



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

DECEMBER 2016 *Newsletter*

## Do You Know What the Catholic Church Teaches About The Life Issues?

As we prepare to mark the 44th anniversary of legislation which made abortion legal across the country, it's a good time to stop and inform ourselves of Catholic Church teaching on the life issues.

More than 59 million unborn babies have lost their lives since Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion, was passed on January 22, 1973. Every week, at sites including Planned Parenthood in Yakima and Kennewick, these brutal procedures continue.

In 2008, Washington State also became the second state in the nation to pass a law legalizing euthanasia, or so-called "mercy killing." This makes it possible for physicians to "assist" people who are terminally ill to commit suicide.

Other people are poor or "marginalized" by society.

We need to be clear on just what the Catholic Church says about these issues. See how well you do on the following multiple-choice quiz:

### 1. When does life begin?

- At conception.
- At least several months after conception.
- When the baby is born.

The correct answer is a., at conception. From the moment of conception, the full genetic code is present for a new human being, determining everything from hair and eye color to whether the child will have dimples. By about three weeks, a basic human heart beats.

As explained by Catholic apologist Jimmy Akin in his book, "A Daily Defense," to qualify as a "human being," the unborn must meet three criteria: be alive; be human; and be an "organism." From the beginning, this new creation has "biological processes occurring" in its cells, showing the presence of life. The genetic code makes his or her humanity clear. Finally, Akin says, this is "an entity that is whole in and of itself ... not part of another, larger organism."

"God loves each human life from the instant of his or her conception and entrusts this gift to the protection of a mother and father," states the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

### 2. Is direct abortion ever allowed?

- Maybe if it's done really early in the pregnancy.
- Maybe if the life of the mother is at risk or the baby may have a birth defect.
- No, it is never permitted.



Here, the correct answer is c. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#2270), explaining the fifth commandment, states, "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person -- among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life." This refers to any and all times during the pregnancy. It is rare, especially with today's medical advances, that the mother's life would be at risk.

"Abortion ends the life of a child and offends God. It also deeply wounds the men and

women involved," emphasizes the USCCB.

"You knit me in my mother's womb," the Bible says in Psalm 139. The size of the human being does not determine his or her value. We also do not have the right to kill a human being who may be born less than perfect.

In cases where the mother's health is seriously threatened, including the danger of death, an indirect abortion may be morally permissible, if no other treatments are available and it is not possible to wait for the child to be born. In such cases, the intent would be to treat the mother, and the death of the child would be a foreseen, but unintended, consequence.

For example, in an ectopic pregnancy, a fallopian tube in which a conceived child has been implanted (and could not survive) may be surgically removed. Failure to do so could gravely injure or kill the mother. The intent is to heal the mother, and the child's death is an unintended (though foreseen) result.

Please note that such decisions are often very painful to make, and not all treatment options would necessarily be appropriate. Moral advice can be sought from one's parish priest, or from the Bishop's Office.

### 3. Is euthanasia or "mercy killing" ever allowed?

- It's okay now, because it's legal.
- No, it is never allowed.
- It would depend upon the circumstances.

If you chose b., you're correct. "Whatever its motives and means, direct euthanasia consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick, or dying persons. It is morally unacceptable," states the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#2277). "Everyone is responsible for his life before God who has given it to him. It is God who remains the sovereign Master of life. We are obliged to accept life gratefully and preserve it for His honor and the salvation of our souls. We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of," the *Catechism* adds (#2280, addressing the

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# A Message from Bishop Tyson...

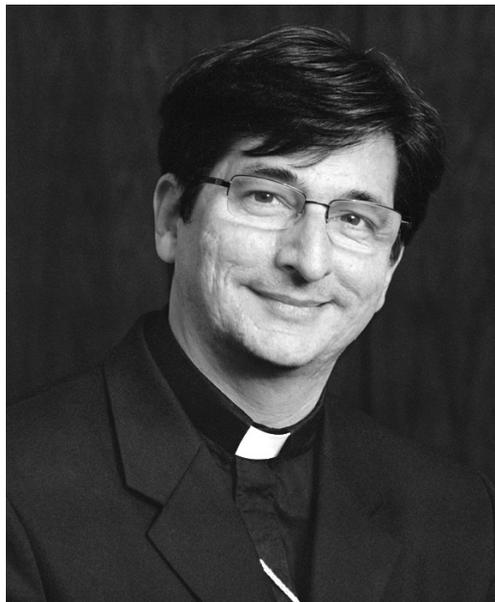
Dear Friends:

Uniquely, the January 22, 2017 anniversary of Roe vs. Wade falls on a Sunday this year so we will be holding our annual Mass for Life at the regularly scheduled 11 a.m. Mass that day at St. Paul Cathedral.

Yet, it's important to remember that here in Washington state, abortion was legalized before Roe vs. Wade. Indeed, Washington was the first state to have legalized abortion by popular ballot. This means that even if Roe vs. Wade is overturned – and God willing one day it will – we still have a long journey ahead of converting the hearts and minds of those around us through our witness to life.

PREPARES represents the statewide Catholic Church response. In its first two years, PREPARES has assisted nearly 700 women with their unborn children as well as their extended families. One of the key learnings for us in Central Washington is that the emotional and spiritual support structures for our women vary greatly from language and culture. Many of our white and black women often face an unexpected pregnancy alone – hence the strength of the “doula” – that friendly, seasoned, “sponsor” mom – who walks the journey with a new mother. This helps to address the poverty of not having “family.”

Yet, on the Spanish-speaking side, women often do have extended families and support systems. Because of this, our PREPARES coordinators and volunteers find themselves reaching the unborn by walking through the doors of families with undocumented members. Harsh



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

anti-immigrant language as well as the current climate of fear among our Spanish-speaking families undercuts our capacity to save the unborn and support both the mom and her extended family. Surprisingly, there are some who claim to support the life of the unborn but who also have engaged in anti-immigrant rhetoric that undercuts our outreach.

This is why we look to Our Lady of Guadalupe to guide us. How appropriate that Our Lady of Guadalupe is patroness of both the un-

born and the undocumented. She is patroness of the unborn because – from among the many Marian apparitions - Our Lady of Guadalupe is the only apparition where Mary appears in her full pregnancy. Yet she is also patroness to the undocumented precisely because she appears to the Nahuatl Indian St. Juan Diego, who in the Spanish realm lacked standing and status.

I am grateful for the wonderful collaboration among our Catholic Charities agencies in providing a witness to the gift of life. I am grateful for the continuum of services we are building to support families at every stage of life. I am also grateful for the pregnancy resource centers with whom we have a collaborative relationship. They point to a Church that serves as a “field hospital” for those in need. I am also grateful to all of you who grasp that the right to life of the unborn anchors all our Catholic social teaching and therefore is intimately connected to issues of poverty and justice. I hope to highlight the many wonderful relationships our bishops and our Catholic Charities agencies have developed over these first two years during a reception following the 11 a.m. Mass, January 22.

I hope to see you at St. Paul Cathedral, too. I also hope you will find ways to work in your local parish and local neighborhood in uplifting the great gift of life.

With my every best wish and blessing!

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

## Do You Know What the Catholic Church Teaches? *Continued from page 1*

subject of suicide).

On its website, the USCCB confirms that our Catholic tradition “clearly and strongly affirms that as a responsible steward of life one must never directly intend to cause one’s own death, or the death of an innocent victim, by action or omission.”

The one qualifier here is that we are not obliged to use what the USCCB calls “extraordinary or disproportionately burdensome treatment” to keep a person alive when, without it, he or she would die a natural death.

“Discontinuing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary, or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate; it is the refusal of ‘overzealous’ treatment,” states the Catechism (#2278). “Here one does not will to cause death; one’s inability to impede it is merely accepted. The decisions should be made by the patient if he is competent and able or, if not, by those legally entitled to act for the patient, whose reasonable will and legitimate interests must always be respected.”

### 4. To whom does ‘respect for life’ apply?

- Only the unborn
- The unborn and the dying.
- All people of creation.

Here, c. is the correct answer. The Book of Genesis tells us that we are all created “in the image and likeness of God.” This means that all human beings, regardless of size, shape, race or religion, are precious in the sight of God (see accompanying article on National Migration Week).

As Catholics, we have a particular obligation to do all we can for our fellow human beings who are suffering from illness, poverty, loneliness and/or from unjust persecution. The “Second Great Commandment” is to “love your neighbor as yourself.”

“From each tiny child waiting to be born, to individuals nearing death, all are precious and deserve our care and protection,” noted Cardinal Timothy Dolan as reported by the USCCB. “Women and men suffering after abortion, individuals tempted to end their lives, couples longing to conceive a child, people pushed to the margins of society by a ‘throwaway culture,’ expectant mothers facing challenging pregnancies, and every other person – each ‘has a place in God’s heart from all eternity’ (Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, #168).”

As we begin 2017, let’s make it our first New Year’s resolution to live out these Catholic teachings on life, and to share them with others. If you have concerns about a past

or present pregnancy, what to do about a terminally ill loved one, or how to help those on the margins of society, talk with your parish priest for guidance and resources.

**Also, please plan to join in local January events celebrating life. See page 4 for details.**

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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

# St. Joseph Church, Yakima, Reaches Out to Homeless

By Vic Kusske

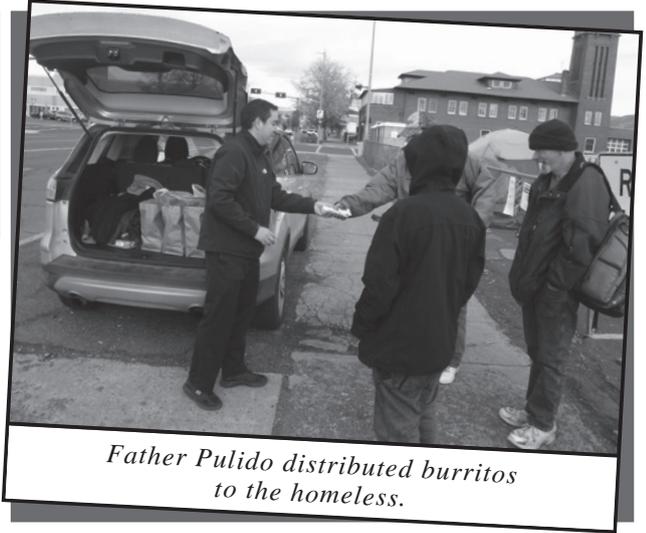
**Pastor's Note:** As we come to the closing of Year of Mercy, I would like to share with you how some parishioners practice mercy in the streets of Yakima. Pope Francis in his *Misericordiae Vultus* defines mercy as: "the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life". When you walk on the streets of downtown Yakima, you see the sad eyes, the surprised eyes, the sleepy eyes, even the hopeful eyes of the homeless as they walk on the path of life. - Father Felipe Pulido

At a recent meeting of Saint Vincent Charity ministry at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, the subject of the homeless in our parish was brought up by Steve Menard. Saint Joseph Church has responded to requests for help for decades and has recently been much more active with the growing needs in our parish. Steve, also known as Harley Menard, explained he'd been taking food and warm clothing to the homeless on his own. He suggested we follow him and see what is happening in our parish among the homeless.

Father Felipe Pulido and I met Steve at Taco Bell one morning where he was waiting for an order of 50 breakfast burritos. We grabbed some hot sauce and napkins and Father Pulido blessed the food before we got into Steve's car and drove to the rear of "The Station" which was the old bus depot. There were about 25 people there, some awake and some still sleeping on the ground and in doorways. Several started moving towards Steve's car as soon as they saw him and all gratefully and quietly took a warm burrito from him and Father Pulido. They engaged in small talk, giving their first names only, and thanking us for the warm food. Steve, with a burrito in his hand, approached a sleeping person all bundled up and laying on the ground. He was quickly stopped by a growling dog which was guarding the small encampment. A woman poked her head out from under the covers. She quieted the dog and thanked Steve for the burrito. Several homeless people have pets which not only provide companionship but also some protection.

Next, we went to the homeless camp across from the police station and in a few moments a line was formed waiting for a warm burrito. About 30 people took the food and clothing as Father Pulido asked them where they were planning on going since the camp was being shut down starting the next day. No one had a definite answer.

We will report back to our Saint Vincent Charity ministry at Saint Joseph Church in a couple of weeks and discuss Bishop Tyson's *Pastoral Letter on Poverty* and how we can help with our limited resources. If anyone wishes to assist this ministry, please send a donation to: **Saint Joseph Church, Attention: Saint Vincent Charity at 212 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Yakima, WA 98901.**



*Father Pulido distributed burritos to the homeless.*

**We take your injury personally.**<sup>TM</sup>

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the more they stay the same.

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# NEWS

## *from Around the Diocese*

### **Mass for Life Set for January 22**

All are encouraged to attend a special Mass for Life scheduled for January 22 at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima.

The Mass, which will mark the 44th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, will begin at 11 a.m.

Come and pray for respect for life for all human beings from conception through natural death.

### **Walk for Life Is Scheduled**

The annual Walk for Life in Yakima, honoring over 59 million children lost through abortion in the United States, is scheduled for Saturday, January 14.

The ecumenical event will begin at 1 p.m. with speakers at Grace of Christ Church, 9 South Eighth Avenue, then proceed down Yakima Avenue to Millennium Plaza.

Participants are encouraged to bring banners and signs representing churches, schools and other organizations.

### **Wenatchee Plans Rally for Life**

A Rally for Life is set to begin at noon, Saturday, January 21, in front of the Chelan County Courthouse in Wenatchee.

All are invited to come and hear speakers including Irene Bazan of Life Choices in Wenatchee and a representative of Rachel's Vineyard, an organization which helps women with post-abortive healing.

### **March for Life Slated for Olympia**

People from throughout the State of Washington will gather at noon on Monday, January 23, at the Capitol Building in Olympia for the annual March for Life.

This 38-year tradition will again include "gathering peacefully to stand for those who cannot speak for themselves." The event allows attendees to "stand with the unborn, those at the end of their life, and everyone in between... those before us and those to come."

Speakers and prayer will highlight the event.

For more information, visit [www.washington-marchforlife.org](http://www.washington-marchforlife.org).

### **'Walk for Life Northwest' Planned**

The annual Walk for Life Northwest is scheduled for Saturday, January 28, in Spokane.

The event will begin with a 9:30 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes. Bishop Thomas Daly will be the principal celebrant.

The Walk itself will start at 11 a.m. at Riverfront Park.

### **Kennewick Hosts Marian Conference**

More than 230 people from several Northwest states attended the first regional conference of the Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign, November 18-20 in Kennewick.

Meeting at St. Joseph Parish, the bi-lingual group learned more about Schoenstatt's contribution to the New Evangelization.

Presenters were Schoenstatt Fathers Marcelo Aravena and Francisco Rojas, and Sister M. Isabel Bracero. Enrique Soros was Master of Ceremonies. The conference included talks, breakout sessions, Masses and confession. Meals were provided by the Spanish Rosary Campaign group at St. Joseph Parish and the Connell/Eltopia Knights of Columbus.

## **Pope Francis Urges 'Culture of Encounter'**

The theme for National Migration Week, January 8-14, is "Creating a Culture of Encounter." For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated this week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking.

The theme for National Migration Week 2017 draws attention to Pope Francis' call to create a culture of encounter, and in doing so to look beyond our own needs and wants to those of others around us. In the homily given at his first Pentecost as pope, he emphasized the importance of encounter in the Christian faith: "For me this word is very important. Encounter with others. Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others."

With respect to migrants, too often in our contemporary culture we fail to encounter them as persons, and instead look at them as others. Many do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way. During this National Migration Week, let us all take the opportunity to engage migrants as children of God who are worthy of our attention and support.

Resources to help celebrate the week are available at <http://bit.ly/2hOcUPN>.



### **A PRAYER FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN**

Loving Father, in your infinite compassion,  
we seek your divine protection for refugee children  
who are often alone and afraid.  
Provide solace to those who have been witnesses  
to violence and destruction,  
who have lost parents, family, friends, home,  
and all they cherish due to war or persecution.  
Comfort them in their sorrow,  
and bring help in their time of need.  
Show mercy to unaccompanied migrant children, too, Lord.  
Reunite them with their families and loved ones.  
Guide those children who are strangers in a foreign land  
to a place of peace and safety.  
Comfort them in their sorrow,  
and bring help in their time of need.  
Show us how we might reach out  
to these precious and vulnerable children.  
Open our hearts to migrant and refugee children in need,  
so that we might see in them your own migrant Son.  
Give us courage to stand up in their defense  
against those who would do them harm.  
For this we pray through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. Amen.