



The DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

News of the Diocese of Baker

*...this will be a sign for you:
you will find a baby
wrapped in swaddling cloths
and lying in a manger.
- Luke 2:12*

*... esta será una señal para ustedes:
hallarán a un niño recién nacido,
envuelto en pañales y acostado en un pesebre.
- Lucas 2:12*

Thoughts Along the Way The Coming of Emmanuel

Each Sunday we confess that the Eternal son of God is “*consubstantial* with the Father.” As the *Catechism* explains, this unusual word means that “in the Father and with the Father, the son is one and the same God.”

We go on to confess that the Father’s Beloved son “was *incarnate* of the Virgin Mary.” From her He took flesh—our flesh, yours and mine. But the Incarnation, as the *Catechism* teaches, “does not mean that Jesus Christ is part god and part man.” Rather, “He became truly man while remaining truly God.” The Son of Mary is as truly and fully human as He is truly and fully God. In His divinity He is consubstantial with the Father; in His humanity He is consubstantial with us. Put “incarnate” and “consubstantial” together and you get the name for Jesus we associate with Christmas: “Emmanuel” — that is, “God with us.”

He is Emmanuel because He wants to be. You and I had no choice in our flesh-taking; when God called us into being

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Pensamientos del Camino La Venida de Emmanuel

Cada Domingo confesamos que el Hijo Eterno es “*consustancial* con el Padre.” El *Catecismo* explica que esta extraña palabra significa que “en el Padre y con el Padre, el Hijo es el uno y el mismo Dios.”



Bishop/Obispo Liam Cary

Confesamos también que el Hijo Amado del Padre “se encarnó de la Virgen María.” De ella Él tomó carne—nuestra carne, la tuya y la mía. Pero la Encarnación, como enseña el *Catecismo*, “no quiere decir que Jesucristo sea parte Dios y parte hombre.” Por el contrario, “Él so hizo verdaderamente hombre sin dejar de ser verdaderamente Dios.” El Hijo de María es verdadera y plenamente humano tal como es verdadera y plenamente Dios. En su divinidad, Él es consustancial al Padre; en su humanidad, Él es consustancial a nosotros. Junten “encarnado” y “consustancial,” y

se obtiene el nombre del Salvador que asociamos con la Navidad: “Emmanuel” — es decir, “Dios con nosotros.”

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The Coming of Emmanuel, *continued*

in the womb of our mother, He did not ask for our consent. In stark contrast, from all eternity the Father's only-begotten Son freely chose to be "with us" in the fullness of time. "He did not cling to equality with God," St. Paul tells us; instead, He "emptied Himself" to be born and dwell among us. The Son of Man made Himself consubstantial with us so that we might become fully human in Him and thereby share His divine life. "He appeared, and the soul felt its worth." That is the miracle which Christmas renews for us every year.

La Venida de Emmanuel, *continúa*

Él es Emmanuel porque quiere ser con nosotros. Tú y yo no teníamos ninguna opción en tomar nuestra carne; cuando Dios nos llamó a existir in el vientre de nuestra madre, no pidió nuestro consentimiento en adelante. En contraste, desde la eternidad entera el Hijo del Padre libremente eligió estar "con nosotros" en la plenitud de los tiempos. "Él no hizo alarde de ser Dios," San Pablo nos dice; más bien, "Él se despojó de sí mismo" para nacer y habitar entre nosotros. El Hijo del Hombre se hizo consustancial con nosotros para que nos hiciéramos plenamente humanos en Él y así compartiéramos su vida divina. "Él apareció," dice el canto, "y el alma sintió su valor." Es ese el milagro que la Navidad renueva para nosotros cada año.

*May the Peace of Christmas
brighten our lives with hope and love.*

Bishop Liam Cary
& Diocesan Pastoral Center Staff

*Que la paz de la Navidad
ilumine nuestras vidas con esperanza y amor.*

Señor Obispo Liam Cary
y el personal del Centro Pastoral Diocesano

UPCOMING DATES:

Winter 2024:

Feb 17: Rite of Election, 11 am, St. Thomas, Redmond

Feb 17-18: Catholic Young Adult Lenten Retreat*:

Sacrificial Love: the Redemption of Suffering

Mar 8-10: ICYC, Nampa ID

Mar 16: Diocesan Men's Conference, St. Thomas, Redmond

Spring/Summer 2024:

May 26-27: National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in the

Diocese of Baker, McDermitt, Burns, Juntura, Vale, Ontario

Jun 15-16: Event for Catholic High Schoolers*

Jun 17-19: Quo Vadis* for High School-aged Young Men

Jun 23-27: Summer Catholic Youth Camp*, 5th-12th gr

Jul 12-14: Symposium, Cascade View Retreat Center, Powell Butte

Jul 25-28: Catholic Family Camp A*

Aug 1-4: Catholic Family Camp B*

Please visit DioceseofBaker.org for more details about these, and all upcoming events >>

* Cascade View Retreat Center, Powell Butte



Clergy Ordination Anniversaries

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

Rev. Alexander Poulouse, Heppner.....January 3, 1998

Rev. Noby Thomas, La GrandeJanuary 1, 2001

Rev. Jose T. Mudakodiyil, BendJanuary 28, 2002

Rev. Joseph P. Thomas, OntarioJanuary 3, 2004

The dedication and commitment of our clergy play a vital role in supporting their communities. Let us offer gratitude for their years of service and pray for their continued guidance, strength, and well-being.



Supporting our Retired Priests through the *Religious Retirement Collection*

Pope Francis often highlights the role older adults play in conveying faith from one generation to the next. Recently, he noted that “there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel.”

As we approach the annual Religious Retirement Collection, we are all reminded that senior religious never retire from their vows. Instead, the prayer and ministry of older priests are an ongoing witness to the Gospel.

Our Diocesan priests have served the Church and they have done so for relatively little material reward. These dedicated priests deserve a just retirement for their committed years of service to the diocese. While we understand the importance of supporting the national collection, we too must take care of our own priests who have served so faithfully in the Diocese of Baker. Over the last 35 years, parishioners in our diocese have donated a total of \$1,549,926 to this collection.

The priests of the Diocese of Baker have their own Health and Retirement Association. When a priest of the diocese retires, he receives payments from the association of \$1,800 per month. Additionally, our priests also receive Medicare supplement insurance. The Health and Retirement Association also makes

payments to the Dioceses of our foreign-born priests based on a years of service schedule after they have served in our Diocese.

The Health and Retirement Association currently has about \$2,025,000 in assets, most of which is invested in the Legacy of Faith Catholic Community Foundation of Oregon for the priests of the Diocese of Baker. ***In the upcoming year the plan will be conducting a full actuarial study to determine the health of the plan and the level at which it is currently underfunded.***

The annual collection for the Retirement Fund was conducted in our diocese the weekend of **December 9-10** to correspond with all other dioceses across the nation as we have typically done in years past. Last year our diocese collected \$108,686 during this collection, and religious institutes, as well as our own diocesan priests who have served our diocese, benefited from it. We will continue to support the religious sisters and brothers who have served in our diocese by sending a significant gift to the national office. I urge you to continue to support this important and necessary collection. ***Please pray for the success of the collection. Thank you for your generosity and support.***

A Gift for Parishes

The Pastoral Center was surprised by a very generous gift this fall. Word on Fire approached Catholic Extension to facilitate giving away some of their DVD studies. Catholic Extension then asked the Diocese if we would like to receive any of the DVD sets. We asked if we could receive a set of each of the five studies for each of our parishes. Amazingly, our request was granted, and we received 40 sets of these studies! Diocesan staff have been, or will be, delivering gift bags of the sets to parishes, as they travel around the Diocese. If your parish would like suggestions on how to incorporate these studies into your formation offerings, please contact the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis: Evangelization@DioceseofBaker.org





Stand for Life!

Catholics are called to stand up for life. The 40 Days for Life movement is a call to action that allows us to do this by bearing witness, sharing hope, fasting, and praying for an end to abortion, for healing, and a change of heart for those who may believe otherwise.

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church of Ontario extends its gratitude for the Diocese's dedication to pray outside Planned Parenthood in Ontario. Our prayerful and peaceful stand was truly a testament to our Catholic faith. We believe God has blessed our town with the presence and support of more than 350 prayer warriors from across our Diocese.

During our 40 Days of prayer and fasting for life, we had the opportunity to witness a choice for life. A couple arrived at Planned Parenthood and after the woman went inside, the man spoke to the prayer group telling them he wanted his baby to be born, but the woman did not. The man, devastated by the actions of his partner, and feeling hopeless and defeated, felt his opinion did not matter, and that he did not have the choice to keep the baby - a choice for life. On more than one occasion, people walking by and seeing the group in prayer decided to stop and join us. It is truly a testimony of faith, knowing that our peaceful prayer united many people to pray. It also drew the attention of bystanders and people driving by, making them aware of the moral evil of the abortion of innocent children inside those walls.

We concluded our 40 Days of prayer and fasting with a solemn Mass and a beautiful procession to Planned Parenthood led by Bishop Liam Cary. Like the

Israelites at Jericho we circled the perimeter of the clinic praying the rosary for life as one voice representing Christ.

St. Mother Theresa once said, "I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child . . . by the mother herself. If we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?"

We are in the midst of war on a battlefield. Let us be brave soldiers for Christ. There is no time to waste. There is no other choice left for us. Let us stand for life together.

With Love, Gratitude, and Prayers,

Father Joseph P. Thomas, CST,
and Blessed Sacrament Parish Family

