



THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS OF THE DIOCESE OF BAKER

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"greater good of souls"

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And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:9-12

The Light of Jesus shines forth not only from the star in the heavens, but especially from His Presence in the crib. That Light shines when we celebrate Eucharist. That Light should also shine from our communities of faith and from our hearts. May Jesus, our Light, be seen in all of us that leads others to see and know Him in the crib of our lives and world. A blessed and joyful Christmas to all!

Bishop William S. Skylstad, The Most Reverend Thomas J. Connolly, and the Diocesan Staff

REFLECTIONS FROM BISHOP SKYLSTAD..... The Light

Yesterday as I wrote this, I heard on the radio that Christmas music is becoming more popular. More stations will be and are broadcasting Christmas music 24/7. As the commentator said, when stations adopt this kind of programming, their listening audience increases dramatically. Unfortunately, when Christmas Day is over, the festive music stops for another year. For us in the Church, the weeks before Christmas in Advent season are preparation time and Christmas Day begins for us Christmastime which is celebrated until the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus in early January (this coming year, January 9, 2012).

Yet, the popularity of such radio programming speaks to the profound power of this unique event in human history as the Word was made flesh. We know well the decorations of our churches, homes, neighborhoods with lights often in grand arrays. The crib scene provides imagery that fascinates young and old alike. There is also something about the celebration of Christmas that calls us to be more sensitive to others. As one spiritual writer wrote some years ago, the season of Christmas is a time of reality, oftentimes in a year of delusion. For us as Catholics, we look up to this season as affirming and strengthening within our hearts the Christmas spirit that may have dimmed somewhat since last Christmas. The celebration of the birth of Jesus is a powerful leaven in our lives.

The event of Jesus birth is a unique event in human history. As we hear in the reading from Hebrews on Christmas Day, "God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets: in these last days he has spoken to us through his Son." Elijah had the whispering breeze as God spoke to him. Moses had the burning bush. But we have had, since the birth of the Savior God made man, a clearer and more direct way of God relating to us than one will ever find.

As we celebrate this Christmas, Jesus continues to come to us through the word and sacrament. That coming and divine presence never stops. However, we can sometimes stop it by decision or inaction on our spiritual journey. This Christmas season provides a great opportunity to review our response to the Lord Jesus, who continues to bless us abundantly. Attitudes which lead us away from encountering Jesus in our lives can unwittingly creep into our lifestyle with the accompanying deadening effect. We are meant to be alive, to "have life and have it to the full" as Jesus tells us (John10:10).

As we reflect on the light of Jesus coming into our world, we must also remember each of us is called to be a light of Christ in the world as well. Jesus speaks forcefully in the Sermon on the Mount that we are to be the "light of the world." Just as the Christmas lights brighten our communities and homes, so should you and I as Church also brighten the world in which we live by word and example. These are not easy days, neither in our country nor in the world community. Our lights of sincere and dedicated Christian life can also be a great power to all of us who need to see that light.

A blessed and joyful Christmas to all!



Un ángel del señor se les presentó, y la gloria del señor los envolvió con su luz. Entonces sintieron mucho miedo, pero el ángel les dijo: No teman, pues les anunció una gran alegría, que lo serví para ustedes y para todo el pueblo: Les ha nacido, en la ciudad de David, un Salvador, que es el Mesías, el señor. Esto les servirá de señal: encontrarán un niño envuelto en pañales y acostado en un pesebre. Lc 2,9-12

La Luz de Jesús brilla no sólo en la estrella en el cielo, sino especialmente en su presencia en el pesebre. Esa luz brilla cuando celebramos la Sagrada Eucaristía. Esa luz también debe brillar de nuestras comunidades de fe y en nuestros corazones. Que Jesús, nuestra luz, se vea en todos nosotros, para que guíe a otros a verlo y conocerlo en la cuna de nuestras vidas y del mundo. ¡Una bendita y feliz Navidad a todos!

Les deseamos sinceramente: Los Reverendísimos obispos, Don Guillermo S. Skylstad, Don Tomas J. Connolly, y el personal de la diócesis.

REFLEXIONES DEL OBISPO SKYLSTAD ... La Luz

Ayer mientras escribía esto, oía en la radio que la música Navideña es cada vez más popular. Más estaciones están transmitiendo música de Navidad día y noche. El comentarista dijo, que cuando las estaciones adoptar esta programación, su audiencia incrementa dramáticamente. Por desgracia, cuando el día de Navidad pasa, la música festiva se detiene por un año. Para nosotros en la Iglesia, las semanas antes de Navidad es tiempo de Adviento, tiempo de preparación y para nosotros la Navidad comienza el 24 de diciembre y termina hasta la fiesta del Bautismo de Jesús a principios de enero (este año es el 09 de enero). La popularidad de la música en la radio, habla del poder de este acontecimiento único en la historia de la humanidad, cuando la Palabra se hizo carne. El pesebre proporciona imágenes que fascina a grandes y chicos. También hay algo acerca de la celebración de la Navidad que nos hace ser más sensibles a los demás; La celebración del nacimiento de Jesús es un potente fermento en nuestra vida.

Durante el mes de diciembre el día 8 celebramos la fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción de María, La Inmaculada Concepción de María es el dogma de fe que declara que por una gracia singular de Dios, María fue preservada de todo pecado, desde su concepción. >>>

Esta doctrina es de origen apostólico, aunque el dogma fue proclamado por el Papa Pío IX el 8 de diciembre de 1854, en su bula Ineffabilis Deus que dice así:

“...declaramos, proclamamos y definimos que la doctrina que sostiene que la beatísima Virgen María fue preservada inmune de toda mancha de la culpa original en el primer instante de su concepción por singular gracia y privilegio de Dios omnipotente, en atención a los méritos de Cristo Jesús Salvador del género humano, está revelada por Dios y debe ser por tanto firme y constantemente creída por todos los fieles...”

El día 12 diciembre celebramos otra fiesta Mariana, la aparición de la virgen de Guadalupe en el Cerro del Tepeyac, Reina de México y Emperatriz de las Américas títulos que se le daban hasta que el beato Juan Pablo II en una de sus visitas a México la nombró patrona de América; la virgen María con el nombre de Guadalupe vino a traernos una Navidad a México, donde nos da a conocer a su hijo Jesucristo y a cubrimos y a protegernos con su manto maternal.

SAINTS AND FEASTS: St. Nicholas, December 6

St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, is the prototype for the modern Santa Claus. He is still venerated highly in the Eastern Churches as a miracle worker and intercessor, almost on a par with the Blessed Virgin. Some countries have the custom of youngsters putting out their shoes the night before the feast. The next morning they find treats, such as fruit and nuts, courtesy of St. Nicholas.



Nicholas was born in the late third century at Patras in Asia Minor and became noted for his zeal even as a youth. In his native city, there was a man who could not marry off his three daughters and was about to offer their virtue to suitors in lieu of a dowry.

Nicholas went over three nights to the man's house and each time left a bag of gold that would serve as a dowry to save the young women from their fate. He also calmed the storm on a sea voyage and thus is venerated as the patron of sailors. He died in 350 A. D., uttering the words of Christ from the cross, "Into Your hands I commend my spirit." His feast was added to the Roman Calendar in the 11th century.

Reading about his life can put a more spiritual perspective on the season of Christ's birth and the presents that are exchanged. A blessing of the gifts in his name is common in the Eastern rites. In the Mass Nicholas is portrayed as the image of the eternal High Priest. Like him, we want to be "faithful stewards," using correctly the talents of faith and grace. By partaking in the sacrificial banquet, we anticipate the joys that Nicholas now possesses in the presence of the Beatific Vision.

DIOCESE OF BAKER - OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT:

The Most Reverend William S. Skylstad has appointed Reverend James Radloff as Pastor for St. Francis of Assisi parish in Bend effective December 13, 2011. The Diocese of Baker is most grateful to Father Francis Ekwugha for his years of ministry. Father Radloff will be installed as Pastor at a 7:00 p.m. Mass on December 29th, the Octave of Christmas. In addition to his new appointment, Fr. Radloff will remain Director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Baker.

DDA HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT: February 17-20, 2012

What is DDA? DDA means **Day-by-Day Agape**. Agape is a Greek word that expresses the love between the human and the divine. Hence, DDA refers to living Day by Day in God's love as an individual and in the community of others, the Church. The power of the retreat lies in the Holy Spirit working in and through the TEAM as they lead the other youth in meditations, witness talks, small group discussions, music, fun and teachings of the Catholic faith. This retreat will strengthen their faith and help Christ come "*alive*" in the hearts of the youth. The Day By Day Agape Retreat is primarily led by high school youth from the Diocese of Baker (the TEAM) with the guidance of our priests and youth ministers. Patrick Sharkey will be hosting this year's DDA. Patrick was our Activity Director at our Summer Camps and we are looking forward to him joining us for this years DDA Retreat.

PARISH NEWS: Sacred Heart Church, Athena



Sacred Heart Church of Athena established a scholarship fund a few years ago for the purpose of awarding college money to the active young people in the local parish. The scholarship is payable after the completion of the first year of college. This year's grant was awarded to Renee Baumann.

Renee attended Weston-McEwan High school in Athena and graduated with a GPA of 4.25. She is a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She has been active in summer camps, C.C.D. programs, church dinners and Operation Christmas Boxes. She loves to sing and has performed the National Anthem at high school games and state athletic events. As a four-year volleyball varsity player and two-year volleyball captain in high school, she was named CBC Player, East Oregonian Player of the year, and 2A State Volleyball Player of the Year.

Renee currently attends Walla Walla Community College and is majoring in veterinary medicine. She plays college volleyball for the WWCC Warriors.

APPEAL—2011 UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2011

Parish	Goal	Received	% of Goal
Baker City	\$16,553	\$6,220	38%
Halfway	\$1,182	\$90	8%
Bend	\$78,826	\$10,265	13%
Boardman	\$5,715	\$1,815	32%
Burns	\$8,868	\$2,230	25%
Crane	\$1,064	\$100	9%
Drewsey	\$729	\$100	14%
Juntura	\$828	\$500	60%
Chiloquin	\$4,020	\$775	19%
Bly	\$851	\$300	35%
Condon	\$3,547	\$350	10%
Fossil	\$788	\$1,100	140%
Arlington	\$1,143	\$325	28%
Dufur	\$7,504	\$340	5%
Maupin	\$1,577	\$1,575	100%
Enterprise	\$5,794	\$3,380	58%
Wallowa	\$887	\$350	39%
Heppner	\$5,439	\$3,150	58%
Ione	\$1,892	\$1,695	90%
Hermiston	\$28,567	\$8,228	29%
Hood River	\$19,864	\$4,101	21%
John Day	\$5,715	\$1,650	29%
Monument	\$158	\$0	0%
Longcreek (Dale)	\$236	\$35	15%
Jordan Valley	\$2,010	\$1,725	86%
Arock	\$394	\$270	69%
Kfalls-Sacred Heart	\$35,078	\$3,495	10%
Kfalls-St. Pius X	\$32,279	\$13,505	42%
La Grande	\$17,184	\$3,960	23%
Elgin	\$2,601	\$450	17%
North Powder	\$1,064	\$0	0%
Union	\$2,010	\$450	22%
Lakeview	\$6,385	\$4,345	68%
Adel	\$335	\$420	125%
Paisley	\$1,182	\$1,250	106%
Plush	\$335	\$400	119%
La Pine	\$7,094	\$1,270	18%
Christmas Valley	\$765	\$0	0%
Gilchrist	\$1,143	\$50	4%
Sunriver	\$11,430	\$1,995	17%
Madras	\$13,795	\$1,450	11%
Warm Springs	\$2,089	\$75	4%
Merrill	\$4,808	\$1,265	26%
Bonanza	\$1,297	\$980	76%
Milton-Freewater	\$6,897	\$985	14%
Nyssa	\$5,360	\$375	7%
Ontario	\$20,101	\$3,580	18%
Pendleton	\$21,992	\$6,500	30%
Pilot Rock	\$3,547	\$1,180	33%
Prineville	\$11,036	\$2,115	19%
Redmond	\$30,742	\$6,570	21%
Saint Andrew's	\$4,335	\$100	2%
Athena	\$1,577	\$410	26%
Sisters	\$13,164	\$3,020	23%
The Dalles	\$27,983	\$3,040	11%
Vale	\$4,690	\$3,933	84%
Unity	\$552	\$650	118%
Wasco	\$2,365	\$1,200	51%
Grass Valley	\$634	\$700	110%
Diocese Total	\$500,000	\$120,387	24%



Advent can be a sad time for those who are alone. Include anyone in your own gatherings who might otherwise be forgotten.

PARISH NEWS: Our Lady of Angels, Hermiston



Our Lady of Angels Parish honored our Blessed Mother under her title as Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 11, and on her Feast Day, December 12.

The celebration began on December 11, at 11:30 a.m., with a procession from the church's Parish Hall to the Hermiston High School Gym. Mass began at 12:30 p.m. A group of traditional Danzantes, (dancers), led the procession. Many parishioners presented gifts of roses to Our Lady, before and during the Mass, to honor her or in thanksgiving for blessings received. Immediately following the Mass the annual re-enactment of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Saint Juan Diego took place. In past years as many as 2,000 of the faithful have attended this Mass.

At 7 p.m. on December 11 the all night Vigil began with the recitation of the Rosary in the church. Throughout the evening parishioners came to adore Jesus present in the Tabernacle and to honor His Blessed Mother with group prayer, singing, gifts of roses and presentations by the Danzantes in the church. The Danzantes also moved into the Parish Hall during the evening to offer even more expressive dances to Our Lady.

Mañanitas to Our Lady of Guadalupe were sung at 5:00 a.m. on December 12, her Feast Day. Mass was celebrated at 5:30 a.m. followed by a complimentary breakfast for all parishioners who attended. For those who were not able to attend the earlier celebrations of the day, there was also a 6:00 p.m. evening Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



PARISH NEWS: St. Pius X, Klamath Falls

Recently St. Pius X Catholic Church in Klamath Falls held its annual Parish Ministry Fair, sponsored by the Pastoral Council. The purpose of the Ministry Fair was to inform parishioners what is available to them and how they can get involved. Involvement is not only limited to volunteering one's time and talents, but in learning and growing in their faith. One of the themes for this year's event was, "There is something for all ages."



This saying is evident in the diversity of ministries available at St. Pius X. Currently there are almost 400 people involved in one or more of the 50 active ministries that serve the Parish and community at large. At this year's Ministry Fair there were 23 displays showcasing many of those ministries. The enthusiasm of the parishioners who attended showed in the number of names that appeared on the sign-up sheets provided. Those who had displays at this event will be making them available at Sunday social time in the parish.

St. Pius X High School Youth Group



In October, few of the High School Youth Group kids from St. Pius X in Klamath Falls spent several hours planting bulbs around the parish grounds. Bob Laver spent time showing the youth the plan and getting them all in order. Three different types of bulbs were planted in the Memorial Garden area which is being designed in honor of Bob's wife, Shirlee. Bob and the youth are very anxious for the flowers to start coming up in the spring.