



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"

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PARISH NEWS: St. Patrick, Condon and St. William, Lone

Both St. Patrick and St. William parishes have adopted two new programs. One program is to have a "Biblical Illustration" occasionally at Mass. These displays will consist of a statue, picture or other object, and a short excerpt from the Sunday readings. It is hoped that these will further help to take away a spiritual thought.



ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL NEWS:

St. Francis School in Bend is celebrating 75 years of preparing students for life! Discover how St. Francis School helps students thrive today and tomorrow by attending one of their Open House events or schedule a personal tour. This is a great opportunity to meet the teachers and staff. The door is open and so are the possibilities. Tuition assistance is available. Call (541) 382-4701 or visit saintfrancisschool.net to learn more.

Open House: Monday, February 27, 9am to 1pm

Thursday, March 8, 9am to 1pm

Tuesday, March 13, 9am to 1pm



PARISH NEWS: St. Patrick, Condon

For many years the Chamber of Commerce of Heppner has sponsored three days of celebration in honor of St. Patrick. Some years ago, a parishioner of the Parish suggested that the Parish should perform a drama in honor of St. Patrick during those celebrations. As Fr. Gerry could not find a suitable one, he decided to write a drama himself about St. Patrick. So began the writing of several dramas.

This year he has decided to have a repeat performance of the Passion of the Lord entitled: "From Cenacle to Calvary". There are five scenes: In the Cenacle, the Garden of Gethsemane, the second trial before Pilate, on the road to Calvary, and the Crucifixion. The drama begins in the Cenacle after the Last Supper and continues to the crucifixion which is performed in silhouette. During the crucifixion two commentators comment on the seven last words of Jesus. After the crucifixion two angels proclaim: "He is Risen"; at that time, a chorus sings the "Halleluia" from Handel's Messiah. There is also original music composed by parishioner, Joe Lindsay. This year, there is a cast and production crew of more than forty people from Heppner, Lexington and Lone. "From Cenacle to Calvary" will be performed at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 11, at the Lone High School and again at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, at St. Patrick's Parish Hall in Heppner.



PARISH NEWS: St. Francis School, Bend



St. Francis of Assisi School students in Bend said farewell to their beloved Father Francis Ekwughu on Friday, December 9, 2011. Father Francis celebrated his last school Mass with the students and was then given a goodbye reception following the Mass.

REFLECTIONS FROM BISHOP SKYLSTAD...Rights of Conscience

We have been blessed to live in a “land of the free and the home of the brave.” Over 200 years of experience in this country have led us on a remarkable journey to where we are today. We have passed through some very difficult and painful times, but always there has been a resilient spirit and a great sense of “togetherness” whenever times were tough. A civil war, economic depressions, two world wars, 9/11, the human rights struggle have led us to a deeper spirit of solidarity and gratitude for blessings both in struggle and in hope. Religious freedom has been a hallmark of our life here in the United States. Thomas Jefferson in 1809 remarked: “No provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of the civil authority.” That experience of Catholics here in this country had significant impact upon the Second Vatican Council, arguably the most significant religious event of the twentieth century.

But that religious freedom recently has come under very serious attack in the Health and Human Services (HHS) Mandate for Contraception/Sterilization Coverage. This mandate violates freedom of conscience, which is guaranteed in the First Amendment and several federal laws. Forcing all of us to buy coverage for sterilization and contraceptives including drugs that induce abortion is a radical incursion into freedom of conscience. Not only that, HHS took upon itself to include sterilizations, contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs in all health plans.

There are those who disagree with the Church’s teaching on the sanctity of human life, and yet some of them have recognized that the government has no business forcing religious institutions to sponsor and pay for procedures which violate those teachings. For example, editorials in the Washington Post and the New York Daily News have criticized the HHS mandate. As Cardinal-designate Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York and President of the USCCB, noted in a letter to U.S. Bishops “that Catholic Journalists of all backgrounds have widely criticized the HHS rules as unjust. Leaders of major Catholic organizations - such as Catholic Health Association, Catholic Relief Services, and Catholic Charities USA - have already spoken out against them. In the meantime, the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty is actively exploring options for litigation and legislative proposals to remedy this injustice.”

Frankly I am stunned and deeply hurt as a Catholic Bishop by this ruling. We all should be. Catholic Health Care embodies almost 20% of health care institutions in the U.S. Catholic Relief Services is present in almost 100 countries around the world serving those in great need. Catholic Charities USA represents a huge outreach to the poor and vulnerable in this country. And we are approximately 70 million Catholics in the U.S with all that the Church is. To dismiss that Catholic presence which has

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a deeply imbedded tradition and morality about the dignity of the human person is unconscionable.

As Cardinal Dolan said; “The Catholic bishops are committed to working with our fellow Americans to reform the law and change this unjust regulation.” Yes, we indeed want to be free, but this mandate does just the opposite. May we all work toward its abolition.

SAINTS AND FEASTS: St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows



Francesco Possenti was born in the Italian town of Assisi on March 1, 1838. He was just like every young boy and teenager and became popular for his warm and outgoing personality, his love of dancing, hunting and the theater. He endangered himself more than once on his hunting expeditions and during a childhood illness had promised to become a religious if he was healed. Twice he was healed, twice he delayed. Francis did well in school, despite a childhood which included the death of three siblings and his own mother. Like a normal boy of his age Francis attracted the attention of the girls of Spoleto, where the family had moved from Assisi.

During a procession of an icon of the Mother of Sorrows, Francis felt Our Lady call to him that he was not meant for this world and he was to become a religious. On the night his father had arranged for him to become engaged, Francis left for the Passionist novitiate. The Passionists were founded by St. Paul of the Cross and are a religious community devoted to the living and preaching of Our Lord's passion and death.

Francis took vows in the Passionist community and he took the name of Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, reflecting the devotion, planted in his childhood home by his mother's image of the Pieta, he always had to Our Lady of Sorrows. Gabriel attained holiness in a very short space of time, he was consumed with love for Christ, through Our Lady of Sorrows. Indeed as well as the vow made by all Passionists to spread devotion to Christ Crucified, Gabriel took an additional vow to spread devotion to Our Sorrowful Mother. Despite being struck with TB he maintained all the severe sacrifices that made up his life, he begged to be carried to Mass and he maintained his cheery disposition despite the painful illness. He died in the presence of the community, hugging close an image of Our Lady of Sorrows, indeed as he died a smile spread across his face and he tilted his head to the right, where he saw Our Lady coming to take him to heaven. He expired before he could be ordained a priest and died on February 27, 1862 in the Passionist monastery at Gran Sasso in the Abruzzi region of Italy. The region of which he is now patron.

Pope Benedict XV canonized Gabriel in 1920 and declared him patron of Catholic youth, of students, and of those studying for the priesthood. His feast day is celebrated on February 27th.

REFLEXIONES DEL OBISPO SKYLSTAD:

Hemos sido bendecidos al vivir en una "tierra de libertad y de valientes." Más de 200 años de experiencia en este país nos han llevado en un extraordinario viaje hasta donde estamos hoy. Hemos pasado por momentos muy difíciles y dolorosos, pero siempre ha habido un espíritu de resistencia y un gran sentido de "unidad" cuando los tiempos han sido difíciles. Una guerra civil, las depresiones económicas, dos guerras mundiales, 9/11, la lucha de los derechos humanos nos han llevado a un espíritu más profundo de la solidaridad y gratitud por las bendiciones, tanto en la lucha como en la esperanza. La libertad religiosa ha sido un sello distintivo de nuestra vida aquí en los Estados Unidos. Thomas Jefferson en 1809 señaló: "Nada de lo dispuesto en nuestra Constitución debe ser más querido para el hombre que el que protege los derechos de conciencia en contra de las empresas de la autoridad civil." Esa experiencia en los católicos de este país tuvo un impacto significativo en el Concilio Vaticano II, sin duda el acontecimiento religioso más importante del siglo XX.

Pero la libertad religiosa recientemente ha sido objeto de ataques muy graves en la Salud y Servicios Humanos (HHS) Manda la cobertura de Anticoncepción / Esterilización. Este mandato viola la libertad de conciencia, la cual está garantizada en la Primera Enmienda y varias leyes federales. Obligar a todos a comprar cobertura para la esterilización y los anticonceptivos, incluyendo los fármacos que inducen el aborto esto es un ataque radical a la libertad de conciencia. No sólo eso, el HHS tomó por sí misma el incluir esterilizaciones, anticonceptivos y medicamentos que inducen el aborto en todos los planes de salud.

Hay quienes no están de acuerdo con las enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre la santidad de la vida humana, y sin embargo, han reconocido que el gobierno no debe obligar a las instituciones religiosas patrocinar los procedimientos que violan esas enseñanzas. Por ejemplo, las editoriales del Washington Post y el New York Daily News han criticado el mandato del HHS. Como el cardenal designado, Timothy Dolan, arzobispo de Nueva York y presidente de la USCCB, señala en su carta a los obispos de Estados Unidos "que periodistas católicos de todos los principios, ampliamente han criticados las reglas del HHS como injustas. Los líderes de las principales organizaciones católicas, como Catholic Health Association, Catholic Relief Services y Catholic Charities EE.UU. Ya se han manifestado en contra de ellos. Mientras tanto, la Conferencia de Obispos del Comité Especial para la Libertad Religiosa está explorando activamente las opciones para los litigios y las propuestas legislativas para esta injusticia ".

Francamente, estoy sorprendido y profundamente dolido como obispo católico por esta decisión.

El Cardenal Dolan dijo: "Los obispos católicos se han comprometido a trabajar con nuestros conciudadanos para reformar la ley y modificar el presente Reglamento.

PARISH NEWS: St. Francis de Sales Cathedral

As a service to parishioners of the Diocese and any friends you may have, Fr Julian Cassar, pastor of the Cathedral in Baker City has started a daily blog with reflections, brief insights, meditations, photos, brief biographies about the saint of the day, and other interesting stuff mostly related to our faith. It will only take two minutes a day to check each daily post, but they will be helpful and inspirational in many ways. The address is www.fatherjulian.blogspot.com.

THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE is published every two weeks for the parishioners of the Diocese of Baker. Your news is important. Please keep those updates coming!

CHILDREN’S CORNER: Today’s Gospel Reading

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." Mark 1:12-15

Find the following words from today’s Gospel passage:

ANGELS	BEASTS	BELIEVE
DAYS	DESERT	FORTY
FULFILLMENT	GALILEE	GOSPEL
JOHN	KINGDOM	MINISTERED
PROCLAIMING	REPENT	SATAN
SPIRIT	TEMPTED	WILD
I	Y	O
V	I	T
S	S	Y
P	T	G
T	M	H
L	T	F
S	W	T
I	R	C
N	I	A
R	H	B
M	I	N
I	S	T
E	R	E
D	O	L
E	K	X
V	I	Z
A	S	E
K	M	I
N	B	I
S	R	R
U	A	E
X	U	I
L	C	P
P	O	L
E	P	G
Y	B	N
D	N	L
O	F	L
T	S	E
D	R	N
F	C	P
G	I	L
C	B	H
D	E	E
D	E	I
G	A	D
F	E	V
E	I	L
E	B	D
L	P	M
L	O	L
A	N	G
E	L	S
S	F	O
I	E	I
M	U	S
H	B	M
U	Q	U
O	Y	S
W	N	A
F	D	O
P	X	J
P	O	R
M	B	A
S	T	L
G	J	T
W	E	N
A	T	A
S	R	B
D	I	C
F	S	E
L	U	L
Y	N	K
E	P	G
Z	I	O
Q	Y	R
F	D	A
Y	C	W
F	M	I
V	O	R
A	I	E
S	I	K
G	P	K
A	C	G
D	E	P

Young Adult Retreat - Still time to register!

*Life is a journey, and sometimes it is hard to feel
God carrying us through the many twists and
turns we encounter along the way.*

Sacred Heart Klamath Falls Newman Club and Bend Newman Club invite you to experience your journey together with other young adults in the Diocese of Baker at our first joint Young Adult Retreat March 2-4, 2012, at the Diocesan Retreat Center in Powell Butte.

Cost is \$70 per person (includes meals and lodging), but talk to your parish about subsidizing the cost.

For more information, or to reserve your spot, contact:

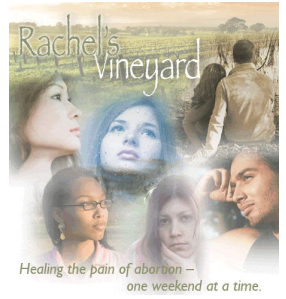
Katie Beaubien – Sacred Heart Youth Minister
sacredheartyouth@charter.net or (541)884-4566

or
Pat Creedican – Bend Newman Club Coordinator
creedipc@gmail.com

or
Jill Schwartz – Diocesan Director of Religious Education
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RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

There is hope and healing after abortion no matter how long ago or how many. Forgiveness and mercy await you at a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. Upcoming retreats are in: Medford, March 23-25; Bend, April 27-29; and Portland, June 1-3. Participation is strictly confidential.



- Contact Project Aurora for the Medford retreat: 541-942-2861 or e-mail: ProjectAurora@aol.com.
- For Portland and Bend call Project Rachel: 1-800-249-8074 or e-mail: ProjectRachel@catholiccharitiesoregon.org.

The cost is \$175.00 for meals, room, and all retreat materials. Don't let financial constraints stop you, there is generous financial assistance! For more information visit: www.rachelsvineyard.org.

OUR LADY OF ANGELS PARISH OUTREACH WEEKEND:



The weekend of March 10-11, Our Lady of Angels parish in Hermiston has asked Father Matthew Habiger, a moral theologian from St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, Kansas, to preach at each of the five weekend Masses on God's plan for Marriage, Spousal Love and Family as well as the inherent goodness of Natural Family Planning and the dangers of contraception and sterilization.

Father Matthew Habiger, OSB was ordained in 1968 for St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, KS. His first assignment was to a large parish in Burlington, IA. Then he was appointed Newman chaplain for the University of Kansas. After completing two master degrees and a doctorate in moral theology from Catholic University of America, he began to teach theology at Benedictine College and was the college chaplain for ten years. In 1990, he began a ten-year tour of duty working with the pro-life movement proclaiming the values of the Gospel of Life. This assignment took him to 55 countries and many cities in the United States and Canada. He lectured, organized conferences, led speaking tours, and leadership training conferences.

Throughout his ministry he has labored to strengthen good marriages and strong family life. He welcomes the opportunity to explain God's plan for human life and love to parishes throughout the United States and elsewhere.

Following each Mass, Dr. Gina Landicho-Wicks will speak about the health consequences of chemical contraception and sterilization and tell why natural methods of family planning are far superior. Dr. Gina operates an NFP-only Family Medical Practice in Redmond, WA.

A new series of Natural Family Planning classes will begin at Our Lady of Angels on March 24. For more information call Deanna at (541) 667- 8537.

RETRouvaille WEEKEND: Redmond, OR



Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage? Or do you feel helpless?

Retrouvaille is a Catholic program designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together, and gives them new communication tools to break patterns of angry behavior. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced.

Retrouvaille is similar to Marriage Encounter, but with one important difference. The leaders are couples whose own marriages once nearly failed. They inspire couples in hurting marriages to try new ways to love each other.

The next Retrouvaille weekend is March 16-18 in Redmond at the Sleep Inn. For more information, call (503) 285-2342 or (360) 892-7883. Couples of all faiths are welcome and no one is turned away due to financial difficulties. For more detailed information visit the Retrouvaille website at www.helpourmarriage.org.