



THE DIOCESAN CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE DIOCESE OF BAKER

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Saturday Night Live - Catholic Style

St. Thomas Parish in Redmond is hosting another edition of *Saturday Night Live - Catholic Style* immediately following the 5:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass on June 6th. All adults and young adults are invited to join us for an Italian dinner and a fascinating **LIVE internet presentation** on the **Shroud of Turin** by **Dr. Wayne Phillips** in the Parish Center.

Public displays of the Shroud are rare. The last one was in 2010. The next one wasn't supposed to be until 2025, but Pope Francis caught the world off guard in December when he moved it up to this year for a three month exposition. Dr. Phillips will be returning from visiting Turin, Italy to see the shroud shortly before making his presentation to St. Thomas!

Dr. Phillips' one hour presentation will begin at approximately 7:15 p.m. At the conclusion of his talk, he will take questions Live via the Internet. Call the St. Thomas parish office to **make your reservation at (541) 923-3390**. There is no charge, but a \$5-10 "free will" offering will be most appreciated. Please join us for this informative and inspirational event!

Clergy News: Rev. Michael Nwokocha, Nyssa



Father Michael Nwokocha received Volunteer of the Year award from Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario on March 30, 2015.

Fr. Michael came to the Diocese in August, 2012, to serve as Pastor of St. Bridget of Kildare in Nyssa as well as Administrator of St. Bernard in

Jordan Valley and Holy Family in Arock. He has been a volunteer at the prison since that time and ministers to the Catholic inmates in both English and Spanish.

At 1 p.m. on March 30th, Fr. Michael received a call from his supervisor at the prison to meet him in his office. "This message not only came to me as a surprise but it left my mind flying all over. I thought it was a wrong message sent to a wrong person. I was filled with joy to see my Bishop with his busy schedule travelled a long distance to be there for me on that day. It was a thing of joy for me and I sincerely appreciate it," he said.

On that day, in the presence of Bishop Liam Cary, the superintendent, Mr. Mark Nooth, Chaplain Tom Armstrong and all the Catholic inmates, Fr. Michael was

given a plaque and a certificate honoring him as the volunteer of the year of the facility in Ontario. "It was really the highest surprise of my life. I was humbled and grateful to God that my little contribution to the life of the inmates was noticed by the authorities. I was only trying to follow the call of Jesus as much as I can, to reach out to those in prison when He said, 'I was in prison and you visited me', Matt. 25:36.' I sincerely acknowledge and am ever grateful to all those who made this possible for me."

Parish News: St. Patrick, Vale

On March 14th, the children of St. Patrick's parish held a Spaghetti/Corned Beef Hash Supper & Dessert Auction to raise money for Summer Camp.

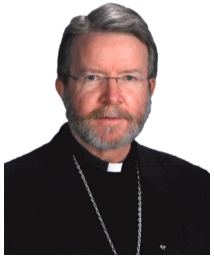


John Henry Schaffeld auctioned desserts as the children of the parish waited their turn to have their own desserts auctioned.

On March 15th, the parish celebrated Saint Patrick, patron saint of the parish, with a new sign located at the east entrance to the parking lot behind the church and a reception after Mass. Thank you to Dick Vickery, project chairman, Cynthia Mayhall Christy for designing the sign, and MB&L Welding for fabricating the sign and donating their labor.



Parishioners gathered at the dedication of the new parish sign. The weather cooperated just enough to stop raining for the dedication. Many of the farmers in the group would not have minded getting wet and the rain started again later.
— Cynthia Mayhall Christy



Thoughts Along the Way

Bishop Liam Cary

Religious Liberty in Peril

The firestorm over the Indiana Religious Freedom Restoration Act put the country on notice as never before that fierce and furious force—social, political, and economic—will swiftly be brought to bear against any who stand in the way of the ongoing revision of marriage. Fear of widespread resistance fueled a full-court press against the law's enactment. Opponents of the law predicted it would unleash a wave of discrimination against same-sex couples comparable to Jim Crow segregation in the South. A most unlikely development, countered law professor Michael McConnell: "In the decades that states have had [such] statutes, no business has been given the right to discriminate against gay customers, or anyone else."

Nonetheless, opponents of the law showed scarce sympathy for the rights of conscience it was designed to protect—especially the religious liberty of Christian small-business owners who conscientiously object to the redefinition of marriage and the politically mandated ceremonies it entails.

Kevin and Crystal O'Connor, owners of Memories Pizza in Walkerton, Indiana, told an inquiring TV reporter that, though they would not turn away individual patrons, they could not furnish pizza for a gay wedding in the unlikely event that anyone asked them to, because they were "a Christian establishment." This simple declaration of faith opened the floodgates of social media shaming by a digital mob the O'Connors were powerless to resist. "Who's going to Walkerton, IN to burn down #memoriespizza w me?" tweeted an Indiana high school girls golf coach. She needn't have bothered. "I don't know if we will reopen," Crystal said, "or if we can, if it's safe to reopen." Kevin concurred: "I'm just a little guy who had a little business that I probably don't have anymore."

In her forty years as a florist, 70-year-old great-grandmother Barronelle Stutzman employed self-identified homosexuals. For nine of those years she sold flowers to Robert Ingersoll and Curt Freed, but when they asked her to provide floral arrangements for their 2013 wedding, she declined because of her "relationship with Jesus Christ." Adherence to her faith soon brought lawsuits to her door. First the Attorney General of Washington and then the aggrieved couple sued and prevailed. Though it was unprecedented for a Washington attorney general to sue a family business owner in a personal capacity unless the owner had committed fraud or misrepresentation, both the state and the couple were granted damages not only from Stutzman's business but from her personal assets as well. "The message sent by the attorney general and the ACLU to the people of Washington is quite clear," her attorney noted. "Surrender your religious liberty and free speech rights, or face personal and professional ruin."

The vulnerability of people like Barronelle Stutzman and the O'Connors gave an ardent supporter of marriage redefinition pause. "Should we destroy their livelihoods?" Conor Friedersdorf asked. "Should we . . . encourage the general public to boycott, write nasty reviews, and drive them out of business, causing them to lay off their staff, lose their life savings, and hope for other work?" Friedersdorf thought of the mom-and-pop restaurants he frequented in LA, and another question came to mind: "If that fate befell a Mormon father with five kids or a childless Persian couple in their fifties or a Hispanic woman who sunk her nest egg into a pupusa truck, should that . . . be considered a victory for the gay-rights movement?" Though he persists in wanting "homophobic" business owners to change their views and their practices, "if there turn out to be few enough of them that they're not creating a systemic problem for gay citizens, it's hard to see an interest sufficiently compelling to justify legal compulsion—especially in professions with an inherently expressive character, like photography."

Or like flower arranging. Washington's Attorney General offered to settle Barronelle Stutzman's case for a \$2000 fine if she promised not to turn down same-sex couples again. "It's about freedom, not money," she replied. "Washington's constitution guarantees us 'freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment.' I cannot sell that precious freedom. You are asking me to walk in the way of a well-known betrayer . . . who sold something of infinite worth for 30 pieces of silver. That is something I will not do."

Pensamientos Del Camino

Obispo Liam Cary

Libertad Religiosa en Peligro

La tormenta de fuego sobre la Ley de Restauración de la Libertad Religiosa en Indiana puso al país en aviso como nunca antes, esa fuerza feroz y furiosa-social, política, y económica-será rápidamente ejercida contra cualquiera que se interponga en el camino de la continua revisión del matrimonio. El miedo a la resistencia generalizada alimentó una prensa de corte completo contra la promulgación de la ley. Los opositores de la ley predijeron que desataría una ola de discriminación en contra de parejas del mismo sexo comparable a la segregación racial Jim Crow en el Sur. Un desarrollo más improbable, contrarrestó el profesor de derecho Michael McConnell: "En las décadas que los estados han tenido [tales] estatutos, ninguna empresa se le ha dado el derecho a discriminar a clientes homosexuales, o cualquier otra persona."

Sin embargo, los opositores de la ley mostraron escasa simpatía por los derechos de la conciencia que fue diseñado para proteger, especialmente la libertad religiosa de los propietarios de pequeños negocios Cristianos que conscientemente se oponen a la redefinición del matrimonio y las ceremonias políticamente obligatorias que ello conlleva.

Kevin y Crystal O'Connor, propietarios de Memories Pizza en Walkerton, Indiana, le dijeron a un reportero de TV quien indagaba que, aunque ellos no rechazarían a clientes individuales, ellos no podrían proporcionar pizza para una boda gay en el improbable caso de que alguien se los pidiera, porque eran "un establecimiento Cristiano". Esta simple declaración de fe abrió las compuertas de la vergüenza en los medios sociales por una multitud digital que los O'Connor estaban impotentes para resistir. "¿Quién va a ir a Walkerton, IN a quemar #memoriespizza conmigo?" tuiteó un entrenador de golf para mujeres de una secundaria de Indiana. Ella no se hubiera molestado. "No sé si vamos a abrir de nuevo", dijo Crystal, "o si acaso podemos, si es que es seguro abrir de nuevo". Kevin coincidió: "Yo sólo soy un pequeño individuo que tenía un pequeño negocio que probablemente yo no tenga más".

En sus cuarenta años como florista, una bisabuela de 70 años, Barronelle Stutzman, empleaba homosexuales autoidentificados. Por nueve de esos años ella le vendió flores a Robert Ingersoll y Curt Freed, pero cuando le pidieron que proporcionara arreglos florales para su boda en el 2013, ella se negó debido a su "relación con Jesucristo". La adhesión a su fe pronto trajo demandas a su puerta. Primero, el Fiscal General de Washington y luego la pareja agraviada demandó y prevaleció. A pesar de que no tenía precedentes para que un fiscal general de Washington demandara a un propietario de un negocio familiar en una capacidad personal a menos que el dueño hubiera cometido fraude o falsa representación, tanto al Estado como a la pareja se les otorgaron daños no sólo de los negocios de Stutzman, sino de sus bienes personales. "El mensaje enviado por el fiscal general y el ACLU al pueblo de Washington fue muy claro", su abogado señaló. "Sedan sus derechos de libertad de religión y libertad de expresión, o se enfrentarán a la ruina personal y profesional."

La vulnerabilidad de personas como Barronelle Stutzman y los O'Connors dio pausa a un ardiente partidario de la redefinición del matrimonio. "Debemos destruir sus medios de subsistencia?" Preguntó Conor Friedersdorf. "Debemos. . . alentar al público en general a boicotear, escribir comentarios desagradables, y echarlos fuera del negocio, haciendo que despidan a su personal, y que pierdan sus ahorros de vida, y la esperanza de otro trabajo?" Friedersdorf pensó en los restaurantes familiares que frecuentaba en Los Ángeles, y otra pregunta vino a su mente: "Si esa suerte le cayera a un padre Mormón con cinco hijos o una pareja Persa sin hijos en sus cincuenta años o una mujer Hispana que invirtió sus ahorros en un camión de pupusas, debería eso . . . ser considerada una victoria para el movimiento de derechos gay?" Aunque persiste en querer que los propietarios de negocios "homofóbicos" cambien sus ideales y sus prácticas, "Si resultan ser muy pocas de ellos que no están creando un problema sistémico para ciudadanos gays, es difícil ver un interés lo suficientemente convincente para justificar la compulsión legal—especialmente en profesiones con un carácter intrínsecamente expresivo, como la fotografía".

O como el arreglo de flores. El Fiscal General de Washington ofreció resolver el caso de Barronelle Stutzman por una multa de \$2000 si ella prometía no rechazar a parejas del mismo sexo de nuevo. "Es sobre la libertad, no el dinero", respondió. "La constitución de Washington nos garantiza 'libertad de conciencia en todos los aspectos de sentimiento religioso'. No puedo vender esa preciosa libertad. Me estás pidiendo caminar en el camino de un reconocido traidor ... quien vendió algo de infinito valor por 30 monedas de plata. Eso es algo que no haré".

Bishop Cary's Schedule

- May 3 Confirmation at St. Pius X, Klamath Falls
Confirmation at Sacred Heart, Klamath Falls
- May 6 Legacy of Faith Foundation Board Meeting
- May 9 Mass at St. Mary, Hood River
- May 10 Confirmation at St. Mary, Hood River
- May 12 Talk at Reuben Clark Law Society Meeting, Portland
- May 13 Oregon Catholic Conference Meeting, Portland
- May 16 Confirmation at St. Patrick, Heppner
- May 17 Confirmation in Hermiston for Our Lady of Angels and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Boardman

Religious Retirement Collection

Over the past 26 years the Diocese of Baker has participated in the Religious Retirement Collection. This year we are pleased to report that the 2015 Religious Retirement Collection brought in \$105,705.49 – 13% more than last year. Ten percent of the collection was sent to the national office; the remainder stayed in our Diocese.

As reported previously, the Health & Retirement Association is still under-funded. The Diocese of Baker also makes payments to the dioceses of our foreign-born priests based on years of service in our diocese. Because of our large unfunded liability and our outstanding retirement liability for our foreign priests, the diocese chose to allocate the majority of this collection to the Priest's Retirement Program. Our diocesan and foreign 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.

Through our participation in the National collection we will continue, also, to support the religious sisters and brothers who have served in our Diocese. Thank you for your generous support!

The Traditional Latin Mass in Bend is being offered at St. Francis of Assisi Historic Church on Sunday, May 3 at 1 p.m. (Low Mass), Sunday, May 17 at 1 p.m. (Sung Mass) and Sunday, May 31 at 1 p.m. (Low Mass). The celebrant will be Fr. Andrew Szymakowski. Confessions will be heard after Mass or by appointment.



Parish News: St. Elizabeth of Hungary, John Day

Father Nonatus Lakra, pastor of St. Elizabeth Church in John Day, leads a Lenten service of scripture readings, prayer and song on March 25 (as pictured below). The service was part of the area-wide program, Lenten Soup Lunch/Service, observed each Wednesday during Lent.

Prior to the service, the Ladies of St. Elizabeth served a soup-and-bread luncheon in the Parish Hall.



Grant County's Ministerial Association began this Lenten observance years ago as a way to draw together Christians of all denominations to share in the Lenten season. Members of area Churches go to a different Church each week.

Legión de María-Curia

Legión de María-Curia: María Luz de Esperanza, tuvo su primera reunión “Acies” para expresar públicamente; individual y en grupo como una sola comunidad, la Consagración a Nuestra Santísima Virgen María, el Miércoles 25 de Marzo a las 7 p.m., Fiesta de la Anunciación. Niños, Jóvenes y Adultos se dieron cita para decile a Nuestra Madre de Dios: “Soy todo tuyo Reina mia Madre mía y cuanto tengo tuyo es.”



Legion of Mary-Curia

On Wednesday, March 25th at 7 p.m., the Legion of Mary-Curia: María Luz de Esperanza had their first “Acies” meeting to express individually and collectively as one community their Consecration to Our Blessed Virgin Mary on the Feast of the Annunciation. Kids, Youth and Adults from all Praesidiums in Central Oregon gathered to honor Our Mother of God and said: “I am all yours my Queen and my Mother and all that I have is yours.”



Legión de María te invita a un Retiro Espiritual Mariano: “Nuestra Familia Santa”

Lugar: Iglesia Católica Santo Thomas – Redmond
 Fecha: Sábado, 23 de Mayo
 Hora: 8 a.m. (Misa en la Iglesia) – 5 p.m.
 Conferencista: Monje Hno. Cirilo del Monasterio de Mt Angel, OR

Hay cuidado de niños... Regístrece con tiempo.

Preguntas:

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 Constancio Aguirre 541.390.9050 (Redmond)
 Binicio Orea 541.848.8375 (Bend)

Norea Flores 541.633.6861 (Madras)
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 Zeferina Moreno 541.280.6839 (Sisters)