



The DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

News of the Diocese of Baker

February 4, 2024 • Vol. 15, No. 3

CATHEDRAL CONSERVATION PRAYER

God, our loving Father,
we thank You for this house of prayer.
It is in this sacred space that Your presence
is revealed to us through sacramental signs.
Here You build Your temple of living stones
and bring the Church to its full stature
as the Body of Christ.

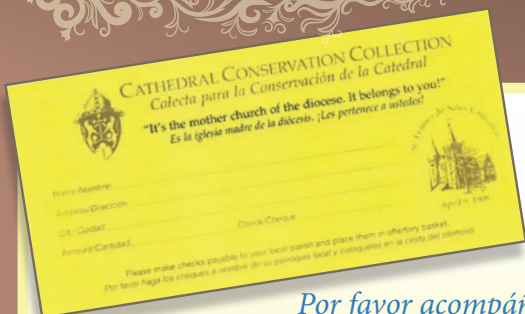
It is to Your greater glory as parish and Cathedral,
servants and disciples, that we strive to
restore and renew this holy place.

In communion with the saints in heaven
and all on earth may we never cease
to bless and praise Your greatness.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
Your Son who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

Last year, we were able to raise \$94,113 which combined with what we had left from prior collections was a great start to funding the replacement of the front steps of the Cathedral, estimated to cost approximately \$750,000. The project is almost complete but it will leave our fund in a deficit of almost \$450,000. We still have a long way to go with funding the cost of the new steps and we need your help!



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 parroquial.

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!

FOR YOUR
MARRIAGE

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

LOVE BEYOND WORDS

FEBRUARY 7-14



National Marriage Week (February 7-14) and **World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 12)** are opportunities to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family.

The theme for 2024 is "Love Beyond Words."

This week, we encourage each married couple in the Diocese of Baker, to set aside a little time together each day for reflection, discussion and prayer. As we strengthen our marriages,

we become more and more powerfully, sacramental signs of God's unimaginable, unending love for those around us!

JOIN US!

Love Beyond Words

*One-Week, At-Home Retreat
for Married Couples*

dioceseofbaker.org/marriage-family-life



National Marriage Week USA

MARRIAGE IS WORTH IT! • EVERY FEB 7-14

A Legacy of Love:

Honey Canney's Enduring Gift through the George and Honey Canney Scholarship Fund

Olga "Honey" Canney, a much-loved parishioner of St Francis of Assisi Church in Bend, celebrated her 107th birthday on January 30th, 2023. When asked what she believes is the key to a full life, Honey replied, "To love and be loved." That principle was evident in her marriage with George Canney from the time they met in school at the age of 15 to their marriage eight years later, and throughout their remarkable, love-filled partnership which lasted until George's death in January of 2014. Both were deeply committed to their Catholic faith, their family, to the service of others, and to education. So it is that they established the George and Honey Canney Scholarship Endowment Fund to be administered by the Legacy of Faith Catholic Community Foundation (LFF) of Oregon.

Catholic students in the Baker diocese, entering their senior year of High School, may apply for the \$2,500

scholarship, with the recommendation of their parish pastor or his designee. From the pool of applicants, one recipient will be selected each year by a panel established by LFF. The scholarship is renewable for a second year provided the individual selected provides an official transcript of their grades with a minimum-overall grade point average of 2.0 or its equivalent for their first academic year.

Students receiving this scholarship will designate to which institution of higher education, or trade school, the funds are to be sent. The institution may be within or outside the state of Oregon.

Scan the QR code or visit dioceseofbaker.org/canney-scholarship to apply. The deadline for submission is March 31, 2024.



Celebrating the Gift of Consecrated Persons

The second of February is an important feast day in our liturgical calendar: forty days after Christmas, we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So, too, those women and men in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

In 1997, Pope St. John Paul II instituted this day as a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. While celebrated in the Church on February 2, the celebration of World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life in parishes is transferred to the following Sunday (February 4, 2024) to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

Please pray for all consecrated men and women serving in our diocese, and for those communities with an established house: Salesian Sisters of St John Don Bosco and, Sisters of Mary of Kakamega, Bend; Sisters Missionary of the Rosary of Fatima, Hermiston; Benedictines of St. Ottilien (men), Klamath Falls.

Source: www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/world-day-consecrated-life





A Church Community's Annual Dedication Revitalizes Their Local Cemetery

Submitted by
Linda Holcomb, Parishioner

In the latter part of October, in anticipation of All Souls Day, a group of families gathered after the 10:30 Mass to tidy up the grounds of Kingsley Cemetery. Situated amid wheat farms, and approximately nine



miles from St. Alphonsus Church in Dufur, the cemetery does not get many visitors, resulting in an overgrowth of grass and thorny bushes. As part of the group, I witnessed both young children and older individuals (4 to 80+), equipped with their own tools, actively working together. At the end of the day, as we left for home, we were all grateful for this shared experience, our camaraderie, and our satisfaction and joy. We will meet again next year and do it again with a smile on our faces.

St. Helen's Community Celebrates Revival of Religious Education Program

This holiday season held extraordinary significance for St. Helen Catholic Church in Pilot Rock. After a hiatus of over a decade, the Religious Education program has been successfully resurrected under the direction of Father Stan Strzyz, pastor. Nearly 20 young disciples attend every Sunday after Mass.

On December 17, the children showcased a heartwarming nativity play for the congregation who joyously

participated in singing. The play received widespread admiration, and the revival of the Religious Education program has brought immense happiness to the community, providing a valuable resource for families with children once again.

Quality of Life Ministry Begins to Assist the Homeless in Hermiston

In Matthew 25:36, Jesus invites us to see Him in the most vulnerable among us: "I was naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." Several parishes in the Diocese of Baker are taking this charge to heart by collecting warm winter clothes and other essentials for the homeless and needy in their local communities.

One such drive, organized at Our Lady of Angels in Hermiston by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #1692, was part of an outreach proposed by Patty Sorenson at the CDA meeting in September. She learned that a local ministry serving the homeless had closed its doors in August, leaving a need that the CDA court was able to fill by making a \$500 donation. Patty purchased items supporting the immediate medical and survival needs of many men and women, and gas cards to take clients to appointments with Social Security. Patty hopes that this support will help individuals into more stable lives and living situations.

At the November CDA meeting, members created over thirty "Blessings Bags" including toothpaste/toothbrushes, socks, lotion, nonperishable food, and other items to distribute as a tangible sign of their love and support for those experiencing homelessness. Father Maxwell, pastor of Our Lady of Angels, has been delighted by this ongoing outreach program and by the overwhelming generosity and support of his parishioners for the coat drive.

Works of mercy like this and like so many others being undertaken at our diocesan parishes send a powerful Gospel message. "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Mt 25:40)

