuing as Dean of the Central Deanery (October 4, 2010)

Reverend James Logan - Granted an extended leave

Reverend Robert Irwin - Granted a personal leave

Pastors and Parochial Vicars:

Reverend Stanislaus Strzyz - Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Burns, Our Lady of Loretto, Drewsey, Saint Charles, Juntura and Saint Thomas, Crane. Also Dean of the Eastern Deanery (October 4, 2010)

Reverend Francis Ekwugha - Pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Bend (October 4, 2010)

Reverend Kieren Okoro - Pastor of Saint Edward the Martyr Parish in Sisters (October 4, 2010)

Reverend Jude Nwachukwu, SMMM - Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Ontario (October 4, 2010)

Reverend Daniel Maxwell - Pastor of Saint Bernard Parish in Jordan Valley, in charge of Holy Family in Arock and Assistant to Reverend Jude Nwachukwu in Ontario (October 4, 2010)

Reverend Eduardo Nebelung - Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Boardman (October 4, 2010)

Pending:

Reverend Saul Alba-Infnate - Associate Pastor and Vicar for Hispanic Activities at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Bend (Effective date to be determined)

(Reverend) Joseph Levine - Associate Pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi in Bend (Effective September 14, 2010)

RETREAT CENTER NEWS: At the end of August the Diocese hosted a very successful and well received Ministries Training Conference for Catechists, Directors of Religious Education and Youth Ministers. Early in September Administrators and teachers in our Catholic Schools met for an educators workshop / Retreat in final preparation for the beginning of the academic year.

Fall brings the annual Clergy Assembly, scheduled for the second week in October. On Tuesday, October 12, all pastors are urged to invite their Finance Councils and Parish representatives to an 11:45 lunch and a presentation by Father Dan Mahan on "Building an Engaged Parish". Father Mahan is the executive director of the Marian College Center for Catholic Stewardship and is a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He is engaged in making presentations to dioceses and parishes throughout the United States, Canada, Australia and the Philippines. Don't miss this opportunity to come and hear this engaging speaker and to take back renewed enthusiasm, knowledge and skills to begin building an engaged parish at home. Check with the pastor of your parish for details.



VOCATIONS: Over the course of the next few months, we will introduce you to our four Seminarians beginning with Seminarian Daniel Kluge.

Daniel was born on September 4, 1978, in Portland, Oregon, and was raised in the country near Sheridan. He was baptized at the age of five along with his sister,

when his parents converted to the Catholic Church. He was also home-schooled along with his sister. He graduated from the University of Dallas with a BA in psychology in 2000; from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh with an MA in psychology in 2001, and most recently from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC with an MA in philosophy in 2007. He has completed two years of theology at Mount Angel Seminary and began his pastoral year at St. Peter's Church in The Dalles, Oregon, this past spring. For the last few years he and his family have attended Our Lady of Consolation Brigitine Priory, Amity, Oregon. Please join us in wishing Daniel a very blessed and joyous birthday. If you wish to personally communicate with Daniel, you may do so by emailing him at wallofbrass@gmail.com. Daniel's mailing address is in care of St. Peter Church, PO Box 41, The Dalles, Oregon 97058-0041.

SAINTS AND FEASTS: Our Lady of Sorrows - Called in the ancient rite the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary, this feast is celebrated on September 15. It is a reminder that Christians, along with their heavenly Mother, should unite their sufferings to those of Christ in order to effect their sanctification and salvation.

Because Mary was conceived without any stain of sin, it is likely she had more foresight than those of her wayward children, whose minds are clouded by the effects of Adam's fall. When she gave her assent to God through Gabriel at the Annunciation and agreed to become the Mother of the Savior, therefore, she probably saw clearly what pain awaited her amid the joy of bringing Jesus into the world. Still, she said "Fiat" - "Be it done unto me according to Your will."

It is a principle in Christian spirituality that the closer one stands to Christ, the more one partakes in His cross. Therefore, Mary, bonded to her son as mother and companion, tasted the pains of Christ's life more than anyone else. She is, then, the refuge for Christians who suffer affliction.

In 1981 Our Lady appeared to seven children in Kibeho, Rwanda. She warned them of the terrible massacre that would come in 1998. One million people were in fact massacred in 100 days in 1998.

Three of the visionaries travel around the world bringing Mary's message to others. In her appearances the Blessed Mother urged the children to spread devotion to her own sorrows, to do penance and to join their suffering with her Son's Redemptive Passion. It is a powerful message for today: to meditate on Christ's suffering and His Mother's sorrow in order to realize how greatly God has loved His people, whom He created and redeemed with the cooperation of Mary, the Mother of all mankind.

CONSIDER LITURGY: In the future, when the priest proclaims: "The mystery of faith", there will be three approved responses. The most typical response: "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again" is not among them. The three remaining responses are modified to the following: "We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again"; "When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again"; or "Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free." These will take some adjustment on the part of all of us but the good news is that it will require us to be more attentive to both what the priest says and what we respond.

Before going to the end of the Eucharistic Prayers I think it is important to hear the difference between what we now have and what we will hear in the future. One example from Eucharistic Prayer I.

Present text: "We come to you, Father, with praise and thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ your Son. Through him we ask you to accept and bless these gifts we offer you in sacrifice."

Future text: "To you, therefore, most merciful Father, we make humble prayer and petition through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, that you accept and bless these gifts, these offerings, these holy and unblemished sacrifices, which we offer you ..." For four decades we lost many of the qualifying adjectives such as most holy, most merciful or venerable. Recovering some of these gives a more deeply reverential tone to the prayers. May the most holy God bless you. +Bishop Vasa

PRO-LIFE CONFERENCE: The Diocese of Baker will again host the Pro-Life Conference on Saturday, September 18, beginning with 8:30 a.m. Mass. The Conference presentations begin at 10 a.m. and will feature talks by Dr. Richard Thorne on "Attacks on the Conscience, Part I and Part II", Fr. Robert Greiner on "Fighting for Life With Christ" and Lois Anderson, Director of Political Action Committee for Oregon Right to Life on "Voting for Life in Oregon". Lunch will be provided. The day will conclude with a Holy Hour at 3 p.m., which will include Adoration, Benediction, and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. For more information please visit the diocesan website www.dioceseofbaker.org or call 541-388-4004.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: The 2010 Ministry Training Conference surpassed everyone's expectations, including both the participants and the presenters. One Director of Religious Education exclaimed "I am sending all my Catechists next year." The Conference was held at the Powell Butte Retreat Center on August 27 - 29 in the John Paul II Conference Center and was attended by more than 65 Directors of Religious Education, Youth Ministers, and Catechists throughout the Diocese of Baker.

Talks included "Where's That in the Bible" by Fr. Radloff, "Faith and Life Alive" by Jill Schwartz, Terri Nichols and Debra Garrett, "Teamwork: Getting Parents Involved" by Angelica Corona, "Secrets to Effective Youth Ministry" by Michele Laughlin, and "Understanding the College and Young Adult Culture" by Jill Schwartz.

Indications of the success of the Conference poured in with enthusiasm.

"All were great subjects, very informative and great tools for a teacher without training. They inspired me to stay in CCD and grow with it."

"I walked away with a strategic plan of how we can better improve our religious education program."

"The presentations were quite helpful in providing concrete information I can apply at my parish to improve our youth ministry and religious education programs."

"Overall, the conference provided me a real booster shot for the start of the new RE year."

"As an adult catechist the discussion on parental involvement was helpful for me to better understand how I can support sacramental prep and CCD programs in training adults."

"It was nice to hear from catechists from other parishes. Makes for a feeling of Catholic community."

"The presentations addressed my needs and I gained more than I expected."



Participants enjoying Fr. Radloff's talk on "Where's That in the Bible".



Young Adults from Bend and Sisters gearing up to float the Deschutes River.

YOUNG ADULT RAFTING TRIP: Maupin, Oregon, didn't know what hit it when over 40 Catholic young adults flooded their town August 14th for a one-day rafting trip. Five rafts were filled with "college-age" and "career-age" married and unmarried young adults from all over Oregon: Bend, Salem, Portland, Sisters, Pendleton as well as a few young adults from the Tri Cities in Washington. The sunny 95-degree weather offered a nice contrast to the fresh crispness of the roaring rapids. The rafting trip was concluded with Saturday night Mass celebrated by Bishop Vasa, who drove more than 100 miles to say Mass for the 40 young adults and a few parishioners of St. Mary's in Maupin. After Mass, many of the young adults had a BBQ at the city park where they camped that night. This raft trip not only offered a fun-filled day, but an opportunity for Catholic young adults to meet and get to know other like-minded people.

Here's what a few of the young adults had to say about the trip:

"We LOVED it and cannot wait for the next one!"

—Jordan from the Tri Cities

"What fun! Thanks again for the wonderful time!" — Walter from Bend

For more information about upcoming young adult events, contact: Jill at jillmarie_schwartz@yahoo.com



Rafters gather after Mass at Saint Mary's in Maupin