

Spiritually Speaking

Anointed with the Spirit of the Lord

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

This Sunday, we are reminded of our Christian fellowship with the rest of humanity. Jesus initiated this process in a Jewish Synagogue by proposing a missionary agenda of “bringing the good news to the poor.” Jesus proposes the kingdom of peace, joy, and concern for everyone. In preparation for this Sunday, let us examine our own personal agendas and see if they are in consonance with what Jesus has initiated.



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

When we reflected on Christ’s changing the water into wine, we realized that He came into this world to change us. He came to teach us how to do a better job of loving God and loving our fellow human beings. He changed the lives of everyone who came in contact with Him. In changing water into wine, He invites every one of us to be His partners in transforming the world.

The Gospel of Luke (1:1-4), tells us why Luke wrote the Gospel: to explain to Theophilus, probably a Roman official, what Christianity was all about. Theophilus could represent many non-Jewish characters, real as well as fictitious, in Luke’s Gospel. Theophilus could also represent each one of us, as we hear Jesus presenting His “missionary agenda” at the beginning of His Nazareth ministry.

Have you ever tried to explain to someone what Christianity is all about? Many people think that Christianity is about sin and judgment, heaven and hell, and God as a divine sheriff who is always monitoring our movements, writing down all our sins in His book and waiting to throw us into hellfire as soon as He catches up with us. St. Luke sees it all differently. For him, following Christ has more to do with God’s care, concern, love, empathy, and mercy than with punishment.

In Luke’s Gospel ((1:1-4, 4:14-21), Jesus makes a solemn declaration of His charisma in the world. We can call it the Jesus Manifesto. People who initiate a revolution usually start off with a declaration of their manifesto. Jesus, who has come to start a revolution of mercy, empathy, concern, compassion and love towards the marginalized and the downtrodden of the society, announces the Christian manifesto: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4: 18-19). In these few words we see how Jesus understands His mission. Now, what is the significance of the statement, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me”? From the Gospel we know that the whole life of Jesus is guided by the Spirit of God.

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when He was baptized, the Spirit descended on Him as a dove. The Spirit led Him day after day to a ministry of healing and the forgiveness of sin. After the resurrection, Jesus promised the same Spirit to His disciples. At Pentecost He bestowed them with the gift of the Spirit (Acts 2: 1-4). Our faith in Him continues to live in the presence of the Spirit. So, all of us are called to be Spirit-filled witnesses of Christ.

St Paul’s Letter to the First Corinthians (12: 12-30) tells us that it is imperative on the part of Spirit-filled believers to work together to bring about God’s Kingdom on earth. The Church’s ministry is not of isolated individuals’ endeavors but the work of the community of believers, the “Body of Christ,” guided by the Spirit. If we do not work together, Paul warns us that we hurt ourselves as well as the Church. Using the metaphor of the body, I recall this story: Once upon a time the members of the body were very annoyed with the stomach, resentful that they had to procure food and bring it to the stomach while the stomach did nothing but devour the fruit of their labor. So, they decided they would no longer bring the stomach food. The hand would not lift it to the mouth. The teeth would not chew it. The throat would not swallow it. That would force the stomach into doing something. But they only succeeded in making the body weak to the point that they were all threatened with death. So, it was finally they who learned that in helping one another, they were really working for their own welfare.

St. Paddy’s Cruz-In March 12

The St. Paddy’s Cruz-In will be held during the St. Patrick’s Celebration in Heppner on March 12, 2022. The car show area will be on Willow Street (between Heppner Market Fresh and St. Patrick’s Senior Center) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Those who have a classic vehicle and want to join the show, registration will start at 9 a.m. The price is \$20 per vehicle. There will be awards this year for Leprechaun’s

Choice, Mustangs’ Choice, Best Convertible, Best 1910’s – 1920’s Car or Pickup, Best Street Rod, Best Paint, Best Restored Car, Best of Show, and many more. Also, there is a Participant’s Choice award to be voted on by the car owners themselves.

Judging will begin at 9 a.m. The awards will be given out around 3 p.m. on Willow Street. The event will include a participant’s poker walk through five downtown business-

County summer internships open for applications

Employers in Morrow County are offering over 75 internship positions during the summer 2022 season. All internship positions are paid and available in a wide variety of sectors. Each internship is listed online at www.columbiaworks.org with the link to apply. The application period is open through April 1, 2022.

Columbia Works was established to link regional employers with high

school and college students who are looking to gain experience in their prospective career field.

“We have seen so many wonderful outcomes from this program,” says Kalie Davis, Director of Workforce Development at the Port of Morrow. “Our goal is to help connect young professionals with industry partners who provide opportunities for professional growth and

pathways to employment.”

Each year Columbia Works offers free professional development sessions to summer interns.

“We ask each cohort of summer interns what topics would be most beneficial for them,” Davis said. “Our hope is that they complete their summer internship and return to Morrow County when they are ready for a full time position.”

For more information about the Columbia Works Summer Internship Program email workforce@portofmorrow.com or call 541-945-2231. The Columbia Works Program is a collaboration between Morrow County businesses, Morrow County Chambers of Commerce, and the Port of Morrow to grow and promote summer internship opportunities, according to a press release

Good News Only

By Doris Brosnan

Few things are more delightful than children, in general, or words “from the mouths of babes.” Share yours?



Jacqueline and Hudson enjoy reading the Heppner Gazette-Times

Already smiling over the Good News they see in the Gazette? We hope these youngsters continue to be fans. Jacqueline, one, and Hudson, four, are the children of Kevin and Britany Drake, Tualatin, OR. Grandparents are Doug and Carley Drake of Heppner. Great-grandmother is Donna Bergstrom, Heppner. Another set of grandparents are David and Jean Farrell in Wilsonville.

Betty Gray was delighted to have family visitors last weekend, especially because winter weather had interfered with a Christmas visit.

Her daughter, DeLoy, and husband, Curtis Maryces, came from Seattle with their son, Tyler, a sophomore headed back to college in California. And her son, Mark Matthews, and his wife, Ima, came from Helix. “Didn’t last long enough but was delightful!” Betty reports.

Wishing Leon Ball a “Happy Birthday!” can still bring a smile to his face. Leon celebrated turning 95 last week by enjoying Chinese birthday lunch in Hermiston with his son Randy.

Gary Munkers’ three sons helped him celebrate his 70th birthday last Saturday. Leland Rill, who recently moved back to Liberty School Road, turned 38 on Monday, celebrating with birthday dinner with his mom, Molly. And Karen Wolff is celebrating her birthday this week.

The mountain snows enabled a great success recently for the Four Corners Snowmobile Club’s Annual Playday at Kelly Prairie. It was 16 degrees, with

bright sunlight, gorgeous blue skies, and a large camp fire. Mike Gorman tended to the thick chili, great hot dogs, and delicious hot chocolate. Cliff Dougherty championed the Poker Run course, over beautiful mountain trails that Ron Carlson had in top shape, groomed and smoothed. At one point, over 70 snowmobiles and tracked side-by-sides were noted, with many families and children. Visitors came from as far away as Roseburg, Spokane, Tri-Cities, and Hood River. A great family outing.

Good news for individuals looking for additional training that can be beneficial in a job search: The Port of Morrow and Blue Mountain Community College are offering free training in a variety of interests, from computer-related to fork-lift operation. Info is available from either the Port or BMCC. And for job-seekers, the extensive list of job openings posted on the Chamber of Commerce website or available at the office could be a good place to look.

From someone from the “dial and knobs” era

comes this helpful information for everyone not already in the know: During electrical outages, an old-fashioned land-line telephone with a receiver connected to the base that plugs directly into a telephone outlet – not one with a cordless receiver and a base that plugs into an electric outlet – does work. Might be a good idea to look for one of these treasures from the past? And imagine the entertainment value in asking a youngster to make a phone call by using a dial-type phone.

Good news for sufferers of Raynaud’s syndrome or just plain cold fingers: several companies produce battery-operated heated gloves!

If you enjoy reading this column, maybe this week, you can take a few minutes to jot some notes or make a call to share a “good news tidbit” for next week’s column. That is what keeps the column going. Be in touch? dbrosnan123@gmail.com, or 541-676-5382 or 541-223-1490.

Here’s hoping that some good news comes to everyone reading this!

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Upcoming Heppner Sports



- **Wednesday, January 19, 2022 **5:00pm**
Basketball: Boys C-Team Game vs. Ione High School @ Heppner High School
- **Thursday, January 20, 2022 **4:30pm**
Basketball: Girls Middle School Game vs. Riverside @ Windy River Elementary, Boardman Oregon
- Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:00pm**
Basketball: Boys C-Team Game vs. Weston-McEwen @ Heppner High School
- **Friday, January 21, 2022 **TBD**
Wrestling: Girls Varsity Invitational vs. Grant Union @ Grant Union High School
- **Friday, January 21, 2022 **12:00pm**
Wrestling: Middle School Invitational vs. Grant Union @ Grant Union High School
- **Friday, January 21, 2022 ** 12:00pm**
Wrestling: High School Varsity Invitational vs. Grant Union @ Grant Union High School
- Friday, January 21, 2022 3 pm**
Basketball: Varsity Game

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Happy 95th Birthday!
 January, 12
Leon Ball
 Fireman First Class
 US Navy 1944 - 1946
 Battleship California - South Pacific