



THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE DIOCESE OF BAKER

December 13, 2015

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Eight Acolytes Installed at Sacred Heart

The Parish of Sacred Heart in Klamath Falls is pleased to welcome eight new acolytes to assist its pastor, the Very Rev. Rogatian Urassa. Bishop Liam Cary celebrated the 9:30 a.m. Mass on November 8th and installed (from left to right) Kevin Wynne, his brother Darin “Duke” Wynne (kneeling), Andrew Vickery, David Bishop, Leigh Hartmann and Mike Swanson. Isidro Briones and Guadalupe Guzman were installed at the 12:30 p.m. Mass. Congratulations to the new acolytes, and many thanks for their service!



Perpetual Adoration at St. Mary’s Church

St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Pendleton first began Perpetual Adoration on September 17, 2002, under the Spiritual leadership of Fr. Dennis Strachota, the Pastor at that time. Karen and Vic Early, Karla Willman, Georgia Herbes, Ann Vescio, Bibiana Montchalin, Rose Anderson, Cecilia Torres and Deacon Omar volunteered to help organize the Tuesday through Thursday perpetual adoration. We thank our Lord for 13 years of grace and blessings and our former pastors, Fr. Dennis Strachota, Fr. Gregory Okorobia, Fr. Bailey Clemens, and present pastor Fr. Kumar Udagandla, who have led us into a deeper understanding and love for our Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Currently we continue Perpetual Adoration from Monday through Thursday every week.

After 13 years, with the guidance of Bishop Liam Cary and Fr. Kumar, we began to remodel the Chapel, with new carpet, paint and a new wood reliquary that was made to keep the Monstrance. On November 2nd the new Chapel was opened with a Blessing from our pastor. Fr. Kumar thanked all the priests and people of the parish who had helped on this grace filled Apostolate. – by Deacon Omar



A Journey of Faith For Us and the Bishop’s Annual Appeal

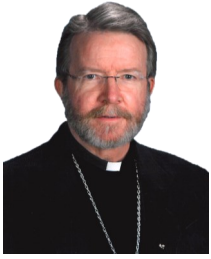
This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. During this time of spiritual preparation, it is an ideal time to reflect on our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ, especially as we anticipate the coming of the Christ child and the year to come.

This weekend also marks the completion of the 2015 Bishop’s Annual Appeal *Opening the Eyes of Faith*. It has been a journey of faith and a time that has revealed the unwavering generosity of those who made a gift to the Appeal and share its vision.

Gifts amounting to a total of \$392,000 have been made to the Bishop’s Appeal thus far, with 39 of our 58 parishes and missions having reached or exceeded their Appeal goals.

Faith formation is an important pastoral priority for the Diocese of Baker, and here is where each of us makes a difference when we contribute to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Your generous gift enables the diocese to offer a number of opportunities to Catholics in their own journey of faith.

Donations to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal *Opening the Eyes of Faith* can be made online at the diocesan website at www.dioceseofbaker.org. Just click the Bishop’s Annual Appeal icon on the home page to read about the ministries that your Appeal dollars are supporting, review suggested gift plans, and make your donation online. We truly appreciate your generosity.



Thoughts Along the Way

Bishop Liam Cary

Year of Mercy

“Mercy is the very foundation of the Church’s life,” Pope Francis tells us. “It is absolutely essential for the . . . credibility of [the Church’s] message that she herself *live and testify* to mercy.” Christians will not persuade unbelievers that our God is merciful if our lives give witness to harshness and unforgiveness. Instead, Pope Francis says, “wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an *oasis of mercy*”—a place where weary travelers on the road of life find rest and refreshment because they are met with acceptance and forgiveness.

To encourage us to take the mercy of God to heart ourselves and to inspire others to “find the road that leads to the Father,” Pope Francis has proclaimed a Jubilee Year of Mercy to begin on the feast of the Immaculate Conception and conclude on the feast of Christ the King in 2016.

The motto of the Holy Year is “Merciful like the Father.” Our Father is merciful because He is Almighty; He is more than strong enough to absorb the blows of our sins and restore us to friendship, for with Him “all things are possible.” In the words of Pope Francis, “no one can place limits on the . . . God who is ever ready to forgive.” His mercy “is a spring that will *never* run dry, no matter how many people approach it.”

“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy,” Pope Francis continues. “Everything in him speaks of mercy.” Our Lord’s last, agonizing hours were nothing but a sustained plea for mercy: “Forgive them,” he begged his Father as he was nailed to the Cross, “for they know not what they do.” How could the Father of Mercies close His ears to this cry of His merciful Son?

It is the desire of Pope Francis “that the year to come will be *steeped* in mercy” and that “the balm of mercy reach *everyone*, both believers and those far away.” This is where we come in, you and I; for God wants to touch others mercifully through us. But for that to happen we must first be touched by his merciful love ourselves. We must let ourselves be found anew by God’s forgiveness so that He can pass it along through us to others. As Pope Francis puts it, “pardon is the instrument placed into our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart.”

As we well know, however, the attainment of a merciful heart does not come automatically or easily. It is a goal that demands dedication and sacrifice. To encourage this crucial dimension of the Year of Mercy, the Holy Father will open a specially designated Holy Door at St. Peter’s in Rome. He has asked bishops to follow his example and open Holy Doors in their dioceses as well. I will do so at the Cathedral in Baker City and at the Chapel at the Diocesan Retreat Center in Powell Butte. One or the other of these sites is reachable from almost every parish in the Diocese at the cost of no more than a three-hour drive.

Those of you who sacrifice your time to make the trip will discover the Holy Door to be a Door of Mercy. Pilgrimage that leads to its threshold will be for you “an impetus to conversion.” For the Holy Door opens to the confessional, to forgiveness of sins, to reconciliation with God and neighbor, to the serenity of a merciful heart.

The mercy we find along the way of our pilgrimage through the Holy Year we must give away as freely as it is given to us. To learn how to do so, Pope Francis encourages intense reflection throughout the Church on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, bearing in mind the question we will ask on Judgement Day—“Lord, *when* did we seek you hungry or thirsty or naked?”—and the words we will hear in reply: “As often as you did this for the least of my brethren, you did it for me.”

All of us in the Diocese of Baker can actively anticipate this dialogue by patiently raising a simple question over and over: “Lord, who *are* the poor— the poor you wish *us* to attend to here and now?” Follow up this simple question with a simple prayer: “Lord, *show* us the poor. Open our minds and hearts and hands that we may accompany them on the way of your mercy.”

After Easter we will gather to share the answers to this prayer which the Lord may see fit to inspire in us. Then we can take steps to implement his designs for us throughout the Diocese. Who knows what they may be? “In this Jubilee Year,” Pope Francis advises, “let us allow God to surprise us. He never tires of throwing open the doors of his heart . . .”

Pensamientos Del Camino

Obispo Liam Cary

Año de la Misericordia

“Misericordia es la base de la vida de la Iglesia” el Papa Francisco nos dice. Por lo tanto, “es absolutamente esencial para la... credibilidad del mensaje [de la Iglesia] de que ella misma viva y testifique la misericordia.” Los cristianos no convencer a los incrédulos de que nuestro Dios es misericordioso si nuestras vidas dan testimonio de la dureza y falta de perdón. En cambio, dice el Papa, “donde hay cristianos, cualquiera debe encontrar un *oasis* de misericordia”—un lugar donde los viajeros cansados en la camino de la vida encuentren un descanso y se refresquen al sentir la aceptación y el perdón.

Para animarnos a tomar de corazón la misericordia de Dios para nosotros mismos e inspirar a otros a “encontrar el camino que lleva al padre”, el Papa Francisco ha proclamado el Año Jubilar de la Misericordia, comenzando en la Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción y concluyendo en la fiesta de Cristo Rey de 2016.

El lema del Año Santo es “Misericordioso como el Padre.” Nuestro Padre es misericordioso porque Él es Omnipotente; Él es más que potente para soportar los golpes de nuestros pecados y restaurarnos a la amistad,

porque con Él “todo es posible.” En palabras del Papa Francisco, “nadie puede poner límites al...Dios quien está siempre listo para perdonar. Su misericordia “es un manantial que nunca se seca, no importa cuanta gente se sirva de él.”

“Jesucristo es el rostro de la misericordia del Padre,” el Papa Francisco continua. “Todo en Él habla de misericordia.” Las últimas horas agonizantes de Nuestro Señor no fueron sino una súplica por misericordia: “Perdónalos,” suplicó a su Padre mientras era clavado en la Cruz, “porque no saben lo que hacen.” ¿Cómo puede el Padre Misericordioso cerrar sus oídos a la súplica de su Hijo Misericordioso?

Es el deseo del Papa Francisco “que el año que viene este lleno de misericordia” y que “el bálsamo de misericordia alcance a todos, a los creyentes y a los alejados.” Ahí es donde encajamos nosotros, tú y yo; porque Dios quiere alcanzar a otros misericordiosamente a través de nosotros. Pero para que eso suceda primero debemos ser tocados nosotros mismos por su misericordia. Debemos dejarnos encontrar de nuevo por el perdón de Dios para que por medio de nosotros Él lo haga pasar a otros. Como el Papa Francisco lo pone, “el perdón es el instrumento puesto en nuestras frágiles manos para alcanzar serenidad del corazón.”

Como todos sabemos, tener un corazón misericordioso no se logra automáticamente o fácil. Es una meta que requiere dedicación y sacrificio. Para fomentar esta crucial dimensión del Año de la Misericordia, el Santo Padre abrirá la Puerta Santa especialmente designada en la Basílica de San Pedro en Roma. Él ha pedido a los obispos que sigan su ejemplo y abran Puertas Santas en sus diócesis también. Yo lo hare así en la Catedral de la Ciudad de Baker y en la Capilla del Centro de Retiros en Powell Butte. A estos dos lugares se puede llegar en unas tres horas manejando de cualquier parroquia de la Diócesis. Los que sacrifiquen su tiempo para hacer el viaje descubrirán que la Puerta Santa es Puerta de Misericordia. La peregrinación que lleve al umbral será “un impulso a la conversión.” Pues la Puerta Santa abre al confesionario, al perdón de los pecados, a la reconciliación con Dios y con el prójimo, a la serenidad de un corazón misericordioso.

La Misericordia que encontramos al caminar en las peregrinaciones por el Año Santo debemos darla gratis como se nos dio. Para saber cómo hacerlo el Papa Francisco anima una reflexión intensa atreves de toda la Iglesia en las Obras de Misericordia Espirituales y Corporales, teniendo en mente la pregunta que el Señor hará el día del Juicio Final—“Señor, cuando te vimos hambriento, sediento o desnudo?”— y las palabras que oiremos en respuesta: “Cada vez que lo hiciste con el más pequeño de mis hermanos lo hiciste conmigo.”

Todos nosotros en la Diócesis de Baker podemos activamente anticipar este dialogo, haciendo paciente mente esta simple pregunta una y otra vez: “Señor, quienes son los pobres—los pobres que tu deseas que atendamos aquí y ahora?” Siga esta simple pregunta con una simple oración: “Señor, *muéstranos* los pobres. Abre nuestras mentes y

corazones y manos para que los acompañemos en el camino de tu misericordia”.

Después de Pascua nos reuniremos para compartir las respuestas a esta oración que talvez el Señor inspire en nosotros. Luego podemos tomar pasos para implementar sus designios para nosotros por toda la Diócesis. Quien sabe cuáles serán? “En este Año Jubilar,” aconseja el Papa Francisco, “dejemos que Dios nos sorprenda. Él nunca se cansa de abrir las puertas de su corazón”

Bishop Cary's Schedule

- Dec. 13 St. Francis de Sales, Baker City 1:30 PM: Rite of Opening the Door of Mercy & Mass
- Dec. 13 Blessed Sacrament, Ontario 6 PM: Meet with you to be confirmed and parents
- Dec. 19-20 Masses in Madras
- Dec. 20 St. Mary Chapel, Powell Butte Retreat Ctr 3 PM: Rite of Opening the Door of Mercy & Mass
- Dec. 21 St. Patrick, Madras, 6:30 PM: Confessions
- Dec. 24 -25 St. Francis de Sales, Baker City: Christmas Masses

Did you know that Oregon offers a Political Tax Credit?

The Political Tax Credit is a no-cost way to support the political cause of your choice, allowing you to direct a portion of your tax dollars in a way that YOU choose. **It is a credit, not a deduction.** Most people can give up to \$100* for joint filers or \$50* for individuals to an Oregon political organization and that amount will be credited back to you on tax day. Contributions must be dated no later than December 31st, 2015 to receive the credit on your 2015 Oregon tax return.

***Please note,** due to a recent change in Oregon law, individuals with adjusted gross income over \$100,000 or joint filers with combined income exceeding \$200,000 no longer qualify for the Political Tax Credit.

Tips for Year-End Charitable Giving

+ All sorts of assets make good year-end gifts to benefit the Catholic Church. This includes cash, shares of stock or mutual funds, mineral interests (oil, gas, coal, etc.) and bonus/royalty payments. These assets can be given outright and most may also be used to fund a planned gift.

+ If you want your gift to be structured in the form of a planned gift for increased tax or income benefits, arrangements can be made after December 31. However, the asset you are giving **MUST** be received by the Diocese, your parish, or The Legacy of Faith Foundation by December 31st for a 2015 deduction.

+ Any gift you make through the Foundation may be given as a memorial to a loved one or a gift in honor of someone living.

Northwest Catholic Men's Conference

BE STRONG IN THE LORD

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

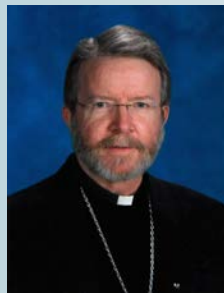


Conference Speakers:

February 26-27, 2016



Most Rev. Peter Christensen
Bishop of Boise



Most Rev. Liam Cary
Bishop of Baker



Fr. Kumar Udagandla
Pastor, St. Mary's, Pendleton



Fr. Theodore Lange
Oregon State Chaplain of
Knights of Columbus



Mark Shea
Author

Conference begins Friday at
4 p.m. with registrations
and ends Saturday at 5 p.m.
with a final blessing.

Cost is \$40
includes 3 meals

Fathers and sons, ages 15 and up,
are welcome

Registration forms and additional
information available at

www.nwcmg.com

or call St. Mary's Parish
(541) 276-3615

Pendleton Convention Center
Pendleton, Oregon