



September 24, 2017
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THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

PARISH NEWS: ST. AUGUSTINE, MERRILL

The Greatest Story Ever Told Vacation Bible School was held July 5–8 at St. Augustine parish. The children received the Basic Gospel Message by attending daily Mass where Father Francis taught us that with God we can conquer giants! We also enjoyed a visit from Sister Camela and learned about vocations.

All who attended VBS this year had a great time as we learned how to let our Light Shine bright in this world. We danced, played games, made crafts, and had Bible Lessons. We had good food and good company. Thank you to all who worked to make our time together a great success.



Shine bright until we meet again next year!
Cindy Taylor
DRE, St. Augustine

NW Catholic Marriage & Family Conference October 20-22, 2017, Our Lady of the Valley, La Grande

Spend time with your spouse investing in your marriage. This special conference will include personal testimony, witnessing to how Christ can make marriages full of joy and peace. It will explore the beauty of marriage through a Catholic lens within the current landscape and provide practical tools to navigate this sacred vocation throughout the years so that couples can be a light to others.

Keynote speakers, Matt and Mindy Dalton, of Denver, CO, are co-founders of *Marriage Missionaries* and frequent guests on *EWTN*.

Guest Speakers are Bishop Liam Cary and Father Saji Thomas, CMI, pastor of Our Lady of the Valley.

For more information visit <http://olvcatholic.org> or call (541) 963-7341. (The full article on this conference can be found in The Diocesan Chronicle for September 10, 2017.)

THE JOY OF VOCATION

Sister Cora Rose Higle, a native of Burns, Oregon, made her First Profession with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on July 27, 2017. She joined her class of eleven sisters in professing the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. She is beginning her fourth year in the Order.

Sister Cora Rose will return to her studies in Education at Eastern Michigan University, where she had been studying before making her decision to enter the Order. She will be working towards an Elementary teaching degree, specializing in Mathematics.

Sister Cora Rose had a home visit in Burns with her family. She celebrated her First Profession with the Holy Family parish during the coffee hour after Sunday Mass on August 6th.



Sister Cora Rose
with her parents
Kenneth and Annette

Sister Cora Rose asks for prayers from her parish and diocese and she promises to keep everyone in her prayers as well.

Congratulations, Sister Cora Rose!



BISHOP CARY'S SCHEDULE

Sept 24	10:00 AM Mass & Acolyte Installation, Bend
Sept 24	12:30 PM Mass, Bend
Sept 30	3:00 PM Confessions, Bend
Sept 30	5:00 PM Mass, Bend



Thoughts Along the Way

Bishop Liam Cary

Be Not Afraid

A revised version of a homily for the XII Sunday,
given June 24-25 at St. Francis of Assisi in Bend

When we meet for the first time, I already know this about you: you are afraid. I am too. We've been afraid for as long as we can remember.

As little children we're afraid of the dark, of the shouting of adults, of being left all alone. As teens we fear the opposite sex and the disapproval of our peers. As adults we're anxious about what the future may bring: joblessness, homelessness, illness, death. Fear of one sort or another is our life-long companion.

It all goes back to the beginning. In the third chapter of the first book of the Bible fear makes its appearance on the stage of human history. "I heard the sound of You in the garden," Adam says to God, "and I was *afraid*." Fresh from committing the first sin, Adam knows God is searching for him; so he hides himself in the darkness of fear. All our fears are rooted in that original fear of Adam—the fear of facing God.

Throughout the pages of Scripture God searches out this fear and confronts it directly. "Be not afraid," He tells Abraham and Moses in the Old Testament, Mary and Joseph and the chosen disciples in the New. To each of them, as to you and me, He gives a reason not to surrender to fear; and that reason is a promise, always the same promise: "*I will be with you.*"

The Son of God, Emmanuel, fulfilled this promise beyond our imagining when He came to redeem us from fear. In the dark night of Gethsemane Jesus went apart from the Apostles to face fear head on in the infinite loneliness of the Agony in the Garden. There He confronted the terrible dread that blackened the remaining hours of His life. "[R]emove this chalice from me," He begged His Father, as fear washed over Him in "great drops" of bloody sweat—a sign of the horrific dread of abandonment to which He gave "loud voice" on the Cross: "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?"

Jesus' agonizing "*why?*" met with silence from heaven and was buried with Him in a nearby tomb. But on the Third Day the answer burst forth. The Son had been abandoned to defeat in order to rise indestructible in victory and open the way out of Adam's fearful hiding place. Over the life He lives now death has no dominion—nor does fear. For when Jesus rose from the dead, His courage rose with Him, courage that conquers fear completely. Those who live His new life live His courage too.

St. Paul did. The great Apostle had much to be afraid of, but he suffered through his fears and lived beyond

them. Neither shipwreck nor stoning nor "countless beatings" nor imprisonments kept him from facing new and frightful dangers from rivers and robbers, from Jews and Gentiles, in the city and in the wilderness. "I can do all things in Him Who strengthens me," St. Paul discovered. The Passion of his crucified Lord gave him courage to stand firm in the face of every threat that came his way. St. John describes this lesson learned from the Cross: "Perfect love casts out fear."

When I showed up in the emergency room throbbing with pain from a kidney stone, the doctor said, "I'm going to give you some morphine now. It won't take the pain away, but it *will put it at a distance* so you'll be able to bear it." The pain—and the fear—would still be there, but its oversized prominence, taking over my entire consciousness, would diminish in scale to its proper proportion so that my mind had room for more than just pain.

When we summon the courage to bring our terrors to light against the backdrop of Jesus' perfect love on the Cross, His grace helps us *re-dimension* them in proportion to what He suffered for us. That is how Jesus redeems our fear: He puts it at a distance and makes the unbearable *bearable*. He gives us unimagined strength to live our way through fear without being broken in two.

Before St. Augustine Pak Chong-wan and his wife suffered martyrdom in Korea in 1839, brutal tormenters robbed them of the use of their arms and legs. They were not intimidated. "I used to be afraid of tortures," St. Barbara Ko Sun-i said, "but now the Holy Spirit has blessed a sinner like me, and I am no longer afraid of tortures. I am so happy. I didn't know it was so easy to die."

Pensamientos Del Camino

Obispo Liam Cary

No Temas

Una versión revisada de una homilía para el XII Domingo,
dada el 24 y 25 de Junio en San Francisco de Asís en Bend

Cuando nos conocimos por primera vez, yo ya sabía esto sobre ti: tienes miedo. Yo también. Hemos tenido miedo desde que podemos recordar.

De niños tenemos miedo a la oscuridad, al grito de los adultos, a quedarnos solos. De jóvenes tememos al sexo opuesto y a la desaprobación de nuestros compañeros. De adultos estamos ansiosos por lo que traerá el futuro: desempleo, falta de hogar, enfermedad, muerte. El miedo de una cosa u otra es nuestro compañero de toda la vida.

Todo se remonta al principio. En el tercer capítulo del primer libro de la Biblia, el miedo aparece en el escenario de la historia humana. "He oído Tu voz en el jardín", le dice Adán a Dios, "y tuve *miedo*". Habiendo

apenas cometido el primer pecado, Adán sabe que Dios lo está buscando; por eso él se esconde en la oscuridad del miedo. Todos nuestros miedos están arraigados en el miedo original de Adán—el miedo de enfrentar a Dios.

A través de las páginas de las Escrituras, Dios busca este miedo y lo confronta directamente. “No temas”, Él le dice a Abram y Moisés en el Antiguo Testamento, a María y José y a los discípulos escogidos en el Nuevo Testamento. A cada uno de nosotros, así como a ti y a mí, Él da una razón para no rendirse ante el miedo; y esa razón es una promesa, siempre la misma promesa: “Yo estaré contigo”.

El Hijo de Dios, Emanuel, cumplió esta promesa más allá de nuestra imaginación cuando Él vino a redimirnos del miedo. En la oscura noche de Getsemaní, Jesús se apartó de los Apóstoles para enfrentarse al miedo en la infinita soledad de la Agonía en el Jardín. Allí se enfrentó al terrible temor que ennegreció las horas restantes de Su vida. “Aparta de mí este cáliz”, le rogó a Su Padre, mientras el miedo se apoderó de Él en “grandes gotas” de sudor sangriento—una señal del horrible temor de abandono al cual Él dio una “gran voz” en la Cruz: “Dios mío, Dios mío, ¿por qué me has abandonado?”

El agonizante “¿por qué?” de Jesús se encontró con el silencio del cielo y fue enterrado con Él en una tumba cercana. Pero en el Tercer Día la respuesta estalló. El Hijo había sido abandonado a la derrota para poder ascender indestructible en la victoria y abrir la salida del temible escondite de Adán. En la vida que Él vive ahora, la muerte no tiene dominio—ni tampoco el miedo. Porque cuando Jesús resucitó de entre los muertos, Su valor resucitó con Él, el valor que conquista el miedo completamente. Aquellos que viven Su nueva vida, viven Su valor también.

San Pablo lo hizo. El gran Apóstol tenía mucho que temer, pero él vivía más allá de sus temores. Ni el naufragio ni el ser apedreado ni “incontables palizas” ni encarcelamientos lo detuvieron para enfrentar nuevos y horribles peligros de ríos y ladrones, de Judíos y Gentiles, en la ciudad y en el desierto. “Todo lo puedo en Él quien me fortalece”, descubrió San Pablo. La Pasión de su Señor crucificado le dio valor para mantenerse firme frente a cada amenaza que se le presentaba. San Juan describe esa lección aprendida de la Cruz: “el amor perfecto echa fuera el miedo”.

Hace años, cuando llegué a la sala de emergencia con un dolor punzante por una piedra en el riñón, el doctor me dijo, “voy a darte morfina ahora. No quitará el dolor, pero lo pondrá a una distancia para que pueda soportarlo”. El dolor—y el miedo—seguirían estando allí, pero su prominencia exagerada, dominando mi conciencia entera, disminuiría en escala hasta su proporción apropiada, de modo que mi mente tuviera espacio para algo más que sólo dolor.

Cuando convocamos al valor para sacar nuestros terrores a la luz del amor perfecto de Jesús Crucificado, Su gracia nos ayuda a *redimensionarlos* en proporción a lo que Él sufrió por nosotros. Así es como Jesús nos redime nuestro miedo: Él lo pone a distancia a fin de que lo

insoportable se hace *soportable*. Él nos da una fuerza inimaginable para pasar a través del miedo sin partirnos en dos.

En 1839, antes de San Agustín Pak Chong-wan y su esposa sufrieron el martirio en Corea, los brutales torturadores les robaron del uso de sus brazos y piernas. No fueron intimidados. “Antes tenía miedo a las torturas”, dijo Santa Bárbara Ko Sun-i, “pero ahora el Espíritu Santo ha bendecido a una pecadora como yo”, y ya no tengo miedo a las torturas. Estoy muy feliz. Yo no sabía que era tan fácil morir”.

DIocese OF BAKER PRISON MINISTRY

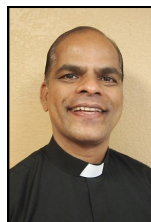
Volunteers are needed for the Prison Ministry at Deschutes County Jail. If you are considering this ministry, now is the time to pray for God’s guidance and blessing and then get involved. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Ray Houghton at (541) 863-1700.

CLERGY ASSIGNMENTS:

Bishop Cary has announced the following clergy assignments for the Diocese:



Very Reverend Ronald Maag — from Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Hood River to retirement, effective August 31, 2017, after 39 years of priestly service to the Diocese. (see page 4 of this newsletter)



Reverend Tomy Chowaran — from Administrator of St. Elizabeth Parish in John Day to Administrator of St. Mary Parish in Hood River, effective September 1, 2017.



Reverend Christie Tissera — from Administrator of Blessed Sacrament in Ontario to Administrator of St. Elizabeth Parish in John Day, effective October 5, 2017.



Reverend Roger Fernando — Administrator of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Ontario, effective October 5, 2017.

As of September 3, 2017, Mass will no longer be celebrated at St. Katherine Church in Long Creek—Dale.

Father Ron Maag Celebrates Retirement

Longtime St. Mary's Catholic Church Pastor, Father Ron Maag, retired August 31st after 19 years in Hood River.

Fr. Maag was ordained August 14, 1978, in his hometown of Vale, in the school gymnasium. The celebration had to be moved from the local church to accommodate the crowd. "Eight hundred came to my ordination in Vale," he said. "I was ordained for the community."

Fr. Maag worked "all over" the Baker Diocese beginning at St. Peter's in The Dalles as an associate pastor. He also served at St. Pius X in Klamath Falls — teaching religion at Sacred Heart school and working as a Newman House chaplain at Oregon Institute of Technology — and as a traveling priest for Condon, Spray, Fossil and Arlington. He returned to St. Peter's from 1986-1998, and then moved to Hood River. Though retiring, he plans to fill in for vacationing priests in other parishes, and possibly work with Marriage Encounter. "I'm still discerning my future ministry," he said. "There will be some travel, and some taking care of my health."

One of the big changes Fr. Maag has seen as St. Mary's pastor is the unification of the Anglo and Spanish communities. That's an advantage of being in one place for so long, he added. "It's hard to bring two communities into one," he said. "In my time here, we were able to unify both cultures into one church. We celebrate bilingually — daily Mass is in Spanish and English, and we deliver bilingual homilies," he said. "We have fiestas. We appreciate each other's cultures... It takes time to do that."

Fr. Maag attended Notre Dame University for 10 summers, earning a Master's Degree in theology and certification in biblical studies. He also spent four summers in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico, and San



Antonio, Texas, studying Spanish. "I learned Spanish and I learned the culture," he said. "A lot of Hispanic ministry is knowing the culture as well as the language."

Diversity in a community is important, he said. "Diversity promotes health. That's what I learned at Notre Dame — you study with people from all over the world in summer classes, and you have a bigger picture of the universal church, you have the opportunity to visualize the universal church ... My last class, I took medical ethics, and the sharing from people in the various ministries — you learn a lot."

"I have a lot of gratitude, not only for the faith community, but for the entire Gorge — Hood River, White Salmon, The Dalles and Cascade Locks," Fr. Maag said. "Just the way the community cares for people, be it in the hospital, shut-ins or hospice — it's really about taking care of people. "I'm a native of this Diocese, and I've worked all over it," he said. "I appreciate Oregon, and I appreciate the Diocese. I've worked for four bishops and I appreciate the support of Bishop Liam Cary and the other people in the Diocese who have helped me serve the people."

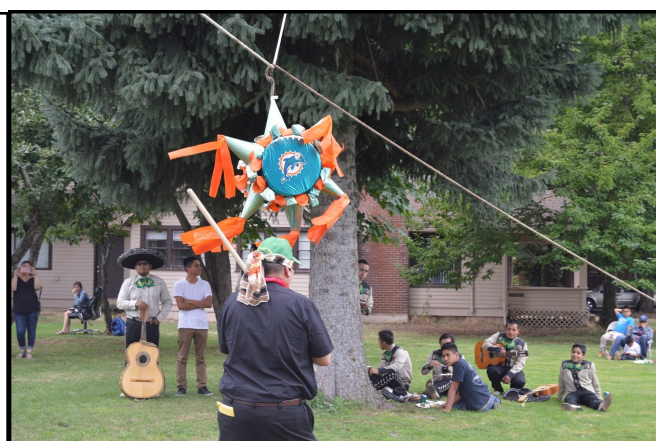
Father Tomy Chowaran, St. Mary's new administrator, began his assignment, effective September 1st. Father Saul Alba-Infanta, will continue to serve as associate pastor.

After retirement, Fr. Maag plans to spend time in both Portland and Vale, and has multiple assignments as a visiting priest to parishes in Dufur, White Salmon and Ontario.

Excerpts taken from original article published in the Hood River News on August 28, 2017, written by Trisha Walker, Hood River News staff writer, and St. Mary parishioner. Photos by Trisha Walker.



*Many happy years
of retirement,
Father Maag,
and much
gratitude from the
Diocese of Baker.*



Fr. Maag listens as Diana Carroll, Altar Society representative, thanks him for his years of service to the parish during his retirement party on August 20th. At right is Ruben Valle, who translated during the bilingual event. The parish gifted Fr. Maag with a framed print of Mount Hood from Peter Marbach to remind him of the years he spent in Hood River. **THE PARTY** also included two piñatas—one for adults, one for children—and he had the honor of taking the first few swings. An estimated 500 people attended the party to say farewell.