



THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

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"greater good of souls"

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ST. VINCENT de PAUL: When the Redmond conference of St. Vincent de Paul opened the doors to its new thrift shop in November of 2010, it was a leap of faith in an ongoing effort to better serve the area poor. In the challenge to come up with enough revenue to pay the bills and support the organization's Social Services, the endeavor has succeeded beyond everyone's expectations.

"Our goal was to take in at least \$550 a day (from sales)," said Jamie Kanski, president of the board, "and we have consistently brought in several hundred dollars more than that."

The store offers good used furniture, clothing, electronics, books and many other miscellaneous items to those in an economy that makes stretching a dollar more necessary than ever.

Besides store proceeds, the organization makes use of fund-raisers and food drives help fuel the outreach to those who come for help with food, shelter and clothing.

Food comes through the USDA but also through direct donations at events, such as the one Mount Bachelor puts on each year. This year St. Thomas the Apostle parish in Redmond has instituted a monthly "reverse collection," in which parishioners draw a slip from a basket and commit to bringing one item of food or household goods.

Several local businesses also help out through St. Vincent's point of distribution. Albertson's offers turkey dinners at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Wal-Mart recently offered thousands of dollars of surplus clothing and other stores donate their left-over bread and pastries. This year, SVdP will be part of the Sagebrush Challenge that offers more than 100 organizations help with funds for the needy in Central Oregon. Recently, the city of Redmond has a fund of donated money to help with utility bills and has designated SVdP the channel to distribute those funds.

And for the first time in 2011, the Redmond conference will be a part of the "Walk for the Poor," a nationwide effort centered in the St. Louis, Mo., headquarters of St. Vincent de Paul. "There is a national website where people can go and sign up to participate or make pledges," said Cameo Chambers, director of Social Services for the local organization. The walk/run will take place on Saturday, September 24, 2011. The website address is www.svdpusa.net.

The growth in resources corresponds to the growth in need. Last year during the first two months, the Redmond SVdP served 1,559 clients. So far this year, the

numbers top out at 2,570, an increase of nearly 70 percent.

One of the organization's future major goals, said Norm Czerwonka, a vice-president on the board, "is to secure a permanent facility. It wouldn't do any good to have a large amount of funds without a place to help those in need." A second goal, said Kanski, is creating an emergency shelter in Redmond.

The thrift store, located at 1616 Veterans Way, is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for shopping and to take donations. The phone number is 541-504-9840. The Social Services, open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, is located at the front end of the same building, 1610 SW Veterans Way. The phone number is 541-923-5264.



Volunteers shown working in Food Bank and Social Services



One section of the 9,500 square foot store.

Coming in future issues: Profiles of the four other St. Vincent de Paul conferences in the Baker Diocese.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BISHOP: Our Lenten journey continues. We all have been touched by the tragic and sad news out of Japan. The tsunami, the earthquake, the damage to the nuclear power reactors, the devastation of people's homes and lives, not to mention the death toll, leave us almost aghast. But natural disasters do happen and tectonic plates do continue to move and shift with the accompanying earthquakes and eruptions. We should be very aware of that reality with the volcanic peaks in our own region. Although some few people construe such events as punishment for evil, they are really products of the natural world in which we live.

Nonetheless the questions are still asked. How could a good God allow all of this to happen? Doesn't God take care of us? God usually doesn't interfere with nature nor human tragedies, although we do have miracles described in the Gospel stories we know well. A good example for all of us is the witness and example of the apostles. These were men very close to Jesus. He chose them. You would expect that he would protect them. But as a matter of fact, all except St. John were martyred for the faith. They were tremendous witnesses to their faith in Jesus, his message and his mission as Savior of the World.

In recent weeks we have watched the events unfold in the Middle-East with demonstrations, cruelty and oppression. Such events remind us of how valuable the gift of peace is and how in the spirit of Jesus we must strive to be peacemakers in our hearts, our families, our Church and our world. A few years ago, I was in the Gaza Strip and saw firsthand the struggle of the Church to be a peacemaker and a bridge-builder. It's very tough work.

All of these events provide an opportunity to prayerfully reflect on our own lives and on the world family of which we are a part. In a sense, their suffering is also our suffering. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ. But their suffering and struggle is also a good reminder that sometimes life isn't easy and there isn't much light at the end of the tunnel. That's where our spirit of prayer, solidarity, compassion and humility kicks in.

This is a time to remember that we need to be grounded in tremendous faith and hope. Those virtues challenge us to make a leap into the unknown, trusting in God, not because we have it all figured out, but because we are people who trust in Divine Providence. The terminal illness, the sudden death, the brokenness of human beings can leave us unsettled. Ultimately we have to come to realize that God is in charge. The mystery of the journey is always with us. Sometimes, it is joyful, sometimes painful, sometimes shocking, sometimes devastating, but God is with us and we are with one another.

Jesus, as he approaches his own death in this season of Lent, is a reminder that he has gone before. May we follow faithfully and gratefully.

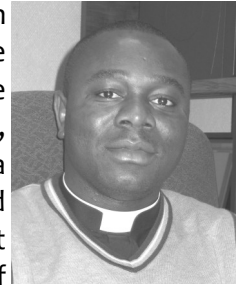
SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, May 17, 2011 - Mass and Reception
to welcome Most Reverend William S. Skylstad
to our diocese as Apostolic Administrator

Mass: St. Mary Church, Powell Butte at 5:30 PM
Reception immediately following

*Bishop Skylstad has graciously agreed to be our
Administrator until a new bishop is appointed.
Come and help us welcome him !*

DIOCESAN NEWS: Please join us in welcoming Father Jude Onogbosele to the Diocese of Baker. Father Jude is a priest of the Diocese of Uromi, Edo State, Nigeria. He comes from a Catholic family of eight children, and received his calling to be a priest through the guidance and support of numerous missionary priests and members of the laity.



Father Jude came to the United States in 2008 after initially studying canon law in Ottawa, Canada. For the past three years, he resided in the Arlington Diocese in Virginia, where he commenced the doctoral program in canon law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Father Jude celebrated his eighth year as a priest on March 22, 2011. He will be working as "Judge Pro Tem" in the Tribunal Office of the Baker Diocese, as well as serving as Pastor at St. Edward the Martyr Church in Sisters.

"I am glad that Bishop Vasa invited me to the Baker Diocese and Bishop Skylstad is giving me the opportunity to serve in the Tribunal of the Diocese of Baker. I am convinced that my time here will be helpful for my future canonical ministry in Nigeria," he said.

RETREAT CENTER NEWS:

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Last Call !!

There is still room on the **April 15-17 Marriage Encounter Weekend**. All married couples experience challenges with jobs, children, in-laws, finances, and finding time to keep their love alive and growing. The world we live in pulls at us to put many things ahead of our husband-wife relationship. Couples who make Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends not only rediscover the joy, intimacy and romance in their relationships, but also learn techniques to keep their focus on maintaining the relationship that brought them together in the first place.



To register for this Marriage Encounter Weekend, log on to www.rediscoverthepark.org, or email Mike and Milly Pungercar at pungercar2@msn.com or call them at (541) 746-3469.

SAINTS AND FEASTS: St. Mark the Evangelist, whose feast is April 25, was a Jew whose full name was John Mark. He was only a youth at the time of Christ's death and resurrection and grew to maturity in the early Church. Along with his cousin, Barnabas, Mark became a missionary on some of St. Paul's long journeys to spread the Good News and eventually became close to both the Apostle to the Gentiles and to St. Peter.

The second Gospel, which Mark wrote, is the shortest of the four. It is characterized by its strict chronological presentation of the life of Christ. A skilled work painter, Mark wrote his account under the close direction of the first Pope and so it is often called "The Gospel of Peter."

St. Mark is represented as a lion in art, because he presents the Lord as an unconquered king. Although his Gospel is used seldom in the liturgy, it is preeminently a Roman account and is addressed to Western Christianity.

The Mass of the day includes Psalm 63, which proclaims the saint's triumph over his enemies. The Gospel fittingly details the mission of the 72 disciples to bring Christ's message to the world.

"May the intercession of this illustrious preacher make us pleasing to you, O Lord, in word and deed."
- Secret, Feast of St. Mark

NOTICIAS HISPANAS: Estamos llegando al final de la Cuaresma, Cuaresma tiempo que nos invita a la conversión y a la penitencia esperemos que este tiempo haya sido de beneficio para nuestra jornada hacia la santidad y que en Pascua veamos los frutos reflejados en una relación más íntima con nuestro Salvador.

El próximo jueves 14 abril se celebrara la Santa Misa Crismal conocida también como la Misa de los Aceites, Misa en la cual el Obispo consagra el aceite: el Santo Crisma que se compone de aceite y bálsamo el Santo Crisma se utiliza en el Bautismo, Confirmación, Orden Sacerdotal y en la Consagración de un Obispo. En esta Misa también se bendicen los aceites para la Unción de los Enfermos y para la Unción los Catecúmenos, estos aceites se consagra y bendicen una vez al año normalmente el Jueves Santo pero por razones pastorales en nuestra Diócesis esta Liturgia se celebra una semana antes, estos aceites se distribuyen a todas las parroquias y se utilizarán en el año comenzando la Vigilia Pascual.

En esta celebración también se conmemora la Institución del Sacerdocio, y la Institución de la Sagrada Eucaristía, los sacerdotes renuevan sus promesas sacerdotales; apunta esta fecha en tu calendario y haz un esfuerzo y participa en esta liturgia de esta manera podrás demostrarle tu apoyo y agradecimiento a todos los sacerdotes por haber escuchado el llamado a su vocación, por su dedicación y entrega y por ser el medio de ese gran milagro que es la Santa Eucaristía pues sin ellos no sería posible ese gran milagro que es el alimentarnos de Cristo. La Cuaresma es preparación para la Pascua, La pascua es participar de la vida de Jesús.

LIFE: A PASSING GLANCE: I became intent on this reflection as I thought of the swift passing of time which I realized intensely when contemplating this year's Ash Wednesday and the subsequent forty days journey of Lent.

The book of Genesis was the first to assert this revelation: "For you are dirt, and to dirt you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). This means that the Creator established the natural law and the temporality of all created beings, including our corporal bodies. Completely excluded from decay is the soul. Since the soul is a mysteriously spiritual component, it is this very substance that transcends the flawed "now" of our existence and moves us into the world of perfection.

It is unfortunate that many people treat their souls as if they were just vegetative things and live in a separate world of materialism, which falsely gives them a sense of permanence. Those living in this strictly material realm roam about thinking that wealth, possession and attachment to worldly things are the source of joy and what gives their lives meaning.

All of our bitterness, disappointments and preoccupations come from attachment to and anxiety about the things we cannot change. The idea that our life on earth is but a passing glance does not encourage the adoption of an epicurean kind of existence.

Laxity and an unconcerned attitude toward life deceives the inner being into perceiving life as only being about food, drink and all bodily pleasures, which leads to reasoning that today we must live because tomorrow we may die. Such a mentality is the extreme opposite of the gospel of penance. When we remember our status as pilgrims, it helps us to maintain a certain distance of spiritual poverty from the world and encourages us to live a simple life.

The painful passion of Christ in the material world as revealed in the Scriptures is an emulative principle which, when we regard it through the eyes of faith, can serve to strengthen our own faith and give us courage in our fight against the pull of materialism. The season of Lent evokes something very deep; we must be conscious, as the Scripture reminds us, that "the world and its enticements are passing away. But who ever does the will of God remains forever" (1 John 2:17). Those who are conscious of their souls can in this Lenten season detach themselves from material things and nourish their souls with the spiritual food of faith, hope and charity, knowing that life is but a passing glance, but the paradise of Heaven earned is forever.

- FR. CHRISTOPHER AGOHA

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE FOR WESTERN DEANERY:		
St. Mary, Hood River	April 15	7:00 p.m.
St. Peter, The Dalles	April 18	7:00 p.m.
St. Alphonsus, Dufur	April 19	6:30 p.m.
St. John, Condon	April 20	7:00 p.m.
St. Mary, Wasco	April 22	7:00 p.m.

SEVENTH ANNUAL CHRISM MASS SILENT RETREAT:

A Marian Retreat of prayer for our Holy Father, Bishops, Priests, Religious, Vocations, and us, the priestly people, to bring peace to the world.

RETREAT: Saturday, April 9 - Monday a.m., April 11

WHERE: Diocesan Retreat Center, Powell Butte

SPEAKERS: Dr. Lynne Bissonnette, M.D., Ph.D.,
Fr. Joseph N. Reinig, Vicar General,
Fr. James Radloff, Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry, Promoter of Vocations

CHRISM MASS:

St. Francis de Sales Cathedral,
Baker City, at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 14.

The complete schedule, pricing information, and registration information can be found on the Diocesan website www.dioceseofbaker.org. For more information, please call Judy Newport at (541) 923-6946. To register, please call Patti Rausch at the Chancery at (541) 388-4004.

WHY THE CATHEDRAL? The Cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese of Baker, and where the Chrism Mass is held annually, as well as where most Ordinations and other major functions take place.

The offices of the Chancery were moved to Bend in 1985, but the Bishop still celebrates Christmas and Easter at the Cathedral.

The St Francis De Sales Cathedral was constructed between 1906 and 1908, and was dedicated on April 9, 1908. It was built from volcanic tuff stone that was hauled from nearby Pleasant Valley. A St Francis Academy was built next to it with the same stone, but was unfortunately torn down in 1970, after educating hundreds of students over the years.

Various renovations took place over the years, particularly in 1944, when many stencils were painted



on the walls. Unfortunately, these were covered up in 1958. In 1980 when a wooden screen was installed behind the altar, and in 2007, when a baldacchino was erected and the tabernacle replaced in the center, the Cathedral sanctuary was returned to its original beauty.

Stained glass windows, crafted in 1923, 1958 and 1965, adorn the sides of the Cathedral and four smaller stained glass windows were added in the day-chapel in 2005.

Please remember to pray to our patron saint, St. Francis De Sales, for the health and well being of our Diocese.

For more photos and information about the Cathedral, please visit www.saintfranciscathedral.com.

PARISH NEWS: The Youth of Our Lady of Angels Parish in Hermiston collected \$1,003.00 dollars during their annual Souper Bowl collection, thanks to the generosity



of parishioners. On March 14, youth representatives, Madelyn Klein and Cesar Alvarado, presented a check for \$500.00 to Dave Hughes, director of the local food bank, Agape House. Also pictured are Maria Trevino and Kathy Moore, Co-Youth Directors at Our Lady of Angels. Middle School youth group members from Our Lady of Angels volunteer regularly at the Agape House, helping break down large quantities of donated food into smaller usable portions for distribution to those in need.

The rest of the money collected was designated for use by the Parish Friday Soup Kitchen. The Friday Soup Kitchen volunteers prepare sit-down meals for any in the community of Hermiston who find themselves in need of food or fellowship.

14 days until Easter: Turn off the TV or computer for 20 minutes today. Offer this time to God in prayer or reading the Holy Bible. Pray for someone you know who is facing a challenge.