



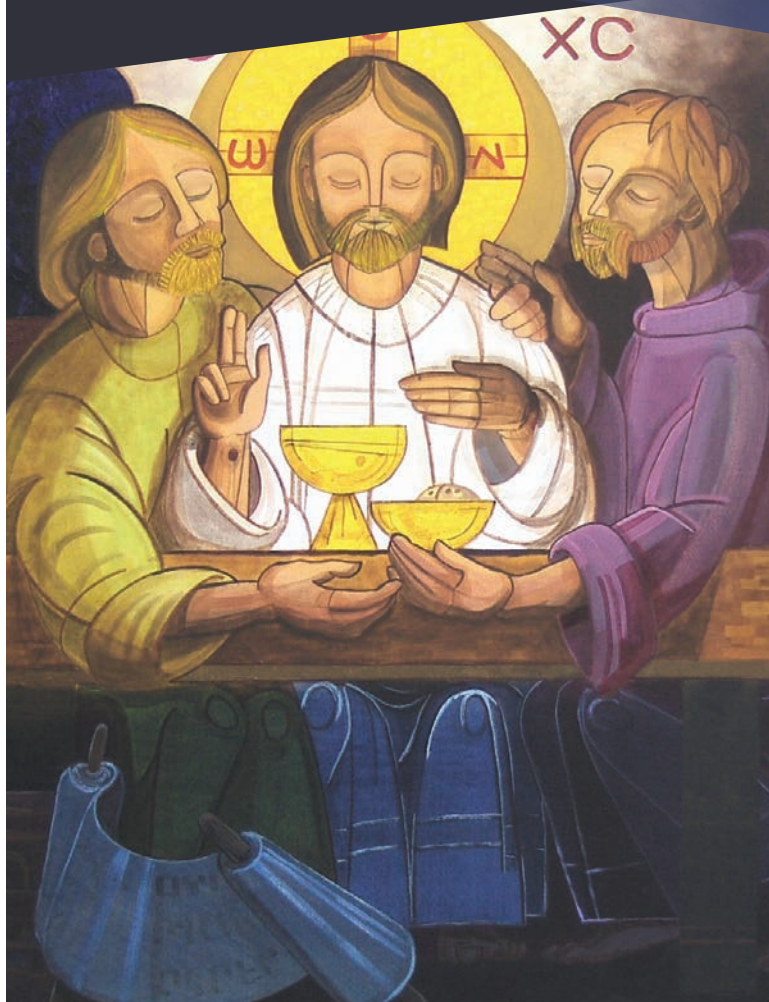
THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE DIOCESE OF BAKER

May 17, 2015

Volume 6, Number 10

*A special edition dedicated to the
2015 Bishop's Annual Appeal*



Opening the Eyes of Faith

DIOCESE OF BAKER
2015 Bishop's Annual Appeal



Dear Friends in Christ,

This year for our Bishop's Annual Appeal in the Diocese of Baker, we have chosen the theme Opening the Eyes of Faith, focusing our gaze on those

around us to recognize Jesus in our midst. The beautiful Emmaus representation here and on our poster, shows Jesus with the two disciples after their journey and the catechesis along the way. In this image, Jesus is blessing the gifts before them, but the bread is yet unbroken and their eyes remain closed. It causes us to reflect on the amazing ways we, together, can serve Christ among us, once we open our eyes of faith.


The two disciples remarked how their hearts burned within them as they walked along the road listening to their Scripture lesson, and immediately after Jesus vanishes from their midst they rush back to Jerusalem to share their witness with the others. Often our hearts are burning as we give of ourselves to build Christ's kingdom, returning to the Lord a portion of our time, our talent and our treasure all entrusted to us by a good and gracious God! Just as important is our witness to others here in the local Church.

One way we can witness to others and return to the Lord a portion of our treasure is by generously supporting our Bishop's Annual Appeal. Please read about the good works made possible in our Diocese because of the contributions to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, and prayerfully discern what important gift you will make in support of these ministries, programs and services. I thank you for all you will do in support of the 2015 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Let Jesus open our eyes of faith showing us how we can each do our part to serve Christ in our midst throughout the Diocese of Baker.

In Christ Jesus,

+ Liam Cary

Most Reverend Liam Cary
Bishop of Baker


**BISHOP'S ANNUAL
APPEAL**
DIOCESE OF BAKER



As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are sent forth to labor in the works of His Church through our gifts of love and service to others. Every year we have this opportunity by giving to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Here in the Diocese of Baker, we are blessed with generous and faith-filled people each doing our part as a member of the Body of Christ, allowing us together to serve our brothers and sisters in ways that no person or parish could serve by themselves.

This year's BAA theme, *Opening the Eyes of Faith*, is taken from the beloved gospel verses of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus

whose eyes were opened as Jesus, their unidentified traveling companion, broke bread for them at the table that evening. Each gift we share with the BAA provides great assistance by funding ministries, programs and services to thousands of people in eastern Oregon and beyond, and opens our eyes to recognize Jesus in our midst.

When we give to the BAA, we ourselves are enriched through our celebration of the Holy Eucharist and in our parish ministries, all works of the local Church. The BAA allows us to be both provider and participant in adult faith formation, Hispanic ministry, RCIA, youth and young adult ministry, religious education and ongoing evangelization. Our support of the BAA also funds the Diocesan Priest Health and Retirement Fund, our Catholic schools, seminary formation and the Office of Vocations.

When we share our God-given blessings and make an annual gift to the BAA, we make a difference in our own lives, as well as the lives of our family and friends, and many companions on the journey we do not know. Please take a few moments to prayerfully read through this brochure, reflecting on the many ways your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal will assist us in *Opening the Eyes of Faith* here in the Diocese of Baker.



Evangelization and Catechesis

Adult Faith Formation, Religious Education, RCIA

Through BAA funding, our Diocese is beginning new programs to engage families in sacramental preparation

through parish workshops, providing new RCIA guidelines, and using some of the latest courses such as *Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained* to catechize our adults and those entering into full communion with the Church. The Diocese continues to support evangelization programs such as *Come and See* in reaching fallen away Catholics.



Youth Ministry

The Diocese has formed a partnership with Life Teen to be the main catechetical resource for high school ministry in our parishes. Life Teen equips leaders with resources designed to break through our screen-based

culture and reclaim hearts for Jesus Christ. The Diocese has also begun a pilot program, Leadership Training, for juniors and seniors preparing them to successfully live a life of faith after high school. In addition, BAA funding helps bring ministry teams and popular speakers to our Diocese to share the Catholic faith with our youth as they endeavor to draw closer to Christ.

Hispanic Ministry

The BAA provides resources allowing us to work more closely with our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters to strengthen and nurture their faith, and to ensure the rapidly-growing Hispanic population is drawn more deeply into our family of faith here in the Diocese of Baker.



Clergy

Clergy Formation

Recognizing the ongoing needs of our parishes, our Diocese is beginning a new initiative to provide comprehensive education and formation for our missionary priests.

This innovative process will help them better understand the people and culture in the areas they will serve in order to enhance their ministry in our parishes. In addition, the BAA provides funding annually to allow ongoing education and formation and spiritual enrichment for all clergy in several ways, such as the Clergy Assembly and a Priest Retreat.



Diocesan Priest Health and Retirement Fund

The Priest Health and Retirement Association of the Diocese of Baker was established to provide a modest monthly retirement stipend, plus medical insurance, for our priests who dedicated their lives and faithfully served our community. Because this

account is still considered "under-funded," priests rely on financial support from the BAA to support them in their retirement years.

Diocesan Priest Care Fund

Due to unforeseen circumstances, occasionally a priest may need to take a leave of absence or discontinue full-time ministry prior to reaching full retirement age. If this occurs, many priests are left with minimal income once they leave full-time ministry. The Diocese has established a Priest Care Fund to assist our priests during this time.



Education

Catholic Schools

For 112 years, the Diocese of Baker has supported and served our Catholic Schools. Currently the Diocese has five schools in Bend, Redmond, The Dalles, La Grande and Ontario. Our Diocese provides school support in many different ways from administrative direction and guidance through the Office of the Superintendent, to funding a full-time special education teacher in Bend and Redmond. This teacher, along with several others, come to us from the PACE program at the University of Portland. Diocesan funding for special education enables the Bend and Richmond schools, and eventually all the schools in our Diocese, to provide the extra help required. This is a new and important aspect to Catholic schools in our Diocese, and we hope to continue and expand this in the coming years.

Office of Vocations and Seminary Formation

We are blessed to have six seminarians at the present time. Victor Mena, David Jones, Marco Serna, and Nicholas Paige-Schneider attend Mt. Angel Seminary near Salem. Steve Garza is attending Pope John XXIII Seminary in Boston, and Jose Luis Melendez is attending Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Mexico City. The BAA enables the Office of Vocations to promote awareness for the priesthood. The office provides direction for discernment and screening for men who feel God may be calling them to a life of service to the Church. Once candidates are accepted into the seminary, the Diocese financially supports their education and formation until they are ordained to the priesthood.

Consider a Pledge to the Bishop's Annual Appeal

When you contribute to the Bishop's Annual Appeal by making a pledge and paying the amount over several months, your gift is more manageable for your budget, and more generous toward the works of the Church in the Diocese of Baker. For example, you could make an initial payment when you complete your Pledge Card, and pay the balance over nine months.

Monthly Pledge Reminders

The Diocese has worked to simplify the payment of your Bishop's Annual Appeal pledge. Beginning in July, you will receive monthly a reminder envelope used to submit your check, as well as a statement showing what you have paid, and how much remains on your pledge.

Pledge Possibilities Using A Monthly Payment Plan

Gift amount	Initial payment	9 monthly payments	Daily sacrifice
\$10,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$27.40
\$ 5,000	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$13.70
\$ 2,000	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 5.48
\$ 1,000	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 2.74
\$ 500	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 1.37
\$ 300	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 0.82

Important Pledge Information

- Pledges can be paid over 10 months.
- You will receive monthly reminders.
- Pledges are not legally binding. They are an indication of what you intend to give.
- Pledge payments are in addition to your regular parish offertory contributions.
- Contributions to the Bishop's Annual Appeal are tax-deductible.

Donor Intention Card

Monthly or One-Time Gift

Monthly Amount (ten months) **Total Gift**

- ☐ \$20.00 \$200.00
☐ \$10.00 \$100.00
☐ \$ 5.00 \$ 50.00
☐ Other \$ \$
☐ One-time Gift \$

Please make checks payable to: Bishop's Annual Appeal
 Or visit www.dioceseofbaker.org and select Ways to Give
 Credit cards and gifts of stock: see back

Thank you!

Please return this card to the Diocese of Baker, P.O. Box 5999,
 Bend, OR 97708

Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Parish or Mission: _____

City: _____





Parish Life

Parish Stewardship

Through BAA funding, our Diocese is able to work with parishes on an effective model of stewardship designed to bring about conversion

and lived discipleship. These training sessions and strategic meetings with pastors and parish leaders equip the parish to encourage spiritual growth, outreach, and participation.

Ministry Leadership Development

BAA funding provides for new methods for training, workshops, and toolkits to help ministry leaders become more effective as they strive to engage and enrich the parish community, leading all parishioners to draw closer to Christ.

Respect Life

Respect Life Ministry is a vital part of our diocesan efforts to educate Catholics and everyone in our community about span of life issues. As Catholics, we hold all life sacred, and this diocesan ministry serves to nurture a loving concern for the gift of life. Funding from the BAA supports our annual diocesan Pro-Life Conference, adoptions through Catholic Services, the Oregon Catholic Conference (a lobbying arm for Catholic values within State government) and Natural Family Planning workshops, as well as providing resources for parish ministries promoting respect for human life, human dignity and the integrity of marriage.



How You Can Support These Ministries

As an important member of the Church in the Diocese of Baker, you are invited to make a gift to the 2015 Bishop's Annual Appeal so that together we can reach our goal of \$375,000.

As a good steward of the many gifts God has blessed you with, we ask you to gratefully return to God a portion of those gifts. The gift you make, combined with the gifts of others, will truly open the eyes of faith in our Diocese.

Everyone in the Diocese of Baker is asked to:

- Pray for the success of the Bishop's Annual Appeal.
- Make a sacrificial pledge to support the Bishop's Annual Appeal.
- Share the Bishop's Annual Appeal information with others and encourage them to also support the effort.

"Together, we are the Body of Christ, and we are all called to do what we can with what we have through the Bishop's Annual Appeal. It is a unique opportunity for us to be both provider and participant in serving our brothers and sisters. I am confident this year's Appeal efforts will be even more successful because our faith-filled people have witnessed the good works brought about through the many ministries, programs and services funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal here in the Diocese of Baker."



Rev. Joseph Levine
Pastor, St. Peter Catholic Church
The Dalles, Oregon

Everyone is asked to give, but not everyone can give the same amount. God knows your budget and your heart. This newsletter includes examples of gifts you can use in deciding what to pledge. Please prayerfully consider making the most generous gift you can; a gift that expresses your gratitude to God and your deep desire to grow in faith. Remember, your pledge can be paid on a monthly basis. Thank you for all you will do for the 2015 Bishop's Annual Appeal!



Additional Options

☐ Gift of Stock (Please provide your e-mail address and phone number below)

☐ Credit card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

Card Number : _____ Expiration Date: ____/____ Security Code: _____

Card Holder Signature: _____

Contact Information (required for credit card or stock gifts):

Phone: (_____) _____ e-mail: _____