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DIOCESAN YOUTH NEWS: Local Teens on Fire for Christ at the Steubenville Northwest Catholic Youth Conference

Powerful rock music, exuberant teenagers, laughter and prayers filled the Spokane Convention Center the last weekend of July at the annual Steubenville Northwest Catholic Youth Conference, hosted by Spiritus Ministries. Youth from the Diocese of Baker joined the more than 1,000 young Catholics who seized the opportunity to come together and celebrate the power and vibrancy of their Catholic faith.

The Ike Ndolo band provided powerful praise music and comedy-speakers Judy McDonald and Chris Padgett had the teens doubled over in laughter as they dove deeper into their faith. "Rooted" was the theme of the weekend and was emblazoned on t-shirts and proclaimed by banners. Prayer, praise music, small group time and inspiring talks guided the youth to sink their roots deep into God's love, mercy and discipleship.



A candle-lit procession, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and a time of adoration filled the evening hours, led by Father Jose Robles-Sanchez, from the State of Louisiana. The responses, which rolled forward from the crowd of teenagers, were unexpectedly stirring. The evenings ended with teens waiting in long lines for over an hour to attend confession. Sunday morning, young men and women came forward, filling the stage to request the prayers of the community as they continue to discern a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

Daily concelebrated Mass was capped off by Sunday morning's Mass led by Bishop Cupich of Spokane. Youth worshiped actively as they soaked in the message of the homily: Come to Jesus; let Him be the entire focus of your life; give everything to Him.

The youth enjoyed the pulsating worship music; they were delighted by the hilarious speakers, but they

were moved by the prayer and sacraments. They went home wearing green wrist bands to remind them of their memorable experience. Next year's conference is scheduled for July 27 – 29. For more information, visit <http://www.spiritusnw.org/index.html>.



Approximately 30 youth from Klamath Falls made the trip to Spokane for the Conference.

RELIGIOUS NEWS: Holy Names Sister Patricia Pfenning, SNJM, celebrates 50th Jubilee

Sister Patricia Pfenning, who has ministered in Dufur for 13 years, is one of 13 Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary who on August 27 celebrated the 50th anniversary of their entrance into vowed religious life. The Jubilee Mass and reception that day will take place at the Holy Names chapel in Marylhurst, Oregon, where the Sisters entered the congregation.



For the last 13 years Sister Patricia has ministered in Dufur where, she says, "I am a part of the people's lives and they are very much a part of mine."

Sister Patricia grew up in Portland and entered the Holy Names congregation in 1961. After having been taught by Sisters as a child and again at Marylhurst University, she came to appreciate their welcoming spirit both on and off campus.

"Reflecting on these 50 years, my prayer is 'Thank you,'" she said. "I live in constant awe and appreciation of the women with whom I share the privilege of being a Sister of the Holy Names."

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary is a Catholic women's religious congregation of more than a thousand Sisters worldwide and some 600 Associates – lay women and men who share the Sisters' mission of the full development of the human person through education, social justice, contemplation and the arts.

REFLECTIONS FROM BISHOP SKYLSTAD ...A Rich Tradition

With the month of September, we begin another season of schooling and faith formation. Reflecting upon this moment from the religious perspective, catechetical classes of religious education and formation begin anew. For some this will be a year in preparation for the celebration of Confirmation and First Eucharist. For most of us the new school year will be an opportunity for continued growth in our faith formation and knowledge about the tradition of the teaching and life of our Church.

The explosion of knowledge has been dramatic in recent years. Social media and media in general have continued to develop in rapid fashion, so much so that it is hard for us to keep up. In many ways the world in which we live is much more complex. One of the great treasures in our Catholic Church is the rich tradition of our liturgy, teaching, outreach and spirituality. That tradition gives a solid foundation upon which to reflect and process the modern times in which we live. Perhaps more than ever we can appreciate how our tradition keeps us grounded and also prevents us from falling prey to dehumanizing and destructive elements in the winds of change. The navigation through the often turbulent seas of the times takes skill, holiness of life, perspective and faithfulness to the Gospel.

We adults first and foremost should give witness to our commitment of continuing to learn and be formed ever more perfectly into the way of the Lord Jesus. That challenge and task are never completed. Even with all of the opportunities I had had over the decades of priestly and episcopal ministry, I must be open to continued growth and learning. In fact, I let you down as parishioners if I don't approach the opportunities for continued learning positively and hopefully. All of us as adults bear that responsibility collectively. We are responsible to our community of faith and to our children. We must not think that our faith formation and education stopped with Confirmation and First Eucharist.

We also have the responsibility of providing the best possible faith formation for our children and youth. To engage children in effective catechetics is a challenge, and we should not back away from that challenge even though it may be difficult. How do we do this task better and smarter? How can we do it in such a way that young people see us as excited about our tradition and are eager to pass it on to the next generation? How do we assist our youth to process the parts of our modern culture that tend either to dismiss spiritual values or at least to trivialize them? How do we keep our children well grounded in our relationship with the Lord and his Church in the winds of rapid change in our world?

This moment gives all of us an opportunity to learn more about our faith and tradition. Our positive response can also be an ever present sign of how seriously we take the kingdom of God and living its truth in our world. Blessings and peace to all.

SAINTS AND FEASTS: Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14. The dramatic story of how Emperor Constantine was converted after seeing a vision of the cross and the words: "In this sign shall you conquer," provides the background for the establishment of this feast.

Constantine is acknowledged as the first Christian emperor, who issued an edict of toleration to all followers of Jesus after he won the battle of the Mulvian Bridge against great odds.

Constantine's mother, St. Helena, was said to have journeyed to Rome early in the fourth century to look for the holy places of Christ's life. She had the temple of Aphrodite, supposedly built over Christ's tomb, destroyed and her son then built there the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher, where legend says three crosses were found during the excavation.

The feast itself entered the calendar of the Roman Rite in the seventh century after the cross on which Jesus hung was recovered from the Persians. From early on the cross was an object of veneration as the instrument of man's salvation.

Theodore of Studios said of this feast: "How splendid the cross of Christ! It brings life, not death; light, not darkness; paradise, not its loss. It is the wood on which the Lord, like a great warrior, was wounded in hands and feet and side, but healed thereby our wounds."

WHY AND HOW HAVE THE MASS TEXTS BEEN REVISED?

As changes go, the Preparation of the Gifts will see only minor adjustments. At the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, those at Mass will notice no change in the response to the offering of bread and wine. The congregation will still say: "Blessed be God forever." Only the words of the priest will differ slightly. Instead of "bread to offer," he will recite, "the bread we offer to You."

Prayers said quietly by the priest during this time will have small variations of wording or punctuation that will not be very noticeable.

In the prayer where the celebrant turns to the people and says, "Pray, Brethren," there will be one change: instead of "our sacrifice," he will say "my sacrifice and yours," which echoes the Latin more closely and emphasizes that each person is offering the sacrifice individually, as well as collectively. In the response of the congregation, the only thing added is one word, "for the good of His **holy** Church."

At the end of the Offertory, the prayer over the gifts, which changes with each Sunday and feast has been retranslated, but the congregation still answers: "Amen."



YOUTH NEWS: “The Diocese of Baker has really prepared me for an adult Catholic faith life. The camps and retreats are fun and at the same time are very focused on God. They expose us to The Liturgy of the Hours, Adoration, the Rosary, and Confession and being familiar with these prayers it makes them a lot less scary. I have a deeper understanding of how things work in the church now and I am actively able to share my faith with others.”

Amy Fritsch, Sophomore of University of Oregon, former parishioner of Blessed Sacrament, Ontario.

RETREAT CENTER NEWS: Marriage Encounter Weekend

The car needs a tune-up, the house needs a fresh coat of paint, the grass needs cutting and the garage desperately needs to be cleaned out. The list of things to do seems to never end. What about your marriage? Isn't it time to place your relationship at the top of the list of things that need tending to? Make a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and give your marriage a tune-up. This short weekend together can reap benefits for you and your spouse for years to come. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend in this area is scheduled for October 28 – 30 at the Diocese Retreat Center in Powell Butte. For more information call Shawn and Sally Sutton at 541-536-7610 or e-mail them at sssutton4@msn.com.



PRO LIFE CONFERENCE: The date for this year's Annual Pro Life Conference has been moved to November 5, 2011. Watch for more details on the diocesan website and in future Diocesan Chronicle newsletters.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Bend Exemplification



Nine candidates were exemplified in Bend on August 13, 2011. Listed in alphabetic order are Sir Knights: Father Francis Ekwugha, Michael Gray, James Kester, Frank Krupica, Father Jose Mudakodiyil, Norman Pianalto, Juan Valquez, and Michael Welcome. Exemplification Honoree was James McClain (second from left). Vice Supreme Master Wayne C. Hogan is on the far left and District Master Carroll Gorg is on the far right.

These gentlemen have advanced to the 4th Degree, which is the highest rank in the Knights of Columbus and is the Patriotic Degree. The Exemplification is the ceremony in which they became 4th-degree members and are now eligible to be in the ceremonial Honor Guard.

PARISH NEWS: Our Lady of the Valley, La Grande

In the summer of 1984, Father Beegan, pastor of Our Lady of the Valley in La Grande, approached parishioner, Charlene Storoe, and asked her to be their Director of Religious Education. With a teaching degree and some experience as a catechist, she accepted the position.

27 years later, Charlene is ready for retirement. Having worked with four pastors including the current pastor, Father Christopher Agoha, Charlene has worn many hats throughout her tenure. Functioning as DRE, Catechist, and Youth Minister, she has had her fair share of adventures, too, including a dislocated elbow at a diocesan camp to a multi-parish Vacation Bible School to trekking high schoolers and young adults around the world attending World Youth Days in Denver, Italy, and Germany.

Now Charlene looks forward to a new set of adventures in her retirement with husband, Mack. And although she will not be involved in parish administration, Charlene continues to be involved in the lives of her daughter, son, 5 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren who will be attending Marian Academy in another year.

The past 27 years have been filled with hundreds of children, youth retreats and liturgies including Christmas Eve Family Masses with children's choirs and Living Stations of the Cross during Lent. “All these were spiritual growth events for me and helped me appreciate the universal Church,” reflects Charlene on her many years of being involved with the youth of Our Lady of Angels.

Thank you, Charlene, for your years of dedicated service to the Church. God bless your generosity. You will be greatly missed.

DIOCESAN NEWS: The Roman Catholic Church is gathering in Dublin, Ireland, and YOU are invited! Pope Benedict XVI has petitioned Catholics from across the globe to celebrate the **50th International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, Ireland**. The International Eucharistic Congress provides a rare opportunity to gather and pray with Roman Catholics from around the world! Joining the Diocese of Baker Pilgrimage to Ireland, also gives us a chance to pray for the healing and reconciliation needed in the Church of Ireland. The Pilgrimage will be led by Father Jim Radloff, June 8-18, 2012. A \$200.00 deposit is all it takes to reserve a space. Questions? Call 1-877-732-4845, Ext. 100.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN: Diocesan Statutes for the Protection of Children are available at Parish Offices as well as the diocesan website. The persons to whom child abuse may be reported are also located there and you may also contact the County Attorney or the Department of Human Services about the procedure to be followed to report suspected child abuse.

Let us pledge ourselves to love and protect our children as Jesus calls us to love one another.

PARISH NEWS: The annual picnic for Sacred Heart parish in Klamath Falls was attended by more than 350 parishioners. It took place at Moore Park overlooking Upper Klamath Lake on August 14.



The day opened with Mass in English and Spanish, followed by a meal for the congregation, who visited with friends, old and new.



The highlights were watching the children of the parish run on the Slip N' Slide, whack the piñatas and eat as much watermelon as possible. Our new Youth Minister, Katie Beaubien, did a great job presenting the games and activities for the children.



The Knights of Columbus cooked hamburgers and hotdogs, the Hispanic Community cooked *carne asada* and the Catholic Daughters sold tickets to a 50/50 raffle, with the proceeds donated back to the parish.



The picnic is organized by the Community Life Commission and assisted by many volunteers.

Campamento Familiar Hispano



Nuestro primer campamento fue realmente inspirador tuvimos tiempo para orar en familia y en grupo, tiempo para divertirnos y tiempo para visitar la tiendita.

Gracias Padre Radloff, Hna. Sabina y Jóvenes del Consejo, gracias por mostrarnos a Jesús de esta manera.