



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: On the evening of September 14, 2010, Central Oregon Catholics were privileged to witness the ordination of Joseph Karl Levine to the priesthood. Held at the new St. Francis of Assisi Church on NE 27th St. in Bend, the ceremony was conducted by Bishop Robert F. Vasa and attended by approximately 500 of the faithful. More than 30 priests from the Diocese of Baker and from as far away as Brazil were also present.

Other dignitaries at the Mass of Ordination were Thomas Connolly, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Baker, and James Timlin, Bishop Emeritus of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The chalice and paten were presented by Dr. Michael McLean, President of Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, California, Fr. Levine's *alma mater*, and Mrs. Marie S. Piela, a friend of Fr. Levine's from Blakely, Pennsylvania.

The music was provided by the St. Francis Choir, the *schola cantorum* which sings the Extraordinary Form Mass at the historic St. Francis Church, Nicholas Wavers, a cantor and music director from La Pine and his son, as well as friends of Father Levine from as far away as Connecticut. Sam Schmitt led the polyphony, while John Nieto led the chant. There were also English hymns and chants sung in which the congregation joined. The Knights of Columbus from St. Thomas in Redmond formed an honor guard for the Mass.



Laying on of Hands by His Excellency, The Most Reverend Robert F. Vasa at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Bend.

After the ordination, the staff at St. Francis served a buffet dinner and held a reception to congratulate the newly ordained priest. Many of the laity traveled from parishes in Central Oregon and from as far away as La Grande to join in the festivities.

The next evening Fr. Levine said his first Mass. The same group provided music for that occasion and about 300 attended. The reception after that Mass was hosted by St. Francis School.

Fr. Levine has been assigned as associate pastor to St. Francis Parish.

OUR DIOCESAN YOUTH: This past school year of 2009–2010 The Respect Life Group of Klamath Falls, sponsored Shelly Thompson for her high school senior project. Shelly also had a pro-life booth at the YMCA Fourth Annual Pumpkin Festival where she had pre-born fetal baby models on display and gave away 10-week old feet pins. On January 22, Shelly gave a 15-minute talk at the Klamath Falls Respect Life Group, Roe vs Wade Pro-Life Rally. She was confident and poised with a well thought out topic and received many compliments on her presentation.



Shelly attended Camp Joshua, put on by Oregon Right to Life. This camp helps young people to stand up for life through role play, talks and prayer. They visit the state capital and meet their state representatives.

Shelly is soon off to college to pursue a degree in medicine. She has a heart for babies and children and will be a true asset in her chosen field.

NOVEMBER PRIESTHOOD ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Rogatian Urassa 11-20-1986

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

MIND AND HEART OF BISHOP VASA: There is no mistake that Fall has arrived. If one had failed to notice the incremental change to fall colors there has been an occasional morning frost to alert us to the fact of Fall's arrival. The start of school, the advent of the football season, the shortening days and the winding up of the harvest all remind us that we are closing in on the remnant of the year. It is the time of year when that passage from the Book of Ecclesiastes, made famous in the 60's by a popular rock group, takes on an added poignancy. "There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven: A time for giving birth, a time for dying, a time for planting, a time for uprooting what has been planted. A time for killing, a time for healing; a time for knocking down, a time for building. A time for tears, a time for laughter; a time for mourning, a time for dancing. A time for throwing stones away, a time for gathering them up; a time for embracing, a time to refrain from embracing. A time for searching, a time for losing; a time for keeping, a time for throwing away. A time for tearing, a time for sewing; a time for keeping silent, a time for speaking. A time for loving, a time for hating; a time for war, a time for peace."(Eccles 3:1-8)

Each of us could add our own personal litany of times which might be more suited to our portion of Oregon. A time to move to pasture, a time to move from pasture. A time to hay, a time to water. A time to brave the heat of the sun, a time to recollect in shade. A time to gather the grain, a time to take it to market. A time to cut wood, a time to light a warm fire.

Solomon seems to lack an appreciation of God's plan in all of this. He concludes this section by noting: "Indeed, the fate of man and beast is identical; one dies, the other too, and both have the selfsame breath; man has no advantage over the beast, for all is vanity." (3:19)

Fall can engender within us this same sense of hopelessness and uselessness. Christ came, however, and redeemed us from our sins and from this black hole of hopelessness. His resurrection tells us in a most definitive way that we are not like the beasts and that life does not end with death. He teaches us to strive to live with our hearts already set on heaven. He teaches us to live through the Fall and the Winter looking forward not only to that repetitive Spring but more importantly to that ultimate springtime which lasts forever.

Going to Church, contributing to the sustaining of the Church and the Diocese involves an act of faith. It is a contribution to that which is intended to help sustain our hope. The Church stands in our midst as a testament and reassurance that our lives are not "in vain". Over the summer I have seen many youth come through our Retreat Center and I know that they need the witness of your hope. They need you to be generous. We need to be generous. We need to live beyond that empty hopelessness which only sees a time to live and a time to die.

As a part of your "witness to hope" I pray you can find a way to be generous to this year's Appeal.

APELACIÓN-2010: Como hemos mencionado la Campaña Anual ahora es llamada APELACIÓN-2010 fue suspendida por tres años a fin de centrar nuestras energías en la recaudación de fondos para el Centro de Retiros Diocesano. El Centro de Retiros ha tenido buen uso durante el año 2010. Sólo en octubre, hubo dos eventos para la juventud, la Asamblea del Clero y Jóvenes Para Cristo evento para la comunidad hispana. Más de 300 personas asistieron al Centro de Retiros en el mes de octubre. Y en 2010, más de 1.500 personas.

La meta financiera para la Apelación-2010 es de \$500.000; fijamos una metas este año, para que los feligreses vieran lo que justamente les corresponde de los costos de la Diócesis. Después del 70% una parte pasara al Fondo de Salud y de Jubilación de los sacerdotes para acercarlo más a las normas actuales.

El presupuesto de gastos de la Diócesis de Baker en el año 2010 fue de \$ 1,607,000 y solo \$ 1.456 millones de ingresos con un déficit de 151.000 dólares. El personal docente de la Diócesis es de 14 personas, cada una de ellas realiza varias funciones en apoyo a las 60 parroquias y misiones de la Diócesis.

El mayor gasto es la administración de la diócesis, que incluye, Nómina y gastos de Oficina como Finanzas, Contabilidad y Auditorías. Las oficinas diocesanas existen para servir a las parroquias y misiones, el principal medio de apoyo a la labor de la Diócesis viene de las mismas parroquias y misiones. La mayoría de feligreses se imaginan que la Diócesis esta completamente desconectada de las parroquias y sus pastores, pero la vida de cada parroquia está íntimamente relacionada y a menudo depende de la Diócesis. y como el contacto principal es con la parroquia y el párroco es fácil ignorar esta conexión esencial con la Diócesis.

Otros gastos incluyen los intereses de la construcción del Centro de Retiros que se estima en 240.109 dólares en 2010. La deuda total asciende a unos \$7,2 millones. Seguimos recibiendo los pagos a la Campaña del Capital por lo que estamos verdaderamente agradecidos. Sabíamos que lo pagaríamos en 20 a 25 años tiempo que podíamos usar las instalaciones para la promoción de la vida de fe de nuestra Diócesis.

Tenemos actualmente tres seminaristas en San Gregorio Magno en Seward, Nebraska. Tenemos un seminarista en su año pastoral trabajando en la Diócesis. Hay varios jóvenes, que están considerando el sacerdocio; esta parte del presupuesto para el año de 2011 será mayor.

En la Diócesis un sacerdote que se jubila recibe \$ 925 dólares al mes, cuando llena todos los requisitos del plan de jubilación, también reciben seguro de Medicare. La Diócesis de Baker paga a las diócesis de nuestros sacerdotes que vienen de otros países. El pago de jubilación a otras diócesis este año fue de \$ 22,500. El déficit proyectado del plan de Salud y Jubilación para el año 2010 se estima en alrededor de \$ 39.000.

APPEAL—2010: As we have mentioned, the Annual Appeal now called **APPEAL—2010** was suspended for a period of three years in order to focus our energies on the raising of funds for the Diocesan Retreat Center. The Retreat Center has been put to good use during 2010. In October alone, there were two youth events, the Clergy Assembly and a Jovenes Para Cristo event for the Hispanic Community. In total over 300 people attended an event at the Retreat Center during October. During 2010 alone, over 1,500 people will have attended an event at the Retreat Center.

The financial goal for **APPEAL—2010** is \$500,000; we set goals this year, which was not done in previous appeals, because it allows individual parishioners to see their fair pro-rated share of Diocesan Costs. This year a portion of the goal, once 70% of the base goal is achieved, will be added to the Priests' Health and Retirement Fund to help bring the value of this Fund a little closer to accepted actuarial standards.

The 2010 budgeted expenses for the Diocese of Baker are \$1.607 million compared with budgeted sources of income of \$1,456 million leaving a shortfall of \$151,000. The Diocese employs 14 people each who perform several duties in support of the 60 parishes and missions of the Diocese.

The largest expense category is Diocesan administration and includes the payroll and related costs of the Bishop's Office, Finance and Accounting and Auditing. The Diocesan offices exist to serve the Parishes and Missions of the Diocese and the primary means of support for the ongoing work of the Diocese comes from those same Parishes and Missions which are served. While most parishioners may instinctively feel that the Diocese and its Offices are completely disconnected from the parishes and their pastors, nothing could be further from the truth. The life of every parish is intimately connected with and often reliant upon the Diocesan Offices. However, since the primary contact is with the local parish and pastor it is easy to forget this essential connection with the Diocese.

Other Diocesan costs include the debt service for the construction of the Retreat Center which is estimated at \$240,109 in 2010. The total debt stands at about \$7.2 million. We continue to receive payments on the Capital Campaign for which we are truly grateful. We moved forward with the construction with the recognition that the payment plan would cover 20 to 25 years during which time we have the facility available for our use and for the promotion of the faith life of the people of our Diocese.

Finally, we currently have 3 seminarians at St. Gregory the Great in Seward, Nebraska. We also have a seminarian in his Pastoral year working in the Diocese. There are several more young men considering the priesthood from our Diocese; it is expected that this budget category will be higher in 2011.

Diocese of Baker **APPEAL—2010** Goals

Parish Mission	Appeal Goal	Parish Mission	Appeal Goal
Baker	\$16,666	La Grande, cont.	
Halfway	\$1,190	North Powder	\$1,071
Bend	\$79,361	Union	\$2,024
Boardman	\$5,754	Lakeview	\$6,587
Burns	\$8,928	Adel	\$337
Crane	\$1,008	Paisley	\$1,270
Drewsey	\$734	Plush	\$357
Juntura	\$833	La Pine	\$7,143
Chiloquin	\$4,047	Christmas Valley	\$694
Bly	\$873	Gilchrist	\$1,151
Condon	\$3,444	Sunriver	\$11,507
Fossil	\$833	Madras	\$13,888
Arlington	\$992	Warm Springs	\$2,103
Dufur	\$2,301	Merrill	\$4,841
Maupin	\$1,587	Bonanza	\$1,349
Enterprise	\$5,833	Milton-Freewater	\$6,944
Wallowa	\$833	Athena	\$1,587
Heppner	\$5,476	Nyssa	\$5,793
Ione	\$1,905	Ontario	\$20,237
Hermiston	\$28,761	Pendleton	\$22,142
Hood River	\$19,999	Pilot Rock	\$3,968
John Day	\$5,555	Prineville	\$11,111
Monument	\$159	Redmond	\$30,951
Longcreek	\$238	Saint Andrew's	\$3,968
Jordan Valley	\$2,024	Sisters	\$13,015
Arock	\$397	The Dalles	\$28,173
Kfalls - Sacred Heart	\$37,935	Vale	\$4,722
Kfalls - St. Pius X	\$32,498	Unity	\$556
La Grande	\$17,301	Wasco	\$1,746
Elgin	\$2,619	Grass Valley	\$679
Diocese Total			\$500,000

Health and Retirement Association of the Diocese of Baker

The Priests of the Diocese of Baker, have their own Health and Retirement Association. When a priest of the Diocese retires he receives payments from the association of \$925 per month, assuming he is fully vested in the Retirement Association plan. Our priests also received Medicare supplement insurance. The Diocese of Baker also makes payments to the Dioceses of our foreign born priests based on a vesting schedule after they have served in our Diocese. The outstanding retirement liability at the end of 2010 to the home Dioceses and Orders of Foreign Priests serving the Diocese of Baker is \$22,500. The projected shortfall of the Health and Retirement Association for 2010 is estimated at about \$39,000.

The Association currently has about \$634,000 in assets invested in the Legacy of Faith Foundation. However, the unfunded pension liability, meaning the amount of money required to make the Association fully funded, is estimated at approximately \$1.3 million.

PARISH NEWS: St. Francis of Assisi: On Monday, August 23, 2010, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Bend celebrated two major events in one: the first anniversary of the dedication of the new church and the 100th anniversary of the parish. A special Mass with music by the St. Francis Choir was the highlight of the day.

According to Sally Smith, secretary for St. Francis, "(The event) was well attended and everyone enjoyed the walk down memory lane with Father Matthew Elshoff, OFM Cap. We had a fundraising campaign to finance the memory books that John Henchman put together for us. The reception was lots of fun with parishioners staying to visit and enjoy the delicious food.



Judy Kennedy gathered together artifacts for a display, which remained in the hallway of the new church for a month after the celebration. Old photos, old sacred vessels and vestments, original sanctuary furniture and other religious items were available for viewing. One of the most popular displays was photos of our First Communion Classes - even one from 1925. One portion of the display has become permanent. A large statue of Our Blessed Mother from the 1950s, which had been stored away, will now remain and welcome everyone who uses the hallway.

PARISH NEWS: Sacred Heart Parish volunteers are working hard to help feed the hungry in Klamath Falls through the "Provide A Loving Meal" dinner at the United Methodist Church. On the first Tuesday of the month, Sacred Heart parishioners prepare, cook, and serve a free meal for up to 150 people. Led by Community Life Commission heads Jan and Micky Boshuizen, the volunteers purchase groceries, cook the food and serve all those who are in need of a hot meal.



Motivated by a strong desire to serve others, many members of the Parish volunteer to help and/or donate food. This ministry is considered a true blessing both by those who make the meal and those who receive it.

RETREAT CENTER NEWS: Faith Recharged: Approximately 40 high school age youth participated in the annual Day of the Son Retreat, held at the Powell Butte Retreat Center on the weekend of October 1-3. The theme for the retreat was "Faith Recharged." Speakers included Mr. Vic Scaravilli from Saint Pius X Church in Klamath Falls who gave a talk on "Getting charged up about the Catholic faith." Mr. Matt Bauer from Holy Family Church in Burns gave a talk on "Getting charged up about Prayer." Bishop Vasa gave a talk on "Getting charged up about the Church." The retreat also included daily Mass, Adoration and an opportunity for Reconciliation. Other activities included movie night with chicken feathers, (ask one of the attendees...), capture the flag, and, due to the beautiful weather, the water slide was opened. A number of skits performed by the Diocese of Baker Youth Council and the always popular evening campfire with S'mores, singing, hanging out and a Limbo Dance added to the fun and faith filled weekend.



SAINTS AND FEASTS: November opens with two great feasts – one of the Church Triumphant in heaven, the other of the Church suffering in Purgatory. The feast of All Saints is very ancient in origin, going back to the fourth century, when it honored only martyrs. The feast of All Souls, on the other hand, began in the 10th century with an abbot who wanted to say the Office of the Dead.

In the Divine Office for All Saints, the hymn for First Vespers, praises various classes of saints, beginning with Our Blessed Mother and proceeding to the angels, apostles, martyrs, confessors and virgins. In the early hours of the day the central theme of the feast is chanted: "Come, let us adore the Lord ... for He Himself is the crown of all the saints."

After the triumphal mood of November 1, the next day is somber, but hopeful. This feast highlights those souls who are waiting with great longing for the Beatific Vision. Many of our family and friends who have died are probably among them and the feast reminds us that our prayers are the main way that these souls may hasten their journey to eternal happiness.