



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*  
Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

MARCH 2016  
*Newsletter*

## In the Footsteps of St. Joseph: Living Life as a Faithful Father

By Christine Corbett Conklin

As we celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph in March, we recall the special challenges that this humble father and husband endured as he faithfully served God. Although no other man will face the exact circumstances he did, today's world is full of obstacles – and opportunities – for fathers attempting to live their Faith.

“Scripture says little about Joseph, other than that he was ‘just,’ that is, virtuous in every way,” observed Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical designating March 19 as the Feast of St. Joseph. “His importance is recognized by the stupendous trust given to him as Guardian of the Christ Child and Spouse of the Mother Of God. He was not a man of words but of deeds.”

Pope Leo further observed, as quoted in citations from the Passionist Monastery, “What the world needs is faithful and devoted men like St. Joseph; men who stick to their job, fulfill their duty and measure up to their responsibility.”

In 2016, that can be a tough job description for Catholic fathers to fill!

“One of the greatest challenges is the power of all kinds of media and electronic communication devices that provide so much influence to young people that's not all that good,” observed Monsignor John Ecker, pastor of St. Paul Cathedral and vicar general of the Diocese of Yakima.

Such influences, along with many negative role models in society, can form a “fence” between parents and their kids, he noted. “Fathers have to work in spite of these things.”

Monsignor Ecker has been one of the organizers of Team XY, an ecumenical men's group that has met in Yakima



Statue of St. Joseph and the Child Jesus by Ferdinand Demetz.  
-Photo by Wolfgang Moroder, Wikimedia Commons

since 2013 “challenging men to live their faith openly” and to be “good fathers and husbands.”

Meeting at least once each year, the group is designed to encourage men “through the teachings of Jesus Christ,” explained Jeff Schlieman, a parishioner of Holy Family Parish in Yakima and another key organizer of the program.

This group also “puts legs to what we believe” and tries to offer positive role models for youth, by getting involved in a “service Saturday” project each May, such as painting a home for an elderly or physically handicapped person, he said.

“Today, there's such a devaluation of men in society, of fatherhood,” suggested Joe Schroeder, a member of Holy Spirit Parish in Kennewick and a founder of a Christian men's prayer and support group called “G-Men” (for God's Men).

“Just look at our popular media,” he said. “There's not even a depiction of a really good father.”

In beginning G-Men, about six years ago, “the first four guys were all guys who had relatively young kids,” Schroeder recalled. “We all laughed that we never got to hear the readings (at Mass) because we were always running kids in and out of church.”

Today, the group includes about 15 participants who are mostly Catholic men from the Tri-Cities. They meet once a week for coffee, perhaps Scripture, and to “discuss Jesus, God and faith,” Schroeder said. They also support each other with prayer needs.

“It was in the home where Jesus grew in wisdom and favor before God,” notes Steve Branch, a parishioner of Holy Family Parish. Branch observed that, compared to past generations, today's men are expected to “put a greater emphasis on being physically present” in the home and in family activities. It's a matter of “finding balance.”

For several years, Branch has participated in a program adopted by hundreds of parishes nationwide called That Man Is You. Men meet weekly to focus on “becoming the man God wants us to be,” he said.

It's a three-year program that centers on man's relationship with God, his wife and his children, explained Dr. Ted O'Donnell, who also is active in That Man Is You through St. Joseph Parish in

*Continued on page 2*

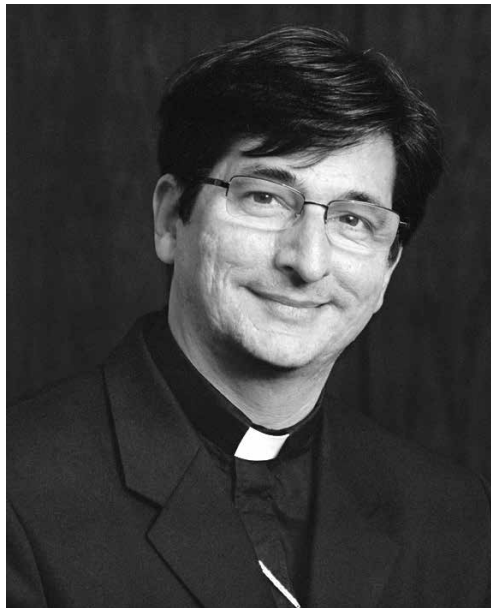
## A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

During this time each year, I often reflect a bit on the Easter season tied to upcoming events in the Diocese of Yakima. But given this Jubilee Year of Mercy, I'd like to reflect a bit more on the Second Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

Saint Thomas serves as the key focal point on Divine Mercy Sunday for he gives us a hint of how we discover Jesus. Recall that Jesus, after rising from the dead, is not immediately recognizable to his followers. The women who come to his tomb mistake him for a gardener and the wayfarers on the road to Emmaus mistake him for a fellow traveler. Fishing at the Sea of Galilee, his disciples initially mistake him for another fisherman on the shore.

The Gospel reading for Divine Mercy Sunday notes that Thomas, too, was initially confused. Yet Thomas comes to recognize Jesus after Jesus invites him to examine his wounds. Note well: Thomas never actually touches the wounds. But when Thomas sees the



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

wounds, he responds, "My Lord and my God."

This tells us something about the way we can recognize the risen Body of Christ too: through his wounds. Thus, Divine Mercy Sunday points us straight to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It is when we touch the wounds of the world, be that the corporal

works, such as feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless, or the spiritual works, such as bearing wrongs patiently or burying the dead, that we come to see Christ in those we serve in their physical and spiritual poverty.

Our feature this month tied to the Feast of St. Joseph reminds us that one of the best ways to see the Father's mercy is through those fathers who desire to grow in their role as family men dedicated to the welfare and growth of those around them: their spouses, their children, their parents and their extended families.

I hope our various stories and features inspire you to look carefully at the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, seeing how you might touch the wounds of the world and thus discover the Divine Mercy that flows from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Happy Easter!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

## In the Footsteps of St. Joseph *Continued from page 1*

Wenatchee.

The purpose of the group is to evangelize men, help men to step up to spiritual leadership at home and in the workplace and also "to develop an interior life so that they become saints," he said.

If you look out over a Catholic Church congregation, you may find that there are more women than men present and that women fill more lay ministry roles, he noted. You might even call it a "man crisis," he suggests.

"All of us find our paths to holiness in the vocation we find," Branch added. For fathers, a key part of that involves spending quality time with children, including teaching life skills, toward a "shared goal of holiness."

Plans are underway to begin a program called The Troops of St. George, next fall through Holy Family Parish. The program will combine outdoor activities for fathers and sons, along with teaching of the Faith, Mass, Reconciliation, and the rosary, for example.

Society, in general, is "terrible out there," contends Isaac Alamos, a parishioner of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Moses Lake and Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, Council #4367. Raising moral children is a challenge, with sexuality, drug and peer pressure issues all around us, he says.

Members of the Knights of Columbus "support each and every one of us as brothers," Alamos observed. They also work together on a variety of church projects.

Men interested in receiving encouragement in their walk of faith are welcome to contact parish offices to learn more about men's groups in their area.

Isaac Alamos also has another heartfelt suggestion:

"The best thing to do to keep your relationship with your family, your wife, your (kids) tight is to pray, pray, pray," he concluded.

*Next month: In the footsteps of Mary: living life as a faithful mother.*

If you have been abused or victimized by a member of the Catholic clergy, please believe in the possibility for hope and help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out.

The Yakima Diocese has a sexual abuse hotline for those who wish to report some incident concerning that issue as regards a bishop, priest, deacon or diocesan employee or volunteer. (888) 276-4490

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PUBLISHER

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson

MODERATOR

Monsignor Robert M. Siler

EDITOR

Christine Corbett Conklin

TRANSLATIONS

Indiana Blandón

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Email: robert.siler@yakimadiocese.net



## Family Congress Set for Yakima

One of the largest Hispanic religious events in the Pacific Northwest, the 17th annual Congreso Católico de Evangelización Familiar, or Catholic Family Evangelization Congress, will combine prayer, Mass, music and inspirational speakers at the Yakima Valley SunDome April 22-24.

Although the Congress is conducted in Spanish, everyone is welcome. The event is family-friendly and free. As organizers note, "Jesus has already paid for you."

Tied in with the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, the theme of this year's Congress is taken from the words of Jesus to the Pharisees in the Gospel of Matthew 9:13: "Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

The gathering Friday runs from 4-9 p.m., with a concert of praise and thanksgiving at 5:30 p.m. and a Mass of healing at 7. Hours on Saturday are 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., with a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration at 7 p.m. Hours on Sunday are 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., with a closing Mass at 5:30 p.m.

Local presenters include Bishop Joseph Tyson and Father Lalo Barragán, along with singer Alma Sanchez and the musical group, Elí Mi Dios. Other presenters include Father José Eugenio Hoyos, Father Martín Eduardo Delgado Rodríguez, Omar Maytorena, and Darwin Lechler.



Many gathered for the 2014 Congress.

## Annual Catholic Appeal Needs You

The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA), which began last fall, still needs your help. This once-a-year appeal is essential to fund the ministries that nurture both the spiritual and physical needs of the people of the Diocese of Yakima.

As of February 29, the total amount pledged by our 41 parishes is \$1.9 million and the total amount collected, \$1.1 million. The diocesan goal is \$1.5 million and we are \$373,283 from reaching it. We have seven months left, and we highly encourage anyone who has not made his or her pledge this year to make it today! To do this, you can visit the diocesan website at [www.yakimadiocese.net](http://www.yakimadiocese.net) and click on the ACA icon, or stop by your parish office.

Congratulations go out to Holy Apostles in East Wenatchee, St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima, St. Joseph in Waterville, St. Pius X in Quincy and St. Anne in Bridgeport who have exceeded their goal already! These five parishes have a potential of receiving a parish rebate which totals \$172,734. All funds collected in excess of the parish goal are returned to the local parish for use in their local needs.

St. Francis de Sales in Chelan met its ACA goal. Parishes which are now at between 92 and 95 percent of goal include Our Lady of Lourdes in Selah, St. John the Baptist in Cle Elum, Holy Angels/St. Patrick in Coulee City/Hartline, Holy Trinity in Goldendale, Christ the King in Richland, and Holy Spirit in Kennewick.

Thank you for your generosity!

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May 18 Tri-Cities      May 25 Yakima  
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# NEWS

## *From Around the Diocese*

### **Join in World Day of Prayer**

A special observance of World Day of Prayer is planned at Holy Redeemer Church in Yakima on Sunday, April 17.

On this day, also known as “Good Shepherd Sunday,” the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 3 to 5 p.m. Prayer is encouraged for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life and secular institutes. This follows the biblical instruction to “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest.” (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2)

All are welcome to come. Holy Redeemer Church is located at 1707 South Third Avenue.

### **Magnificat Classes Are Scheduled**

More classes are scheduled in the Magnificat series, designed to help us grow in knowledge of our Faith, creed and doctrine of the Church.

The following English classes are planned for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

They begin April 9 at St. Pius X Parish, 805 North Central Avenue in Quincy. There, participants will hear Father Michael Brzezowski speak about “Mary and the Saints,” Bishop Joseph Tyson explain “Christology,” and Jeff Thompson discuss “Anthropology.”

On April 16, the same presentations will be made at the Diocese of Yakima pastoral center at 5301-A Tieton Drive in Yakima.

In May, Bishop Joseph Tyson will be the sole featured speaker for Magnificat presentations on “Pray Celebrating: Active Participation.” On May 7, he will be at Holy Spirit Parish, 7409 West Clearwater in Kennewick. May 14, he will be at St. Pius X Parish. May 21, he will be at the diocesan pastoral center.

There is no charge to attend Magnificat classes, although a freewill offering can be made. For more information, call 509-965-7117 or email [magnificat@yakimadiocese.net](mailto:magnificat@yakimadiocese.net).

## **Make Mass More Meaningful for Yourself and Others**

As warmer weather arrives and family schedules become more hectic, it’s a good time to stop and think about how we can make the experience of Mass more meaningful for ourselves and others.

If we think of the Mass as a real privilege, the center of our Catholic Faith, it can make a difference in the way we approach the rite, suggests Father Rogelio Gutierrez, pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Chelan.

“Never lose the sense of where we’re going and Whom we are receiving (in Holy Communion),” he said. “It’s an encounter with God.”

This makes a huge difference in how we act – and even how we dress, he pointed out.

This mindfulness should begin even before we walk through the doors of the church. Consider going over the readings for the upcoming Mass (they’re often listed in the bulletin, one week ahead of time). Remember to fast at least an hour before Holy Communion (including gum and mints). And dress respectfully in clothing that isn’t too tight, too short or otherwise revealing. In warmer seasons, clothing can be a particular challenge at Mass.

“We don’t need to have fancy clothes,” Father observed, just simple, clean, modest clothing that reminds us that we are coming to the house of God.

If you are really sick – coughing and sneezing a lot, for example – know that you are not required to be at Mass. As a matter of fact, it can be a kindness to others not to “share” your sickness.

When you do attend Mass, do everything possible to arrive on time, out of respect for God himself and to avoid being a distraction to others as you push into a pew and get yourself settled.

Also be sure to turn cell phones off – and leave them off, Father Gutierrez adds.

“We should dedicate one hour to our Lord,” he said. “Otherwise, we are ignoring our Lord, who is the center of everything.”

And don’t forget some other potential distractions for those around you. If your church has kneelers, try not to let the kneeler come crashing to the floor. Save conversations with others for after Mass. Help children to focus on Mass, or let young children look at religious picture books, avoiding undue noise and unnecessary wandering to the drinking fountain or bathroom.

“The Mass is for everybody and not just for you,” Father suggests. “Appreciate the Lord for the sacrifice He made for us.”

God opens His arms to us and welcomes us through the Mass. Let us reflect that spirit of love through consideration for Him and for others.

## **Have You Visited the ‘Holy Door’ at St. Paul Cathedral?**

Parish pilgrimages will continue in coming months to the “Holy Door” at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima. Individuals and small groups also are invited to come and receive the graces of this special opportunity during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis.

Pope Francis asked that every diocese in the world, like St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, have a Jubilee Door of Mercy.

If you have not already visited the Holy Door at the Cathedral, check your parish bulletin and website for upcoming pilgrimage plans. Individuals are welcome to come at regular Mass times, when the door is open.

By following several simple steps, it is possible for Catholics to receive an “indulgence” – full or partial remission of “temporal” punishment for sins which have been committed. (Temporal punishment refers to penalties which might arise in this life or in Purgatory.)

To receive an indulgence, a person should receive or have recently received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. While in the Cathedral, after entering through the Holy Door, make a profession of Faith (such as the Nicene Creed or Apostles Creed) and say a few prayers for the intentions of Pope Francis. Then, receive the Eucharist while attending Mass at the Cathedral or at another Catholic church.

It also is possible to make more than one pilgrimage to the Holy Door, perhaps coming again to merit this indulgence for a loved one who has died. The indulgence cannot be merited for another living person, however.

The Year of Mercy will end November 20, the feast of Christ the King. Why not take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to obtain these special graces?



*Children should be taught reverence at Mass.*