



*Thoughts Along the Way*

## Chaos and Creation

“The earth was without form and void” when God created it, the Book of Genesis tells us, “and darkness was upon the face of the deep.” Without light there was no way to distinguish one thing from another. It was chaos all around.

But “the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters,” separating and rearranging, patiently bringing order out of chaos. According to Genesis, God spent six days making creative distinctions. First came distinctions regarding time: God separated light from darkness, day from night, today from tomorrow. He followed these up with place-based distinctions: dry land and wet seas, seed-bearing plants and fruit-bearing trees, sun and moon and stars. Next came distinctions between animals: cattle and creeping things, fish of the sea, birds of the air. Last of all came the capstone of creative distinction: “God created man in His own image; . . . male and female He created them.”

In the garden of Eden He placed them and introduced a distinction that was to make a world-changing difference: “You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden, except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; when you eat from it you shall die.”

At this point the slithering serpent Satan comes on the scene and right from the beginning shows himself to be the great Enemy of distinction. “You certainly will not die,” he assures Eve, if she eats the explicitly forbidden fruit. From that day to this, the Father of Lies has worked tirelessly to blur beyond recognition his Creator’s divinely ordained distinctions and disorder them completely. “All this [without distinction] will be Yours,” the Tempter says to Jesus, “if You worship me.” In reply, the Beloved



*Bishop/Obispo Liam Cary*

*Pensamientos A Lo Largo Del Camino*

## Caos y Creación

“Todo era confusión y no había nada en la tierra” cuando Dios la creó, nos dice el Libro del Génesis, y “las tinieblas cubrían los abismos.” Sin luz no había forma de distinguir una cosa de otra. Era un caos por todas partes

Pero “el Espíritu de Dios aleteaba sobre la superficie de las aguas,” separando y reorganizando, sacando pacientemente el orden del caos. De acuerdo al Génesis, Dios pasó seis días haciendo distinciones creativas. Primero vinieron las distinciones con respecto al tiempo: Dios separó la luz de la oscuridad, el día de la noche, el hoy del mañana. Siguió estas con distinciones basadas en el lugar: la tierra seca y

los mares húmedos, las plantas que dan semilla y los árboles que dan fruto, el sol, la luna y las estrellas. Luego vinieron las distinciones entre animales: ganado y cosas que se arrastran, peces del mar, aves del cielo. Por último, llegó la piedra angular de la distinción creativa: “Dios creó al hombre a su imagen; . . . macho y hembra los creó.”

En el jardín de Edén los colocó e introdujo una distinción que marcaría una diferencia que cambiaría el mundo: “Puedes comer todo lo que quieras de los árboles del jardín, pero no comerás del árbol de la ciencia del bien y del mal. El día que comas de él, ten la seguridad de que morirás.”

En este punto, la serpiente deslizándose, Satanás, entra en escena y desde el principio se muestra a sí mismo como el gran Enemigo de distinción. “No es cierto que morirán,” él le asegura a Eva, si ella come la fruta explícitamente prohibida. Desde ese día hasta hoy, el Padre de las Mentiras ha trabajado incansablemente para desdibujar más allá del reconocimiento las distinciones divinamente ordenadas por su Creador y desordenarlas por completo. “Todo esto [sin distinción] será tuyo”, le dice el Tentador a Jesús, “si me adoras”. En respuesta, el Hijo Amado hace la distinción



## Chaos and Creation, *continued*

Son draws the absolutely decisive distinction: “You shall worship the Lord, your God, and Him alone shall you serve.”

In a culture hurtling toward chaos, the earthly enemies of order take Satan’s part and seek to eradicate the soul-saving distinctions the Creator has built into His creation—between God and man, between man and woman, between good and evil.

We human creatures made in God’s image have a mind to make distinctions, a memory to call them to mind, and a will to put them into practice. That’s why the Creator made us stewards of His creation. Stewards of creation must decide to distinguish. They must stand in defense of their Creator’s design.

## Caos y Creación, *continúa*

absolutamente decisiva: “Adorarás al Señor tu Dios, y a Él solo servirás.”

En una cultura que se precipita hacia el caos, los enemigos terrenales del orden se ponen del lado de Satanás y buscan erradicar las distinciones salvadoras del alma que el Creador ha incorporado a Su creación: entre Dios y el hombre, entre el hombre y la mujer, entre el bien y el mal.

Nosotros, las criaturas humanas hechas a imagen de Dios tenemos mente para hacer distinciones, memoria para recordarlas, y voluntad para ponerlas en práctica. Es por eso que el Creador nos hizo administradores de Su creación. Los administradores de la creación deben decidir distinguir. Deben estar en defensa del diseño de su Creador.



## 40 Days of Life

Submitted by Colleen Klein

A group of parishioners from Our Lady of Angels in Hermiston, along with Pastor Father Maxwell, braved the rain to pray outside the Planned Parenthood facility in Kennewick, WA, on October 21st. The group prayed the sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary utilizing the “Pro-Life Meditations” composed by Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life. The prayer group was participating in the “40 Days for Life” peaceful prayer campaign that ran through Saturday, November 5th.



# Retrouvaille Ministry of Oregon recognized by Pope Francis

Submitted by **Tami & Mike Thompson**,  
*Oregon Retrouvaille Communications Couple*

The Retrouvaille Ministry has been helping marriages through crisis in Oregon and more locally in the Diocese of Baker for many years. Some couples describe the program as an Emergency Triage Room for marriages. Mike and Tami Thompson, parishioners from St. Pius X in Klamath Falls share their story of a marriage-in-crisis, and what Retrouvaille did for them.

“We were in a very difficult period of our marriage, and had actually separated for a short period of time, when a counselor mentioned Retrouvaille. We remembered hearing about Retrouvaille, way back when we were first married, through a church bulletin. In our married bliss we felt we would never need a program for marriage crisis – until we found ourselves in it. Learning the tools for communication, and the power of forgiveness, from other Retrouvaille couples that have walked through fire and do not blame or judge but rather foster you through the healing and renewal process, is a powerful grace-filled experience.” ↗



*The Community Coordinators for Oregon Retrouvaille, which includes both the Archdiocese of Portland and the Diocese of Baker, are Sean and Fiona Karbowicz of Battle Ground Washington.*

*Sean and Fiona were invited to meet with Pope Francis on November 6, 2021.*

*The Retrouvaille European Community were granted a private audience with Pope Francis at the request of Cardinal Fabio Dal Cin of Loreto. A special invitation was also extended to 50 couples from North America.*

Retrouvaille is a Christian peer marriage ministry, which helps distressed couples around the world find hope and healing for their relationships.

Retrouvaille is a worldwide ministry helping to save marriages on five continents, in 29 countries, and presented in seven languages. In its 45-year history, over 175,000 couples have completed the Retrouvaille program. The program (pronounced Retro-vi) is a French word, which means “rediscovery.” Through a comprehensive weekend program and a series of follow-up sessions, couples learn how to communicate more effectively in their marriages. Several hundred couples in the Oregon Community have completed the Retrouvaille program. Nearly 85 percent of those couples are still married three years later.



*A private audience with the Pope is a privilege. Pope Francis receives thousands of requests per year for private meetings. We are honored and blessed that His Holiness' staff responded to our ministry's request. We are hopeful that our meeting with the Pope will bring positive fruits for the Retrouvaille ministry.*

*This is an honor and blessing for Retrouvaille to be acknowledged by Pope Francis. It demonstrates how effective the church considers the Retrouvaille ministry as they bring hope to marriages in trouble.*

***The next Oregon Retrouvaille Weekend will be January 20-22, 2023. For more info about Retrouvaille, email Sean and Fiona Karbowicz at <mailto:6026@helpourmarriage.org> or visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).***

# St. Vincent de Paul Society of Crook County

The past SVdP articles described well established conferences with paid staff and sizable programs. This month's article is about Prineville's conference which shut down in 2018 due to insufficient funds, and after a 6-month break, re-started in the spring of 2019 in a new location with an all-volunteer staff and supported only by donations.

At an initial organization meeting, we adopted as our conference motto: "Neighbors helping Neighbors" as a reminder that we are no different from the people we serve - we are all children of God who loves us all without distinction.

We operate a food pantry and provide emergency financial aid to those in need. In the last 12 months, we provided food to 2,800 households and distributed \$54,000 in aid.

The Pantry is open 3 days a week for one hour each day during which we serve 15 to 30 households. On a busy day, we stay open longer to accommodate everyone who comes. Pantry volunteers usually work one day a week for 3 hours.

We refer to the people who come for food as our "guests" which reminds us that we are their hosts and to treat them accordingly.

Our parish is small and supplies only about half of the 30 volunteers needed to staff our programs. Fortunately, folks from other faith communities have joined us.

The Emergency Assistance program is a favorite of mine. Through it, we fill in the holes between safety net programs. We serve those "one paycheck away from homelessness." Eighty-five percent of our assistance goes toward keeping families in their homes through rent or utility assistance. The preferred way to assess the requestor's needs is to visit them in their home following the advice of our patron saint, St Vincent de Paul, who said "meet them in their surroundings."



*Would a Society of St. Vincent de Paul conference fill a need in your community? Please contact me, Charlie Kurtz, Conference President at (541) 280-3235 or Barry Greig, Council President, at (541) 604-4318 if you would like to explore the possibility further.*

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## Blessings with Baby Jesus

Submitted by **Marie Becker**, *Evangelization & Catechesis Team, Diocese of Baker*

This Advent season, Fr. Thomas Polimetla has some special plans for parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Chiloquin, and St. James, Bly.

He is preparing Baby Jesus, and his biggest bottle of Holy Water, for special invitations to visit family homes.

During these special visits, Fr. Polimetla is looking forward to blessing each parishioner's house and family, as well as invitations to share a meal with families after the blessings.

