



THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS OF THE DIOCESE OF BAKER

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"greater good of souls"

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*"This is a day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad."*

Psalm 118:24

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BISHOP: As we progress in the Lenten journey, we come to the celebration of the Sacred Triduum, which includes the Feast of Easter. These weeks of renewal and repentance lead us spiritually to accompany Jesus on his journey as he approached his passion and death. The apostles and disciples of Jesus must have been devastated by what happened. Their hopes in Jesus had been high, and now the ignominy of the cross. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus were part of that group, and they were leaving the city. There was nothing to stay for.

This stranger joins them along the way. He wants to know why they are so down-hearted. He breaks open the Scriptures, and their hearts begin to change. They were so taken up with this newly found companion that they invited him to come and stay with them for dinner. Then, as we hear in the Gospel of Luke, they recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread. They were excited about the news and ran back to the city to share this new reality in their lives.

For us there is joy in our hearts too as we celebrate Easter. The Lord has arisen. We have completed the Lenten season. Now more than ever we can appreciate the Resurrection of Jesus and His Risen presence among us. We too experience our own crosses in life. We too experience the silence of our God and sometimes are tempted to think that God has abandoned us. We too have our empty tombs that we look into, forgetting that we need to look in and beyond with eyes of faith to know that the presence of the risen Lord is always with us.

Yes, we are people of the cross, but even more importantly we are an Easter people! The ultimate reality for all of us is that as we have been baptized into Jesus' death, so shall we be united with Him in the resurrection. There is no power on earth that will keep us from that, not even the greatest tsunami, the earthquake, or the thousands or even millions killed in ethnic cleansing. We have every reason to hope and appreciate what Jesus our Savior and Redeemer has done for us and the promise made of eternal life with God.

The history of our Church is full of examples of those who lived difficult and hard journeys, oftentimes accompanied by great suffering and even martyrdom. But the awareness of the Resurrection of Jesus was always with them as they remembered the promise of Jesus. Sometimes as I read the stories of their lives, I am amazed at how they approached their deaths with a spirit of joy and hope. Jesus asked the apostles to have courage and faith, including the episode with the storm on the lake. We too experience symbolically our storms. He asks us to trust and believe, to have courage and not to be afraid. Jesus has risen!

I extend to all of you and your families prayerful best wishes for a joyful and blessed Easter. "This is a day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad."



Lupine wildflowers near Halfway, Oregon, with the Wallowa mountains in the distance, courtesy of Fr. Julian Cassar



Easter Lily from the garden of
Fr. Christopher Agoha's aunt.

*May the peace of our risen Lord bless all our diocesan families.
May God's abundant blessings come upon you and
remain with you now and always. Jesus has risen !*

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

CONSIDER LITURGY: Immediately after the Lamb of God the priest says quietly: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, through your death gave life to the world; free me by this your most holy Body and Blood from all my sins and from every evil; keep me faithful to your commandments, and never let me be parted from you.”

Everyone who comes to Mass with the intention to receive Holy Communion has already, for at least one hour, been preparing for this moment of reception. This is the reason for the one hour fast prior to Holy Communion from all food and drink, coffee included, with water alone being the exception. This prayer is one which would be suitable for everyone.

SAINTS AND FEASTS: When Pope Pius XII established the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker in 1953, it was in part to “baptize” the Communist May 1 celebration of laborers. An entire new formulary was created for both the Mass and Divine Office with the theme from Psalm 126, “Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it.”



The Mass texts give the message that everything is dependent upon God’s blessing. This means that prayer must accompany work and work must not be separated from the honor of God.

In an address given on the day of the feast’s inauguration, the pontiff expressed the wish that this move would contribute to the appreciation of the dignity of labor. It was meant to serve as a reminder to workers, employers and government to continue to work toward social justice for all.

St. Joseph elevated the work of one’s hand as a carpenter to a saintly occupation, as he cared for his Divine foster Son and the Blessed Virgin. He is a perfect role model for all who labor to fulfill the duties of their state in life. The hymn at Matins on the feast sums up our prayer to Joseph.



*O Sainly Workman, Model of all workers
Teach us the lessons of good Christian living
That all our labor and our very workshops
May be made holy.*

*Joyful, contented with a simple living,
Thou, chosen guardian of the Lord and Savior,
By honest labor, didst in silence care
Jesus and Mary.*

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 !

RETREAT CENTER NEWS: Did your abortion change you? Is a dividing point in your life “before the abortion” and “after the abortion”? Have you convinced yourself that you have dealt with the abortions? Have you been looking at the Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat ad in the bulletin for years? Upcoming retreats are scheduled for May 13-15, 2011 in Bend and June 24-26, 2011 in Portland.

Contact Project Rachel at 1-800-249-8074 or e-mail: ProjectRachel@catholiccharitiesoregon.org. The cost is \$150.00 for meals, room, and all retreat materials. Don't let financial constraints stop you. There is generous financial assistance. The national website for Rachel’s Vineyard is www.rachelsvineyard.org.

CAMP CONNOLLY STORE: Summer Camps are fast approaching. Fr. Radloff and his steadfast volunteers are in high gear to accomplish all the preparations necessary to make this year’s camps exciting, fun and especially meaningful for the children who will attend. Recently, one mother who has attended Fr. Radloff’s “Mother’s Retreat” made a wonderful suggestion for the Camp Connolly Store. “Perhaps Father Radloff would like to take up a stuffed animal collection for his little campers this summer. I am sure there are mothers who would love to be able to see the top of their child's bed once again!”, wrote Pamela van Eikeren. Fr. Radloff agreed that this would be a great idea. So, if anyone would like to donate their stuffed toys to the Camp Connolly Store, please drop them off at the Chancery in Bend or at the Retreat Center in Powell Butte.

PARISH NEWS: St. John Church in Condon served nearly 200 people at its St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Saturday evening, March 12, at the parish hall. A local town-team basketball tournament swelled the number of diners. St. John’s has put on the dinner for at least 53 years. Men, women and children take part in cooking and serving the generous prime rib dinner, waiting tables, and cleaning up afterward (no small effort for a parish of about 30 active families). Chairing the dinner were Kathy Burres and her daughter, Carrie Scott.

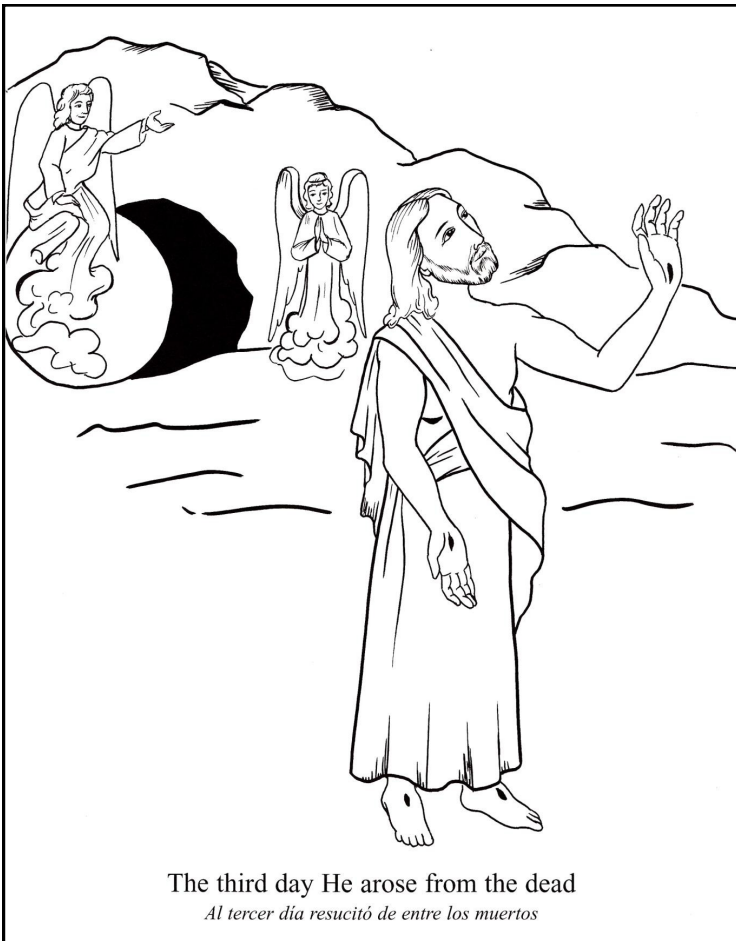
HISTORY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in 1833 to serve impoverished people living in the slums of Paris. The primary figure behind the society's founding was Blessed Frederic Ozanam, a French lawyer, author and professor at the Sorbonne. He was 20 years old at the time of the society's beginning and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1997.

The Society took St. Vincent de Paul as its patron under the influence of Sister Rosalie Rendu, of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, who herself was beatified in 2003. She guided Frederic and his companions in their approach towards those in need, stressing the dignity of the poor.

The society gradually expanded outside Paris and gained many benefactors throughout Europe. The organization now numbers more than 950,000 in 132 countries, whose members operate through conferences, composed of Catholics volunteers who dedicate their time and resources to help those in need in their communities. Non-Catholics may also join in the charitable efforts of the group.

In Central Oregon there are five SVdP conferences: in Bend, Redmond, La Pine, Prineville and The Dalles.
Information from Wikipedia on-line.

CHILDREN'S CORNER—COLORING ACTIVITY:



We celebrate the Resurrection at every Mass. That is why we go to Mass on Sunday, because Jesus rose from the dead on a Sunday. Each Sunday is a "Little Easter". This is a community celebration and that is why we all come together on Sunday.

NOTICIAS HISPANAS: El Domingo de Resurrección o de Pascua es la fiesta más importante para todos los católicos, ya que con la Resurrección de Jesús es cuando adquiere sentido toda nuestra religión.

Cristo triunfó sobre la muerte y con esto nos abrió las puertas del Cielo. En la Misa dominical recordamos de una manera especial esta gran alegría. Se enciende el Cirio Pascual que representa la luz de Cristo resucitado y que permanecerá prendido hasta el día de la Ascensión, cuando Jesús sube al Cielo.

La Resurrección de Jesús es un hecho histórico, cuyas pruebas entre otras, son el sepulcro vacío y las numerosas apariciones de Jesucristo a sus apóstoles. Cuando celebramos la Resurrección de Cristo, estamos celebrando también nuestra propia liberación. Celebramos la derrota del pecado y de la muerte.

En la resurrección encontramos la clave de la esperanza cristiana: si Jesús está vivo y está junto a nosotros, ¿qué podemos temer?, ¿qué nos puede preocupar? Cualquier sufrimiento adquiere sentido con la Resurrección, pues podemos estar seguros de que, después de una corta vida en la tierra, si hemos sido fieles, llegaremos a una vida nueva y eterna, en la que gozaremos de Dios para siempre. San Pablo nos dice: "Si Cristo no hubiera resucitado, vana sería nuestra fe" (I Corintios 15,14). Si Jesús no hubiera resucitado, sus palabras hubieran quedado en el aire, sus promesas hubieran quedado sin cumplirse y dudaríamos que fuera realmente Dios. Pero, como Jesús sí resucitó, entonces sabemos que venció a la muerte y al pecado; sabemos que Jesús es Dios, sabemos que nosotros resucitaremos también, sabemos que ganó para nosotros la vida eterna y de esta manera, toda nuestra vida adquiere sentido.

La Resurrección es fuente de profunda alegría. A partir de ella, los cristianos no podemos vivir más con caras tristes. Debemos tener cara de resucitados, demostrar al mundo nuestra alegría porque Jesús ha vencido a la muerte.

La Resurrección es una luz para los hombres y cada cristiano debe irradiar esa misma luz a todos los hombres haciéndolos partícipes de la alegría de la Resurrección por medio de sus palabras, su testimonio y su trabajo apostólico.

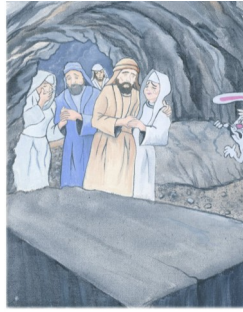
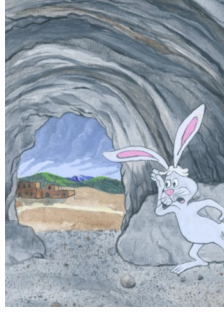
Debemos estar verdaderamente alegres por la Resurrección de Jesucristo, nuestro Señor. En este tiempo de Pascua que comienza, debemos aprovechar todas las gracias que Dios nos da para crecer en nuestra fe y ser mejores cristianos. Vivamos con profundidad este tiempo.

Con el Domingo de Resurrección comienza un Tiempo pascual, en el que recordamos el tiempo que Jesús permaneció con los apóstoles antes de subir a los cielos, durante la fiesta de la Ascensión.

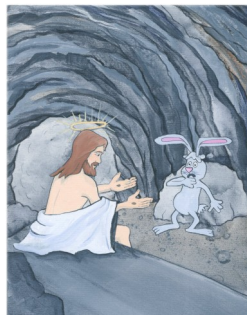
*Que la paz de nuestro Señor Resucitado
Bendiga a todas las familias de nuestra
Diócesis y permanezca para siempre.
Excelentísimos Señores Obispos Guillermo Skylstad
y Tomas Connolly y personal Diocesano*

Hopefully

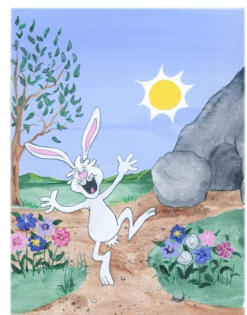
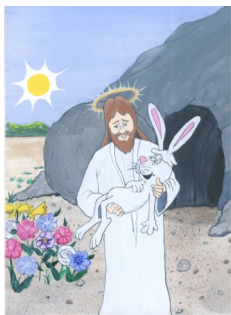
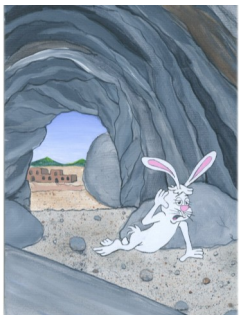
By Reverend James A. Radloff



Once upon a time, a very, very long time ago, there was a beautiful garden near the city of Jerusalem. In the garden lived a little bunny named Hopefully. Hopefully was soft and white with a pink little nose that wiggled whenever he was eating. One Friday, Hopefully was eating in the garden when something scary happened. Even though it was still early in the afternoon, the sky got very dark. Then the earth began to shake like an earthquake. Hopefully grew very frightened. So Hopefully hopped into a cave near the garden to hide. Hopefully hid where no one would find him. While in the cave, Hopefully could hear some people coming. They sounded very sad. They were screaming, and crying, and moaning out loud. The people came into the cave. Hopefully could see they were sad. There were tears on their faces and their eyes were red and swollen. Hopefully saw why they were sad. They were bringing a friend who was dead. This man was wrapped from head to toe in a big white cloth. The people laid him in the cave where Hopefully was hiding. Then the most terrible thing happened. When the people left, they blocked the only door by rolling a big stone in front of the cave. Hopefully was trapped with the dead man!



It was very, very dark, and Hopefully grew so frightened he began to cry. “What am I going to do? I am trapped in here. Soon I will starve to death. I do not want to be dead like this man!” Then Hopefully heard a voice. “Do not be afraid, Hopefully. I will never let you die.” Hopefully was so startled he almost jumped out of his soft, white fur coat. “Who is that?” he asked. “Who is talking to me?” The voice answered, “I am Jesus the Christ, the Son of God. Anyone who believes in me will never die.” “But we are trapped in this cave,” said Hopefully. “How will we ever get out?” “Go to sleep now,” Jesus said kindly. “In three days I will set you free.” Hopefully felt completely safe with Jesus, and a sleepy feeling came over him. His eyes grew very heavy and he couldn’t ask Jesus any more questions. Snuggling down beside a rock, Hopefully went into a deep sleep.



On the third day a bright light woke Hopefully up. He saw that the huge stone had been rolled away from the opening of the cave. As his eyes were getting used to the light, Hopefully saw two hands reach down to pick him up. On both hands were terrible wounds that went all the way through. For a second, Hopefully felt afraid. But then he looked up, saw Jesus’ face, and no longer felt scared at all. Jesus’ hands were very gentle as they picked Hopefully up and carried him out of the cave into the sunlight. As Hopefully was placed in the garden, Jesus said to him, “Peace be with you, Hopefully. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Go now and spread the good news! All who believe in me will never die!” Hopefully had so many questions, but before he could ask a single one, Jesus was gone. Hopefully was left alone in the garden to think about all that he had seen and heard. Jesus was the man in the cave who was dead. Only now he was alive! And anyone who believed in Him would never die! So on this very first Easter Sunday, Hopefully hopped and hopped all over the garden shouting as loud as he could, “JESUS CHRIST HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD!” So to this very day Hopefully the Easter Bunny helps everyone to hear the message that **“JESUS CHRIST HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD! ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN JESUS WILL NEVER DIE!”**

Artwork by Paul Ludington, Bill Tollis, and Bill Friday