



# The DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

*News of the Diocese of Baker*

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## *Thoughts Along the Way* **Time Goes By**

One morning in late August I woke up to my 75th birthday. Three quarters of a century marks a milestone for anyone, but especially for me. According to Canon Law, when a bishop turns 75, he must submit his resignation to the Pope.

That afternoon I went to the office, wrote my letter to Pope Francis, and sent it to the Apostolic Nuncio in Washington, D.C., for delivery to the Holy Father. Until he names my successor, I will quite happily continue to serve as Bishop of Baker. These days I think of myself as “resigned but not retired.”

For the Vatican officials who assist the pope in providing bishops for the Church my letter will come as no surprise. From the day of my ordination as bishop in 2012 at age 65, the date of my resignation was foreseeable. That means there has been time to prepare a list of candidates from whom the Holy Father will select a successor.

Nonetheless, I have been advised not to expect the appointment to come soon. It will not surprise me if a year or two from now I find myself still writing columns for the CHRONICLE! That would be fine with me. I am in no hurry to give up the parish visits that have become the joy of my life.

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Another significant resignation occurred this summer in the Diocese of Baker when Father Rick Fischer stepped down as Vicar General in the 46th year of his priesthood. Father Rick knows the diocese well, for he has pastored the faithful in nearly every part of it—Pendleton, La Grande, Baker City, Condon, Burns, Klamath Falls, and Madras. In addition, the US Air Force drew on his priestly skills for several years as well when he served as chaplain in Guantanamo and in the Middle East during Desert Storm.

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## *Pensamientos A Lo Largo Del Camino* **El Tiempo Pasa**

Una mañana a fines de agosto me desperté para mi cumpleaños 75. Tres cuartos de siglo marcan una etapa para cualquiera, pero especialmente para mí. Según el Derecho Canónico, cuando un obispo cumple 75 años, debe presentar su renuncia al Papa.

Esa tarde fui a la oficina, escribí mi carta al Papa Francisco, y la envié al Nuncio Apostólico en Washington, D.C., para envío al Santo Padre. Hasta que él nombre a mi sucesor, con mucho gusto seguiré sirviendo como Obispo de Baker. En estos días me considero “renunciado pero no jubilado”.

Para los funcionarios del Vaticano que ayudan al Papa a proporcionar obispos para la Iglesia, mi carta no será una sorpresa. Desde el día de mi ordenación como obispo en 2012 a los 65 años, la fecha de mi renuncia era previsible. Eso significa que ha habido tiempo para preparar una lista de candidatos de entre los cuales el Santo Padre seleccionará un sucesor.

Sin embargo, me han aconsejado que no espere que el nombramiento llegue pronto. ¡No me sorprendería si dentro de un año o dos sigo escribiendo columnas para la CRÓNICA! Eso estaría bien para mí. No tengo prisa por renunciar a las visitas parroquiales que se han convertido en la alegría de mi vida.

\* \* \* \*

Otra renuncia significativa ocurrió este verano en la Diócesis de Baker cuando el Padre Rick Fischer renunció como Vicario General en el año 46 de su sacerdocio. El Padre Rick conoce la diócesis bien, ya que ha pastoreado a los fieles en casi cada todas partes—Pendleton, La Grande, Baker City, Condon, Burns, Klamath Falls, y Madras. Además, la Fuerza Aérea de los Estados Unidos aprovechó sus habilidades sacerdotales durante varios años cuando

*continúa en la siguiente página >>*



*Bishop/Obispo Liam Cary*

Time Goes By, continued

With such wide-ranging experience behind him, Father Rick came well qualified for the post of bishop’s right-hand man. As Vicar General he has assisted me in more ways than I can count, offering wise counsel on every issue large or small that has come across my desk. Most important, I could always count on him to tell me what he really thinks, not what I would like him to say.

St. Paul long ago singled out the essential quality to look for in a good Vicar General: that he be “trustworthy.” In Father Rick Fischer the Diocese of Baker produced such a priest, a priest who inspires both his bishop and his people to trust him. How grateful we all should be for the gift of his lifelong dedication.

El Tiempo Pasa, continúa

sirvió como capellán en Guantánamo y en el Medio Oriente durante la Tormenta del Desierto.

Con una experiencia tan amplia a sus espaldas, el Padre Rick llegó bien calificado para el puesto de mano derecha del obispo. Como Vicario General, me ha ayudado en más formas de las que puedo contar, ofreciéndome sabios consejos sobre cada tema, grande o pequeño, que ha pasado por mi escritorio. Lo más importante, siempre podía contar con él para decirme lo que realmente piensa, no lo que me gustaría que me dijera.

San Pablo señaló hace mucho tiempo la cualidad esencial que se debe buscar en un buen Vicario General: que sea “digno de confianza”. En el Padre Rick Fischer, la Diócesis de Baker produjo tal sacerdote, un sacerdote que inspira tanto a su obispo como a su pueblo a confiar en él. Cuán agradecidos debemos estar todos por el regalo de su dedicación de por vida.

Bishop Cary’s Schedule

October 23

- 10:00 a.m. Mass, Madras
- 12:00 p.m. Spanish Mass, Madras

October 26

- Mt Angel Episcopal Council Mtg (Virtual)



Priestly Ordination Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following as they celebrate their ordination anniversaries in November.

- Reverend Joseph T. Kunnelaya  
Saint Joseph, Prineville.....November 4, 1984
- Deacon Stephen Beard  
St. Francis of Assisi, Bend .....November 9, 1991
- Deacon Stephen McGlone  
Saint Francis of Assisi, Bend.....November 10, 2007
- Very Reverend Rogatian Urassa  
Sacred Heart, Klamath Falls.....November 10, 1983

We are most grateful for the years of service of all our priests and bishop. Please keep them in your daily prayers.





# Klamath Falls CDA Courts Install Officers for 2022-24

Submitted by **Lynne Butterworth**,  
*Publicity Chair - Court Klamath #1295*

In keeping with Catholic Daughters' mission of Unity & Charity, two courts in Klamath Falls held a joint installation of officers at Sacred Heart Church in June.

The Very Reverend Rogatian Urassa, chaplain of CDA Court Klamath, and member, District Deputy Lynh Pohl, officiated at a special Monday Mass. The courts received communion together and afterward shared fellowship at a reception. With their parishes just five miles apart, the two courts have held joint Christmas parties as well as installations. Doreen and Cathy are exploring additional ways to collaborate in Unity and Charity.

## **Court Klamath #1295 Officers (top, from left):**

*Financial Secretary Anne Hartnett, Treasurer Carlye Woodman, Regent Doreen League, Recording Secretary Maureen Jespersen. Not pictured is Vice Regent O'Connor Merck.*

## **Court St. Pius X #2335 Officers (bottom, from left):**

*Treasurer Terri Pang, Vice-Regent Mary Ross, Recording Secretary Christina Danforth, Financial Secretary Sherry Harper, Regent Cathy Noble.*

*Photography courtesy Bonita Fillmore and Randy Pang.*



## Pro-Life Corner

### Positive News for *Respect Life Month*

In the case "Franciscan Alliance v Becerra," a federal appeals court has affirmed a lower court's decision that the Constitution protects a Catholic healthcare network from a federal requirement to perform gender-changing surgeries and abortions.

Franciscan Alliance, a hospital network founded by the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, also claimed that the rule violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) by forcing it to

perform abortions and gender-reassignment surgeries inconsistent with its sincerely held religious beliefs.

The Sisters challenged the 2016 mandate, seeking a ruling that protects patients, aligns with current medical research, and ensures doctors aren't forced to violate their religious beliefs and medical judgment.

Submitted by **Christine Simone**,  
*Pro-Life Office, Diocese of Baker*





# Jubilee Wedding Anniversary Mass Celebrated at St. Patrick Church in Heppner

Submitted by **Kay Proctor**, *Parishioner*

St. Patrick's Church recently held a Jubilee Wedding Anniversary Mass honoring couples married in the parish and celebrating a mile marker anniversary this past year. Bishop Liam Cary led the Mass with Reverend Thankachan Joseph concelebrating. Each couple was presented with a Papal Blessing certificate from Pope Francis. A reception at the Parish Hall followed.

## **Pictured above, left to right:**

Rev. Thankachan Joseph; John and Marilyn Barry, 60 years; Greg and Janet Greenup, 50 years; David and Jennifer Jaca, 25 years; James and Sandra Greiner, 50-1/2 years; Bishop Liam Cary; Ashley and Cathleen McCabe, 40 years; Brian and Amy Kollman, 26 years; Patrick and Trisha Sweeney, 50 years.



*Married 60 years, John and Marilyn Barry sliced the anniversary cake for all.*

## Praying Together, Staying Together, and So Much More!

*From the Office of  
Evangelization & Catechesis*

Where does the phrase, "the family that prays together, stays together" come from? Inspiringly, it comes from the ministry of an Irish-American priest, Fr. Patrick Peyton, who founded the Family Rosary Crusade. Now called Holy Family Ministries, this ministry continues Fr. Peyton's mission to support the spiritual well-being of the family.

The Diocese of Baker has created two resources that help families pray with the Rosary while helping form their children in the faith at home: Family Rosary Curriculum, and Family Rosary Way of Grace. Both of these resources, and other family prayer tips and links, can be found at [DioceseofBaker.org/family-prayer](http://DioceseofBaker.org/family-prayer).

"The family that prays together, stays together" by helping family members bond with each other, reduce tensions in their relationships, help family members address problems and stress they are facing, and share faith traditions and beliefs with younger generations. How will your family pray together this week?

