

The Pastor's Corner . . .

Obviously today's Gospel presents us with a very important message from Jesus. It is a message that is framed within a rather remarkable miracle. In a dramatic way, Jesus cures a man who was blind from birth. Jesus does this on the Sabbath.

Of course this immediately sets up a confrontation with the Pharisees. In their "blindness" all they can see is a violation of their self defined rules for the Sabbath. They not only confront the formerly blind man but his parents as well. In fact they confront the blind man twice and after accusing him of being a follower of Jesus, they throw him out.

Jesus seeks him out after the Pharisees have thrown him out and identifies himself as the Messiah. Now the eyes of faith are opened for him. The Pharisees however are not convinced and they retain their blindness toward Jesus.

Have our eyes of faith been opened? Do we recognize Jesus as our Savior? Do we recognize the Church he established? Do we accept the Church he established or do we wish to mold his Church in our own "blind" image?

Let us utilize the time left in this Lenten season to open our eyes of faith and recognize that Jesus who died and rose for us is our Lord and Savior who left his Church to guide and lead us.

Peace, Fr. Joe Reinig

St. Francis of Assisi Seniors

Are meeting on March 13 at The Catholic Center. We start with a Potluck Coffee at 10 AM. Please bring a food item to share and your own coffee cup (to save a tree) - coffee/tea and napkins are provided. After announcements about 10:30, there will be a speaker from Hospice.

AROUND ONE TABLE • THE DIOCESAN CHURCH



Consider the African Saint "Josephine Bakhita, canonized by Pope John Paul II. She was born around 1869 ... in Darfur in Sudan. At the age of nine, she was kidnapped by slave-traders, beaten till she bled, and sold five times in the slave-markets of Sudan. Eventually she found herself working as a slave for the mother and the wife of a general, and there she was flogged every day till she bled; as a result of this she bore 144 scars throughout her life." Then she was purchased by an Italian merchant and taken to Italy. There, in her new household she met Jesus described to her as the Master of all Masters who had himself been scourged. "Now she had "hope" - no longer simply the modest hope of finding masters who would be less cruel, but the great hope: "I am definitively loved and whatever happens to me - I am awaited by this Love. And so my life is good.""

May God bless you. +Bishop Vasa

VOCATION CARDS

Remember those Vocation Cards you picked up after Mass a few weekends ago? Have you written to the person you are praying for? Did you know it's okay to draw more than one person's name to include in your prayers? We all need prayers but no one more than our consecrated priests and vowed religious. Many of these are serving in outlying areas and most all welcome your notes and cards. You might want to send a note to let them know you're praying for them daily; perhaps an Easter card and/or a note or card of congratulations on the anniversary of their ordination. Do not be discouraged if you do not get an answer. Many priests and religious are so busy they cannot make time for personal correspondence but be assured all appreciate your prayers and efforts on their behalf.

**CHRISM MASS PILGRIMAGE of GRACE
RETREAT and CHRISM MASS 2008**

All are cordially invited to attend the 4th Annual Chrism Mass Pilgrimage of Grace - Retreat and Chrism Mass 08. St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, Baker City, OR. Chrism Mass Retreat begins Sun. Mar. 9 at the 9:30 AM Holy Mass and continues thru Fri., Mar. 14 after the Stations of the Cross at 3 PM. More information on the Retreat in coming weeks. Please make your own lodging reservations. The highlight will be the Chrism Mass on Thursday evening, 7 PM, reception follows in the Cathedral Hall. Come and pray and support your Bishop and priests. For more info please, call Judy Newport 541-923-6946.

EXPLORATIONS IN SPIRITUALITY with Fr. Logan

Mon. Mar. 3, 7 PM, at the Catholic Center, in the Faith Development Room. Please read - *Consonance Dissonance? (Rule7)*

*Aloha, We are excited to announce the
26th Annual St. Francis School Auction.*

The dinner and auction will be held Fri., May 2, at the Catholic Center. This year's theme is a "Hawaiian Luau" featuring authentic Hawaiian food, drinks, and entertainment by Bill Keale.

Tickets: \$60. To purchase or for info please stop by the School office or call 382-4701.

**"An Evening With the Satellite Sisters"
A Benefit for St. Francis of Assisi School
April 4, 2008**

Tickets are now on sale
at St. Francis School

The **Bend Volunteer Corps** is in need of volunteers for Executive Director, Director of Programs/Retreats, Administrative Assistant. Please call Tom Meagher, for more info, 617-6005.

PARISH MINISTRIES, ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, FINANCIAL UPDATES

RCIA—"Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults"

NEW INQUIRERS - Every Thursday, from 7-8:30 PM, in the RCIA Workroom..



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Meeting Mon., Mar. 10, 6 PM Business & General Meeting 7 PM in the Seminar Room 1. For info call Grand Knight Bob Latham, 382-1927.



Knights of Columbus 4th Degree - Meetings please call George Neal, 388-8481 for dates & place.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

K-5: Mar. 5, 2008 at 4 PM. Class ends at 5:30 PM.

1st Eucharist: Next class Sun., Mar. 9, at 2:30 PM at the Catholic Center.

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL

Open House Date & Time: Tues., Mar. 4, 7-8:30 PM.

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

Is looking for projects, visit with you, or do any service deeds. Please call the School, 382-4701.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

All Catholic women are welcome at our next meeting Mon., Mar. 3, in Seminar Room 2 at 12:30 PM. Please join us.

ALTAR SOCIETY

Ladies please join the Altar Society and come to the meeting Tues., Mar. 11, at 7 PM at the Catholic Center in Seminar Room 1. All ladies of the Parish are cordially invited.

Teen Seekers - Get ready for the Eucharist. Classes are the first Saturday of the Month. Next Meeting March 1, Teen Seekers 1st Holy Communion Celebration is Saturday, April 5, 5 PM Mass Downtown. Contact Susie, 382-3631 ext. 110 for more details!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Please plan to come this Sunday, March 2 at 6:00 Dinner Social & Youth Group 6:30 - 8 PM!

It's time to face ~ Guilt Gone Wrong!

Parents we NEED volunteers for Sunday Dinners - Please contact June at ext 119! God Bless!



CONFIRMATION

Next Meeting is Wednesday, Mar. 5 at 6:30 PM. Please make sure you sign up for an interview time on Susie's Office Door in the Parish Office - Journals are **MANDATORY AT ALL MEETINGS!**



INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASSES

The next classes will be held Thurs., Mar. 13 & Apr. 3, 2008 at 7 PM. Please call the office, 382-3631 to register.



A MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP

The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry gathering is Sun., March 2, after the 5 PM Mass. For more info please email June at youthministry@stfrancisbend.org



"Hospitality Hour" From Stewardship

Sun., Mar. 16 coffee and donuts after the 7:30 AM and 11:00 AM Masses in the Conference Room of the Phoenix Inn; after the 9 AM Mass in the Faith Development Room of the Catholic Center.

ALTAR CARE • Mar. 6-7-8 - Charlene Levesque, Cathy Inwalle, Janet Bullat, Dolores Prosser

MARIAN MOVEMENT CENACLE

Meeting Sun., Mar. 2, 2 PM in Seminar Room 2. Everyone is welcome to come join us for adoration, praying the Rosary, readings and reflections. Call Ann 389-3776, for more info.

Readings for the week of March 3-9 2008

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mon., Mar. 3 - Isaiah 65:17-21; Psalm 30:2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b; John 4:43-54

Tues., Mar. 4 - Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; John 5:1-16

Wed., Mar. 5 - Isaiah 49:8-15; Psalm 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; John 5:17-30

Thurs., Mar. 6 - Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; John 5:31-47

Fri., Mar. 7 - Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 & 23; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Sat., Mar. 8 - Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; John 7:40-53

Sat., Mar. 8 & Sun., Mar. 9 - Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 2008

Weekly Budgeted Collection	\$17,402.00
Actual Collection 2/24/08	\$12,844.00
Over/(Under)	(\$ 4,558.00)