



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

MARCH 2017

*Newsletter*

## Wenatchee Team Takes a 'Lenten Journey' of 3,000 Miles

By Christine Corbett Conklin

While many of us are thinking of small, sacrificial steps we can take during Lent, Dr. Jeff Monda and a medical team from Wenatchee are making a Lenten journey of more than 3,000 miles to do their part.

Dr. Monda, a urologist and long-time parishioner of St. Joseph Parish, will be spending a week on the island of Haiti, from late March to early April. He'll be accompanied by seven other health care professionals, treating "some of the poorest of the poor" and performing surgeries.



*Dr. Jeff Monda and colleagues perform surgery on a Haitian patient.*

Dr. Monda has been leading medical mission trips to this Caribbean island since about 2009, picking up the reins from Dr. Dale Peterson, a fellow Wenatchee parishioner, who started the treks in 1986.

"I'm very fortunate to have the ability to do this," Monda said. Although many people praise the team members for making such a long trip into such poor circumstances, "the reward we receive far exceeds the sacrifice," he suggested.

"It's always a helpful journey," Monda added. "It gets me back on track professionally and in my Faith." A mission trip such as this gives medical professionals the chance to do "pure patient care," devoid of all of the red tape, computerized systems and insurance issues inherent in modern medical care, he explained. It also helps one realize how many blessings we have where we live.

The medical team sets up at Hopital Sacre Coeur, a hospital which serves the northern part of Haiti, located in the small village of Milot. Along with one other urologist, two anesthesiologists, two nurses, a surgical tech and his son, Monda expects to see about 100 patients on the first full day there.

"Maybe three quarters of them will need surgery," he said. The team, on average, can do about 50 surgeries per visit. A capable Haitian medical staff assists. Patients are mostly male, including a number of children.

"It seems that every year we go down there, there's something that really affects you," Monda noted. Some of their more memorable challenges have involved small children who are brought to them, with problems which may be unrelated to urology. He vividly recalls trying to help place a breathing tube for a baby suffering from spina bifida, a birth defect affecting the spine and spinal cord. Another time, they helped remove a coin that a toddler had sucked into her trachea, interfering with breathing.

"Kids die every day down there," Monda said. "There's still a lot of poverty, a lot of hunger." The medical team is so anxious to



*Dr. Monda makes friends with a local child. A number of the Wenatchee medical team's patients are young children.*



*Nurse Olga Rybakov of the medical team holds a small patient.*

help that the physicians pay all travel expenses for the group to fly more than 6,000 miles round-trip. In addition, they bring along food staples and donated items such as knit hats for babies.

Living conditions for the medical team are "not fancy but not horrible," Monda said. There are simple rooms with beds in a concrete-block building, but no air conditioning for humid conditions with temperatures averaging from the mid-80s to the 90s. Basic meals may feature dishes including rice, beans and chicken. The workdays are long, stretching from 7 a.m. to 7 or 8 p.m., sometimes.

For Catholics, Lent is often a time of "giving up," Monda observed. Spending time with people who don't even have the kind of things we would give up, allows team members to vividly see "what our true excesses are," he said.

Anyone who would like to contribute to future medical missions of the Wenatchee team may contact the CRUDEM Foundation which subsidizes Hopital Sacre Coeur, at [info@crudem.org](mailto:info@crudem.org) or CRUDEM Foundation, Inc./Hopital Sacre Coeur, 362 Sewall Street, P.O. Box 804, Ludlow, MA 01056. Please specify that your contribution goes to the Wenatchee, Washington, medical team missions.

## A Message from Bishop Tyson...

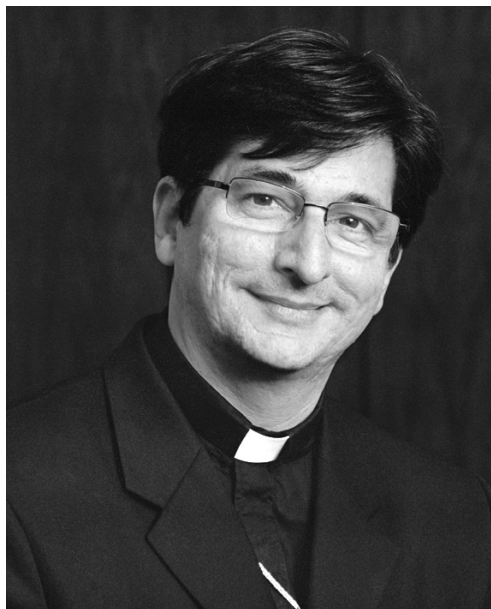
Dear Friends:

Are you up for change? Are you up for a profound, deep change that carries you through Lent and into Easter?

There's a key Greek word – Metanoia – that ties together Lent and Easter. “Metanoia” refers to the deep spiritual conversion demanded of us as followers of Jesus Christ. But its roots come from the Greek words “meta” meaning “after,” and “nous” meaning mind.

The introductory notes to the Church's Rite of Penance speak of “metanoia” as a “heartfelt sorrow” for one's sins that comes from a rigorous moral inventory “after” the facts. How can we feel sorrow if we have not thought through the direction of our lives both individually and as a community of faith? How can we see the future God desires for us if we have not thought through the past?

I had the opportunity to come to know my predecessor, Francis Cardinal George, when he was president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and I was serving on the administrative committee representing the bishops of the Pacific Northwest. Cardinal George was, by academic training, a philosopher. During contentious discussion on key public policy issues, he often would remind us that most theological problems were actually philosophical problems. Errors in our thought often resulted in errors in our theology.



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

No wonder we open Lent with the call to “metanoia,” anchored in the opening chapter of St. Mark, announcing the coming of the Kingdom of God and our need to repent. “Repent and believe in the Gospel,” are the words we often hear as the ashes are smeared on our foreheads.

The same is true in Easter season as well as Pentecost. The encounter with the Risen Christ, the descent of the Holy Spirit and the proclamation of the Gospel for visitors from many languages push the disciples to ask, “What shall we do?” In what will become the first homily of the New Testament, Peter tells the disciples: “Repent.”

This profound change of mind and thought leads to new habits of the heart. This is not the only passage we make liturgically from Lent to Easter and Pentecost. It's the story of our lives here across the Diocese of Yakima. Whether it's our local mission efforts on behalf of the unborn through PREPARES, or the overseas initiatives like Dr. Jeff Monda's work in Haiti, the Gospel invites us to a new way of life.

Sometimes our health and our resources allow us to participate physically. Sometimes it is our prayers and our financial offerings that become our “metanoia” moment. You can see that in our Good Friday collection for the Holy Land, our special Home Missions collection building up the Church here in the United States, as well as the special challenge grant from Catholic Extension as we support seminarians in the profound “metanoia” so core to their formation as future priests.

I hope this issue of the *Central Washington Catholic* causes each of us to ask those hard questions: Are we up for change? Are we ready to have the soil of our souls overturned and renewed? Are we ready for a new “metanoia” that leads us to encounter afresh our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

With my every best wish and blessing,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

## Father Chuck Schmitz, S.J., Dies in California

Rev. Charles (Chuck) E. Schmitz, S.J., died February 18 at the Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos, California. He was 78 years old.

A devoted priest and religious, “Padre Carlos” opened wide his heart to the Spanish-speaking Peoples of the Northwest, arriving in Yakima in 1997 to provide spiritual ministry to the Hispanic community. He also served for a time, beginning in September 2006, as administrator of the parishes in Moses Lake and Warden, before moving to Spokane two years later.

Born in Seattle to Charles and Florence (Karst) Schmitz, Charles Emmitt Schmitz grew up in Salem and attended St. Joseph Grade School and Sacred Heart Academy. He graduated from Seattle University and entered the Jesuit Novitiate (Sheridan, OR) in 1960. Eager to do greater things, Father Schmitz volunteered and was sent to teach (with other Oregon Province Jesuits) in the minor seminary in Zambia, Africa.

Ordained a priest in 1972 in Spokane, Father Schmitz undertook graduate studies, then went on to become head of the Campus Ministry Department at Seattle University; pastor at St. Leo's Church (Tacoma); Central America Liaison for the Jesuit Conference; Minister and Rector of Gonzaga Prep (Spokane); Superior of St. Luke (Woodburn, OR); and pastoral minister to Prince of Peace Church (Belfair, WA). He also entered the Jesuit Tertianship program in Jalisco, Mexico.

Father Schmitz joined the Regis Community in Spokane for assistance in his health care needs in 2013. In January of this year, he joined his brother Jesuits in Los Gatos to receive skilled nursing care at the infirmary there.

A funeral Mass was celebrated March 4 in the Jesuit House Chapel at Gonzaga University with inurnment following at Mt. St. Michaels Cemetery in Spokane. Donations in honor of Fr. Schmitz may be sent to the

Senior Fund, Oregon Province, Society of Jesus, P.O. Box 86010, Portland, OR 97286, or the charity of the donor's choice.

### Central Washington Catholic

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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*

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

## Second Round Matching Challenge: Let's Raise Funds for Seminarians

There's once again a great opportunity to make every dollar count – twice – in donations to our diocesan seminarians!

Catholic Extension has agreed to provide matching dollars of up to **\$25,000** for funds raised in the Yakima Diocese for a seminarian education endowment fund. We are also blessed to partner locally and have the commitment of an additional **\$40,000** in matching dollars. We are fortunate to be one of a limited number of dioceses chosen for a second round of this matching-fund opportunity. Our diocesan goal is to raise **\$140,000** by **December 31** of this year.

According to terms set by Catholic Extension, funds raised must be either new or increased major gifts of **\$1,000 or more**, in the form of cash or marketable securities, or income from special fundraising events such as dinners or auctions designated for this program. (Diocesan annual appeals, for example, would not qualify as contributions for the program.)



There's also one more catch! Our Diocese must raise at least two-thirds of our \$140,000 target amount by the end of the year to receive any matching funds at all from Catholic Extension.

Let's all do our part to meet our goal and generously support our seminarians and future priests who are so needed in Central Washington!

Anyone wishing to make a contribution, organize a fund-raising event, or ask a question about the endowment program may contact Alma Benitez, Director of Stewardship and Development, at (509) 367-5299 or [alma.benitez@yakimadiocese.net](mailto:alma.benitez@yakimadiocese.net); or Bill Alsdurf, Chief Finance Officer/Chief Operating Officer, at (509) 759-7791 or [bill.alsdurf@yakimadiocese.net](mailto:bill.alsdurf@yakimadiocese.net).

### Instructions for Donations:

**Check payable to:** Diocese of Yakima

**Memo/Note:** Seminarian Education - Matching Challenge

**Mail to:** Attn: Alma Benitez, 5301 Tieton Drive, Suite A, Yakima, WA 98908

## Chrism Mass is Scheduled

All are invited to the annual Chrism Mass, scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 4, at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima.

Bishop Joseph Tyson will be the principal celebrant, with priests of the Diocese concelebrating and deacons assisting.

This annual Mass features both a blessing of the holy oils used in rites throughout the liturgical year and a renewal of vows by clergy and religious.

### Diocesan Seminarian Facts:

Fall 2016: 9 Seminarians

Fall 2017: 15 Seminarians

Average Cost: \$53,500\* Per Seminarian

\*Tuition, Room & Board, Books, etc.

Average Length of Education: 8 years

4 Years of College

4 Years of Theology

Budget for 2017-2018 is \$742,650

Seminarian Endowment Trust: \$2 Million

## Send Us Your News!

Individual parishioners, clergy, religious and organizations within the Diocese of Yakima are welcome to send items of interest to the *Central Washington Catholic* for possible publication.

Have a parish fundraiser coming up? Has a member of your parish been honored for church-related work? Do you have a church outreach project that's helping people in the community?

Just email your information to [robertsiler@yakimadiocese.net](mailto:robertsiler@yakimadiocese.net) by noon on the first day of the month you'd like to have the item published.

**We take your injury personally.**

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# NEWS

## *from Around the Diocese*

### **Good Friday Collection Benefits Holy Land**

Catholics throughout the world will answer Pope Francis' call to support Christians in the Holy Land through the annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection, April 14. Our support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines.

The wars, unrest and instability in the Middle East have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees. When we contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, we become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit [www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday](http://www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday).

### **Home Missions Collection Set**

April 28-29 will mark the 20th year that parishioners in the Diocese of Yakima will have the opportunity to donate to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, to "Help Strengthen the Church at Home."

Launched in 1998, the Appeal strengthens the Catholic Church in the United States and its territories in 87 Latin and Eastern Catholic dioceses. This year, the Diocese of Yakima is receiving \$165,000 to help fund seminarian education and some religious education ministries.

The Subcommittee on the Catholic Home Missions funds a wide range of pastoral services, including evangelization, religious education, the maintenance of mission parishes, the training of seminarians and lay ministers, and ministry with ethnic groups. Please help strengthen the Church at home, and prayerfully consider supporting this appeal.

### **Human Life Names Program Director**

Human Life of Washington has named Christine Corbett Conklin as Central Washington Program Director. Conklin, who also edits the *Central Washington Catholic* newsletter, will be responsible for expanding and coordinating the pro-life network in our area, organizing information sessions and planning events.

"I am pleased to be part of an outstanding effort to unite Washington State in a voice for life," she said.

A native of Yakima, Conklin is a long-time pro-life advocate, writer and speaker. She was a reporter for the *Tacoma News Tribune* and public affairs specialist with the U.S. Department of Energy before starting her writing/event business, Media Northwest.

Anyone interested in starting or re-energizing a Human Life chapter in your Central Washington community may contact her at [Christine@humanlife.net](mailto:Christine@humanlife.net).

### **Beginning Experience Weekend Set**

A Beginning Experience Weekend, to assist in the grief resolution process for separated, divorced and widowed individuals, is scheduled for May 5-7 at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center in Spokane.

The gathering is designed to "transform one's life and for freeing individuals to love self, others and God in new and deeper ways," according to event organizers.

For more information, or to register, contact: Marlene at (509) 534-1797 or visit [beginningexperienceofspokane.us](http://beginningexperienceofspokane.us).

## **Kennewick Partnership Builds Programs for Families**

A partnership between St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick, Catholic Family & Child Service and PREPARES is offering a variety of innovative programs to support families.

Based in the Family Center at 811 West Vineyard Drive in Kennewick, an extension of St. Joseph Church, the programs serve pregnant women and families and caregivers with young children.



*A young mother and her children enjoyed an activity at the Family Center.*

There are "tremendous needs" in this area of Kennewick, observed Syndee Saucedo Cavazos, diocesan coordinator for PREPARES, an initiative of the

Catholic bishops of Washington which serves women and families with children from conception through age five. Since Catholic Family & Child Service began program offerings in 2014 in the extension of St. Joseph Church, more than 700 individuals have already been helped.

For example, the Family Center offers a weekly support group for young moms and their children with a meal provided by the St. Joseph Catholic Daughters and Knights of Columbus. There is a family boutique with clothing, baby equipment and supplies for children through age five. A "play and learn" group brings in parents and caregivers with their young charges. And PREPARES has a satellite ministry in a separate room, with offerings including trained "family companion" volunteers to support and encourage clients.

Don't underestimate the power of a play group or a new-parent gift bag from PREPARES, suggests Cavazos.

"The goal is that we build relationships," she explained. Once a parent or family is introduced to one of these programs, there is an entrée to the wealth of services offered by the partner organizations.

Cavazos hopes that the programs headquartered at St. Joseph will be an inspiration for other parishes to follow suit, offering help and hope in their communities.

To learn more about the services available at the St. Joseph Parish Family Center – or to start a program in your own parish – call (509) 946-4645.

## **Catholic Hispanic Congreso Planned for Yakima**

"I am your God" (Isaiah 41:10) is the theme of the 18<sup>th</sup> Catholic Hispanic Congreso of Evangelization scheduled for April 28-30 at the Yakima Valley Sun-Dome.

More than 5,000 people are expected to join in this free annual event, which will begin on Friday, April 28, with a gospel music concert and a Mass of Healing. Gospel singers will include **Los Búhos** of Mexicali, B.C., México.

On Saturday, there will be more gospel music and talks by **Bishop Joseph J. Tyson**; **Father Jaime Chacon**, spiritual adviser of the Catholic Congreso; **Fray Rafael Guzmán Gabriel** of Bolivia and **Winston Castro**, missionary. Saturday also will include a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament. On Sunday, Bishop Tyson will be principal celebrant for a concluding Mass.

The Catholic Hispanic Congreso began in 1999 with a small group of parishioners from St. Joseph Catholic Church Charismatic Prayer Group *Ríos de Agua Viva* in Yakima. Since then, the

Congreso has grown to become a means of formation for the Catholic Hispanic community. Various Charismatic Prayer Groups from parishes of the Yakima Diocese have been involved in this annual event, giving their "grain of sand" and hard work for the common good of area families, organizers say.

The Congreso has sustained itself these past 17 years through many fundraisers and generous donations received, for the purpose of continuing the evangelization of God's people.

Pope Saint John Paul II urged Catholics to not be afraid, to step out into the deep in spreading the light of Christ to the world, using every modern means. As stewards, our mission is to do just that, and to help others discover their personal relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Congreso organizers say.

Although the Congreso will be in Spanish, everyone is welcome to attend! For more information call (509) 307-1299.