Parish News: St. Thomas, Redmond

St. Thomas parish is hosting a twofold event March 6-7 open to all adults and teens in the diocese. The first of the dual event is a Lenten Retreat led by Brother Cyril Drnjevic, OSB – Mount Angel Abbey titled “Journey With Jesus From Palm Sunday to Easter.” The retreat begins with the first talk Friday evening 7–8:30 p.m. and continues with two more talks Saturday morning 9 a.m. – Noon. Coffee and pastries will be provided Saturday morning. Come for all three talks or as many as you can fit into your schedule. And/or join us for the second of the twofold event, when Br. Cyril returns that same evening for Saturday Night Live – Catholic Style, to speak on how to strengthen our families, a related topic to the current synod in progress. Brother will explain what a synod is, why they’re important and what this current synod on Marriage and Family is all about. He’ll explain why Pope Francis’ support for families is so appealing and what families can do to strengthen the Church. In addition, Br. Cyril will tell us which Catholic media sources are trustworthy as news about the synod is reported. Join us for a delicious chili dinner after the 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass or come for just the talk which will begin around 7 p.m. There is no charge but a suggested $5-10 per person free-will offering will be appreciated. Reservations are required. Please call the parish office to let us know which portions of the two-fold event you would like to attend. (541) 923-3390.

Parish News: St. Patrick, Heppner

“A Thought Of Hope”, a play written by Father Gerald Condon, is a drama about several people who are on their way to Clonmacnoise, the ruin of an ancient monastery founded by Saint Kieran. They are temporarily delayed on one of the Aran Islands, off the coast of Galway, Ireland. They are confronted with problems of anxiety, marital stresses, alcoholism, and suicidal inclinations. All are weak in faith. They are challenged with thoughts from Holy Scripture and their arrival at Clonmacnoise becomes a time of enlightenment. Festival Singers bring relief in the midst of tension. Performances will be at the Ione School, Ione, on Sunday, March 8 at 3 PM, and St. Patrick Parish Hall, Heppner on Thursday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m.

There is no fee for Father Condon’s plays but donations are gladly accepted. Father traditionally lets the cast decide where the donations collected at the two performances will go. This year the cast decided on the St. Patrick Parish Hall Restoration project.

Youth Event

Rise Up Rally
featuring
Sean Forrest
and
Ike Ndolo Band
Saturday, March 14, 2015
Jesuit HS, Portland
For all High School Youth

For more details go to www.riseuppdx.org

More on the Marian Consecration

Over 800 faithful are currently participating in the Marian Consecration that began on February 20th. If you missed the story in the last issue and are interested in entrusting yourself to Mary for the first time or if you’re simply looking to deepen and renew your devotion to her, 33 Days to Morning Glory/33 Días hacia un Glorioso Amanecer is the right book to read and the perfect retreat to make, especially during this Lenten season. To order your copy contact David O’Neill at the diocese (541) 388-4004 or email david@dioceseofbaker.org.
For over a year now I have been following the increasingly spirited debate over the Common Core project to establish national academic standards. A number of you have expressed concern to me about Common Core’s impact on our Catholic schools in Ontario, La Grande, The Dalles, Redmond, and Bend. With this column I want to respond to that concern and explain the perspective the Diocese of Baker is taking toward Common Core.

Common Core emerged out of a multi-year collaboration of advocates for educational reform, the National Governors’ Association, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as a boost from the Federal Department of Education to encourage states to adopt it. Forty-one states have done so, Oregon among them. So, regardless of what the future may bring—four states have withdrawn from the effort; others are under pressure to do so—Common Core is now a fact of life in Oregon public education.

However, the sub-par standards and low achievement levels which Common Core set out to elevate are not to be found in Catholic schools. Throughout the nation Catholic schools have the well-deserved reputation for high academic standards and high academic achievement. Catholic schools develop their own standards and design their own curriculum; they are not subject to the State of Oregon’s decision to adopt Common Core.

Nonetheless, we cannot simply ignore the coming of Common Core; for we must be sure that our Catholic standards are at least as high as, and not lower than, those at which public schools aim. Since we have no Catholic high schools in this diocese, we need to know that our 8th grade graduates will be fully prepared to meet public-school expectations when they go on to high school. Out of concern for their educational future we must take the Common Core standards into account as we design our own and develop a curriculum around them.

As things stand today, however, there are more than a few reasons to be cautious about adopting Common Core. Several highly regarded educators involved in drafting the standards for math and literature now critically reject the final versions their committees produced. The informed reaction of these respected scholars draws attention to a deeper and more troubling deficiency: no one knows what standards Common Core will propose for history, health education, and social studies. These subjects treat hotly contested matters of the highest moral importance for the formation of young minds: the character of the American people, sexual development, and the nature of marriage—to say nothing of birth control, homosexuality, or abortion. Why should parents assent to the adoption of Common Core before its standards for history, health education, and social studies have even been made known? As bishop I cannot endorse a program that might undermine the very values which Catholic parents expect Catholic schools to impart to their children.

Common Core standards have only recently been implemented in Oregon, and more time will be needed to assess their effectiveness. The Diocese of Baker, therefore, will not adopt the Common Core State Standards as a whole. Instead, we will monitor them against national testing and public high school entrance requirements and develop our own standards accordingly.

Pensamientos Del Camino
Obispo Liam Cary

Common Core Y Escuelas Católicas

Por más de un año he estado siguiendo el debate cada vez más enérgico sobre el proyecto Common Core para establecer normas académicas nacionales. Algunos de ustedes me han expresado preocupación sobre el impacto que tendrá el Common Core en nuestras escuelas católicas de Ontario, La Grande, The Dalles, Redmond y Bend. Con esta columna quiero responder a esa preocupación y explicar la perspectiva que la Diócesis de Baker está tomando hacia el Common Core. Common Core surgió de una colaboración varios años de los defensores de la reforma educativa, la Asociación Nacional de Gobernadores, y la Fundación Bill y Melinda Gates, así como un impulso del Departamento Federal de Educación para alentar a los Estados a adoptarlo. Cuarenta y un estados lo han hecho, Oregon entre ellos. Así que, independentemente de lo que el futuro pueda traer-cuatro estados se han retirado del proyecto; otros están bajo presión para dejarlo-Common Core ahora es un hecho de vida en la educación pública de Oregon.

Sin embargo, los bajos estándares y los bajos logros que Common Core a establecido no se encuentran en las escuelas católicas. Las escuelas Católicas a nivel nacional tienen una reputación de alto nivel y alto rendimiento académico bien merecido. Las escuelas católicas desarrollan sus propias normas y diseñan su propio plan de estudios; ellas no están sujetas a las decisiones del Estado de Oregon de adoptar Common Core.

No obstante, no podemos simplemente ignorar la
llegada del Common Core; porque tenemos que asegurar que nuestros estándares católicos estén por lo menos tan alto, y no inferiores, a los que las escuelas públicas apuntan. Puesto que no tenemos escuelas católicas secundarias en esta diócesis, tenemos que asegurar que nuestros graduados de 8º grado estarán completamente preparados para cumplir con las expectativas de las escuelas públicas cuando vayan a la escuela secundaria. Debido a la preocupación por su futuro educativo hay que tener en cuenta las normas del Common Core al diseñar las nuestra y desarrollar un plan de estudios en torno a ellas.

Como están las cosas hoy, sin embargo, hay más que unas cuantas razones para ser cautelosos que las de adoptar el Common Core. Varios educadores de gran prestigio que participan en la elaboración de normas para las matemáticas y la literatura ahora críticamente rechazan las versiones finales que sus comités produjeron. La reacción informada de estos respetados eruditos llama la atención sobre una deficiencia más profunda y más preocupante: nadie sabe qué normas Common Core propondrá a la historia, de la educación, la salud, y estudios sociales. Estos temas tratan asuntos altamente discutidos de mayor importancia moral para la formación de las mentes jóvenes: el carácter del pueblo estadounidense, el desarrollo sexual, y la naturaleza del matrimonio, por no hablar de control de la natalidad, la homosexualidad o el aborto. ¿Por qué los padres deben asentar a la adopción de Common Core antes de que sus normas para la historia, educación, salud, y estudios sociales hayan sido dadas a conocer? Como obispo no puedo apoyar un programa que podría socavar los valores que los padres católicos esperan que las escuelas católicas impartan a sus hijos.

Los estándares de Common Core han sido recientemente implementados en Oregon, y se necesita más tiempo para evaluar su eficacia. La Diócesis de Baker, por lo tanto, no va a adoptar el Common Core del todo. En su lugar, vamos a observar y comparar las pruebas nacionales y los requisitos de ingreso a la escuela secundaria pública y basados en eso desarrollar nuestras propias normas.

Bishop Cary’s Schedule
Feb. 22 10 a.m. Installation of Acolytes, Holy Redeemer in La Pine
Feb. 22 2 p.m. Rite of Election, St. Francis of Assisi in Bend
Feb. 24 10 a.m. Installation of Acolytes, St. Patrick in Madras
Feb. 27 5 p.m. Men’s Conference in Pendleton
Feb. 28 Men’s Conference Pendleton
2 p.m. Rite of Election, St. Mary in Pendleton
Mar. 1 2:30 p.m. Rite of Election, St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City
Mar. 4 5:30 p.m. Youth Group–Dinner with Father, Bend
Mar. 6-8 Idaho Catholic Youth Convention (ICYC), Boise, Idaho

Priestly Ordination Anniversaries
Congratulations to the following as they celebrate their ordination anniversaries in March.

We are most grateful for the years of service of all our priests and bishops. Please keep them in your daily prayers.

Liturgical Observance for Lent and Holy Week
Lent began last week with Ash Wednesday on February 18. It was a day of Fast and Abstinence. The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City on Thursday, March 26 at 7 p.m.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, March 29, and includes *Holy Thursday, *Good Friday, and The Easter Vigil on *Holy Saturday. Easter Sunday is April 5.

Check with your parish for schedule of services.
(* Not a Holy Day of Obligation)

The Traditional Latin Mass in Bend
The next Extraordinary Form of the Mass (“The Latin Mass”) will be celebrated on the Second Sunday of Lent, March 1, and Passion Sunday, March 22, at 1 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Historic Church located on the corner of Franklin and Lava Road. The Celebrant for both Masses will be Father Andrew Szymakowski. Confessions will precede the Masses an hour before Mass from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

There will be booklets and music books that contain the text of the Mass in English and Latin, as well as some in Spanish and Latin. There will also be information flyers to guide Massgoers in the differences between the ancient rite and the ordinary form of the Mass.

For more information, please email John Driscoll at johnedriscoll1068@gmail.com or Stephanie Swee at swee0574@gmail.com.
11th Annual Chrism Mass
Retreat & Pilgrimage - 2015

Powell Butte Retreat & Conference Center

Friday, March 20, 4:00 PM through
Sunday, March 22, 1:00 PM

Sponsored by the Diocese of Baker and Mother Mary’s Daughters

Guest Speaker:
Father Theodore Lange, Theology & Human Formation Director of Mt. Angel Seminary

Praying for our Holy Father, Holy Father Emeritus, Cardinals, Patriarchs, Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious and Consecrated Life

Travel at your leisure to St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, Baker City

Monday - Thursday
March 23 - 26
for the

Holy Celebration of the

Chrism Mass

Bishop Liam Cary
Thursday, March 26 - 7:00 PM
Reception following Mass

COST is $90 which includes:
2 nights lodging at the Powell Butte Diocesan Retreat Center, Registration and Meals

Registration forms can be found at: http://dioceseofbaker.org/mmd.htm
For more information, please contact Judy Newport @ 541-923-6946 or Email: MotherMarysDhtrs@aol.com

Come and experience the tranquility of the Diocesan Retreat Center and St. Mary Chapel.

...and she pondered these things in her heart. (Luke 2:19) to Jesus through Mary

We come together to join in prayer and to experience personal spiritual growth by focusing on our Blessed Mother Mary’s “Yes.” Bring your friends.