



A New Office for a New Year

When I left the Diocesan Office in Bend on December 21st to celebrate Christmas in Baker City, my desk and file cases and bookshelves were emptied, pictures had disappeared, and, except for a wall with boxes piled high, my office was bare. All was ready for the moving truck to come the next day, December 22nd, and cart everything off to our new office in Redmond.

Bishop Connolly moved the diocesan headquarters from Baker City to Bend in 1987. Thirty years of use took its toll on the property, and relocation had been seriously considered before I arrived in 2012. By then, however, the commercial real estate market in Bend had ceased to thrive. We had no choice but to bide our time until the stars lined up more favorably. Finally, in 2016, they did.

Our exodus from Bend was set in motion about a year ago with the assumption of the diocesan loan by the Knights of Columbus. That set the stage for the purchase shortly thereafter of an office building a stone's throw from the Redmond Airport. Prior to our arrival it had been a dispatch center with a lot of open space filled with cubicles; so we didn't have to tear down old walls,

and we could put new walls where we wanted them, with room for yet more to go up to meet the needs of expansion in years ahead.

As last summer unfolded, the planning and permitting and letting of contracts for our new building went steadily forward without any serious glitches, and the pace of construction hewed reassuringly close to schedule. And now, as the New Year dawns, we move into our new office.

You may rightly be wondering how it was paid for. The sale of the old office and other property enabled us to finance the deal ourselves. No funds whatsoever from the Bishop's Appeal went toward the purchase of the building; nor did the Diocese take on additional indebtedness to buy it.

Every step of the way the hand of Providence brought the right people to our door to help us make the move—the national office of the Knights of Columbus; John Kvapil, Phil Doza, and Beth Freeman of DKA Architecture; Matt Coen, Joe McNamee, and Eric Meeuwesen of CS Construction; and John Schimoller of Remax Real Estate.

In the last year and a half the Diocesan Finance Council contributed indispensable amounts of imagination, collaboration, and good advice to this project. Permit me to single them out by name: Father Rick Fischer, Vicar General; Joe LaCosse and Dick Grall of St. Francis in Bend; Hank Caldwell of St. Pius X in Klamath Falls;

Gary Thompson and Tom MacDonald of St. Joseph's in Prineville. At the heart of the project, Hope Burke, Chief Financial Officer for the Diocese, somehow kept a million details in balance and saw us through to completion. In the final days the foresight, hard work, and good-spirited cooperation of the Diocesan Staff lightened the burden of moving for all concerned. To one and all: many, many thanks!

We all look forward to seeing you in our new surroundings once we get thoroughly moved in.