



THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

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"greater good of souls"

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DIOCESAN NEWS: People from around the diocese gathered at St. Mary's Chapel at Powell Butte on May 17th to participate in the Welcome Mass and Reception for Bishop William S. Skylstad, Apostolic Administrator of the diocese. Bishop Skylstad shared the story of his call to priesthood at the age of 11 and his journey along the way that included teaching Science and Physics, serving as Pastor, Chancellor, Bishop, his retirement, and, finally being appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Baker. We are fortunate to have his guidance until a new Bishop is announced. About 150 people came out to meet Bishop Skylstad and welcome him to our diocese. If you would like to see Bishop Skylstad's Curriculum Vitae, please visit the diocesan website.

www.dioceseofbaker.org



Holy Mass in St. Mary Chapel

Presentation of the Gifts



Dinner is Served



Meeting Bishop Skylstad



ST. VINCENT de PAUL: The Bend conference of St. Vincent de Paul, after 30 years in operation, is still meeting the needs of many of the disadvantaged in the area. Founded in 1981, the organization was the first of the five conferences in the Baker Diocese.



"We do more food boxes than anyone else in Bend," said Christine King, manager of Social Services for the organization. "We average 500 boxes a month."

Like its parent organization, the Bend site tries to meet other needs as well.

"Whatever donations we have that are not designated for food," said King, "go to a fund for utilities. We work with the power companies and the city to help keep electricity and water turned on until people can catch up."

The Bend conference had a thrift store for many years, but, after high lease payments and a lot of red ink, the six-member board decided to close it and lease some of the property they own north of Reed Market Road to fund Social Services. While there is still a thrift store under the organization's banner in Bend, it is run by the Prineville conference of St. Vincent de Paul.



<< Food Bank room used to prepare food boxes. It is one of three food storage rooms.

Privacy office used to assist those who are in need of Social Services. >>



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REFLECTIONS FROM THE BISHOP... Keeping Connected

These days I have been doing a lot of long driving. On May 15 I celebrated confirmation in St. Katherine Parish in Enterprise and the next evening I was in Holy Family Parish in Burns. I always admire and am inspired by how the Church is present in the widely dispersed communities of faith here in the Diocese. Sometimes even in our smaller, more remote parishes, the preparation and singing at the Sunday Mass are truly remarkable, including the singing of the responsorial psalm. The churches are well decorated and maintained. Coffee and donut time after Mass contributes to building up community and strengthening relationships.

Just this morning as I write this, I participated in a two-hour teleconference of the Board of Directors for Catholic Relief Services Foundation. We talked about the presence of CRS all over the world, serving people in great need on behalf of all of us. All of us can be proud of that work. Such outreach is made possible by all of us working together for the common cause of assisting our brothers and sisters in Haiti after the earthquake, the vulnerable children in Africa, or to relieve hunger and degrading poverty. This cannot happen through any one of us alone, but by our working together.

On the one hand, staying connected is becoming easier. I-phones, Blackberries and texting are fairly common. But in other ways, individualism is pulling us apart and the fostering of community has become increasingly more challenging. With all of the modern marvels of technology, communication in marriage or in our families or in parish communities has become more urgent. Often we hear about the lack of civility in modern discourse, a change from years past. The trumpeting of ideologies oftentimes trumps charity, mutual respect, and understanding of the other. Yet, as Catholics, we are always called back to our roots of identity with the Lord, Jesus, and what he asks of us in our relationship with Him and one another.

Good relationships and keeping connected demand persistence, a sense of hope, saying I am sorry, seeking forgiveness and constant effort of building up the body of Christ. St. Paul in his writing uses the analogy of the human body when the hand can't say to the eye I don't need you. All the parts of the body need one another. All of us need one another, and we must continue to improve our skills of supporting and building up one another. Too often it is easy to deal only on the symptomatic lever, little realizing what the real root of the issue is. For example, I may have a very sore bump on the hand, but the real cause is a festering sliver I picked up somewhere. We need to address the sliver first.

So we are called back to our rootedness in relationship with Jesus and with one another through Jesus. That call is foundational upon which we build the structure of our day-to-day living and our relationships with one another. May God grant you peace and good work in building up the community faith!

SAINTS AND FEASTS: St. Anthony of Padua, June 13.

There are few saints more popular than St. Anthony. He is invoked for almost every type of petition, most famously to find lost valuables.

Anthony was born with the first name Fernando and took Anthony when he became a Franciscan. He wanted to die a martyr and sailed to Africa to give his life for the Lord. However, he was shipwrecked on the shores of Sicily and God had other plans for him. He became a successful preacher in Italy and it is said that thousands flocked to hear him for his gifts of oratory and his love of God. His private life was a living gospel.

Although the childlike devotion to St. Anthony is beautiful, the faithful should take care that it does not deteriorate into superstition.

"O excellent Doctor, light of the holy Church, blessed Anthony, lover of the divine law, pray for us to the Son of God."

CONSIDER LITURGY: There is one final silent prayer said by the priest after Holy Communion while he is purifying the Sacred Vessels. When drinking the purification water the priest says: "What has passed our lips as food, O Lord, may we possess in purity of heart, that what has been given to us in time may be our healing for eternity." While it is most common for music or song to occupy these moments after Holy Communion, it is also a prime time for private prayer and reflection. Such prayerful reflection is vital to the fostering of a strong and vibrant spiritual life, a living relationship with the Lord. Each time the priest says, "Let us pray", there is, or should be, a pause to allow for this same personal and private prayer and reflection.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS: It's never too early to mark your calendars for this year's Ministry Training Conference, **August 26 - 28** at the Powell Butte Retreat Center. Are you looking for

creative ideas for the classroom? Are you developing or improving your youth ministry program? Are you brainstorming with others across the Diocese? You will not want to miss this

year's conference. Not a catechist? No problem. You are still welcome to join us! More information and registration forms will be sent to your parish DRE's soon.



ST. VINCENT de PAUL continued from page 1:

The Bend group bought an entire city block many years ago in what King said, "was a really smart move." They have since sold off one property and use some of the motel units located there for affordable housing for those in need and income to help others.

Although many families come to the organization for temporary help, King said, there has been an increase in single and homeless people recently.

"A lot of the homeless choose to live in camps and don't want to go to a shelter," she said. So they come for food and other necessary items in order to maintain some independence.

For now, the operation is doing all right, although, like other non-profits in the area, donations are down in an economy that has left most people with fewer resources than previously.

Still, there are many creative ways SVdP-Bend reaches out to the community. Besides the cash generated by leasing property and donations from individuals, the operation relies on collections from the local Catholic Church and on many businesses to provide help.

Rudy Dory, owner of Newport Market in Bend, holds a golf tournament every year that goes to the Hunger Prevention Coalition and thus benefits St. Vincent's outreach. In addition to a portion of the overall profits from the event, St. Vincent de Paul secures its own sponsors for the tournament, which provides it with more proceeds.

Stores, such as Safeway, Costco, Trader Joes and south Albertsons also help to provide a lot of produce and breads to help fill the food baskets each week and the Grocery Outlet provides discounts for things not available from Neighbor Impact, which distributes USDA surplus and other staples.

And recently, King said, she has been able to raise \$9,000 in food and donations, mainly through an appeal to St. Francis Parish in Bend. That money she hopes to match by applying to a philanthropist, Alan Shawn Feinstein, who offers dollar-for-dollar help to those who feed the hungry.

Because the conference owns on-site property, said King, she also has a storage unit for clothing, needed by clients most in the cold weather.

"It is right here when it is needed and we don't have to give people a voucher to go somewhere else," she said.

As long as there are the disadvantaged, St. Vincent de Paul will be there to help. And the Bend conference is on the front line, trying to make sure no one in the community goes hungry or lacks shelter. Like other conferences in the area, the Social Services provide not just food and clothing, but referrals to other agencies and programs that can help those in need get back on their feet.

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St. Vincent de Paul has become an arm of the Church in the Baker Diocese committed to reaching out in response to the Gospel injunction to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy toward the least of Christ's brethren. Now more than ever, the organization needs the backing of parishes and individuals to continue its mission of mercy.

The Bend St. Vincent de Paul is located at 950 SE Third Street and is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday. For more information or to volunteer, call (541) 389-6643.
---Stephanie Swee

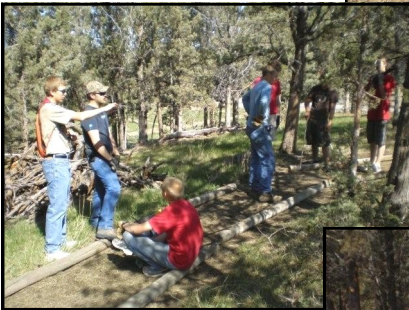
NOTICIAS HISPANAS: El mes de mayo fue el mes de María Madre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo y Madre Santísima nuestra; este mes de Junio es el mes del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. La difusión de la devoción al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús se debe a santa Margarita de Alacoque a quien Jesús se le apareció con estas palabras: "Mira este corazón mío, que a pesar de consumirse en amor abrasador por los hombres, no recibe de los cristianos otra cosa que sacrilegio, desprecio, indiferencia e ingratitud, aún en el mismo sacramento de mi amor. Pero lo que traspasa mi Corazón más desgarradamente es que estos insultos los recibo de personas consagradas especialmente a mi servicio." He aquí las promesas que hizo Jesús a Santa Margarita, y por medio de ella a todos los devotos de su Sagrado Corazón: 1. Les daré todas las gracias necesarias a su estado. 2. Pondré paz en sus familias. 3. Les consolaré en sus penas. 4. Seré su refugio seguro durante la vida, y, sobre todo, en la hora de la muerte. 5. Derramaré abundantes bendiciones sobre todas sus empresas. 6. Bendeciré las casas en que la imagen de mi Corazón sea expuesta y venerada. 7. Los pecadores hallarán en mi Corazón la fuente, el Océano infinito de la misericordia. 8. Las almas tibias se volverán fervorosas. 9. Las almas fervorosas se elevarán a gran perfección. 10. Daré a los sacerdotes el talento de mover los corazones más empedernidos. 11. Las personas que propaguen esta devoción tendrán su nombre escrito en mi Corazón, y jamás será borrado de El. 12. Les prometo en el exceso de mi misericordia, que mi amor todopoderoso concederá a todos aquellos que comulgaren por nueve primeros viernes consecutivos, la gracia de la perseverancia final; no morirán sin mi gracia, ni sin la recepción de los santos sacramentos. Mi Corazón será su seguro refugio en aquel momento supremo.

Las condiciones para ganar esta gracia son tres:

1. Recibir la Sagrada Comunión durante nueve primeros viernes de mes de forma consecutiva y sin ninguna interrupción.
2. Tener la intención de honrar al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y de alcanzar la perseverancia final.
3. Ofrecer cada Sagrada Comunión como un acto de expiación por las ofensas cometidas contra el Santísimo Sacramento.

ST. FRANCIS EAGLE SCOUT BROTHERS CONTRIBUTE TO DIOCESAN RETREAT CENTER:

As the Diocesan Retreat Center at Powell Butte was nearing completion, Sam Schwarz approached Bishop Vasa to inquire about future needs of the retreat center and how he could contribute through a proposed Eagle Scout Project. Bishop Vasa had always envisioned a large trail system through the beautiful wooded hillside area of the property. After a peaceful walkabout with Bishop Vasa, Sam plotted the trail system and began organizing materials and a work crew for the project. The large paths were designed to connect the cabins to the amphitheatre, as well as to the future 120-foot water slip-n-slide then on through to the Recreation Center and the lower level of the property. An unplanned but very creative bridge was ideally constructed along the trail and over the upper property drainage wash out. Sam committed 52 hours himself and secured 280 work hours from 55 other volunteers to complete his Eagle Scout Project on May 9, 2009. The trail system is used heavily throughout the year especially during youth ministry camps and retreats. Thank you, Sam Schwarz, for your work and contribution to the Diocesan Retreat Center.



Following in the philanthropic traditions of the Schwarz family, Peter Schwarz, a junior at Bend Senior High School, decided to also dedicate his Eagle Scout project to the Diocesan Retreat Center. After consulting with Bishop Vasa and Diocesan staff, it was determined that 22 benches were needed for the use of changing in the cabin and bath house showers. Peter was able to secure a sizeable donation of synthetic wood to complete the project. The synthetic wood was a perfect material for the project due to its smooth water-resistant surface, durability and low-maintenance qualities. The benches were uniquely designed by Peter and constructed in a volunteers' workshop in Bend. Peter committed 22 hours himself and secured 150 work hours from 28 other volunteers to complete his Eagle Scout Project on March 5, 2011. The benches were delivered and installed by Peter and the Schwarz family and have been a much needed and wonderful addition to the beautiful Diocesan Retreat Center. In the past the Schwarz family has dedicated time and work to help clean up and maintain the Diocesan Retreat Center and Bishop Connolly's residence, as well as being very active in the St. Francis of Assisi Parish. With sincere gratitude the Diocese of Baker would like to thank Sam, Peter and the entire Schwarz family for their past and ongoing contribution of time and service.



← The finished products →