



The DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

News of the Diocese of Baker

June 4, 2023 • Vol. 14, No. 12

Beacon of Hope for Marriage

Submitted by **Tami & Mike Thompson**,
Oregon Retrouvaille, A Lifeline for Married Couples



Father Leo Weckerle

Father Leo Weckerle was born June 28, 1931. He was ordained a priest on June 10, 1958, for the Diocese of Baker. During his years of service, Fr. Weckerle served in the cities of Ontario, LaGrande, Baker City, Enterprise, Madras, and Redmond.

Father Leo, as he was affectionately known in the *Retrouvaille* community, served the Diocese in many positions, but how he is remembered, by so many

hurting couples in the throws of crisis, is by the love and compassion in which he ministered to their broken marriages.

In his position as Defender/Advocate of Bond of Marriage, Father Leo saw many couples seeking annulment or dissolution of their marriage and he felt helpless to change the couples' minds. In 1989 he was asked to attend a *Retrouvaille* weekend to observe the process. Feeling compelled to help the couples after his formation weekend and writing of his talks, Father Leo became the *Retrouvaille* priest for Oregon in 1990.

Bruce and Toni Fisher, who recruited Fr. Leo said, "He shared deeply on his weekends – always sharing from his toes. He was forthcoming yet could be very gentle. He was faith-filled, cared deeply for the couples on the weekend, and his story was very relatable."

One of his final acts of giving was personally watching over the care of Bishop Thomas Connolly, Bishop Emeritus of

continued on next page >>

Un Salvavidas para tu matrimonio

Enviado por **Santiago y Luz Gómez**,
Inland Northwest Español Retrouvaille

Nosotros somos Santiago y Luz, tenemos 32 años de casados, cinco hijos y ocho nietas. Vivimos nuestro Fin de Semana *Retrouvaille* en Marzo, 2018.

Nos casamos muy enamorados, los primeros años éramos felices y pensábamos que siempre sería así, pero con el paso del tiempo, por el trabajo, los niños y la falta de dedicación a nuestra relación, sin darnos cuenta la rutina deterioró nuestro matrimonio. Ya no había detalles, ni motivación. No sabíamos cómo comunicarnos, se empezó a perder el respeto, la confianza, el amor y el perdón. La indiferencia volvió el ambiente tenso en nuestro hogar. Esto estaba ocasionando un gran distanciamiento entre nosotros, estábamos juntos pero separados emocionalmente, se terminó el interés del uno por el otro, hasta llegar a pensar en la separación, a consecuencia de las heridas y el dolor que nos habíamos causado.

Por medio de nuestra parroquia supimos de *Retrouvaille*, un programa que ayuda a las parejas que están pasando por crisis o momentos difíciles en su relación. Decidimos buscar ayuda y darnos la oportunidad de vivirlo por nuestros hijos y por nosotros mismos.

continúa en la siguiente página >>



Marriage, continued

the Diocese of Baker, traveling to Portland regularly to visit him personally. Bishop Connolly passed away in 2015, one month after Father Leo's passing.



helped over the years. We presented on weekends with Father Leo for 17 years. He was very powerful but as gentle as a kitten and ever so compassionate."

Father Leo's last weekend was given in September 2014 at the Powell Butte Retreat House in Oregon. As tribute to our friend and healer in times of crisis, we, the Oregon *Retrouvaille* Community would like to thank Father Leo Wekerle for his years of service to our community.

To join our next *Retrouvaille* weekend August 25-27 in Canby Oregon go to www.helpourmarriage.org.

Matrimonio, continúa

El asistir al fin de semana *Retrouvaille* fue una gran experiencia para nosotros. Ahí recibimos ayuda para restablecer la comunicación. Al escuchar los testimonios de los charlistas y como ellos salieron adelante de problemas más fuertes que los nuestros, nos sentíamos esperanzados, pues juzgábamos que era justo lo que necesitábamos para reconstruir nuestra relación de esposos.

Los seguimientos, fue una parte muy importante en el proceso de sanación, las heridas y el dolor ocasionados no sanan en un fin de semana. Son temas que nos ayudaron a renovar el compromiso con amor.

Les queremos ser honestos, tenemos que trabajar duro por nuestro matrimonio poniendo el 100% cada uno, pues el programa nos enseña excelentes herramientas para reconstruir nuestro matrimonio. Los resultados dependen del esfuerzo que hagamos los dos.

Ahora gracias a Dios podemos decir con satisfacción y convicción que este programa SI FUNCIONA y es para matrimonios que están buscando una oportunidad para SANAR Y REDESCUBRIR SU AMOR DE ESPOSOS.

Para asistir a nuestro próximo fin de semana de *Retrouvaille* del 25 al 27 de agosto en Canby Oregon, visite es.helpourmarriage.org.

The invitation card features a central crest at the top, flanked by two stylized wings. The text below the crest reads:

With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God
the Diocese of Baker in Oregon
together with the family of

Caleb Joshua Cunningham

Invite you to his

Ordination to the Holy Priesthood

Through the laying on of hands and the
invocation of the Holy Spirit by

The Most Reverend Liam Cary
Bishop of Baker

on
Thursday the Fifteenth of June
in the year of our Lord 2023
at 11:00 AM Pacific Time

Cathedral of St. Francis de Sales
Baker City, Oregon

Reception to follow



Priestly Ordination Anniversaries

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

Rev. Charles Nnabuife

Milton-FreewaterJune 03, 2005

Rev. Stanislaw Strzyz, Pilot Rock.....June 08, 1968

Rev. Noel Hickie (Retired).....June 11, 1967

Rev. Cornelius Kiely (Retired).....June 11, 1967

Very Rev. Richard Fischer (Retired).June 15, 1976

Rev. Mr. Caleb Cunningham, Redmond

.....*To be ordained to the Priesthood:* June 15, 2023

Rev. Joseph Reeves (Retired).....June 16, 1976

Rev. Luis Flores-Alva, BoardmanJune 17, 2006

Rev. Julian Cassar (Retired)June 19, 1977

Very Rev. Robert Greiner, Condon....June 24, 1993

Rev. Steve Garza, The DallesJune 27, 2019

Very Rev. Todd Unger, Redmond.....June 29, 1982

Rev. Ildefonse Mapara

Klamath FallsJune 29, 2000

Rev. Victor Mena, Madras.....June 29, 2017

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

Pro-Life Corner



Rachel's Vineyard Healing Weekends Sponsored by Project Aurora

If you are suffering after an abortion, experience a *Rachel's Vineyard* healing weekend sponsored by *Project Aurora*. The Retreats are for women, men, and anyone impacted by abortion regardless of faith background. Participation at the retreats is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, USCCB, emphasized the mercy and healing that is available through the organization of *Project Aurora* which facilitates the *Rachel's Vineyard* retreats here in Oregon. This year, working with the parish Pro-Life Coordinators, the Diocesan Pro-Life Office initiated a USCCB effort within our Diocese, to support *Project Aurora*.

(Remaining) Upcoming Retreat Dates:

- October 17-19, 2023, in Eugene
Contact Alyson at 541-350-6960
- May 3-5, 2024, in Medford
Contact Lori at 541-350-7859

Email info@project-aurora.org or visit www.project-aurora.org/rachelsvineyard for more information.



Bishop Cary's Schedule

June 4

- 9:00 a.m. Confirmation, Chiloquin
- 11:30 a.m. Mass, Bly

June 17

- 4:00 p.m. Confessions, Ontario
- 5:00 p.m. Mass, Ontario
- 7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass, Ontario

June 18

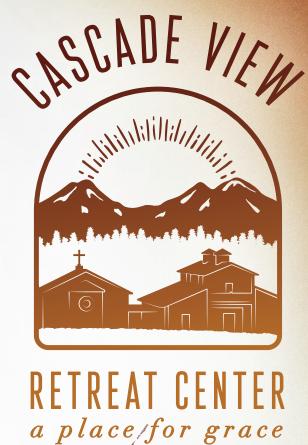
- 8:00 a.m. Confessions, Ontario
- 10:00 a.m. Mass, Ontario
- 12:00 p.m. Spanish Mass, Ontario



Annual Catechetical Symposium

Simposio Catequético Anual

July 21-23, 2023



*"I Have Seen the Lord"
"He Visto al Señor"*
In 20:18

Remembering God's Glory in Your Story

Be Inspired - Reconnect - Bring Home New Ideas

July 21-23, 2023

Inviting all Parents, Catechists, & Parish Leaders to join Bishop Cary and his guests for this unique opportunity.

Presented in English and Spanish

At the Cascade View Retreat Center in Powell Butte, OR

Recordando la gloria de Dios en tu historia

Inspírate - Reconecta - Trae a Casa Nuevas Ideas

21-23 de julio, 2023

Invitando a todos los Padres de Familia, Catequistas y Líderes Parroquiales a acompañar al Obispo Cary y sus invitados para esta oportunidad única.

Presentado en Inglés y en Español en el

Centro de Retiros Cascade View en Powell Butte, OR

Scan Here



**Please register
by JULY 7**

**Regístrate antes
del 7 de julio**

dioceseofbaker.org/symposium



*made possible
by the* **Bishop's**
Annual Appeal²⁰²³