



The DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

News of the Diocese of Baker

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Religious Retirement Collection: Support those who have given a lifetime

*"Arriving at an older age is to be considered a privilege: not simply because not everyone has the good fortune to reach this stage in life, but also, and above all, because this period provides real possibilities for better evaluating the past, for knowing and living more deeply the Paschal Mystery, for becoming an example in the Church for the whole People of God."**

- Pope Saint John Paul II -

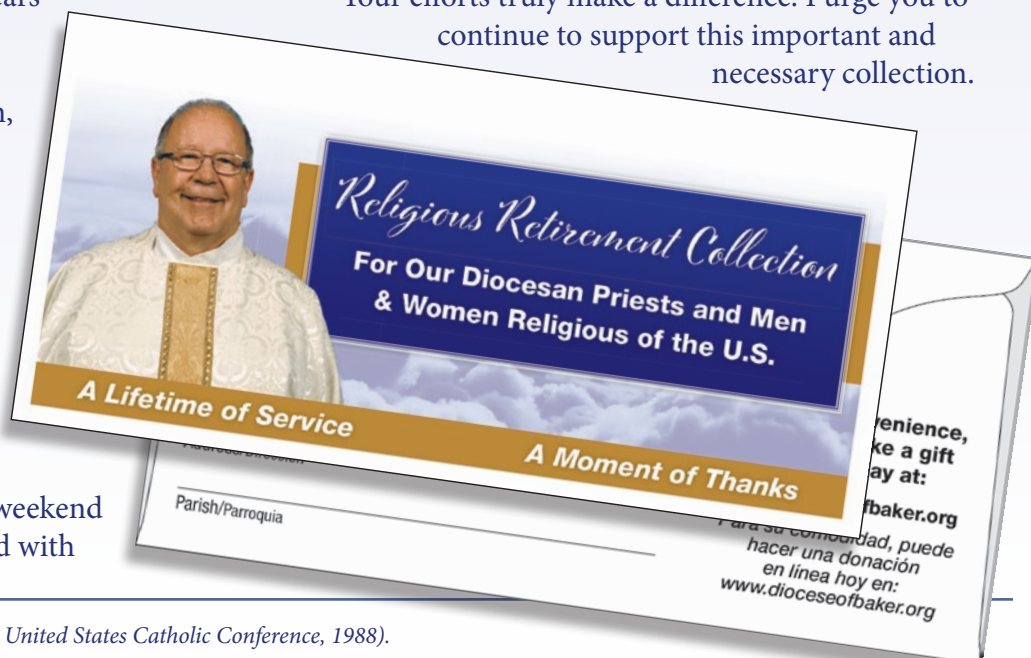
As we approach the annual Religious Retirement Collection, we are all reminded that senior religious never retire from their vows. Instead, the prayer and ministry of older priests are an ongoing witness to the Gospel. Retired clergy and religious are seen as an invaluable part of the Church's spiritual history and a source of wisdom and experience.

Our Diocesan priests have served the Church, and they have done so for relatively little material reward. These dedicated priests deserve a just retirement for their committed years of service to the diocese. While we understand the importance of supporting the national collection, we too must take care of our own priests who have served so faithfully in the Diocese of Baker. Over the last 37 years, parishioners in our diocese have donated a total of \$1,713,188 to this collection.

The annual collection for the Retirement Fund will be conducted in our diocese on the weekend of **December 13-14** to correspond with

all other dioceses across the nation. Last year our diocese collected an all-time record of \$154,563 and 10% of the net collection was sent to the national office: the National Religious Retirement Office. The remaining 90% stayed in our diocese where it was used for retirement benefits. Any remainder was then added to their fund which is currently invested in the Legacy of Faith Foundation.

We know that the need is still tremendous and continues to grow. What remains certain is that we cannot meet this need without your help. Your efforts truly make a difference. I urge you to continue to support this important and necessary collection.



*Pope John Paul II, no. 48 (Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 1988).

Colecta para Religiosos Jubilados:

Apoyar a quienes han dado su vida

*"Llegar a la vejez es un privilegio: no solo porque no todos tienen la fortuna de alcanzar esta etapa de la vida, sino también, y, sobre todo, porque este periodo ofrece oportunidades reales para valorar mejor el pasado, para conocer y vivir con mayor profundidad el Misterio Pascual, para ser ejemplo en la Iglesia para todo el Pueblo de Dios".**

- Papa San Juan Pablo II -

Al acercarnos a la Colecta anual para Religiosos Jubilados, recordamos que los religiosos mayores nunca se retiran de sus votos. Su oración y ministerio son un testimonio constante del Evangelio. El clero y los religiosos jubilados son considerados una parte invaluable de la historia espiritual de la Iglesia y una fuente de sabiduría y Experiencia.

Nuestros sacerdotes diocesanos han servido a la Iglesia con una modesta recompensa material. Estos sacerdotes, tan dedicados, merecen una jubilación digna por sus años de servicio a la diócesis. Si bien comprendemos la importancia de apoyar la colecta nacional, también debemos cuidar de nuestros sacerdotes, quienes han servido con tanta fidelidad en la Diócesis de Baker. En los últimos 37 años, los feligreses de nuestra diócesis han donado un total de \$1,713,188 a esta colecta.

La colecta anual para el Fondo de Jubilación se llevará a cabo en nuestra diócesis el fin de semana del **13 y 14 de diciembre**, en consonancia con las demás diócesis del país. El año pasado, nuestra diócesis recaudó la cifra récord de \$154,563, de los cuales el 10% se envió a la oficina nacional: la Oficina Nacional de Jubilación Religiosa. El 90% restante se quedó en nuestra diócesis para cubrir las prestaciones de jubilación. El remanente se añadió a su fondo, que actualmente está invertido en la Fundación Legado de Fe.

Sabemos que la necesidad sigue siendo enorme y continúa creciendo. Lo que es seguro es que no podemos satisfacerla sin su ayuda. Su esfuerzo marca la diferencia. Les animo a que sigan apoyando esta importante y necesaria colecta.

*Papa Juan Pablo II, n.º 48 (Washington, D.C.: Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos, 1988).



Priest Ordination Anniversaries

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

Rev. Paul Antao, La Pine, Sunriver, Gilchrist, Christmas ValleyDecember 18, 1999

Rev. Shaji Thomas, Jordan Valley, ArockDecember 27, 2001

Rev. Franco Mathew, Enterprise, WallowaDecember 27, 2017

Rev. Tomy Chowaran, Hood RiverDecember 29, 1999

Rev. George Mathew Kallukalayil, CMI Lakeview, Plush, Paisley, Adel....December 31, 2002

Rev. Thankachan Joseph, Dufur, Wasco, Grass ValleyDecember 31, 2002

Very Rev. Saji Thomas, VG, Diocese of Baker, Redmond, SistersDecember 31, 2005

Rev. Anish Philip, NyssaDecember 31, 2009

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.

Celebrating Bishop Cary's 13 Years of Faithful Service

On August 21, 2025, the Parish Hall at St. Thomas in Redmond was filled to capacity as many came to wish Bishop Liam Cary a Happy Birthday and a Blessed Retirement after 13 years of leading and serving the people of the Diocese of Baker.

El 21 de agosto de 2025, el salón parroquial de St. Thomas en Redmond se llenó a su máxima capacidad, ya que muchos vinieron a desearle al obispo Liam Cary un feliz cumpleaños y una bendita jubilación después de 13 años de liderar y servir a la gente de la diócesis de Baker.

To view his farewell video visit:
Para ver su vídeo de despedida, visite:
www.dioceseofbaker.org/celebrating-13-years



Pilgrims of Faith 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal



Stewardship and Thankfulness through the Bishop's Annual Appeal

On this second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us. Today is when we light the purple candle of peace. It is a time of coming together, of building a community of faith that is open to all. Stewards realize their lives are not just about the here and now. They know themselves to be reflections of God's active presence in the world and witnesses of the Lord's promises.

As we begin this season of hope, let us reflect on the practical effect of having every waking moment in our lives dedicated to the Lord. Thanksgiving Day was celebrated only last week, but thoughts of thankfulness remain with us. As the end of the *Bishop's Annual Appeal* draws near, we are thankful for the generosity of all who have participated this year.

Scan here to make a year-end gift!
dioceseofbaker.org/bishops-annual-appeal



Catholic Daughters Member Receives National Father Leonard Bachmann Scholarship



Submitted by Deb Scaravilli

Brianna Erickson, Catholic Daughters member – Court St. Pius X (#2335) – is a recipient of one of three \$2500 Father Leonard Bachmann Scholarships. This is a national scholarship established to benefit Catholic students who have completed their undergraduate

studies and are planning to further their education at the graduate level.

Brianna writes: “I am a graduate student at the University of Oregon seeking to become a Speech-Language Pathologist so I can serve people of all ages who struggle to communicate or swallow. I came into the church in 2022 and became a Catholic Daughter the next year.

The Church has provided me with so much, and I am very grateful for all the ways CDA and various parishes have helped me to get to my final year of school so I can start working in the community and serving God’s children.”

The Catholic Daughters of Court 2335 (St. Pius X) offer a year of paid membership to all women entering the Church so they can explore their charisms in the work of local, state, national and worldwide Catholic Daughters projects. Brianna took our court up on their offer and though she is away at school, she has remained connected to us. We are so proud of her achievements and desire to serve others.



Saint Mary’s Breaks Ground on Long-Anticipated Church Renovation

At the end of October, a small but joyful group gathered in the rain for the long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony. With the ceremonial turning of the shovel, the renovation officially began, with completion expected by mid-June. The final Mass in the current church will be celebrated on November 23rd, after which Masses will temporarily move to the Hood River Middle School Auditorium, Hood River County Fairgrounds, and the National Guard Armory during construction.

Saint Mary’s \$2.5 million renovation will expand seating from 290 to 540 and will feature a stunning new sanctuary highlighted by large, backlit stained-glass windows serving as the focal point.



Turning the shovel, left to right: Brett McCoy, Artis Builds, Contractor; Eric Walker, Parish Member and Project Vice-Chair; Mike Schend, Parish Member and Project Chair; Breff McLaughlin, McLaughlin Design; Father Tomy Chowaran, Pastor

Exciting News for 2026: *The Diocesan Chronicle* is Evolving!

We are thrilled to announce a significant and exciting transformation for ***The Diocesan Chronicle*** starting in **January 2026!**

What to Expect in the New Year:

- **A Message from Bishop Hennen:** A central feature of the new monthly Chronicle will be **Bishop Hennen’s regular column**. Be sure to get your copy every month to read his personal reflections, spiritual guidance, and essential pastoral messages concerning the direction and activities of the diocese.
- **Monthly Publication:** Say goodbye to the current publication schedule! Beginning in 2026, ***The Diocesan Chronicle*** will transition to a **monthly newsletter**, ensuring you receive timely and regular updates on the life of the Church across the region.
- **Fully Bilingual Content:** Recognizing the rich cultural tapestry of our diocese, the publication will now be **completely bilingual**, presenting all articles and features in both English and Spanish. This change will allow us to better connect with and inform all members of our faithful community.
- **Expanded Format:** Each monthly issue will be an **8-page publication** replacing the 4-page English and 4-page Spanish issues.

This expansion is a testament to the growth and vibrancy of our diocese. Don’t miss out on this enhanced resource.