

News of the Diocese of Baker

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THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

The History of our Cathedral continued



As we continue our journey of the History of our Cathedral (which we began last January) we continue Reverend Julian Cassar's narrative on the Cathedral design and structure.

"The Cathedral did not undergo any major changes in the first 15 years. From old pictures, one can notice that the three windows in the apse were with white glass, and the middle one closed up in the 1940s. Pictures also show some items and religious articles which are still in existence, like the baptismal font, the statues of Mary and Joseph, the two kneeling angels, the altar rail which stretched from wall to wall, with a small gate in the middle, and 8 of the stained glass windows which were constructed and installed by the middle of May 1923 crafted by the Povey Bros. of Portland.

From the blueprints of the original Cathedral, the design called for three aisles, but at the end only one main aisle was created and two smaller aisles by the walls. Two rooms were also built on the side of the main altar, to serve as sacristies. They had a turret on top of a canopy one each side, one with the Bishop's chair and the other to serve as a pulpit. The turrets were removed in 1944, while the rooms were entirely removed in the later renovation of 1958. On 1 June 1944 a project was started to redecorate the interior of the Cathedral led by

Mr. Theodore Braash. The main altar, made from plaster-of-paris was constructed at this time, complete with the small statue of St. Francis De Sales, a replica of the bigger one that is now in the vestibule of the Cathedral. We don't have any written records of this, but we presume that the beautiful stenciling work, which was in the apse and recently restored, was made at this time. Black and white pictures from this period show a lot of elaborate stenciling on all the walls, including the quote "Peace, Be Still" under the center medallion of Christ in the apse.



(Above) The interior of the Cathedral in the early 1950s, during a Solemn Mass on the occasion of a Knights of Columbus Convention held in Baker City. Observe that the two rooms on the side, which served as sacristies, were still visible, even though the turrets were removed.

Notice the elaborate stenciling that was done on all the walls, most of which were destroyed, probably in the renovation of 1958. Notice also some items that are still visible in the present sanctuary, some of which were restored or brought back during the renovation of 2007, including the wall stenciling, the statues of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Sacred Heart, the ornamental chairs, the kneelers, the two angels, parts of the altar, a section of the altar-rail, the statue of St. Francis, and the bells.



Seat of Unity

Bishop Liam Cary

Every diocese has a *cathedra* — the bishop's chair — which gives its name to the church building that houses it: the cathedral. The *cathedra* is the object which symbolizes the bishop's role as authoritative teacher of the faith and as shepherd responsible for the sacramental sanctification of his flock.

From the seat of his Christ-given authority each successor to the Apostles oversees and safeguards the Christian life of the people in the territory entrusted to him, his diocese. His overriding mission is to preserve and foster their communion in faith and love and to maintain the bonds of unity with every other diocese under the successor of Peter, the Pope.

The bishop's *cathedra* links him to all other bishops in their cathedrals, each one giving witness to the same baptismal faith, the same Eucharistic unity, the same God-given commandments. A cathedral tangibly testifies that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Christ is forever "the same"; yet He comes "to make all things new." His is a dynamic sameness that mirrors the delicate balance of cathedral architecture's two dimensions: horizontal and vertical. A cathedral's high-walled vertical ascent into the sky sweeps all eyes upward into its dramatic reach toward the great God Who reigns above. But the building's horizontal extension bears images of the same God come down to earth to form bonds of compassion and love here below. The cathedral's architectural form "sends" us in both directions: up to God and across to our neighbor.

The humble parishioners who constructed St. Francis de Sales Cathedral just over a century ago left us a remarkably beautiful sign of their commitment to our spiritual welfare. They proved to be "living stones" in the House of Prayer to the God Who makes us one. A look at the Cathedral—the work of their hands and hearts—is enough to make us wonder what we can leave to those who come after us that could equal what we freely receive from them.



Sede de Unidad

Obispo Liam Cary

Cada diócesis tiene una *cátedra*— la silla del Obispo—que da nombre al edificio de la iglesia que la alberga: la catedral. La *cátedra* es el objeto el cual simboliza el papel del obispo como maestro autorizado de la fe y como pastor responsable de la santificación sacramental de su rebaño.

Desde la sede de su autoridad dada por Cristo, cada sucesor de los Apóstoles supervisa y salvaguarda la vida Cristiana de las personas en el territorio confiado a él, su diócesis. Su misión primordial es de preservar y fomentar su comunión en la fe y el amor y mantener los vínculos de unidad con todas las demás diócesis bajo el sucesor de Pedro, el Papa.

La *cátedra* del Obispo lo vincula con todos los otros obispos en sus catedrales, cada uno dando testimonio de la misma fe bautismal, la misma unidad Eucarística, los mismos mandamientos dados por Dios. Una catedral testifica tangiblemente que "Jesucristo es el mismo ayer, hoy y siempre".

Cristo es para siempre "el mismo"; sin embargo Él viene "a hacer todas las cosas nuevas". Suya es una similitud dinámica que refleja el delicado equilibrio de las dos dimensiones de la arquitectura de la catedral: horizontal y vertical. El ascenso vertical hacia el cielo de paredes altas de una catedral atrae las miradas hacia arriba en su dramático alcance hacia el gran Dios que reina arriba. Pero la extensión horizontal del edificio tiene imágenes del mismo Dios que bajó a la tierra para formar lazos de compasión y amor aquí abajo. La forma arquitectónica de la catedral "nos envía" en ambas direcciones: hacia Dios y al lado hacia nuestro prójimo.

Los humildes feligreses que construyeron la Catedral de San Francisco de Sales hace poco más de un siglo, nos dejaron una señal extraordinariamente hermosa de su compromiso con nuestro bienestar espiritual. Demostraron ser "piedras vivas" en la Casa de Oración al Dios que nos hace uno. Una mirada a la Catedral—el trabajo de sus manos y corazones—es suficiente para preguntarnos qué podemos dejar a los que nos siguen que podría igualar lo que recibimos gratuitamente de ellos.

CATHEDRAL CONSERVATION UPDATE

I want to take this opportunity, as we prepare for the 2020 Cathedral Conservation Collection (CCC), to first reflect on how your generosity in 2019 served our Cathedral capital needs for our “Mother Church”. The proceeds covered several major repairs. With the help of many within Baker City and beyond, they were able to address major water leaks and mold that required a full bathroom replacement. The boiler valves, regulators and controls have been replaced in preparation for the 30 year old boiler body overhaul planned in 2020. Without all your financial support and the local leadership by John Fuzi, Don Tholen and Dawn Coles this historic and important chair of the diocese would not be able to address its capital needs. —Mark French, Director of Stewardship



The following work was accomplished this year through your support...



It took two different firms to make the necessary repairs to keep the office and church at the proper temperature; however, there is still more required to address all the outstanding issues, including the need for a new boiler.

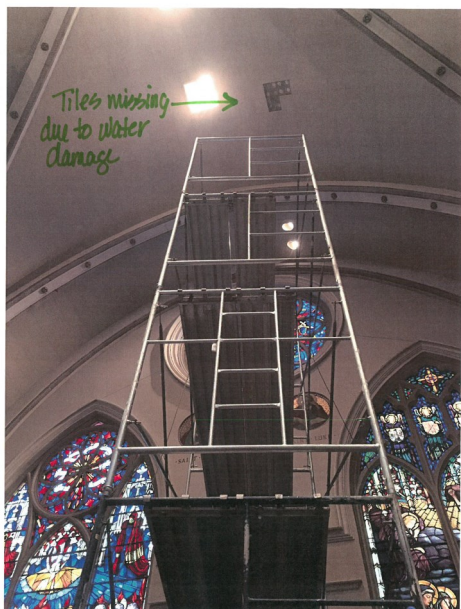


Like many projects— while addressing a minor issue in the downstairs church restroom we found prolific water and mold damage requiring new walls, floors and fixtures. What originally looked like a project the parish would be able to fund, it required the help of the Diocese. Thank you for our mold free bathroom!

Lastly, the Cathedral stone work and much of its joints are in poor repair. Unfortunately, the highly skilled labor required is now hard to find... after almost a year of searching, we have found a qualified contractor that can begin to address the Cathedral's exterior needs just in time before someone gets hurt. Their inspection was mixed... It is going to be a big job, that will definitely span well into 2020 and requires everyone's support to properly address all of the issues.

Not to mention all the stairs and sidewalk concrete repairs that we were not able to fully address in 2019.

Ceiling tiles in the Cathedral have come loose which required a contractor and much scaffolding to address the issue. Thanks again to your donations, making the inside safe for everyone.





SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

CATHEDRAL CONSERVATION COLLECTION



PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THE SECOND ANNUAL CATHEDRAL CONSERVATION COLLECTION
BY USING THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED IN YOUR BULLETIN OR PARISH OFFICE.

Focused Capital Repairs:

- ◆ Boiler replacement
- ◆ Ongoing repointing, repair, and replacement the stonework
- ◆ Concrete repair/ replacement of stairs and sidewalks

Enfoque de las Reparaciones Capitales:

- ◆ Reemplazo del boiler
- ◆ Reprogramación continua, reparación y reemplazo de la cantería
- ◆ Reparación de concreto / reemplazo de escaleras y aceras



St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City, is the cathedral parish of the Diocese of Baker, the eastern two-thirds of the State of Oregon. Consecrated and dedicated 110 years ago; 37 years after the first Catholic priests arrived in Baker Valley, the Cathedral continues to operate as our diocesan community's spiritual home. She stands as a gift that has been passed down from one generation to the next.

Maintaining the historic Cathedral will preserve our diocesan community's spiritual home for another century and beyond. Your donation to the *Cathedral Conservation Campaign* will support repairs, restoration, and preservation of the Cathedral. *The Fund will be held in trust by the Diocese of Baker for the conservation of the Cathedral building only.*

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La Catedral de San Francisco de Sales en Baker City, es la catedral de la Diócesis de Baker, las dos terceras partes orientales del estado de Oregón. Consagrada y dedicada hace 110 años; 37 años después de que los primeros sacerdotes Católicos llegaron al Valle de Baker, la Catedral continúa funcionando como el hogar espiritual de nuestra comunidad diocesana. Ella se presenta como un regalo que se ha transmitido de generación en generación.

Manteniendo la Catedral histórica preservará la casa espiritual de nuestra comunidad diocesana por otro siglo y más allá. Su donación a la *Campaña de la Conservación de la Catedral* apoyará reparaciones, restauraciones, y preservación de la Catedral. El fondo será mantenido en fideicomiso por la Diócesis de Baker para la conservación del edificio de la Catedral solamente.

"It's the mother church of the diocese. . . it belongs to you!"
Es la iglesia madre de la diócesis... ¡Les pertenece a ustedes!