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JULY 2016 *Newsletter*

Sacred Relics of the Church Inspire Faith Throughout Diocese

By Christine Corbett Conklin

More than 160 sacred relics of the Catholic Church, the oldest dating back to the time of Christ, inspired faith and awe as they went on display in four parishes of the Diocese of Yakima last month.

An estimated 1,100 people heard a presentation by Father Carlos Martins, a priest of the Companions of the Cross order, who is based in Houston, Texas. The crowds then had the chance to view and touch the golden reliquary containers with their clear windows through which the relics could be seen.

The display included everything from certified fragments of the True Cross to a bit of the veil of Blessed Mother. There were relics from the Apostles, Evangelists, and Saints Bernadette, Francis Xavier, Therese, Pope John Paul II, Kateri Tekakwitha and Mother Teresa of Calcutta, to name just a few.



This golden reliquary contains a fragment of Mary's veil.

a parishioner from St. Joseph Church in Kennewick who viewed the display at Christ the King Church in Richland June 22.

The relics also traveled to Holy Apostles Church in Wenatchee on June 19 and Holy Family Church in Yakima on June 20.

The purpose of the Sacred Relics of the Saints/Treasures of the Church presentations here, and across the world, is to evangelize, said Father Martins.

"I get to give people an experience of the living God through the relics of His saints," he said. "Every saint lived his or her life as a giant billboard pointing to God."

The traveling display included 161 "first-class" relics: fragments of bone or flesh of the saints, for example. The remaining six relics were "second class": bits of objects such as clothing or books that belonged to a holy person. Something touched by a saint or touched to a first- or second-class relic becomes a "third-class" relic.

"Relics do not contain a power of their own, separate from God," Father Martins stressed. "Any good that comes about through a relic is God's doing."

He referenced Biblical passages in which miracles occurred when a person or cloth touched the body of a saint.

Father explained how carefully each relic has been authenticated and preserved.

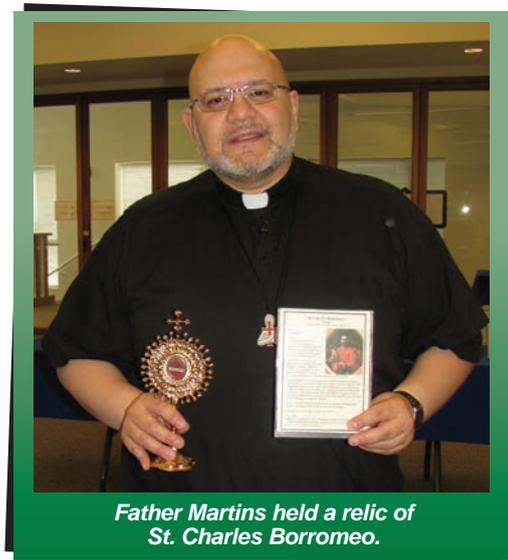
For example, he addressed possible skepticism about whether the relic of the True Cross is real. He told how Saint Helen was asked by Emperor Constantine in the fourth century to find the cross in the Holy Land. After having a vision, she supervised digging in a particular field. Several crosses were found. To determine whether Christ's cross was present, she asked a woman on the verge of death to lie upon each cross. The woman was instantly cured when she



Fragments of the True Cross are housed in glass.

"I absolutely loved it. I think this might be a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing," observed Eneida Crawford, secretary/receptionist for Our Lady of Fatima Church in Moses Lake who viewed the relics on display there June 21.

"I'm amazed. It's an enlightenment. It gives me hope," agreed Raquel Hogue,



Father Martins held a relic of St. Charles Borromeo.

reached a particular cross. That cross was brought back to Rome.

Each relic is sealed in a reliquary, with strings tied across the back, a wax seal across the strings, and the imprint of a bishop's ring, for instance, in the wax.

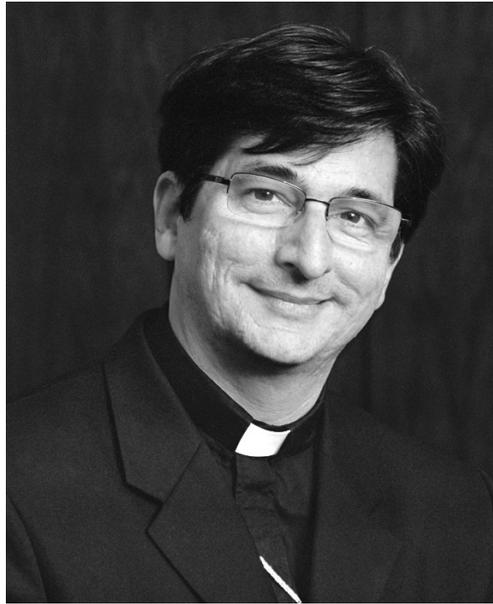
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A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

I hope you enjoy this latest issue of the *Central Washington Catholic*. So many of our issues feature vocations that serve in our local Church as well as the great ways we have formed future priests for our Diocese. But this issue is a bit different. In this issue you are reading how we are sharing vocations with the larger Church. This is especially the case at St. Andrew in Ellensburg, where just this year one former parishioner, Fater Cody Ross, was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Seattle and another, Brother Thomas Aquinas Pickett, was solemnly professed in the Dominican Order in California.

The lives of these particular men highlight the way we not only receive missionary vocations but the way we also send missionary vocations – vocations fostered here in the Diocese of Yakima – but given as gifts for the wider Church. I hope that in future issues we can also highlight some of the vocations we have fostered among women in consecrated life who developed a sense of call here but are missionaries elsewhere.



Bishop Joseph Tyson

At the same time, our shorter news items such as the one featuring our upcoming soccer match between priests and seminarians speak to the way we build fraternity and support for the future of priesthood right here in the Diocese of Yakima.

Vocations begin in our families so I hope you'll also check out our website

regarding Retrouvaille – a great ministry that helps men and women who are experiencing stress and tension in their marriages find renewal in Christ. I hope you'll consider praying for this ministry as well.

In a different way, our collection for the Military Archdiocese reminds us of how important it is to spiritually support the many families with moms and dads serving our country. They, too, need our prayers as well as our support.

As I prepare for the annual Ride D'Vine supporting Catholic Charities Housing Services, which will take the riders through neighborhoods served by our parishes as well as past a couple of our Charities housing projects, I am reminded that we are a Church on the move, reaching out to people on the move. This imitates Jesus himself who went out into the highways and byways spreading the message of God's love for them. As we live out our particular vocation in our daily life, let's resolve to do the same!

With every best wish and blessing,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Sacred Relics of the Church *Continued from page 1*

It would be impossible to tamper with a relic without it being obvious, Father noted. A document with a matching seal, describing exactly what is in the reliquary, accompanies each relic.

Father Martins invited attendees at the presentations to “permit God to be part of your own life,” as the saints did, and you “will experience the presence and power of the living God.”

One or more of the following four obstacles often get in the way of God's entry into our hearts, he said. The first is a refusal to regularly attend Sunday Mass.



A large crowd came to Christ the King.

The second is a refusal to go to Confession “regularly.” (Once a year is not “regularly,” he noted.) The third is a refusal to make a complete disclosure of our sins in Confession, to hold something back because of embarrassment or belief that, despite Church teaching, an action is not really sinful. The fourth is a refusal to forgive those who have hurt us.



Visitors to the Holy Family Church display were impressed.

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

“He enters the heart where He is invited and where there is room for Him,” Father Martins stressed.

The hushed respect with which Father Martins' talks were received and the joy and amazement with which the relics were encountered seemed to indicate that there could be new saints in the making within our own Diocese.

Central Washington Catholic

July 2016 • Volume 56 • Issue 7

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The Central Washington Catholic (ISSN 0195-1831) is published monthly by the Diocese of Yakima, 5301-A Tieton Drive, Yakima, WA 98908-3493.

Submission schedule: Deadline for the submission of material is at noon on the first day of the month of publication.

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Ellensburg Men Celebrate Ordination, Profession

Two natives of the Ellensburg area and St. Andrew Parish, Deacon Cody Ross and Brother Thomas Aquinas Pickett, OP, made lifelong commitments to the Catholic Church in recent months.



Father Cody Ross with parents, Judy and Don.

Ross, 38, was ordained to the priesthood June 25 at St. James Cathedral in Seattle. Archbishop J. Peter Sartain officiated at the ceremony in which four new priests were ordained for service in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Pickett, 27, made his solemn profession in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) April 9 at St. Albert Priory in Oakland, Calif. The Dominican Provincial, Father Mark Padrez, OP, officiated at the Mass at which two men made perpetual vows of obedience, chastity and poverty.

Father Ross, the son of Don and Judy Ross of Thorpe, Wash., graduated with a B.A. from Central Washington University. He then moved to the Seattle area where he began volunteering with Life Teen.

Later questioning which path he should follow in life, he spent "20 minutes every day in silent prayer," he said. "It was there, in that silence ... where my vocation really unfolded, where I was able to listen to God." He followed the call and began studies at Mount Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Ore.

Brother Thomas, the son of John and Barbara Pickett of Ellensburg, graduated with a B.A. from Gonzaga University. While a seminarian for the Diocese of Yakima, he discerned a vocation to the consecrated life and entered the Dominican novitiate in 2012, receiving a religious name in place of his given name, Colin.

A clerical student brother at St. Albert Priory, Brother Thomas is continuing his studies in anticipation of being ordained to the priesthood in 2018.

Please keep Father Cody Ross and Brother Thomas Aquinas Pickett in your prayers as they enter more deeply into their service of the Church.



Brother Thomas Aquinas Pickett

Changes in Parish Assignments Announced for Ellensburg

Father Juan Manuel Godina, who was to have become pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Ellensburg this month has asked for and been granted a leave of absence due to serious personal issues.

Bishop Tyson has appointed Monsignor Robert Siler as administrator of the parish. Monsignor Siler, who was pastor of St. Andrew from 2002-2007, will provide financial oversight, occasional sacramental ministry and manage a rotation of priests.

Father Miguel Gonzalez was in residence at the parish earlier this month. Father Roletto Amoy was assigned as parochial vicar of St. Andrew, effective July 23. Father Amoy is scheduled to study Spanish in Mexico in September and October. The assignment of a new pastor will be made within the next year.

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NEWS

From Around the Diocese

Soccer Match Is Almost Here!

Just a reminder that the priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Yakima will face off in their fifth annual soccer match, Sunday, August 7.

Admission is free for this spirited family event which begins at 6 p.m. at Marquette Stadium, 5400 West Chestnut Avenue in Yakima.

The gates will open at 5 p.m. Sales of food, beverages and tee shirts will benefit the Seminarian Education Trust.

Ride D'Vine Event Set

The fourth annual Ride D'Vine, a scenic ride from Yakima to Zillah through orchards, hop fields and vineyards, is scheduled for Saturday, August 13.

The event will begin at Sarg Hubbard Park and roll along the Yakima Greenway and up Konnowac Pass.

Proceeds from the ride, which will include a choice of 25-, 50- and 70-mile routes, benefit Catholic Charities Housing Services.

For more information or to register, contact Brian Ketchum at (509) 853-2800 or www.cchsyakima.org.

Collection To Support Ministry for Military—

Through the Collection for the Archdiocese for Military Services (AMS) August 13-14, Catholics in the Diocese of Yakima will help support pastoral services offered to 1.8 million Catholics by priests and deacons of the Archdiocese.

Established by Saint John Paul II in 1985 to provide the Catholic Church's full range of pastoral ministries to those in the United States Armed Forces, the Archdiocese is the only source of Catholic chaplains for the U.S. military and Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers.

While the salaries and retirement of military and VA chaplains are paid for by the government, the AMS receives no funding from the military or the government in support of programs and services vital to its mission and ministry.

Last year, Pope Francis told military ordinaries from around the world that "The role of military chaplains is to accompany and support [those in need] on the journey, to be a comforting and brotherly presence for them all." (Pope Francis, Address to participants in the 8th Humanitarian Course, 26.X.15.) Your support of the National Collection for the AMS will bring the Gospel, the sacraments and other forms of spiritual support to men and women who serve our country and defend our freedoms, including parishioners and families from our own Diocese.

Celebration of Faith Is Planned

Mark your calendar for the fifth annual Celebration of Faith, scheduled for October 8 at the Yakima Convention Center.

Proceeds from the reception and dinner event, sponsored by the Central Washington Catholic Foundation, will go to support Catholic education in our Diocese.

This year's event will highlight special honorees, Father Bill Shaw and Father John Shaw of White Swan.

For reservations or more information, visit cwcatholicfoundation.org or call (509) 972-3732.

Catholic Crusaders on Wheels: Meet the 'Knights on Bikes'

In another day and time, crusaders for the Faith could be seen on horseback. Today, however, one group of Catholic evangelists in the Diocese of Yakima spreads the Word on motorcycles.

Knights on Bikes, a sub-group of the Knights of Columbus, includes about 12 members within the Diocese. Founded in 2005 in Texas, the group has spread to some 40 states and into Canada, says Bruce Hines, vice president of Washington Knights on Bikes and fourth degree Knight of Columbus with Richland Council 3307.

"First and foremost, Knights on Bikes are Knights of Columbus," he said. "We are out there witnessing our Faith as Catholic gentlemen."

Knights on Bikes are involved in all of the standard activities of the Knights of Columbus. They attend meetings, form honor guards, help with church collections, join in fundraisers for causes such as seminarian education and assist with many other church events, observed Bret Fleming, president of Knights on Bikes for the Diocese of Yakima and fourth degree Knight of Ahtanum Mission Council 6097.

Riding a motorcycle gives a Knight a unique opportunity to witness to other motorcycle riders who share the road, noted Hines, a parishioner of Christ the King Parish in Richland who owns a Harley-Davidson "Fat Boy FLATS."

"Motorcyclists have had a bit of a bad stigma because of some law breakers," he observed. "We have the ability to put another face on the motorcycle rider... Our ultimate goal is to bring people to the Church."

Through charity events sponsored by bikers, group rides and other special occasions including Blessing of the Bikes ceremonies, members of Knights on Bikes have the chance to reach out to fellow motorcyclists and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Since members of the group wear the vest of the Knights of Columbus, with its identifying insignia, they also draw attention from the general public everywhere from gas stations to grocery stores.

"I'm not a great speaker, I'm not a great writer, but this is sure a great way to start a conversation," Hines said.

Fleming, a member of Holy Family Parish in Yakima, agreed.

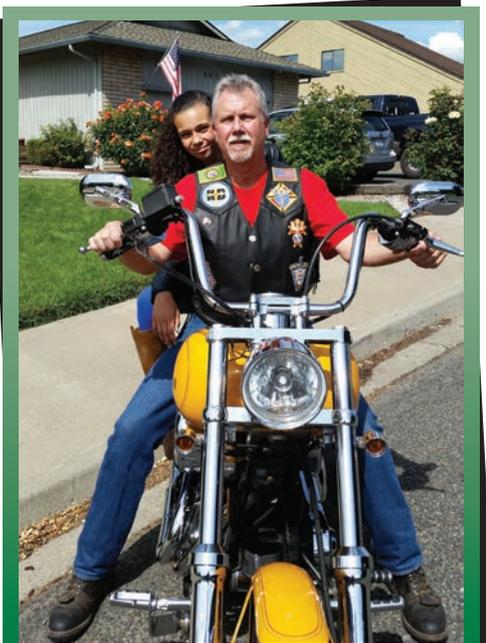
Folks just seem naturally drawn to motorcycles, he observed, and when the rider wears the distinctive Knights of Columbus vest, it creates even more interest.

"People will come up a lot of the time and ask, 'What is this?'" he said.

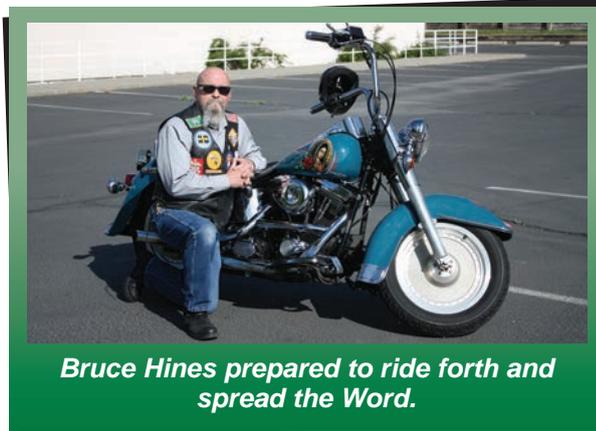
Fleming, who has been riding motorcycles "for about 46 years" and now owns a 1991 Harley-Davidson Softail Custom, finds that Knights on Bikes helps ignite his zeal as a Knight of Columbus to "save lives and change lives" wherever possible.

"It's added another dimension to the Knights of Columbus," he believes.

"I'm a better person because of it," Hines suggested.



Bret Fleming with his granddaughter.



Bruce Hines prepared to ride forth and spread the Word.