

Guest Editorial

Death Notices

Quarantine is a time for introspection

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph SDB

These days when we are affected by the threat of Coronavirus something struck me from the bible. From the book of Old Testament, in the 2nd book of Chronicle we read like this “whenever I hold back the rain or send locusts to eat up the crops or send an epidemic on my people, if they pray to me and repent and turn away from the evil they have been doing, then I will hear them in heaven, and forgive their sins, and make their land prosperous again” 2 Chronicles 7:13-14). Why Worry when We Can Pray and Take Necessary Precautions? Footprints in the Sand is a beautiful poem which is well-known. However, to remind you of this poem I am giving it below:

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.
After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.
This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
“Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You’d walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don’t understand why, when I needed You the most,
You would leave me.”
He whispered, “My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you.”

Until few weeks ago our lives have been normal, of course, with the usual ups and downs. Then all of a sudden, we were hit with a pandemic – COVID-19 caused by Coronavirus. Now the whole world is reeling under the blow of this unforeseen infectious disease. First identified in China, it has spread all over the world causing the deaths of thousands of people especially in China and Italy. The latest news that corona has taken nearly 16,000 lives already. There is lot of panic, fear, anxiety exists. Now we are all worried about what is going to happen since no successful vaccine has been found to combat this disease.

In this alarming situation we know that God is with us, Emmanuel. (Mt 1:23) But do we believe that in this hurting time he is not only with us but he is really carrying us in his hands? Well, this is really the truth because we were created in his loving providence and it is under the umbrella of the same providence that we are passing through this crisis. Hence, what is needed is trust in his providence and surrender our lives into his hands. In the book of Deuteronomy we read, “There you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place” (Deu-

teronomy 1:31).

The government has declared a time for quarantine, to break the chain of spread of this virus. In the book of Isaiah 26:20 we read, “Go into your house, my people and shut the door behind you. Hide yourselves for a little while until God’s anger is over.” We also see in the gospel of John those who shut themselves in the room were strengthened by the peace of Christ. That is why I say it a time to introspect oneself and get reconciled to Christ. “It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said.” John 20:19

Yes, this is one of the times that we need his real peace, we need Him Jesus to carry us through. And remember, he is with us always as he promised, “I will be with you till the end of the ages” (Mathew 28:20). He is always with us in his word (Bible), in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist and in each one of us. What is important is that we love him and walk with him trusting in his goodness and mercy.

There is the story of a man who had a dream in which an angel appeared to him with a list of names in his hand. When the man saw the list, he became curious and asked the angel what the list was about. “It is the list of people who love God,” replied the angel with a smile. Getting hold of the list the man found his name was not in the list. Immediately his face fell. Then the angel showed him another list and said that his name was included in that second list. It was the list of people whom God loves.

Yes, God loves us dearly even when we do not remember him and love him. And that is all the more reason for us to turn to him and ask his special help to tide over this heart-breaking crisis. Words like “Do not be afraid,” “Fear not” and “Be courageous” appear a few hundred times in the Bible and they are meant for us, to strengthen us and comfort us. Hence, as Jesus says, “Fear is useless; what is needed is faith” (Mark 5:36). Let us now hold on to our faith more than ever before and let us continue to pray with faith that our prayers will be answered.

St. Padre Pio used to remind people, “Why worry when we can pray with hope?” Let us try to follow his advice and try to pray constantly with hope and without worry for an early end to this pandemic. Right now we cannot come together to pray as a community. However, united in faith and love we can pray in our homes for our well-being as well as the well-being of the whole humanity. At the same time let us try to follow the guidelines of both civil and ecclesiastical authorities and take the necessary precautions to avert this tragedy. I am reminded of another scripture verse “Don’t worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always ask him with a thankful heart” (Philippian 4:6). As I conclude this letter, I urge everyone of you, “When you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received it, and you will be given whatever you ask for” (Mark 11:24). Let us strengthen each other in our continuous prayers at this time of global catastrophe. Thank you and God Bless you.

Patrick Kelly O’Donnell – Patrick Kelly O’Donnell, 40, son of Dennis and Peggy O’Donnell, died February 28 in Austin, TX from injuries sustained from being rear ended by a drunk driver on January 31. The driver was arrested and blood alcohol was .20. There will be a celebration of life in Patrick’s memory on May 23, 2020.

Correction

Last week’s obituary for Shannon LuAnn Boor failed to mention she is survived by two brothers, Richard Stiles of Manderson, WY and Andrew Scott of Joplin, MO.

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under “Card of Thanks” at a cost of \$10.

Bentz the only conservative choice

To the editor:
Former Senator Cliff Bentz, who is running for Congressional District No.2, held a meet and greet at the Sage Center in Boardman, Sunday March 15. There were approximately fifty folks who attended and had a great opportunity to meet Cliff and gain insight to his reason for this position.

Cliff is the only conservative choice for eastern Oregonians to be represented in Washington DC. As a state senator in the Oregon legislature, he was instrumental in curbing SB2020, in 2019. He has spent an enormous amount of time and effort to educate himself on the “Cap and Trade” issue. He was invited by the Democrat majority to help negotiate a fair outcome to SB 2020. He made 16 trips to Salem from Ontario to participate in the discussions. His knowledge of “Cap and Trade” put him in the position to counter any

and all false issues brought forth by his Democratic colleagues. Eventually, he was uninvited from the conversation because the Democrats could not put forth a proposal that Cliff was not able to debunk or show it would not work. Without conservative voices at the table, the senators had no choice but to leave the state and block the passage of the bill.

Cliff will listen to his constituents and become knowledgeable on any issue. He will vote in the way that is most conducive to eastern Oregon. His background in agriculture will be an asset when the next farm bill is constructed. He will support agriculture, livestock and forestry. He is most interested in keeping jobs in eastern Oregon and improving our rural life and infrastructure.

Cliff Bentz is “Fighting for Rural Oregon.”
Respectfully submitted by Clinton R. Carlson

Libraries offer virtual services

All Oregon Trail Library District branches are closed to the public pursuant to Executive Order No. 20-12 issued by Governor Brown, OTLD Director, Kathy Street, announced. Curbside service is no longer available. If you need any assistance with your library card account, please leave your name and number in a voice mail. Messages will be checked daily.

While the physical spaces are closed, your Library card gives you access to a world of digital content and other services, including downloadable magazines, eBooks, audiobooks, and educational resources. Visit oregontrail.ploud.net to access digital content. If you need any assistance, please call your local branch. A staff person will be available to help you.

You should also know:
-We will be extending

holds and due dates. If you have materials that are due during this closure, please keep them until libraries reopen or return to the book drops.

-All inner library loans are suspended until libraries re-open.

-Please keep items at home and do not put in drop boxes.

-Library events and meeting room reservations are cancelled through Monday, April 13. We will continue to monitor how long these spaces and programs will remain unavailable.

-Visit our website at oregontrail.ploud.net for COVID-19 information and resources. We will also post information on our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Your health and safety, as well as that of our staff, volunteers and Friends of the Library is our top concern.

Primary election to include county candidates

Most candidates running for Morrow County positions will be seen on the primary ballot in May. The exceptions, due to two or less filing for the positions, are Morrow County Sheriff and Morrow County Clerk, who will appear on the general ballot in November.

Bobbi Childers has filed for Morrow County Clerk. Mark Pratt and Kenneth W. Matlack are running for Morrow County Sheriff.

Candidates for Morrow County Commissioner, Position One are Joseph B. Armato, Jim Doherty, Michael H. Sweek and Joel R.

Peterson. Sabrina L. Bailey Cave, Jaylene Papineau, Cody High and Erik L. Patton have filed for Morrow County Treasurer. Running for Justice of the Peace are Theresa Crawford, Glen G. Diehl and Kelly L. Doherty.

According to Oregon Secretary of State, Bev

Clarno, Oregon’s May 19 primary election will continue as planned. “Because Oregon votes by mail we do not have to be concerned about social distancing issues at polling places that so many other states are struggling with,” Clarno said. “Many states are looking to implement our vote by mail system as a safer way to conduct elections in November.”



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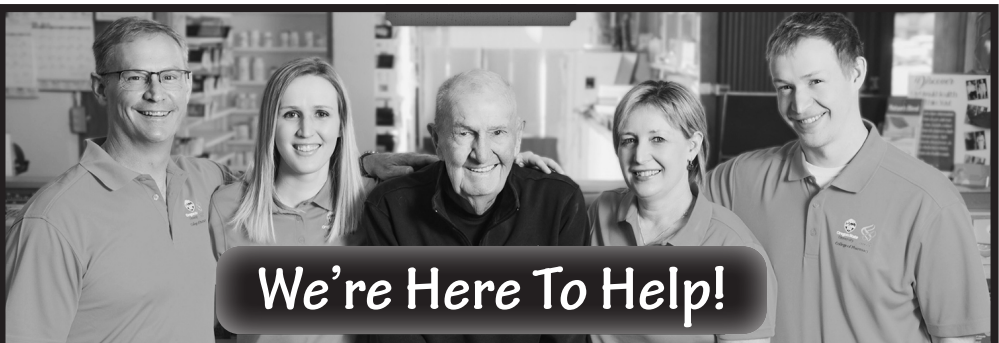
Morrow County Sheriff Oregon

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Due to the State guidelines regarding the Coronavirus outbreak, All Wheatland Insurance Offices will be closed to the public. Employees will be working in a secure location in order to continue taking care of business. Please call 541-422-7410 to talk with an agent regarding any of your insurance questions. You will be able to make premium payments during this time by calling 541-422-7410. Payments can be made by credit card or debit card. For cash payment options, please call the 541-422-7410 number to make arrangements. We all are praying this situation will be over very soon. Please be safe.

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