PARISH NEWS: Our Lady of Angels Church of Hermiston has been greatly blessed with the young people who have recently celebrated the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Saturday, May 14, Fr. Caroli Shao celebrated a 9 a.m. Mass and Fr. Paul Mbatia, Pastor, an 11 a.m. Mass with a total of 150 children receiving the Holy Eucharist for the first time.

On Sunday, May 22, the Very Reverend Fr. Joseph Reinig was the main presider at an 11 a.m. Mass with Fr. Caroli Shao and Deacon Jesus Esparza assisting, and then at a 3 p.m. Mass with Fr. Paul Mbatia and Deacon Jesus Esparza assisting. The members of Our Lady of Angels Parish would like to thank Fr. Reinig for his tireless service and devotion, having conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on a total of 115 youth.

The Parish staff would also like to thank all who helped in the spiritual formation and religious education of these young people; all who helped prepare them to receive the Sacraments, especially those priests who traveled to Hermiston to hear the confessions of the children. May God bless you for your generous gift of time and talents.

CATHOLIC NEWMAN CLUB: Central Oregon Community College (COCC) Catholic Newman Club won First Place at Bend’s annual Pole, Pedal, Paddle Event, Saturday May 21. The competition consists of six different events: they begin with an alpine ski down Mt. Bachelor, followed by a 8k cross-country leg, a 22-mile bike ride to Bend, a five-mile run, a one-and-a-half-mile kayak paddle, finishing with a half-mile sprint. The Sisters of Mary, other Newman Club members and family cheered the participants on.

Displaying their Trophy Mugs are Jill Schwartz, Sam Schwarz, and Brian Jorgensen.
REFLECTIONS FROM THE BISHOP....Changes

This past week I attended the installation of the new Bishop of Yakima, Joseph Tyson. His appointment is the last of three new diocesan bishops in the State of Washington within a year. We await a new bishop here in the Diocese of Baker. I suspect a priest will be appointed as our new bishop and he will probably be ordained in St. Francis Church in Bend. In addition, within the next couple of years, there will also probably be a new Archbishop of Portland so all of this will signify a full change of bishop leadership here in the State of Oregon as well.

All of this gives witness of how the mission of the Church continues as the baton of episcopal leadership is passed on to a new generation. That lineage of bishops comes to us from the apostles to the present day. This reality is truly remarkable. This is accomplished with human beings who work out their holiness of life along with everyone else. Each bishop is unique in his person and gifts. Yet no one has all the gifts. The Holy Spirit continues to be with us in the Church.

There is no perfect bishop. There is no perfect priest. There is no perfect parish. There is no perfect family. All of us continue to work on our conversion of heart, of living and being better Christians. Constantly we need to assess where we are and how we can improve. Our lives are complex and we search to be better disciples of Jesus.

For example, the Catholic Bishops of the United States meet twice a year to see how all of us can work together to be a better Church. We meet every fall in Baltimore in mid-November and each June the meeting moves around the country. This June we will meet in Bellevue across Lake Washington from Seattle.

As bishops we must ask ourselves how can we address better the culture in which we live and how can we as bishops better fulfill our responsibilities of pastoral care of the people and the world in which we live. Culture changes. Some of the cultural supports for our faith lives have disappeared, so we need to take a look at how we can be a better Church. How can we assist our culture in appreciating the Christian values we hold dear and that we feel are life-giving and support the comment good?

Recently we witnessed the terrible tragedy of the storm that impacted the residents of Joplin, Missouri. Talk about change that impacted so many lives in that tornado. Questions are immediately asked: How can we better respond? How can we have a better warning system? How can we better protect people? All of this speaks of searching for better ways of doing things. Changes will need to be made. We also remind ourselves of how airport security and the screening of passengers have changed over the years to better protect us all.

May we all work together to be a better Church in changing times. Blessings and peace always.

PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES: Congratulations to the following as they celebrate their ordination anniversaries in July:

- Rev. Dennis Homes, Retired July 01, 1972
- Rev. Camillus Fernando, Vale July 12, 1980
- Rev. Paul Mbatio, Hermiston July 17, 1992
- Rev. Anthony Mbaegbu, Lakeview July 18, 1992
- Rev. Christopher Agho, La Grande July 13, 1996
- Rev. Caroli Shao, A.J., Hermiston July 17, 1999
- Rev. Peter Obinna Umekwe, Condon July 14, 2001
- Rev. Bartholomew Onwu, John Day July 10, 2004
- Rev. Gabriel Ezeh, La Grande July 23, 2005
- Rev. Jude Nwachukwu, Ontario July 23, 2005
- Rev. Francis Obiokwu, Enterprise July 22, 2006

We are most grateful for the years of service of all our Priests and Bishops. Please keep them in your prayers.

DIOCESAN NEWS: State College, PA, May 27, 2011: CatechismClass.com: Now Offering Bishop Vasa’s Talks on MP3. 85% of sales will be donated to the Diocese of Baker, Oregon.

CatechismClass.com is pleased to announce that effective immediately it will begin offering a series of 16 talks given by His Excellency, Bishop Robert Vasa on the theme of the Interior Life. This series of talks was given when His Excellency was still the Bishop of the Diocese of Baker, Oregon.

Bishop Robert Vasa serves as the Episcopal Advisor to CatechismClass.com. CatechismClass.com operates with the singular goal of being nothing short of the best online Catholic catechesis program in the world. The company provides online, interactive catechetical lessons for parishes and families. They offer a comprehensive K-8 program as well as the only online high school program modeled after the USCCB’s “Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age.” Additionally, the site provides a well-received and thoroughly developed program for use for Adult Catechesis, which has been used around the country as part of RCIA programs.

Now, CatechismClass.com is expanding into audio lessons and will start by offering Bishop Vasa’s series of 16 talks on the Interior Life. Additionally, the company has offered to donate 85% of all sales to the Diocese of Baker, Oregon as a gift to the ministry of the Diocese.

The audio lessons given by His Excellency will be offered in three ways for purchasing. Firstly, his talks are available individually. Secondly, the talks are available in groups around each of his main topics, and finally, they are available as one lump sum.

To find out more about the three groups of lessons offered, please go to www.CatechismClass.com or visit the diocesan website at www.dioceseofbaker.org.
PARISH NEWS: Andrea Maria Cunningham, daughter of Ronald and Nancy Cunningham of Jordan Valley, and parishioners of St. Bernard Church, graduated on May 14 magna cum laude from Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. She received her bachelor’s degree in business finance with a minor in theology.

Andrea worked as a resident assistance on campus for three years, worked for Student Life, and was a member of Madonna of the Streets household, a faith-sharing student fellowship.

She’s currently completing a five-week program in Austria and will return to Franciscan University to work as a resident coordinator and enter the Master of Science in Educational Administration program.

NOTICIAS HISPANAS: Centro de Retiros Diocesano
Campamento Familiar del 12 al 14 de agosto de 2011
El tema de este campamento es:
“Una persona es una persona por pequeña que sea”

Planeado para familias por familias, estos campamentos son centrados en Cristo y son una oportunidad de crecer juntos en la fe católica. Hay momentos para rezar y jugar en familia. Hay momentos para compartir en las actividades y en la oración con personas de su misma edad y género. Pero lo mejor de todo es que es una oportunidad para alejarse de un mundo frenético que hace mucho por separar a las familias. Vengan alejémonos del mundo en un lugar sagrado para estar unidos con la Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José.

Para información de los eventos, retiros y Campamentos de la Diócesis de Baker en el Centro de Retiro en Powel Butte puede entrar a la pagina del internet www.dioceseofbaker.org o llame a la Cancillería al teléfono 541 388-4004.

En este mes de Junio, mes dedicado al Sagrado Corazón y en el que en muchos países se celebra el día del padre.

Sin duda alguna, la Eucaristía es la mayor muestra de amor que puede existir. Es una muestra de Amor infinito, Dios que se entrega por amor al hombre. Así mismo, es fuente de gracias infinitas para los que participan en ella.

Pidamos por nuestros padres, por los hombres que han sabido ser fieles, por los padres abnegados, honestos, valientes, leales. Pidamos también por los esposos infieles, por los desobligados, por aquellos que han abandonado a sus esposas, hijos, familia, y por todos los que atraviesan por algún momento difícil en su matrimonio o en su misión como padres.

¿Qué mayor muestra de amor le puedes regalar a tu padre, que una misa celebrada por él?

Hay dos maneras que puedes regalarle una Misa una es que se la mandes celebrar. Y la otra es que tu asistas a Misa y la ofrezcas por tu padre, de ser posible confiéstate y comulga con la misma intención.

¡Felicidades a Todos los Padres!

RETREAT CENTER EVENTS IN JULY:
July 1-4 FAMILY CAMP
“A Person’s A Person No Matter How Small”

Planned for families by families, these camps are a Christ centered opportunity to grow together in the Catholic faith. There are times to pray and play as a family. There are times to share in activities and prayer with those of similar age and gender. But most of all it is a time to get away from a frantic world that does too much to separate families. Come away to a sacred place to be united with the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

July 5-10 MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA TEEN

A retreat for those from strong Catholic families that want to really commit themselves more deeply to their relationship with Jesus and his mother. This retreat is highly recommended by the Diocese of Baker.

July 12-16 LEADERSHIP CAMP

This is a camp where we train youth to be strong Catholic Christian Leaders in their lives, their families, and their parishes. They are taught how to lead ice-breakers, small group sharing, meal prayers, make up skits and cheers, teach and pass on the faith, plus have a really good time. These youth then immediately put their new skills to use by committing themselves to help at the following Middle School Camp or the Upper Elementary Camp later in the summer. Leadership Camp is a requirement for all youth wishing to serve on the Diocese of Baker Youth Council.

July 16-20 MIDDLE SCHOOL LIFE-ON-FIRE CAMP
“A Person’s A Person No Matter How Small”

There is a Fire burning in the hearts of those in Middle School that is fanned into flame at this camp. Lots of energy? No problem! Not always with the program? No problem! At a difficult age with a huge difference in development? No problem! At the 2010 Middle School Camp we had 45 participants and 30 staff. With these odds we have no problem keeping up and ministering to all their needs. Plus, it is done with a loving spirit and extra fun.

July 22-24 FATHER/SON RETREAT

This is a time for fathers and sons to grow in their relationship with one another and especially with God. Using Jesus and Saint Joseph, men of the Sacred Scriptures and Saints of the Catholic Church, participants will be helped to use these heroes as mentors and role models to inspire their lives. The participants of this retreat will also be strengthened by the powerful intercessions these Holy men provide. Jesus; “Have mercy on us.” Saint Joseph; “Pray for us.”

For more information on the Camps and Retreats above please visit www.dioceseofbaker.org or feel free to call the diocesan office at (541) 388-4004.
PARISH NEWS: St. Katherine Church of Enterprise celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation Sunday, May 8, at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, Bishop Skylstad presiding. Ten youth and adults from the parish received the Holy Spirit.

PARISH NEWS: The first Science Circus at Marian Academy in La Grande was a success. It combined the efforts of the local hospital, the Chemistry and Physiology Departments at Eastern Oregon University, Think Link Discovery Center and Boy Scout Troup 511. With the cooperation of the parish family, there were a series of hands-on science activities for students to perform.

Students from the school and across the community came together from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 21, to explore various science areas. They worked with solids and liquids by playing with goo, lined up protein chains to make bouncy balls, tested reflexes, explored bioelectricity, rocketry, music and the human skeleton and applied engineering principles to build marble runs and airplanes.

Next year the plan is to hold another event that will deepen community ties and expand opportunities for students to have a challenging, educational experience. The Science Circus showed that a faith-based Catholic education not only provides a compass for spiritual and moral development, but also can offer an in-depth academic challenge.

PARISH NEWS: Each year St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School in Bend holds an auction that is essential to the school’s well-being and the students’ success. As the school’s largest fundraising effort, the auction generates monies for short-term school needs and the long-term Endowment Trust.

The 2011 Annual Auction was held on May 7th and the Midnight Masquerade-themed event was a huge success. The school families, parishioners and community members in attendance were energized and overwhelmingly supportive. The “Helping Hands” portion of the auction, with proceeds funding the new SmartBoard Technology program, collected $11,000.

A special highlight of the evening was when the “Dinner with Fr. Francis” came up for auction. Three bidders were fighting for a chance to entertain our pastor at their home; the auctioneer decided to sell it to each of the three for $1,400 apiece. It was a wonderful evening and the support was greatly appreciated.

Griffin McIlmuil and Eli Williams enjoyed the Science Circus by exploring the inside workings of a computer.