



The DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

News of the Diocese of Baker

July 2, 2023 • Vol. 14, No. 14

*Bishop Liam Cary
Thoughts Along the Way*

Confirmation 2023

Whether we were confirmed yesterday or years ago, we should always desire to be more worthy of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit—and not just for our own sake. For, as St. Cyril of Jerusalem reminds us, the Holy Spirit “comes to enlighten the mind first of the one who receives Him, and then, through him or her, the minds of others as well.”

May those who were sealed with the Spirit this year live their faith in Christ in a way that confirms the faith of others.



St. Augustine, Merrill, OR



*St. Francis of Assisi, Bend, OR ▲
Confirmation Baptismal Easter Vigil*



St. Elizabeth, John Day, OR



St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, Baker City, OR



St. Francis of Assisi, Milton Freewater, OR



St. Katharine, Enterprise, OR



St. Pius X, Klamath Falls, OR

Obispo Liam Cary
Pensamientos A Lo Largo del Camino
Confirmación 2023

Ya sea que hayamos sido confirmados ayer o hace años, siempre debemos desear ser más dignos de la presencia del Espíritu Santo que mora en nosotros—y no solo por nuestro propio bien. Porque, como nos recuerda San Cirilo de Jerusalén, el Espíritu Santo “viene a iluminar primero la mente de quien Lo recibe, y luego, a través de él o ella, la mente de los demás también”.

Que aquellos que fueron sellados con el Espíritu este año vivan su fe en Cristo de tal manera que confirme la fe de los demás.

St. Mary, Hood River, OR ▼



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Chiloquin, OR



St. Patrick, Madras, OR



Blessed Sacrament, Ontario, OR ►



Priestly Ordination Anniversaries

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

Rev. Dennis Homes (Retired) July 01, 1972

Very Rev. Camillus Fernando, Vale... July 12, 1980

Rev. Arturo Jeronimo, Hermiston..... July 13, 2019

Rev. Christie Tiserra, John Day..... July 22, 1989

Rev. Francis Obijekwu, Merrill..... July 22, 2006

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.

.....

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by the unknowingly flawed reporting of four June ordination anniversaries. Below are the corrected dates.

Rev. Noel Hickie (Retired) June 11, 1967

Rev. Cornelius Kiely (Retired) June 11, 1967

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

Rev. Joseph Reeves (Retired) June 16, 1976

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Bishop Cary's Schedule

.....

July 1

World Youth Day Pilgrims Retreat,
Cascade View Retreat Center

July 2

10:00 a.m. World Youth Day Pilgrims Mass

July 5-7

FOCUS Pastor Summit, Denver, CO

July 13

10:30 a.m. Summer Youth Camp Mass



Pro-Life Corner

USCCB Chairman's Statement on *Dobbs* Anniversary

June 24, 2023, marks the one-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, and we have much to celebrate. By the grace of God, the nearly fifty-year reign of national abortion on demand has been put to an end. *Roe v. Wade*—a seemingly insurmountable blight on our nation - is no more!

Even as we celebrate, we are reminded that this is not the end, but the beginning of a critical new phase in our efforts to protect human life. Despite this momentous legal victory, sobering and varied challenges lie ahead of us. Over the past year, while some states have acted to protect preborn children, others have tragically moved to enshrine abortion in law - enacting extreme abortion policies that leave children vulnerable to abortion, even until the moment of birth.

In this shifting political landscape, we persist confidently in our efforts to defend life. The work that lies ahead continues to be not just changing laws but also helping to change hearts, with steadfast faith in the power of God to do so. The task before us begins with our knowledge of the truth and our courage to *spea*k it and to *live* it with compassion.

As we each consider how we are uniquely called to build a culture of life, I invite you to join a growing community of Catholics who have subscribed to Respect Life Prayer and Action. When you sign up, you will receive prayers, alerts to contact Congress and government leaders on important legislation, and ways to strengthen a culture of life in your community. You can sign up today at www.respectlife.org/prayer-and-action.



Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge,
Bishop of Arlington
Chairman, USCCB Committee
on Pro-Life Activities

→
**Read Bishop Burbidge's
full statement @ [https://
www.usccb.org/resources/
statement-us-bishops-pro-life-
chairman-anniversary-dobbs](https://www.usccb.org/resources/statement-us-bishops-pro-life-chairman-anniversary-dobbs)**



IN MEMORIAM : ALFRED JOHN "A.J." FISHER

ACTIVE PRIEST FOR 64 YEARS, 1928-2023

Alfred John Fisher was born 22 January 1928 of Paul Fisher and Gertrude Ziegler in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin.

Born into a culture of dairy farming and rural Catholic religion, young A.J. was educated in a one-room schoolhouse and eventually attended Catholic high school. He earned a philosophy degree from St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and then studied theology at Regina Cleri Seminary in Regina Saskatchewan, Canada. At one point, he took a priest's sabbatical at the Catholic University in Washington D.C. Along the way he studied Spanish in San Antonio, Texas, to better serve his Hispanic parishioners.

The first 32 years of his priesthood were spent as a pastor in the Diocese of Baker where he served at the Indian mission, school, and ranch. He also had unique assignments serving in the country's high desert and in timber areas in the mountains.

The second half of his career included 32 years of part-time ministry in the Sunday circuit in Alaska. His many postings in the state included Chaplaincy at Holy Rosary Academy and time spent as Auxiliary Chaplain for the Air Force and Army.

A partial list of his accomplishments includes membership in 4H for 11 years, winning the Junior Leadership Award, directing the county 4-H band, and a panel speaker at the University of Wisconsin Farm and Home Week Youth Day. A.J. was the state fair blue-ribbon winner with his Holstein heifer, in a class

of 105 heifers. He was never defeated while competing in the one-mile race and set a speed record in cross country racing. In addition, he performed Gregorian chants at the University of Saskatchewan Conservatory.

After his ordination, Father Fisher served as State Chaplain to the Oregon and Alaska Knights of Columbus and was the N.W. Chaplain to the Boy Scout National Jamboree. He was an accomplished author, having written 5 small books including an autobiography entitled *The Happy Priest*. He also produced a documentary on cultural studies at St. Andrew's Mission School for a Portland TV station.

Father A.J. Fisher had many hobbies and was a great lover of outdoor activities. An enthusiastic fisherman, he caught a 311-pound halibut, a 45-pound King Salmon and a 30-inch rainbow trout. He also hunted mule deer, elk, geese, duck, and pheasant.

Additionally, Father Fisher rode a Honda 90 bike, skied, practiced photography, bicycled, and had played high school basketball and college intramural sports. He played slow-pitch softball, climbed Mt. Hood in Oregon, and once won a bowling trophy with a score of 264. He founded a Neumann club and rode shotgun during the filming of an Idaho Historical Society T.V. documentary.

Father A.J. Fisher passed away on 21 April 2023 at 95 years of age. His funeral was held on 10 May 2023 in Anchorage, Alaska. He was laid to rest in Wisconsin where his gravestone reads, "Missionary to Oregon and Alaska." Eternal rest grant unto Father Fisher, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.



DIOCESE OF BAKER 2023 SUMMER EVENTS

Cascade View Retreat Center - Powell Butte, OR

Catholic Youth Camp

July 9 - 13, 2023

For all youth who have completed grades 4-12.

Accepting Youth Leader Applicants
(Completed 10-12th Gr)

Leadership Skills, Privileges
& Discounts Included!

Annual Catechetical Symposium / Simposio Catequético Anual

July 21-23, 2023

Presented in English and Spanish

Catholic Family Camp

Space is Limited!

Camp A is now full.

Camp (B) - Aug 3-6, 2023

Space still available.

For more information: DioceseofBaker.org • 541-388-4004 • discipleship@dioceseofbaker.org