



THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS OF THE DIOCESE OF BAKER
Published every two weeks for the sake of the unity of the Diocese and the
"greater good of souls"

January 29, 2012

Volume 3, Number 3

PARISH NEWS: St. Therese Church, Halfway

Four generations light the Advent candles. In the mission church of St. Therese in Halfway, Father Julian Cassar asked a family of four generations to light each of the four Advent candles on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.



Seen in the photo: Great-Grandma Jeannie Tharp, her daughter, Sharon Stuzman, Sharon's daughter, Kim, and Kim's three daughters Kerri, Kadie (beside Fr. Julian) and newborn Kira, all participating in the lighting and blessing of the Advent wreath. They all live in Halfway and are always at Mass in the small mission church.

Presently an extension is being built behind the church so that the parishioners can socialize after the weekend Mass.

DIOCESAN NEWS: Schoenstatt Family Christmas Gathering

The Third Annual Schoenstatt Christmas Gathering held on January 6, 2012, at the Powell Butte Retreat Center was a picture-perfect evening. Over 30 people attended the "Beautiful little Christmas family celebration" and enjoyed an evening of fellowship, good food, music and singing. The John Paul II Center was beautifully decorated for Christmas and the unexpected snowfall added to the charm of the evening. At 6:00 p.m., Father Robert Greiner led the Angelus and the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary followed by Mass in the St. Mary Chapel.



After Mass, a pot-luck dinner was served while 13 musicians played traditional Christmas music. After dinner the group enjoyed singing and a special feature of the history of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* followed by a skit in which the entire group participated.

Special thanks go to Judy and LeRoy Newport for their planning and organization of the evening. >>>

Schoenstatt Gathering continued:



CENTRAL DEANERY NEWS: Annual Secretaries Luncheon



The secretaries from the Central Oregon Parishes/Deanery gathered once again for their Annual Luncheon on December 7th at the Powell Butte Retreat Center. There were over 17 secretaries, DRE's, Youth Ministers, and support staff as well as the ladies from the Chancery office. Everyone had a wonderful time seeing each other again and meeting new staff members. Those who could not attend were missed. Marcy and her staff prepared a lunch of Swiss steak and rice, salad, bread and some of her delicious cookies.

After lunch they gathered for the Christmas ornament exchange. The neatly wrapped ornaments were passed from left to right and back again during a reading of the "Wright Family" story by Patti Rausch. At the end of the story, the gift that each lady held was hers to keep. Before they knew it, it was time to head back to their offices. Everyone hugged and said their good-byes with great anticipation of seeing each other throughout the year and gathering in December for the next Annual Secretaries Luncheon.

REFLECTIONS FROM BISHOP SKYLSTAD...RCIA in the life of the Church

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) has become a familiar acronym in the Catholic Church these last few decades. Sparked by the Second Vatican Council, the restoration of the catechumenate along with the preparation for the sacraments of initiation in the Church has deeply taken root. Candidates in the RCIA program who are preparing to come into the Church spend months in this preparation program that is much more community oriented than in pre-Vatican II days when such entrance was usually preceded by ten instructions from the pastor/priest. This longer preparation time in the RCIA gives a more thorough and in-depth formation that is really important in the more complex world in which we live. This type of formation was also very common in the early Church; thus we talk about restoration.

As part of our diocesan preparation, we are offering a day of reflection and prayer for candidates, their sponsors and all those interested at our Powell Butte Retreat Center on March 3. This day will be part of the continuing formation and will be an opportunity for some for the first time to have contact with the larger Church. I plan to be present the entire day and hope that as many candidates as possible can take advantage of the opportunity.

The candidates will complete their preparation time with the celebration of the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. I have always found these celebrations to be wonderfully joyful. The newly baptized and confirmed, new members in the Church, begin a new faith journey with the Catholic community of faith.

One of the aspects of the RCIA program is that each candidate has a sponsor who accompanies them during this preparation time. Usually, weekly preparation classes take the better part of a year. So the formation is thorough and much more involved than in times past. Given our rich tradition in the Catholic Church with its body of teaching, sacraments, and spirituality, there is a lot to cover. Yet the program with its communitarian approach and a standard preparation process has great impact upon the participants.

One of the frequent comments I have heard over the years from the sponsors of the candidates is that they have received more from participating in the program than the candidates themselves. For them, the process is a continuing formation and education they found to be valuable. Perhaps their experience as Catholics provides a good background to appreciate even more the gift of the Church and the treasure of her tradition. In fact, one theologian I know has suggested the RCIA program, with its formal process of formation, might be a good paradigm for renewal within the Church in general. Certainly we have a huge task of helping all within the Church to know and understand her teaching, our responsibilities, her community life, and the opportunity of inviting others to become members of the Church.

The candidates in the RCIA program are truly an inspiration to all of us. They have responded to the call of the Holy Spirit in their hearts. Pray for them. May we also respond faithfully and generously.

REFLEXIONES DEL OBISPO SKYLSTAD...RICA en la vida de la Iglesia

RICA (Rito de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos) se ha convertido en un acrónimo familiar en la Iglesia Católica desde el Concilio Vaticano II, la restauración del catecumenado, y la preparación para los sacramentos de iniciación se ha arraigado profundamente en la Iglesia. Los candidatos de RICA que se están preparando para ser aceptado en la Iglesia pasan meses en el programa de preparación que es más comunitario que, antes del Vaticano II cuando era solo de diez instrucciones por un sacerdote. Hoy la preparación es más larga el RICA ofrece una formación más completa y profunda que es importante en el mundo complejo en que vivimos. Este tipo de formación era muy común en la Iglesia primitiva, por eso se habla de restauración.

Como parte de la preparación diocesana, estamos ofreciendo un día de reflexión y oración para los candidatos, sus padrinos y todos aquellos interesados, en el Centro de Retiros en Powell Butte el 3 de marzo. Este día será parte de la formación continua y una oportunidad para algunos por primera vez el tener contacto con la Iglesia general. Tengo previsto estar presente todo el día y espero que muchos candidatos e aprovechen esta oportunidad.

Los candidatos completarán su preparación con la celebración de los sacramentos de iniciación (Bautismo, Confirmación y Eucaristía) en la Vigilia Pascual. Siempre estas celebraciones son maravillosas y felices. Los nuevos bautizados y confirmados, los nuevos miembros, inician una nueva jornada de fe con la Comunidad Católica.

Por lo general, las clases semanales de preparación tomar la mayor parte del año. Así que la formación es completa y mucho más complicado que en tiempos pasados. Teniendo en cuenta la rica tradición de nuestra Iglesia Católica con toda su doctrina, los sacramentos, y la espiritualidad, hay mucho que cubrir. Sin embargo, el programa con enfoque comunitario y el proceso de preparación básico tiene un gran impacto sobre los participantes aunque para los padrinos, el proceso ha resultó ser muy valiosos. Tal vez su experiencia, como católicos, les proporciona una buena base para apreciar más el don de la Iglesia y el tesoro de su tradición. De hecho, un teólogo que yo conozco ha sugerido que el programa de RICA, con su proceso formal de formación, podría ser un buen paradigma para la renovación de la Iglesia general. Ciertamente, tenemos una enorme tarea de ayudar a todos dentro de la Iglesia para conocer y comprender sus enseñanzas, nuestras responsabilidades, su vida comunitaria, y la oportunidad de invitar a otros a convertirse en miembros de la Iglesia.

Los candidatos en el programa RICA son una verdadera inspiración para todos nosotros. Ellos han respondido a la llamada del Espíritu Santo en sus corazones. Oren por ellos. respondamos con fidelidad y generosidad.

SAINTS AND FEASTS: St. Francis de Sales, January 24 (1567-1622) Patron Saint of the Diocese of Baker


Francis was destined by his father to be a lawyer so that the young man could eventually take his elder's place as a senator from the province of Savoy in France. For this reason Francis was sent to Padua to study law. After receiving his doctorate, he returned home and, in due time, told his parents he wished to enter the priesthood. His father strongly opposed Francis in this, and only after much patient persuasiveness did his father finally consent. Francis was ordained and elected provost of the Diocese of Geneva, then a center for the Calvinists. Francis set out to convert them. By preaching and distributing the little pamphlets he wrote he had remarkable success.



At 35 he became Bishop of Geneva continuing to preach, hear confessions and catechizing the children. Besides his two well-known books, the *Introduction to the Devout Life* and *A Treatise on the Love of God*, he wrote many pamphlets and carried on a vast correspondence. His writings, filled with his characteristic gentle spirit, are addressed to lay people. He wants to make them understand that they too are called to be saints. As he wrote in *The Introduction to the Devout Life*: "It is an error, or rather a heresy, to say devotion is incompatible with the life of a soldier, a tradesman, a prince, or a married woman...It has happened that many have lost perfection in the desert who had preserved it in the world."

Francis tells us: "The person who possesses Christian meekness...he is disposed to forgive and excuse the frailties of others; the goodness of his heart...presents every object to his view in the most charitable and pleasing light."

DIOCESAN NEWS: DDA High School Retreat

 **The DDA Retreat is fast approaching!** The retreat will be held President's weekend, February 17-20, 2012. Deadline to register as a candidate for this retreat is February 10, 2012; remember space is limited so get your registration in ASAP! Forms are available at www.dioceseofbaker.org, click on Youth & Family Events and scroll down to High School Events for the DDA Registration & Medical Release form.

What is DDA? DDA means Day-by-Day Agape. Agape is a Greek word that expresses the love between the human and the divine. 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.

PRO-LIFE NEWS: January 22, 2012, marked the 39th anniversary of Roe vs Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.



An Evening of Prayer and the recitation of the holy rosary led by Father Robert Greiner, Pro Life Chaplain for the Diocese of Baker, was held at St. Mary Chapel at the Retreat Center at Powell Butte to pray for an end of abortion and for the protection of human life from the moment of conception to natural death. Pastors and parishes in the diocese were encouraged to do something similar.

In Bend, a group of dedicated pro-lifers from all parishes in Central Oregon meet on Division Street every week and demonstrate near the Planned Parenthood clinic. They silently protest and ask the Lord to open the staff's hearts to the innocent unborn and find a way to celebrate life and not death. Everyone is welcome to join the group on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and commit one hour to this cause of the most vulnerable souls God has created. If you are interested and want more information, please contact Susan Thorne from St. Thomas Church in Redmond at (541) 548-9970 or Father Greiner at St. Patrick Church in Prineville at (541) 447-6475.

St. Joseph Catholic Church Respect Life Committee in Madras hosted a Life Chain Rally on January 22nd to pray for an end to abortion and euthanasia, to remember the 53 million babies lost through abortion and to give quiet and peaceful witness to the Gospel of Life. The Rally took place in front of the Court House and City Hall.

PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS:

Congratulations to Rev. Thomas Scanlan, retired and living in Bend. Father Scanlan was ordained to the priesthood on February 2, 1957.

We are most grateful for the years of service of all our priests. Please keep them in your prayers.

DIOCESAN NEWS: A Retreat for RCIA Candidates



Mark your calendars for the opportunity to take **A Journey of Faith** at the RCIA Retreat for Candidates March 3, at the Powell Butte Retreat Center. Start the day with Mass at 8:00 a.m. in St. Mary's Chapel, Bishop Skylstad presiding. The Retreat will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the John Paul II Conference Center. The cost of the Retreat is \$30 (breakfast and lunch included). You can find the forms to register on the diocesan website RE page or call (541) 388-4004 for more information.

We apologize for the error made in the January 15th Issue on page one. The stories and pictures for St. John and St. Francis parishes were switched. The youth of St. John are represented in the bowling story and the youth of St. Francis are represented in the Christmas Party story.

MATSIKO CHOIR VISITS BEND

Central Oregon was very lucky to host the visiting Matsiko World Orphan's Choir the first two weeks in January. When their housing fell through for their first week in Bend, a representative contacted the Diocese of Baker to ask if the group could possibly use the Retreat Center facility at Powell Butte for the week. They were delighted when their request was granted. Never in their wildest imaginations did they expect the beautiful and peaceful atmosphere and the spacious accommodations that they were given!

The Matsiko Children's Choir did six performances in Bend, including one at St. Francis School on Friday, January 6th. Their joy, energy, and beautiful voices left the children, teachers and visitors breathless.

You wouldn't know it from their bright young faces and playful smiles that these children have seen a great deal of hardship in their short lives. Born from a heart for every forgotten child in the unreached corners of the world, International Children's Network (ICN) began its choir program in 2008, with the first U.S. tour of Matsiko Children's Choir. Matsiko, which means "hope" in Lunyankole, one of the local languages of Uganda, was the first step toward bringing together children from the various countries in which ICN provides sponsorship networking and with its success, the World Orphans Choir was born. The World Orphans Choir tells the stories of the lives and cultures of children from Peru, India, and Liberia through song and dance as the children's hearts connect with audiences everywhere.

One of the World Orphan Choir's main goals will be to continue the progress Matsiko has made to this point in raising awareness and generating sponsorships. Sponsorship allows children who are hopeless the chance to receive an education all the way through the highest levels of their nation's university or vocational systems. It breaks the cycle of poverty and allows the children to become a hope for others in their village, nation and the world, instead of being another dependent person who has no hope whatsoever.

For additional information, please contact Don Windham, President at International Children's Network, 24544 – 129th Place SE, Kent, WA 98030-5077. Phone: (253) 217-7531 Email: don@icnchildren.net Website: www.icnchildren.net.



11 of the 13 members of the Matsiko Children's Choir pose for a group picture outside their cabins at the Powell Butte Retreat Center.



A few of the choir members rehearse before their concert at St. Francis School in Bend.



Getting ready to head out for a radio interview early Tuesday morning from the Retreat Center.



Mark Perry, the Tour Director for the choir, speaks to the children of St. Francis School about what the children of the Matsiko Children's Choir have accomplished and why they are so happy.



Not only do the Matsiko Children's Choir sing, but they dance as well—and with such sheer enthusiasm, that it is not long before the audience is clapping with them.



All Matsiko handcrafts are made in India, Peru or Liberia and purchased from vendors at a fair price that supports the local economy.



Matsiko Children's Choir greet the children and visitors of St. Francis School at the beginning of their performance.

