



The DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

News of the Diocese of Baker

January 21, 2024 • Vol. 15, No. 2

Thoughts Along the Way

On St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of the Diocese of Baker

This column first appeared in the 10 February 2013 Diocesan Chronicle

On January 24, we celebrated the feast of St. Francis de Sales, Patron Saint of the Diocese of Baker. Years ago I discovered in his writings a life-shaping guidance based on realism, gentleness, and humility.

St. Francis helps us face life as it is, not as we'd like it to be "When we find ourselves surprised into anger," for example, "it is better to drive it away speedily than to enter into a discussion with it. If we give it ever so little time, it will become mistress of the place, like the serpent who easily draws in his whole body where he can once get in his head." Illness brings a need for similar realism: "we must have patience not merely to be sick, but to accept the sickness that God wishes, in the place He wishes, among the people He wishes, and with the inconvenience that He wishes."

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Pensamientos del Camino

Sobre San Francisco de Sales, patrón de la Diócesis de Baker

Esta columna apareció por primera vez en la Crónica Diocesana del 10 de Febrero de 2013

El 24 de Enero, celebramos la fiesta de San Francisco de Sales, patrón de la Diócesis de Baker. Hace años descubrí en sus escritos una guía para formar la vida basada en realismo, mansedumbre y humildad.

San Francisco nos ayuda a afrontar la vida tal como es, no como nos gustaría que fuese, "Cuando nos vemos sorprendidos por la ira," por ejemplo, "es preferible rechazarla enseguida a entrar en una discusión con ella. Pues si le damos tan poco tiempo, se hace dueña del lugar, y como la serpiente,

que con facilidad logra meter todo el cuerpo allí donde ha podido meter la cabeza" La enfermedad trae consigo la necesidad del realismo similar: "debemos tener paciencia no para estar enfermos, sino para aceptar la enfermedad que Dios desee, en el lugar que Él desee, entre las personas que Él desee, y con los inconvenientes de que Él desee."

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Bishop Liam Cary

cordially invites you to the blessing of the oils and the renewal of priestly promises at the

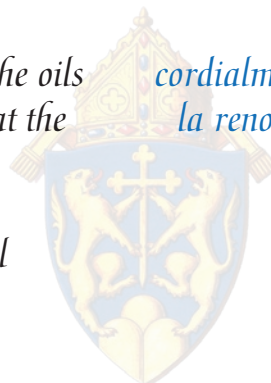
2024 Chrism Mass

March 21st, 11:00 a.m.

Saint Francis de Sales Cathedral

2235 First Street, Baker City

Reception to follow



El Senior Obispo Liam Cary

cordialmente lo invita a la bendición de los aceites y la renovación de las promesas sacerdotales en la

Misa Crismal 2024

21 de Marzo, 11:00 a.m.

Saint Francis de Sales Cathedral

2235 First Street, Baker City

Seguida por una recepción



The Cathedral stairs, Before



These photos show your support of our Mother Church in Action!

The Saga of the Cathedral Stairs

Submitted by **Ann Kniesel,**
Asst. Parish Coordinator

The process for replacing the stairs in front of Saint Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City began in August of 2022 with the actual work beginning in September 2023. The original wooden stairs were replaced with concrete in the 1920's, and in the intervening century the stairs had been repaired but never totally replaced. As is so often the case with renovation projects, replacing them has turned out to be a lesson in patience and excitement!

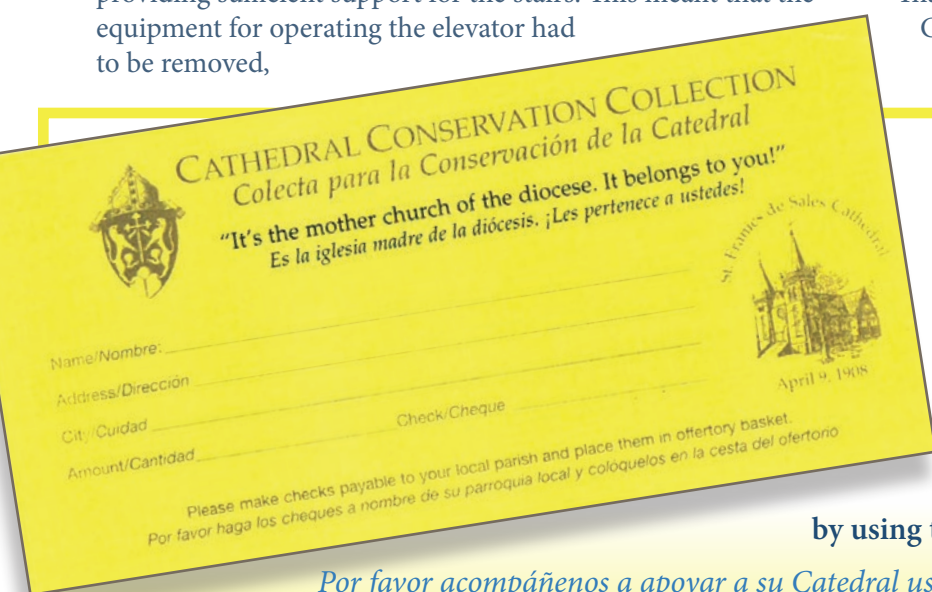
After reviewing the replacement options, it was determined that granite would be ideal. The granite could be obtained locally from a quarry in Haines (approximately 11 miles from Baker City). The stone mason began selecting slabs of granite which were hewn from the quarry and then sent to Portland to be angled and finished for setting into the steps.

However, as the architects and engineers did their study, they learned that it would be necessary to add support for the front of the cathedral before the stairs could be replaced. The old supports had deteriorated and were no longer providing sufficient support for the stairs. This meant that the equipment for operating the elevator had to be removed,

taking the elevator out of commission, and the ladies' room and mechanical room would have to be gutted to allow foundation access. This was a real task for the workers as they had to remove the floor, dig down four feet and carry out the dirt in five-gallon buckets since there was no other way to remove it from the parish hall. Afterwards, footings and steel posts were put into place, and the old stairs could be removed. This entailed cutting the stairs into sections and removing the sections one at a time. A large crane was used for this process as each section weighed thousands of pounds. Once this was completed, the foundation for new stairs was poured. The elevator equipment was returned to its place and is now functional.

The placement of the granite will take two to three weeks since each step must be set in the proper order. The work is expected to be completed by the reading of this article. (see last photo)

Thank you to all who contributed to the Cathedral Conservation Fund and made this project possible.



CATHEDRAL CONSERVATION COLLECTION

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

Por favor acompañenos a apoyar a su Catedral usando el sobre proporcionado en sus parroquia.

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!



Progress, as of December 2023

St. Francis de Sales, *continued*

Yet, St. Francis' realism is always colored with gentleness. "Nothing is ever gained by harshness," he says. "Everything must be done through love, nothing through force." And we must extend this gentleness to ourselves: "Do not worry about not being able to serve God in your way, for in making the best of your troubles you will serve Him in His way - and that is better than yours."

Recognizing God's way as better - that's humility. "We must be humble," St. Francis says, "but that humility which discourages is not a good humility." Humility must always be coupled with confidence in God, for "the more miserable we know ourselves to be, the more occasion we have to confide in God, since we have nothing in ourselves in which we can trust."

We can trust the realism, gentleness, and humility of St. Francis de Sales. The way he teaches leads to the Kingdom of God.

San Francisco de Sales, *continúa*

Sin embargo, el realismo de San Francisco está siempre lleno de gentileza. "Nada se gana con dureza," dice. "Todo debe hacerse por amor, nada por la fuerza." Y debemos extender esta gentileza a nosotros mismos: "No te preocupes por no poder servir a Dios a tu manera, pues por sacar lo mejor de tus problemas le servirás a su manera - y esa es mejor que la tuya."

Reconocer que el camino de Dios es mejor - eso es humildad, "debemos de ser humildes," dice San Francisco, "pero esa humildad que desalienta no es una buena humildad." La humildad siempre debe ir acompañada de la confianza en Dios, porque "entre más miserables nos reconozcamos, más debemos de confiar en Dios, ya que no tenemos nada en nosotros mismos en lo que podamos confiar."

Podemos confiar en la realidad, la mansedumbre y la humildad de San Francisco de Sales. La forma en que él enseña conduce al Reino de Dios.

National Catholic Schools Week 2024

January 28 – February 3

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week has been the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2024 is **"Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community."** Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.

Each day celebrates a different theme. SUNDAY: *Celebrating Your Parish*, MONDAY: *Celebrating Your Community*, TUESDAY: *Celebrating Your Students*, WEDNESDAY: *Celebrating the Nation*, THURSDAY:

Celebrating Vocations, FRIDAY: *Celebrating Faculty, Staff, and Members*, and SATURDAY: *Celebrating Families*. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

The Diocese of Baker is proud of its four Catholic Schools (approximately 565 students) under the direction of Superintendent Jim Golden: St. Francis Catholic School in Bend; St. Thomas Academy in Redmond; St. Mary's Academy in The Dalles; and St. Peter Catholic School in Ontario.

Saturday, March 16, 2024

9:00am - 4:00pm

(Confession Available & Rosary 8:00-9:00 am)

Redmond, OR

@ St. Thomas Parish

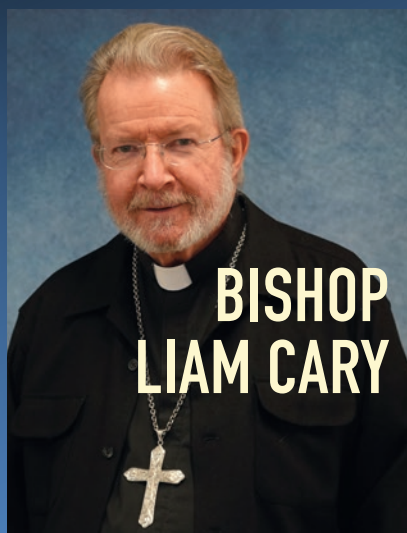
Diocese of Baker

Men's Conference in English 2024

The Mission of Men

Join Catholic men from around the diocese for inspiring talks, strengthening conversations, and prayer that will help us become the husbands, fathers, and brothers God is calling us to be.

Guest
Speakers



BISHOP
LIAM CARY



SEAN FORREST

Singer/songwriter

Retreat leader

Author

Co-founder of HAITI180



< Scan Here

for more information & to register

or go to: dioceseofbaker.org/mens-conference

Made possible
by the



Bishop's
Annual Appeal