

A special edition dedicated to 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Dear Friends in Christ,

A lot of walking goes on in the Gospels. Andrew walks behind Jesus to see where He stays. The man born blind walks to the pool of Siloam to wash away his blindness. The Samaritan woman walks into town to make known the man she met at the well who told her everything she'd ever done.

After their life-changing encounter with Jesus of Nazareth these Gospel figures walked with ever-deepening faith in His life-giving power. And they did not walk alone. As the image on the poster for the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal reminds us, *Walking in Faith* is walking with Jesus in the company of all the disciples who follow Him.

To walk forward faithfully we must look backwards gratefully. Those who walked in faith before us came a long way on a hard road to sow the seeds of the Gospel and plant the Church in Eastern Oregon. Their sacrifices made it possible for you and me to follow in Jesus' footsteps too. Will we do the same for those who come after us? Will we keep the road open for them to walk in faith too?

That's what the Bishop's Annual Appeal attempts to do. Please take a moment to read this brochure and learn how the Appeal helps make faith grow in the Diocese of Baker. Then consider making a gift so that others may discover the joy of walking in faith with you.

We are told that our good God loves a generous giver. May He bless you for giving whatever your means allow you to contribute.

In Christ Our Lord,

+ Lan Cary

Most Reverend Liam Cary

Bishop of Baker

Fruits of prior Appeal gifts...

In the last four years Deacon Victor Mena spent time in parishes throughout the diocese when he wasn't at Mount Angel Seminary preparing to become a priest.

His preparation will conclude on June 29 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Bend when Bishop Cary ordains him a priest forever.

Those who contributed to the Bishop's Appeal made Victor's seminary training possible.



Office of Vocations - Seminarians

Because of its fundamental importance to the health of our diocese, seminary education receives significant funding from the Bishop's Annual Appeal. If we are to give proper training to men who respond to God's call to priesthood, your financial support is vital.



This spring we will have five seminarians; next fall we anticipate another to take Deacon Victor Mena's place.

Marco Serna and Caleb Cunningham 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.

Very Reverend Richard O. Fischer, Vicar General (541) 388-4004 www.dioceseofbaker.org/vocations

Clergy - Ongoing Formation of Clergy

In 2015 the Diocese initiated a program to enhance English pronunciation for priests from abroad. That effort will be further developed in 2017. At the 2016 Clergy Assembly two nationally recognized trainers showed our clergy how to better utilize parish resources and volunteers in parish administration and personal finance.

Both of these programs were funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.



Priest Health & Retirement Fund

The Priest Health and Retirement Association of the Diocese of Baker was established to provide monthly stipends and medical insurance for priests who served the Church in Eastern Oregon before their retirement. But this account is still "underfunded"; so priests count on the Bishop's Annual Appeal for financial support in their retirement years.

Achieving Catechetical Competency

Our investment of Appeal funds in training and resources is bearing good fruit! An indication of the growing enthusiasm and commitment of catechists across the diocese is the threefold increase of individuals completing a level of catechetical certification. Adding to the three people earning certification in 2015, 10 received recognition in 2016. As of January 2017 we have over 30 people enrolled and actively pursuing a level of catechetical certification.



Expanding Adult Faith Formation, Religious Education, RCIA

Appeal funding makes possible:

- the Annual Evangelization and Catechesis Symposium at Powell Butte and the regional Deanery Workshops. (Each year attendance grows by 30% first time attendees.)
- Christian Initiation training and resources designed to meet a whole family's faith needs of individuals coming into the Church. (We have seen a 60% increase since 2014.)
- subsidies to ensure affordable availability of FORMED, a digital platform providing all parishes and every parish household access to quality Catholic study programs, movies, audios and books. (Individual subscriptions have increased from 790 in March 2016 to 1,340 in March 2017.)



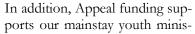


Equipping Ministry Leaders - The Appeal enables us to launch a new series of initiatives (online and on the ground) to train in English – and Spanish – speaking to all lay ministry leaders.

These trainings provide both spiritual and practical tools to deepen faith and inspire commitment. Our first bilingual Ministry Leader Retreat is May 6, 2017, at the Diocesan Retreat Center in Powell Butte.

Youth Ministry

The Bishop's Appeal subsidizes the cost of the Life Teen High School Ministry Program and equips parish youth ministers with training and support.





try events – Day of the Son, Day of the Spirit, The Idaho Catholic Youth Conference, Steubenville Northwest, the Upper Elementary Camp, and the Middle School Camp.

Hispanic Ministry

It is a primary goal of the Diocese to provide evangelization and catechetical materials in both English and Spanish. Funds from the Bishop's Appeal ensure that we have the necessary level of staffing to meet this goal.



Additionally, upcoming initia-

tives in Ministry Leadership and Liturgical Training will equip and encourage Hispanic leaders in these important areas.

Later this year parishes will take part in the *Fifth Encuentro*, a nation-wide program to discern how to respond more effectively to the Hispanic presence in the United States.

Education

The past couple years, in conjunction with the University of Portland, two of our schools were able to fund a shared Special Education position. In the 2017-18 school year, with support from the Bishop's Appeal, this program will be expanded to each of our four Catholic schools to help them cover the costs of specialized teachers to meet specific needs of each school.



Two schools will use the money to fund a special education teacher and two will use the funds to support the recruitment and retention of Hispanic students.

Ways to Support the Bishop's Annual Appeal

As a good steward of the many gifts God has blessed you with, we ask you to return to God a portion of those gifts. The gift you make, combined with the gift of others, will help us to reach our goal of \$600,000.

PLEDGING:

To make your gift more manageable for your budget, a pledge with installments at a level you desire can be scheduled over the course of the year. Our 10-month pledge program begins in July and runs through April of 2018. Reminders will be sent via mail or email. On-going pledges may also be an option from year to year. Just let us know and we will be happy to handle the details.

CHECK:

Please make your check payable to *Bishop's Annual Appeal*. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD:

To donate with your credit or debit card, please fill out the appropriate areas on the Appeal reply card. If you would like your card to be charged automatically until your 2017 pledge is fulfilled, please indicate this as well. If you do not choose an auto payment option, you will receive pledge reminders in the mail (or email if you prefer).

ONLINE:

To use this method, simply create a username and password and we will connect you to make a gift through the online portal at http://dioceseofbaker.org/baa.htm.

If you use an online payment option through your bank, please ensure the mailing address is correctly listed as: 641 SW Umatilla Ave, Redmond, OR 97756.



2017 APPEAL PLEDGE/GIFT PLAN SUGGESTED PLEDGE **10 MONTHLY PAYMENTS** 10 Pagos Muestra de Compromiso \$500 \$5,000 \$2,500 \$250 BISHOPS \$1,000 \$100 APPEAL \$750 \$75 DIOCESE OF BAKER \$500 \$50 **Donor Intention Card** \$250 \$25 Tarjeta de Intención de \$15 \$150 Los Donantes For information call the Diocese of Baker Appeal Office - Para información llame Please make checks/cheques payable to: BISHOP's ANNUAL APPEAL Please see reverse for payment options. Por favor, vea el reverso para tarjetas de crédito. The sending out of pledge reminders will start in July.



Respect Life

Funds from the Bishop's Annual Appeal underwrite

- our annual diocesan Pro-Life Conference
- the Oregon Catholic Conference

 (a lobbying arm for Catholic values in Salem at the legislature)
- Natural Family Planning workshops
- resources for parishes to promote respect for human life and the integrity of marriage.





Like other "mission dioceses" with scarce financial resources, the Diocese of Baker has long depended on Catholic Extension and Catholic Home Missions for help with projects and programs beyond our means.

It is Bishop Cary's hope that steadily rising support from the Bishop's Annual Appeal will make us increasingly self-sufficient. The more we can meet our needs out of our own resources, the less we depend on outside granting agencies, and the less we need to compete for increasingly restricted resources.

Emmaus Road (front) - by Mike Moyers MikeMoyersFineArt.com

Connecting Communities For Conversion

Evangelistic Outreach through Radio and Social Media

In March 2016 we launched the St. Francis de Sales Catholic Radio KFDS-LP 93.5 FM and have been broadcasting EWTN Catholic Radio 24/7 ever since. Continued donations to the Bishop's Appeal enable us to create local diocesan programming that can be made available throughout Eastern Oregon via the internet and social media.

The Diocesan Chronicle

With funding from the Appeal, we publish 5,000 copies of the official publication of the diocese of Baker, the bi-weekly *Diocesan Chronicle*. *The Chronicle* includes Bishop Cary's "Thoughts Along the Way" and highlights of parish events, keeping parishioners connected across the vast territory of our diocese. A complete archive of the Diocesan Chronicle is available online at the diocesan website.



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