



# The DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

*News of the Diocese of Baker*

## Bishop Liam Cary - Thoughts Along the Way Child Protection 2023

The Church in the United States observes April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, so this is a fitting time to give you an update on our efforts to keep children safe in the Diocese of Baker.

Our Child Protection Policy covers all personnel—clerics, religious, employees, volunteers with youth and vulnerable persons, and adults who have a public role in the Liturgy. These persons

- Undergo a criminal background check;
- View the *Catholic Mutual Group Safe Environment Videos*;
- Review and sign the Diocesan Code of Conduct for Ministry with Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Persons;
- Review and sign the Diocesan Internet Policies and Best Practices;
- Renew safe environment procedures every five years.

An equally important component to protect our youth is the *Circle of Grace* program, which helps children and young people to appreciate their own sacredness and the sacredness of others. It teaches them to recognize and trust their God-given sense of modesty and to follow its guidance. It encourages them to seek the advice of trusted adults in confusing situations.

To ensure respect for the rights of parents as the primary educators of their children, the Pastoral Guidelines provide options for parents to opt out of the lessons offered as part of the normal school or religious education schedule and teach their children themselves.

Pursuant to the USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, the Diocese of Baker submits detailed annual reports to independent auditors on the following:

- Compliance with all screening procedures;
- Percentage of enrolled youth participating in *Circle of Grace*;
- Disclosure of all clergy-related boundary violations or abuse.

These reports, as well as our compliance to the USCCB *Charter*

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## Obispo Liam Cary - Pensamientos del Camino Protección de Niños 2023

En los Estados Unidos La Iglesia observa Abril como el Mes de la Prevención del Abuso Infantil, por lo que este es un momento adecuado para brindarle una actualización sobre nuestros esfuerzos para mantener seguros a los niños en la Diócesis de Baker.

Nuestra Política de Protección Infantil cubre a todo el personal diocesano: clérigos, religiosos, empleados, voluntarios con jóvenes y personas vulnerables, y adultos que tienen un papel público en la Liturgia. Estas personas

- Se someten a una verificación de antecedentes penales;
- Ven los Videos de Ambiente Seguro del *Catholic Mutual Group*;
- Revisan y firman el Código Diocesano de Conducta para el Ministerio con Niños, Jóvenes y Personas Vulnerables;
- Revisan y firman las Políticas Diocesanas de Internet y Mejores Prácticas;
- Renuevan los procedimientos de ambiente seguro cada cinco años.

Un componente igualmente importante para proteger a nuestra juventud es el programa *Círculo de Gracia*, que ayuda a los niños y jóvenes a apreciar su propia santidad y la santidad de los demás. Les enseña a reconocer y confiar en el sentido de modestia que Dios les ha dado y a seguir su guía. Los anima a buscar el consejo de adultos de confianza en situaciones confusas.

Para garantizar el respeto de los derechos de los padres como principales educadores de sus hijos, las Directrices Pastorales brindan opciones para que los padres opten por no participar en las lecciones que se ofrecen como parte del horario escolar normal o de educación religiosa. Es decir, pueden elegir a enseñar a sus hijos ellos mismos.

De conformidad con la *Carta para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes* de la USCCB, la Diócesis de Baker presenta informes anuales detallados a auditores independientes sobre lo siguiente:

- Cumplimiento de todos los procedimientos de investigación de antecedentes;
- Porcentaje de jóvenes inscritos que participan en *Círculo de Gracia*;

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## Child Protection, continued

for the Protection of Children and Young People and to Diocesan Statutes, are subject to an onsite audit every three years. The Diocese of Baker has continually received certification of compliance with all aspects of the audit since 2014.

In addition, the Diocesan Review Board functions as a confidential consultative body to the bishop to assure adherence to diocesan policies on sexual abuse. Its members serve as official advisors in my assessment of allegations of sexual abuse by priests or deacons; they also help me evaluate such allegations against church employees or volunteers. In a word, the Review Board plays an indispensable role in crafting and maintaining an effective system of defense against the abuse of children by those entrusted with their care.

A diocesan policy is only as good as the willingness of each parish to effectively screen and monitor its employees, volunteers, and practices. Each parish has a designated safe environment coordinator who provides the eyes and ears for compliance at the parish level.

Leah Bickett serves as Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Baker. She oversees the program and offers support on a regular and timely basis throughout the Diocese. Leah can be reached at the Diocesan office by phone (541) 388-4004 or email ([leah@dioceseofbaker.org](mailto:leah@dioceseofbaker.org)).

## Protección de Niños, continúa

- Divulgación de todas las violaciones o abusos relacionados con el clero.

Estos informes, así como nuestro cumplimiento de la *Carta para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes* y de los Estatutos Diocesanos, están sujetos a una auditoría en sitio cada tres años. La Diócesis de Baker ha recibido continuamente la certificación de cumplimiento de todos los aspectos de la auditoría desde el 2014.

Además, la Junta de Revisión Diocesana funciona como un organismo consultivo confidencial del obispo para garantizar el cumplimiento de las políticas diocesanas sobre abuso sexual. Sus miembros sirven como asesores oficiales en mi evaluación de denuncias de abuso sexual por parte de sacerdotes o diáconos; también me ayudan a evaluar tales acusaciones contra empleados o voluntarios de la iglesia. En una palabra, la Junta de Revisión juega un papel indispensable en la elaboración y el mantenimiento de un sistema eficaz de defensa contra el abuso de los niños por parte de las personas encargadas de su cuidado.

Una política diocesana es tan buena como la voluntad de cada parroquia de evaluar y monitorear de manera efectiva a sus empleados, voluntarios y prácticas. Cada parroquia tiene un coordinador de ambiente seguro designado que proporciona los ojos y los oídos para el cumplimiento a nivel parroquial.

Leah Bickett se desempeña como Coordinadora de Ambiente Seguro para la Diócesis de Baker. Ella supervisa el programa y ofrece apoyo de manera regular y oportuna en toda la Diócesis. Se puede contactar a Leah en la oficina diocesana por teléfono (541) 388-4004 o correo electrónico ([leah@dioceseofbaker.org](mailto:leah@dioceseofbaker.org)).

The Mystery of Faith  
2023 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL  
**Bishop's Annual Appeal - Awareness Weekend**

*El Misterio de la Fe*  
PROMESA PARA LA APELACIÓN

Bishop's  
Annual Appeal

The 2023 Bishop's Appeal, which begins this week, coincides with the national Eucharistic Revival. The theme for this year's Appeal nicely captures the connection between the two. Participation in the Appeal helps us hand onto others what was handed on to us: *The Mystery of Faith*, the Eucharist.

This year, the diocesan-wide Appeal participation goal is 21% and the supporting financial target is \$675,000. Many important diocesan and parish programs that help thousands in our diocese every year are made possible by your generosity. Parishioners in every parish are asked to contribute directly to diocesan ministries that individual parishes cannot sustain on their own.

Your direct contribution to the Bishop's Appeal comes back to you as an indirect contribution to your parish

as well. For with your support the diocesan ministry of the Bishop enters into parish life and enhances it with a multitude of Appeal-funded programs: diocesan-wide youth retreats; and diocesan training workshops for parish catechists, youth leaders, and administrators; and there are many other similar efforts that redound to the good of the parish.

Your contribution to the Appeal puts bread on the table for the Church—the Bread of Life that makes Christ's presence true and tangible to those who will come to Him in faith. That is no small return on your investment!

Registered parishioners will receive Appeal information this week from Bishop Cary.

For more information, go to  
[dioceseofbaker.org/bishops-annual-appeal](http://dioceseofbaker.org/bishops-annual-appeal)



# Priestly Ordination Anniversaries

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

## Reverend Thomas Polimetla

*Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Chiloquin*..April 20, 2004

**Rev. Raymond Hopp, Retired**.....May 1, 1965

## Rev. Richard Migadola

*St. Pius X, Klamath Falls* .....May 3, 2004

## Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick

*St. Andrew's Mission, Pendleton* .....May 5, 1977

## Rev. Thomas D'Souza

*St. Katherine, Enterprise* .....May 9, 2009

## Rev. Suresh Telagani

*St. Francis de Sales, Baker City* .....May 11, 2004

**Rev. Louis Albrecht, Retired**.....May 14, 1986

## Rev. Mr. Paul Hillyer

*St. Pius X, Klamath Falls* .....May 14, 1988

## Rev. Roy Isac Elavungal

*St. Alphonsus, Dufur* .....May 16, 2001

## Rev. Rene Labrador

*St. Francis of Assisi, Bend* .....May 18, 1991

## Most Reverend Liam Cary

*ordained Bishop of Baker* .....May 18, 2012

## Rev. Mr. Phillip McCarty

*St. Francis of Assisi, Bend* .....May 19, 2018

## Rev. Daniel Maxwell

*Our Lady of Angels, Hermiston*.....May 22, 2009

**Rev. Bailey Clemens, Retired**.....May 23, 1998

**Rev. AJ Fisher, Retired**.....May 26, 1956

**Rev. Mr. Jesus Esparza** .....May 27, 2000

## Rev. Mr. Irineo Ledezma

*St. Peter, The Dalles* .....May 27, 2000

## Rev. Mr. Daniel Martinez

*St. Andrew's Mission, Pendleton* .....May 27, 2000

**Rev. Mr. David Raj, Retired** .....May 27, 2000

**Rev. Mr. Gustavo Ruiz, The Dalles** ...May 27, 2000

## Rev. Mr. Omar Torres

*St. Mary, Pendleton* .....May 27, 2000

## Rev. Andrew Colvin

*CHC, USN NSGB CMD CHAP* .....May 31, 2002

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

# Bishop Cary's Schedule

- April 22 - 5:00 p.m.** Knights of Columbus  
Mass & Banquet, Hermiston  
**May 6 - 8:00 a.m.** Mt. Angel Baccalaureate Mass,  
Commencement Exercises

## Confirmation Schedules:

### *Our Lady of Angels, Hermiston*

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>April 22</b> | <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Confirmation Mass (Spanish) |
| <b>April 23</b> | <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Confirmation Mass (English)  |
|                 | <b>1:00 p.m.</b> Confirmation Mass (Spanish)  |
|                 | <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Confirmation Mass (Spanish)  |

### *St. Mary, Hood River*

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>April 29</b> | <b>2:00 p.m.</b> Confirmation Mass (Spanish) |
|                 | <b>5:00 p.m.</b> Confirmation Mass (English) |
| <b>April 30</b> | <b>8:00 a.m.</b> Confirmation Mass (Spanish) |
|                 | <b>1:00 p.m.</b> Confirmation Mass (Spanish) |

**May 5 - 7:00 p.m.** St. Francis, Bend - Confirmation Mass

### *St. Patrick, Madras*

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>May 7</b> | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Confirmation Mass (English) |
|              | <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Confirmation Mass (Spanish) |

# Pastoral Assignments

*Bishop Liam Cary announces the following assignments:*

**Reverend Rene Labrador** is assigned as Pastor of St. Peters Church, Klamath Falls, effective June 28, 2023.

**Reverend Steve Garza** is assigned as Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Klamath Falls, effective June 28, 2023.

**Very Reverend Rogatian Urassa** is assigned as the Parochial Vicar of St. Francis of Assisi, Bend, effective June 28, 2023.

**Very Reverend Saji Thomas, CMI**, is assigned as Pastor of St. Thomas Church, Redmond, effective June 28, 2023. In addition, Father Saji will continue as the Vicar General of the Diocese of Baker.

**Reverend Roy Isac Elavungal, SDB**, is assigned as Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Pendleton, effective June 28, 2023.

**Reverend Alexandar Poulose** is assigned as Pastor of St. Patrick Church, Heppner and St. William Church, Ione, effective June 28, 2023.

**Reverend Thankachan Joseph, SDB**, is assigned as Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Wasco, St. Alphonsus Church, Dufur, and St. John the Baptist Church, Grass Valley, effective June 28, 2023.

**Very Reverend Todd Unger** is retiring from active ministry and will be available to serve as a replacement priest, effective June 27, 2023.

**Reverend Kumar Udagandla** will return to his Diocese in India after serving the Diocese of Baker more than 10 years, effective June 27, 2023.



# Diocese of Baker



## APRIL is Child Abuse Prevention Month

**Diocese of Baker - Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults**

Throughout the Gospel, Christ calls upon His followers to care for the most vulnerable among us. Child Abuse Prevention Month reminds us to be instruments of justice, working for the common good of all, which includes the protection of children. Report all allegations or incidents of abuse by anyone against a minor immediately to the civil authorities.

*After reporting abuse involving a minor to civil authorities please contact:*

Leah Bickett, Diocese of Baker  
Safe Environment Coordinator  
[leah@dioceseofbaker.org](mailto:leah@dioceseofbaker.org) | 541.388.4004

*Reporting Misconduct (sexual or otherwise) involving clergy to adults:*

Very Rev. Saji Thomas, CMI, VG  
[vg@dioceseofbaker.org](mailto:vg@dioceseofbaker.org) | 541.962.5574

*Reporting allegations against a priest, deacon or seminarian, please contact:*

Angelina Montoya, MD  
Victim's Assistance Coordinator  
541.678.5652

*Reporting Sexual Misconduct involving a Bishop please contact:*

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBARS)  
800.276.1562 | website: [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org)

## ABRIL es el Mes de la Prevención del Abuso de Menores

**Diócese de Baker - Protección de los Niños de Dios y Adultos Vulnerables**

A lo largo del Evangelio, Cristo pide a sus seguidores que se ocupen de los más vulnerables entre nosotros. El mes de la Prevención del Abuso Infantil nos recuerda ser instrumentos de justicia, trabajando por el bien común de todos, que incluye la protección de los niños. Reportetodas las acusaciones o incidentes de abuso por parte de cualquier persona contra un menor de inmediatamente a las autoridades civiles.

*Después de reportar el abuso que involucre a un menor a las autoridades civiles, comuníquese con:*

Leah Bickett, Diócese de Baker  
Coordinador de Protección de los Niños de Dios  
[leah@dioceseofbaker.org](mailto:leah@dioceseofbaker.org) | 541.388.4004

*Reportando Faltas de Conducta (sexual u otras) que involucre al clero hacia adultos:*

Muy Rev. Saji Thomas, CMI, VG  
[vg@dioceseofbaker.org](mailto:vg@dioceseofbaker.org) | 541.962.5574

*Para alegaciones contra un sacerdote, diácono, seminarista por favor contacte:*

Angelina Montoya, MD  
Coordinadora de Asistencia a la Víctima  
541.678.5652

*Reportar Mala Conducta Que Involucre a un Obispo:*

Servicio de Reporte de Abusos de Obispos Católicos (CBARS)  
800.276.1562 | sitio web: [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org)



**Report Child Abuse - Keep Oregon's children safe**

1-855-503-SAFE (7233)

◀ for more information, visit: <https://dioceseofbaker.org/reporting-suspected-abuse>