



On My  
Ordination as  
Bishop

It is going on two weeks since my ordination as bishop, but my heart still overflows with gratitude for the graces of that day.

It is particularly pleasing that so many of us could be together over the vast distances of the diocese. Streaming video brought viewers from afar right into the ceremony. Hundreds more made the long trek to Bend, there to be welcomed by the marvelous hospitality of St. Francis of Assisi parish, where no detail of preparation was left untended under Father James Radloff's guidance and where Colleen Rastovich, David Elliot, and the combined choir from several parishes brought the music of heaven to earth.

Not far away at the Diocesan Pastoral Office Peggy Buselli, Hope Burke, and the staff worked tirelessly up to the last minute to assure that the day unfolded so smoothly and joyously.

Father Paul Thomas from Mount Angel Abbey devoted vast amounts of time and creativity to his task of overseeing the liturgy as Master of Ceremonies. And the good Lord alone knows how many others quietly did their part to make May 18<sup>th</sup> manifest the glory of God so beautifully and memorably. To each and every one of you I am more grateful than I could ever hope to say or show.

My first weeks as bishop have found me on the road for Confirmations in Hood River, Madras, Redmond, and Bend. Along the way I've made some very pleasant stops in Hermiston and Pendleton.

June and July will bring me to Pendleton, La Grande, Merrill, and Lakeview for more Confirmations and a much anticipated weekend visit to Baker City. In mid-July, I fly east for a week to take in the national meeting of bishops in Atlanta and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion of my priestly ordination class in Baltimore.

I look forward to continuing my trips around the diocese. You have welcomed me with great kindness, and I am deeply appreciative.