

Catholic youths make pilgrimage to Poland

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

A group of 18 youths and leaders from the Baker Diocese — including eight from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pendleton and six from St. Andrews Mission — recently returned from a 10-day pilgrimage to Kraków, Poland.

Referred to as pilgrims, the participants walked a total of 70 miles, slept an average of three-four hours per night and attended six mass celebrations during the World Youth Day event, said Jacquie Hitzman, youth minister and group leader for WYD 2016. Typically organized every three years by the Catholic church, more than 2.5 million youths from across the globe were in attendance.

Highlights included sessions with Pope Francis, a Stations of the Cross re-enactment and visiting places that are significant to the Catholic church as well as historical sites.

Participants brought prayer intentions from their hometown parishes and they left them at the altar in the Chapel of the miraculous image of the Merciful Jesus and the tomb of St. Faustina.

In a garden area outside the chapel, there was a large image of the Merciful Jesus. It was created with selfies



A group from the Baker Diocese recently attended World Youth Day in Kraków, Poland. In addition to Oregon and United States flags, they carried a Pendleton Round-Up windsock as a way to represent their community.

Photo contributed by Jacquie Hitzman

that youths from around the world sent in prior to World Youth Day event.

"They were turned into this beautiful work of art," Hitzman said.

Prior to the final mass, the group trekked 10 miles to Campus Misericordiae (Field of Mercy) for an evening vigil with Pope Francis. After camping out with more than 2 million youths, the pilgrims gained

words of encouragement the following morning from the pope. In addition, he announced the next World Youth Day would take place in 2019 in Panama.

Father Kumar Udagandla of St. Mary's, also on the pilgrimage, celebrated a mass in Portland before departing for Poland. In addition, he made arrangements to use a chapel in Poland's Rzeszow airport for a mass and to

bless religious souvenirs before flying home.

World Youth Day was established in 1985 by Pope John Paul II. Its purpose is to encourage and support the church's younger generation. For more information, visit www.worldyouthday.com.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

BOARDMAN'S LIMEY PASTOR

When the light grows dim and the truth is hidden

I ran into an evangelist friend I know this last week. He was walking with his wife, coming out of a Pentecostal church meeting. He is a global traveler. He has traveled through Africa on many occasions, and he has just come back from an evangelizing visit to Russia. He shared with me that he thought this would be his last trip there due to the closing of freedom there.

The Russian government is coming down and arresting members of what are considered to be dangerous outsider religions, such as the sect of Jehovah's Witnesses, imprisoning its members and seizing their property. Religions such as the Witnesses are seen as antithetical to the core faith of Russia, against its historical groundings. Of course, militant Islam biting at the southern flanks of Russia is a spur to these crackdowns, no doubt.

Other institutions that are suffering organizational persecution are Seventh-day Adventists, Mormons, Baptists, Pentecostals and others. All of these seen as evangelizing, as moving in on Orthodox turf and causing the loss of the inherent national depth of ancient Russian Christianity.



COLIN BROWN
Faith

The majority religion of the Russian people is the Russian Orthodox tradition. A somber, beautiful faith, it seems clear that Vladimir Putin is taking upon himself the role of defender of the Orthodox churches. But in doing so he is taking a sharp turn away from the rich freedoms of the West, which offer so much experimental and thoughtful variation — that offered a

dynamic expansion of faith and joy to the people. I remember the hope we all felt in Europe when the Berlin Wall fell, pulled apart by the German people — pieces of it being sold and given away all over the world. Everyone helped pull down that wall. Thanks President Reagan!

I visited the former Soviet Union before it fell, in October 1980, when I was 24, visiting Moscow, where I had a slight run-in with the KGB due to some reading material I had. I visited Leningrad and Communist Party headquarters there, where a boyish Putin was at the time. The party's committee and my troupe of British travelers had a fairly wide-ranging discussion about the changes of openness that were coming to them. We said to them that if they gave

people freedom they would not wish to leave, they would stay and thrive.

Leningrad, now returned to its former name of St. Petersburg, is possibly one of the prettiest cities in Europe. It was certain that freedoms would not cause a rush to leave, but would open up the doors to modernity and also a flowering of traditional life — which is what happened. In my visit, I also visited Soviet Armenia, where there is a fabulous ancient monastic tradition, and the oil-rich state of Azerbaijan on the border of Iran. I also visited Tblisi, the capital of Soviet Georgia, which was, for some reason, a knock-off of California with champagne parties going on under the stars. Russia was about to bloom!

So I am very sad that the curtain of darkness is descending again in the former Soviet empire. Although it sometimes has an effect of awakening a longing for freedom that has been submerged (sometimes this can happen), I pray that Americans will raise up Russia in their prayers and honor our own churches by attending them. It can go dark very quickly sometimes.

Pastor Colin Brown of Boardman's Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road.

BRIEFLY

2 nuns killed in Mississippi; signs point to home break-in

DURANT, Miss. (AP) — Two nuns who worked as nurses and helped the poor in rural Mississippi were found slain in their home, perhaps victims of a break-in and vehicle theft, officials said Thursday.

Authorities would not say if they have a suspect or what kind of vehicle was missing from the home. They also did not release a cause of death, but the Rev. Greg Plata said police told him the sisters were stabbed.

The nuns were identified as Sister Margaret Held and Sister Paula Merrill, both 68. Their bodies were taken to a state crime lab for autopsies.

The women, both nurse practitioners, were found Thursday morning when they didn't report to work at a nearby clinic, where they provided flu shots, insulin and other medical care for children and adults who couldn't afford it.

"They were two of the sweetest, most gentle women you can imagine. Their vocation was helping the poor," said Plata, who oversees a 35-member Catholic church the sisters attended.

Maureen Smith, a spokeswoman for the Catholic Diocese of Jackson, said there were signs of a break-in at the home and the nuns' vehicle is missing.

Authorities didn't release a motive and it wasn't clear if the nuns' religious work had anything to do with the slayings.

"I have an awful feeling in the pit of my stomach," said Durant Assistant Police Chief James Lee, who is Catholic.

Police Chief John Haynes said officers are canvassing the area and checking video from surveillance cameras in town to see if they spot anything unusual.

Merrill had worked in Mississippi for more than 30 years, according to the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Kentucky. She was from Massachusetts and joined the order in 1979.

Nonbelievers sue over Pennsylvania House's opening prayers

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A group of people who don't believe in God filed a federal lawsuit on Thursday seeking to change how prayers are handled before sessions of the state House of Representatives.

The lawsuit in Harrisburg federal court said House officials have denied their requests to make an opening invocation, arguing nonbelievers are treated like a disfavored minority who can be discriminated against.

"Like theists, the plaintiffs are capable of giving inspiring and moving invocations, similar to

nontheistic invocations that have been given in other communities across the United States," the lawsuit said. "There is just one significant difference between people whom the defendants allow to give opening invocations and the plaintiffs: the former believe in God, while the plaintiffs do not."

Five people and three organizations — the Pennsylvania Nonbelievers Inc., the Dillsburg Area Freethinkers and the Lancaster Freethought Society — sued House Speaker Mike Turzai, R-Allegheny, House Parliamentarian Clancy Myer and five lawmakers who represent districts where the plaintiffs live or meet.

A spokesman for the Republicans who have majority control of the House said they believe their policy is constitutional and comports with U.S. Supreme Court rulings about prayer during government meetings. None of the five lawmaker defendants returned phone messages Thursday.

The plaintiffs also said two of them were pressured by the speaker and security officers to stand during an opening prayer.

The policy of making people stand, they said, violates the Establishment Clause of the Constitution's First Amendment by coercing people to participate in prayer.

French lawyers seek overturn on burkini bans; verdict Friday

PARIS (AP) — Human rights groups challenged the legality of municipal bans on full-body burkini swimsuits before France's highest administrative court Thursday, a practice that one lawyer fiercely denounced as reflecting "a reflex of fear."

The three-judge Council of State heard arguments from both sides and said it would issue its ruling Friday over whether to overturn the locally ordered bans. They have elicited shock and anger worldwide after photos this week appeared to show police instructing one Muslim sunbather to remove her body-concealing tunic in Nice, scene of last month's truck slaughter.

The legal fight over the right of Muslim women to wear burkinis has fired a national debate over the place of Islam in France, a strictly secular country, and fueled concerns at home and abroad that some French mayors are overstepping their powers.

Pleading in a courtroom packed with journalists, legal experts and ordinary citizens, the lawyers for two human rights groups expressed fears that the bans on wearing any religious garments on beaches, if upheld by the court, would be extended to other public places.

Worship Community

St. John's Episcopal Church

Join Us On Our Journey With Jesus.
Scripture, Tradition and Reason
Family service 9am Sunday
N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston
Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest. PH: 567-6672
We are all inclusive Church who welcomes all.

Peace Lutheran Church

210 NW 9th, Pendleton ELCA
Join us Sundays

9:30 am Sunday Worship
10:30 am Fellowship
11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Class

~Come and be at Peace~
on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday

Faith Center Church

Worshiping God
Loving People
108 S. Main • 276-9569

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Sr. Pastor,
Ray O'Grady
pendletonfaithcenter.org

NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

1350 S. Highway 395,
Hermiston

Sunday Worship Services
English- Pastor Dave Andrus
9:00 & 10:45 am
Spanish- Pastor Genaro Loreda
9:00 & 10:15 am
Classes for kids during all services
For more information call
541-567-8441

Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Saturday Services
Pendleton
1401 SW Goodwin Place
276-0882
Sabbath School 9:20 am
Worship Service 10:45 am

Community Presbyterian Church

**14 Martin Drive,
Umatilla, OR**
922-3250

Worship: 10 AM
Sunday School at 11:30

First United Methodist Church

Pendleton/Hermiston
352 SE 2nd Street, Pendleton OR
Sunday Worship 9am • 541-276-2616
191 E. Gladys Ave, Hermiston OR
Worship Broadcast on KUMA 1290 @ 11am
Sunday Worship 11am
541-567-3002
*Worship Livestream at herfume.com
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor*

Living Word Christian Center

Sunday Worship 10:00am
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00pm
Youth Classes: Nursery - 6th grade Sun & Wed
Jr & Sr High Discipleship Program Wed

Overcomer's Outreach
Tuesday at 6:00pm - Annex
A Christ-centered, 12-Step
Sharon Miller, Pastor
401 Northgate, Pendleton
541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com

Grace Baptist Church

555 SW 11th, Hermiston
567-9497

Nursery provided for all services

Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Worship - 10:45 AM
6:00 pm
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM
"Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"

PILOT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH

585 SW Birch
Pilot Rock, OR 97868
(541) 443-2500
prbconline.blogspot.com

Sunday School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Kids' Club: 6:00 pm
Wednesday Services:
Youth Group: 7:00 pm

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
215 N Main • Pendleton

Sunday Worship: 9:40a

Office 276-5358
M-F, 8:30-12:30

WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG

GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR
www.graceandmercyelcalutheran.org
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Provided)
Fellowship, Refreshments & Sunday School
Check Out our Facebook Page or Website
for More Information

541-289-4535
Tom Inch, Pastor
Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA
164 E. Main St. / P.O. Box 1108
Hermiston, Oregon 97838

Redeemer Episcopal Church

241 SE Second St. Pendleton
(541)276-3809
www.pendletonepiscopal.org

Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Holy Communion Noon
Weekly Adults Spiritual Life Group
All Are Welcome

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

-Presbyterian Church (USA)-
201 SW Dorion Ave.
Pendleton

Service of Worship - 10:00 am
Children's Sunday School - 10:20 am
Fellowship - 11:00 am
www.pendletonpresbyterian.com
Open Hearted... Open Minded

Come meet Jesus at
PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH

3202 SW Nye Ave Pendleton, OR
541-276-7590

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM
Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM
Mon. Community Women's Study
9:30 AM & 6 PM
Awana Kids Club (K-6th grade)
Wed Men's Study 6 PM
MOPS meeting the 1st Thur of the Month 6 PM

The Salvation Army

Center for Worship & Service

Sunday Worship Service
9:30 - Sunday School
10:30 - Worship Service

Wednesday Bible Study
5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study

COME AS YOU ARE
150 SE EMIGRANT
(541)276-3369

PENDLETON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM
SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM

712 SW 27TH ST.
541-276-1894
www.fcogpendleton.com

a place to belong
Pendleton First

INVITING ENRICHING
INVOLVING EMPOWERING

SUNDAY SERVICES
AM Celebration-10:00am
AM Kids Place -10:00am
The Connection--6:00pm
Groups for all ages:
Adults, Children, Youth, & College

Thursdays
Celebrate Recovery-6:00pm
Celebration Place-6:00pm
Other Groups Available Weekly

For more info visit
WWW.PENDLETONFIRST.COM
1911 SE Court Ave
541-276-6417
Assembly of God Church

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

in Mission for Christ LCMC
Bible Study.....9:00 AM
Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM

Red Lion Hotel
(Oregon Trail Room)
www.faithpendleton.org

To share your worship times call
Terri Briggs
541-278-2678