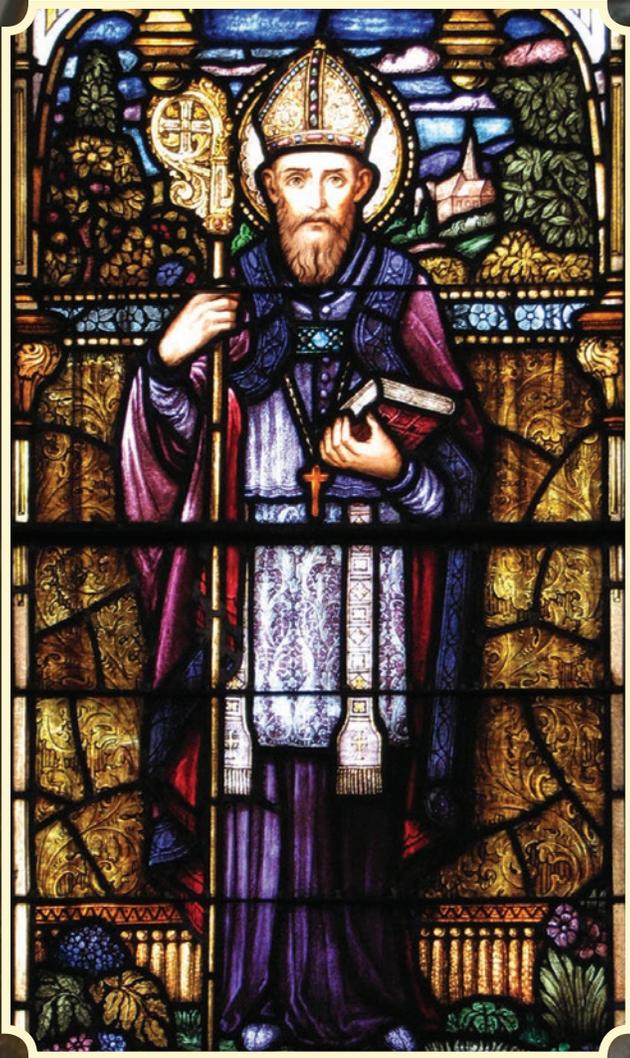




The DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

News of the Diocese of Baker

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*Stain glass window of our patron saint at
St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, Baker City*

Cathedral Conservation Prayer

God, our loving Father,
we thank You for this house of prayer.
It is in this sacred space that Your presence
is revealed to us through sacramental signs.
Here You build Your temple of living stones
and bring the Church to its full stature
as the Body of Christ.

It is to Your greater glory as parish and Cathedral,
servants and disciples, that we strive to
restore and renew this holy place.

In communion with the saints in heaven
and all on earth may we never cease
to bless and praise Your greatness.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
Your Son who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

February 2: Celebrating the Light of Christ

Candlemas Day, World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, & Groundhogs?

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed, symbolizing Christ, who is the light of the

world. So, too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday, February 4-5, 2023, in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

German Christians first connected the celebration of Candlemas, the light of Christ in the midst of winter, with hedgehogs and the prediction of an early or delayed spring. We can thank German immigrants to Pennsylvania, who substituted a close cousin of the hedgehog, for the US celebration of Groundhog Day.

Priestly Ordination Anniversaries

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

Reverend Noby Thomas

Our Lady of the Valley, La Grande ...January 1, 2001

Reverend Mr. Gustavo Ruiz.....January 2, 2000

Reverend Alexander Poulouso

St. Thomas, Redmond.....January 3, 1998

Reverend Joseph P. Thomas

Blessed Sacrament, OntarioJanuary 3, 2004

Reverend Jose T. Mudakodiyil

St. Francis of Assisi, BendJanuary 28, 2002

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



Catholic Schools Week 2023

January 29–February 4



National Catholic Schools Week is an annual initiative led by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) **to celebrate the excellence and impact of Catholic schools.** It begins on the last Sunday in January and runs for an entire week. This year's celebration runs from January 29 to February 4, and the theme is **"Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service."** The Diocese of Baker is proud of its four Catholic Schools **(continued on next page)**

Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic School in Bend commemorates its reputation for scholarship, service, and faith this Catholic Schools Week as it prepares for a fun celebration of who we are and our connectedness with Catholics across the United States. Our 173 students will be expressing gratitude for their Catholic education opportunity by wearing fun hats on "Hats Off to You Day," then saying no to bullying by wearing silly socks on "Sock it to Gossip Day," and finally by saying yes to vocations by wearing sunglasses on "Shine So Bright Day."



The parish community is invited to attend dinner and activities at our final event, "Family Fun Night" on Friday, February 3rd. We are proud to share the good work being done at the school with the wider parish community!

- **Julie M. Manion**, *Head of Administrative Team*



St. Thomas Academy in Redmond is a place where students work hard as scholars while striving to follow Jesus's example of service to others. The children here are proud of their contributions to their school and community. Their experiences of service will follow them through the many stages of life. From the earliest stages of their education, students are taught to ease others' burdens by caring for their classrooms and school grounds, and they learn to reach out in service to the larger community through service projects in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul, the Humane Society of Redmond, and Redmond Community fundraising.

During Catholic Schools week we at St. Thomas Academy will maintain our daily school "chores" and also intensify our thanks to our community by including Persons of Service, St. Vincent DePaul Thrift store, and collecting pennies to support a medical society.

- **Patty Schulte**, *Principal*

This year **St. Peter Catholic School in Ontario** is preparing to add a Pre-kindergarten program for 3 year olds in recognition of the need for additional child care opportunities in our community. The school already has a strong Pre-K program for 4-year-olds; however, the preschool years for 3 year olds are a time when many of the most basic habits and behaviors are formed. St. Peter's has procured three grants totaling more than \$80,000 to purchase the playground structure and equipment as well as classroom furniture and materials for this expansion, set to start up next fall. In appreciation, each month our most consistent and generous supporters, as well as our Students of the Month, are recognized at a special Mass.



- **Mirta Diaz**, *Head Teacher*



The students at **St. Mary Academy in The Dalles** will kick off the week by handing out thank you notes especially created for parishioners as we host Coffee and Donuts after Mass. The next few days will include creating special thank you cards or letters for local community members and businesses, family group activities, and creating classroom door decorations to be judged by our School Advisory Council Members. On Wednesday we will participate in a Flag Raising Ceremony, led by our local VFW, on the St. Mary's campus to celebrate our Nation.

In the school's tradition since 2014, our students and teachers will participate in the annual NCSW Service Project. Each year students assemble "Birthday Bags" containing a cake mix, frosting, candles, and fancy plates and napkins. The food bank at our local St. Vincent de Paul store distributes the bags to help families give their child a birthday celebration. Classroom competition has helped this project grow from 25 birthday bags in 2014 to over 200 last year. We are excited to see how many we complete this year!

We will finish the week learning more about Catholic Vocations with classroom presentations and additional activities to celebrate our amazing teachers, staff, volunteers, and parents. The week concludes with St. Mary's Academy's largest fundraiser, our 48th Annual School Auction.

- **Wendy L. Palmer**, *Development Director, St. Mary's Academy & Executive Director, St. Mary's Academy Foundation of The Dalles*



Pro-Life Corner

National "March for Life" to Continue

The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capitol Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It's the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protest... **TOGETHER, WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE.** We celebrate each and every life, from the moment of conception. We envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected.

Even with the wonderful blessing of Roe v. Wade being overturned, which allows more freedom at the state level to enact pro-life

laws, the necessary work to build a culture of life in the United States of America is not finished. Rather, it is focused differently. Sadly, the number of abortions annually is still well over 900,000 each year, and that number is expected to decrease only by roughly 200,000 each year in a post-Roe America.

With the role of the states being more important, we are also growing a strong state march for life initiative quickly, however, we will continue to march every January at the national level until a culture of life is restored in the United States of America.

For more information about the March, contact Christine Simone, Pro-Life Office Coordinator, Diocese of Baker



CATHEDRAL CONSERVATION COLLECTION

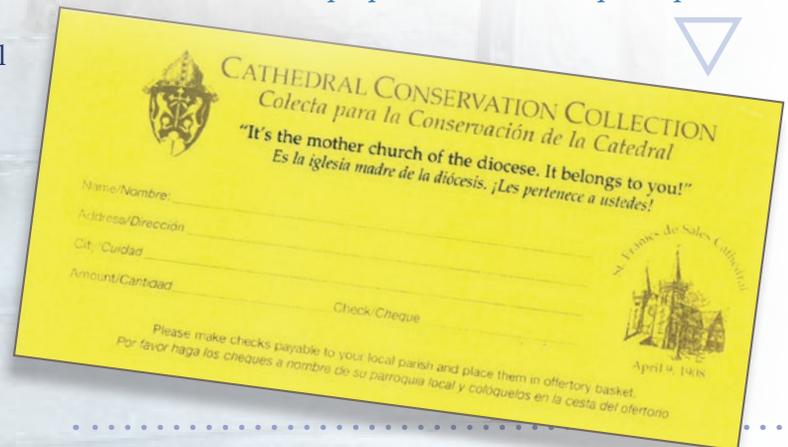
Since its inception, this collection has assisted the Cathedral in two major projects. Last year, through your generosity, the fund received an additional \$106,468. There was no work assigned for 2022 in anticipation of the next major project which will be the replacement of the front steps and sidewalks (see Chronicle Vol.14, No.2 for photos).

This is going to be a structural challenge! Fr. Suresh Telagani has already consulted an architect. It was quickly determined that structural engineers need to be involved in the process as the front of the cathedral is supported by the steps needing to be replaced. Although actual construction estimates have not yet been finalized, **initial projections for the cost could be in excess of \$1,000,000.** Your help is greatly needed.

Let us continue our commitment to our beloved cathedral and to keep it in the best condition we can for future generations of Catholics.

Please join us in supporting our Cathedral by using the yellow envelope provided at your parish.

Por favor acompáñenos a apoyar a su Catedral usando el sobre proporcionado en sus parroquial.



SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES CATHEDRAL

It's the mother church of the diocese... it belongs to you!

Es la iglesia madre de la diócesis... ¡Les pertenece a ustedes!