

The Pastor's Corner . . .

Today's Gospel is a typical example of human will attempting to impose itself on God's will. Go back to Zechariah's reluctance to believe that Elizabeth had conceived a child. This doubt caused him to be struck dumb.

Fast forward to the day that John the Baptist was to be circumcised. The relatives and neighbors gathered and were going to name him Zechariah. Elizabeth insisted that he be called John as she had been told. Finally they call Zechariah who writes on a tablet "John is his name."

This simple act caused much consternation to all of the neighbors and the surrounding area. Why? All of the people involved in this drama, except Elizabeth and Zechariah, were thinking of doing things their way. They were reluctant to listen to Elizabeth, who had been instructed by God, and they were astonished when Zechariah confirmed Elizabeth's pronouncement.

"There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So what? Isn't it the parent's prerogative to name their child? Perhaps the main lesson to be taken from today's Gospel is that we need to stop filtering the word of God through our own ideas and desires. God speaks to us through his word and his church. We need to listen more than we talk.

Peace, Fr. Joe Reiniq

AROUND ONE TABLE • THE DIOCESAN CHURCH

Consider the Diocese: Work continues on the establishment of our Diocesan Catholic Center, Retreat and Camp Site, and it is a project which, hopefully, will continue to gain momentum over the coming weeks and months. Crook County Planning Department received the Plans in late April and the usual time for Plan Review is up to 120 days. This means that by the end of August we should have some indication from the County about the acceptability of our Plan. In the meantime, anticipating substantial approval, with some expected minor adjustments, we continue to work with architects to move the Plan forward.

May God bless you. +Bishop Vasa

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY
CONFIRMATION NEWS!!!**

May the Holy Spirit be upon you! To our Newly Confirmed ~ Thank you for filling my heart and soul with your energy! This was the **BEST** 8 months I've had in a long time. To the Proud Parents of the Newly Confirmed – I humbly Thank you for your support, generosity and kindness! Without you, none of this would have happened. It is scary to think I was the answer to someone's prayers! Yikes! Stay in God's Favor!

Susie Rossi, Middle School Youth Minister

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ANNUAL GARAGE SALE
IS COMING JULY 14 FROM 7:30 AM to 3 PM
ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC CENTER
PARKING LOT**

Usable items may be dropped off Monday & Wednesday 4-6 PM or Saturday 10 - Noon, at the Catholic Center parking lot. For information please call Frank 388-4486

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 16-20
THE BETHLEHEM VILLAGE
WHERE A SAVIOR IS BORN**

The children this year at VBS will be visiting the Bethlehem Village and in the village there is a playground, the Census Taker, Music, & The Market Place (arts & crafts). Along with the tribe leaders, the children will learn about some Jewish traditions and have a lot of fun for the week. If all goes well even baby Jesus will show up. To help or register your 4 year olds thru 5th grade children, please e-mail Duke at djohnson@stfrancisbend.org

TO ALL PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

There will be a meeting Thursday evening, June 28, at 7:00 PM, Seminar Room 1 at St. Francis Catholic Center, 2450 27th Street, to plan and make your banners for the Ministry Fair. We hope you can make it.

LOST AND FOUND - CAMERA

Found - Digital Camera in the upper Women's Rest Room at the Catholic Center following the 9 AM Mass. Please call 382-3631 to identify...

Thank you, thank you, and thank you!

Fourteen youth and 7 adult chaperones are ready to bring hope, love, and faith to people in need. The group is leaving for Tijuana, Mexico on June 29. We will be working with poor children and their families, helping them in anyway we can: repairing houses, schools, donating clothes, etc. We will also learn about the call from God to do justice.

Each person in the group has paid \$700.00 to go to Mexico to work and learn. For our Youth Ministers it is always amazing to see the kids working hard, to help others. As Catholics, each one of us should be grateful to see the Franciscan spirit of mission alive in our midst.

We want to thank the businesses and parishioners for their support. We thank the kids from St. Francis School and the Boy Scouts for the clothes they donated. We thank you all for your prayers while we are gone.

May God bless us all!

**Ben Abbott, Richie Borland, Sarah Creedican,
Brianna Doi, Juliana Elliott, Adam Gallion, Brian Jorgensen,
Michelle Kolb, Shay-Lin Magnuson, Phoebe Marcinek,
Cheryl Meyer, Morgan Ritzenthaler, Will Steinhauff,
Oscar Villavicenzio, Phyllis Abbott, Pat Creedican, Terry Doi,
Jim Elliott, Father Luis, Teri Gallion, and Olaf Valderrábano.**