

Convocation picks up award-winning author/professor

By Michael Brown
Editor

BOISE — When one of the initial speakers for Convocation 2010 had to cancel at the last minute, all Chancellor Marcie Wilske had to do was make one phone call, and she landed an all-star.

Bernard P. Prusak, chairman of the Theology and Religious Studies Department at Villanova University in Philadelphia, will join Bishop Gerald E. Wilkerson, an auxiliary in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, as a guest facilitator at the event June 7-10 at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish.

"He is one of the most knowledgeable speakers anywhere in the field of ecclesiology," Wilske said April 28.

Besides earning degrees from the Lateran University and Gregorian University in Rome, Prusak has written extensively on ecclesiology—the study of church structure and practice. His



Bernard P. Prusak

last book, "The Church Unfinished: Ecclesiology through the Centuries," won first place in the theology category from the Catholic Press Association in 2005. He has been a full professor in historical and systematic theology at Villanova since 1978 and department chairman since 2003. Prusak is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the Catholic Theological Society of America and the College Theology Society.

He also supervised Wilske's master's thesis when she studied at the school.

"We were very fortunate to be able to book him at the last minute," she said. Prusak will be stopping in Boise in between conferences in Oregon and Ohio in early June, she added.

Prusak is a lifelong educator who easily fits the mold of past convocation presenters. He has worked with parishes and dioceses throughout the

country, and those attending the event will receive important information to help with the planning and implementation of the second part of the pastoral plan, Building Christ-centered Communities. Bishop Wilkerson is expected to provide practical pastoral suggestions to dovetail Prusak's presentations.

Pastoral leaders will look at ways to build Christ-centered communities, especially through hospitality, cultural ministries, stewardship and liturgy. Wilske said electronic invitations have gone to leaders in parishes, schools and ministries throughout the diocese.

Registration for Convocation 2010 is available online at www.showmyevent.com/events/viewEventDetails.aspx?EventID=1325, using the password RCDB. Parish leaders are reminded to consult with their pastors before registering. Anyone with registration

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Tales of two monsignors

Committed to ministry: Msgr. George L. King

By Michael Brown
Editor

OROFINO — Some might see Msgr. George Lambert King, 80, as stubborn, single-minded or merely determined to return to overseeing two parishes in the North Central Deanery as he recovers from a broken hip.

The truth is far simpler: Msgr. King was born to be a priest and anything outside an active ministry is simply unfathomable.

On April 20, Msgr. King sat down for an extended interview to discuss his upbringing, his ministry and his legacy. After nearly three hours of nonstop review, featuring details like the date his grandfather migrated from Germany to South Africa, or the precise year a priest was assigned to St. Joseph's in Pocatello, he seemed not the least bit tired.

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CRUCIFIX ON CASKET — A crucifix resides upon the casket of Msgr. James T. Hallissey as his body is brought into Sacred Heart Church, Boise, on April 21. (ICR photo)

Faithful bid farewell to Msgr. James T. Hallissey

By Michael Brown
Editor

BOISE — As the funeral Mass for Msgr. James T. Hallissey came to a close April 21 in Sacred Heart Church, Bishop Michael P. Driscoll leaned over the ambo and, instead of speaking to the gathered mourners, turned his comments to the casket before him.

"So, Msgr. Hallissey, we thank you for your life. We thank you for your joy. We thank you for your Irish humor. We thank you for all you have been to each of us."

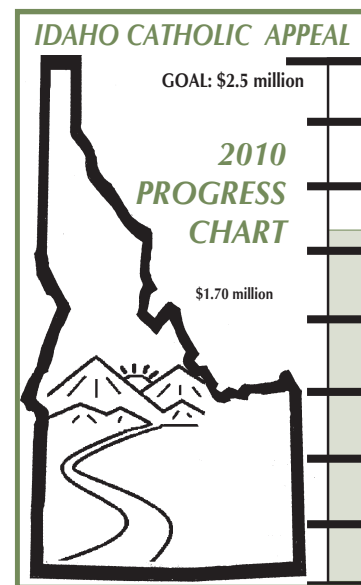
Msgr. Hallissey died April 16 at age 93 after being in failing health for almost a year.

His surviving sibling, Sheila

Burke, was unable to attend the Mass because European air travel was grounded following the eruption of a volcano in Iceland. However, a nephew, Liam Holland, attended with his wife, representing the family.

The bishop, amid daily confirmations in the North Central Deanery, flew into Boise just for the funeral and left immediately afterward. He praised the Irish-born priest for whom he requested and received a second papal honor as a Protonotary Apostolic Supernumerary in 2008. Msgr. Hallissey is believed to be the only priest ever in the diocese to receive the honor twice.

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ICA hits 68 percent

BOISE — As April closed, the 2010 Idaho Catholic Appeal moved closer to its \$2.5 million goal, hitting \$1.7 million, or 68 percent of its mark.

"The good news is that nearly 20 parishes have gone over their goals," said Jim Hughes, diocesan Stewardship and Development director. "Twelve of those have achieved more than 110 percent of the goal and will begin to receive rebates in June."

The parishes with the largest percentages over goal include St. Joseph's, Melba, 158 percent; Sacred Heart, Desmet and Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Oreana, 144 percent; and Our Lady of the Rosary, Boise, 142 percent.

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SEMINARIAN AND BISHOP — Msgr. George L. King, a seminarian when pictured here with Boise Bishop Edward J. Kelly in 1949, was staying at the North American College in Rome, which had just reopened at the end of World War II. The priest recently looked back on 60 years of ministry. (ICR photo courtesy of Msgr. King)



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