



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*  
Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

## Catholics Returning Home: The Welcome Mat Is Out

By Christine Corbett Conklin

MARCH 2013  
*Newsletter*

### Editor's Note:

*As a new era begins in the Catholic Church, with the election of Pope Francis, all Catholics who have been away from the Church are warmly invited to return.*

*The following information may be of help to you or to someone you know who would like to return...*

For Claudia, drifting away from the Catholic Church was a gradual process. Her children were grown and had moved away. She was going to Mass less and less often.

"It's so easy to slide out of that routine," noted the 60-year-old woman, who prefers that her last name not be used. "Pretty soon, before you realize it, you're not going at all."

For 15 years, Claudia was away from the Church. She had thought about coming back, but was a little afraid of facing up to it, and wasn't even sure she knew what the current procedures were for confession, for example.

"One day, I was driving past Holy Family Church (in Yakima) and I saw this 'Catholics Returning Home' sign," she recalled. "I thought, 'This is my chance to get back into it!'"

Claudia signed up for the Catholics Returning Home program and found what she calls "that bridge between not going and feeling comfortable going" again to Mass.

### It's 'Simple and Nonjudgmental'

Ree Kearns, the Pastoral Assistant for Adult R.C.I.A. and Faith Formation at Holy Family Church, explains that the Catholics Returning Home (CRH) program is simple and nonjudgmental.

"At the heart of it is, 'We welcome people back, no matter where they've been, what they've done,'" she said. "There's such hesitancy just walking in the door the first time and smiles as they go out the door the last time! There are no quizzes, no tests. And every priest I've ever known thinks it's such an honor to welcome someone back."

The CRH program includes six sessions which: welcome and provide an overview; allow any willing participants to share their stories; explain the changes in the Church since the Second Vatican Council; offer a refresher on the Mass; walk through the process of receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession); and review the basic tenets of faith in the Creed.

As needed, a person may be referred to a welcoming priest who can help address special issues such as a remarriage following divorce.

### 'You're in the Right Church'

For Jack, a 61-year-old Yakima resident and "cradle Catholic" who had been away from the Church for about 35 years, the incentive he needed to come back came from just such a priest!

"I had been looking for a church to go to," he recalled. "I walked into Holy Family and the priest happened to be doing a sermon on St. Peter and how he's the rock upon which the Church is built. Then, he looked up and said, 'You're in the right church!'"

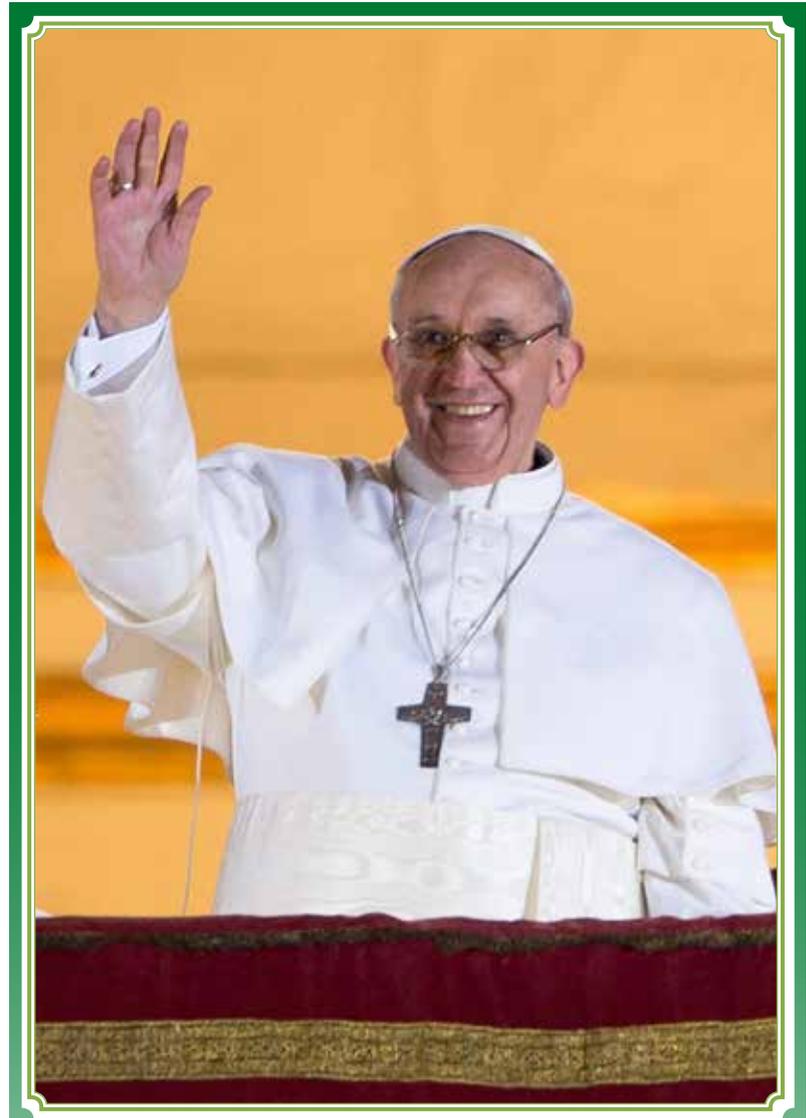
Jack came back to the Catholic Church in 2011, going through the CRH program.

"I felt very welcomed right from the beginning. I had a good sense that this was where I needed to be," he said. The major thing is the Eucharist, the actual presence of Jesus.

### People Give Many Reasons for Leaving

There are many reasons people give for having left the Church, observed Mary Hamelin, facilitator of the Holy Family CRH program.

"A lot of them just kind of drift away, or marry someone not of the



Pope Francis greeted the crowd in St. Peter's Square.  
Photo Courtesy of the Holy See Press Office

## A Prayer for Pope Francis

*O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,  
look favorably on your servant Francis,  
whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd;  
grant, we pray, that by word and example  
he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that,  
together with the flock entrusted to his care,  
he may come to everlasting life.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.*

Continued on page 2

See Bishop Tyson's reflections on the new Pope's election, page 2.

# A Message from Bishop Tyson...

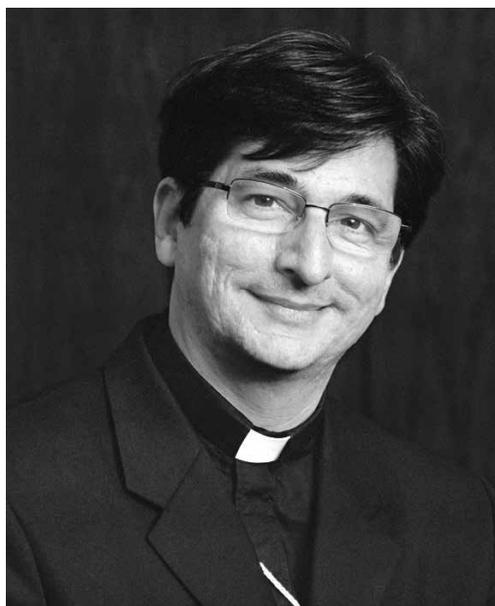
Dear Friends,

What an amazing month! Our former bishop of Yakima, Francis Cardinal George of Chicago, invited me to be at Mundelein Seminary March 13 to celebrate Mass for those who are nearing the completion of their studies for the priesthood and are admitted as “candidates” for ordination. I combined this with the annual spring visit to our seminarians at Mundelein, accompanied by Father Felipe Pulido, pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Yakima and the vicar responsible for our seminarians.

As the plane touched down in Chicago the afternoon of the 13th, Father César Vega, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Yakima, began sending text messages to Father Pulido and me. “We have a Pope...” read Father Vega’s text. “Who is it?” Father Pulido wrote back. “Jorge Bergolio,” Father Vega responded to the two of us. “Country?” Father Pulido texted back. “From Argentina,” Father Vega responded. Then he added, “He seems very into prayer.”

By this time, Father Pulido and I had exited the aircraft with our carry-on bags. While waiting to be picked up by our seminarian, Lalo Barragan, we watched the CNN news feed live. Throngs filled St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican, and still more celebrations arose as we saw feeds from Buenos Aires, one of the largest archdioceses in the world, where Cardinal Bergolio – now Pope Francis – had previously been serving. By the time the day had ended, I had done interviews with the Yakima Herald-Republic, KONA Radio in Kennewick, KIT Radio in Yakima as well as an interview with Francisco Rios from Radio KDNA in Granger. This was due to Monsignor Robert Siler, our press spokesman, texting me names and phone numbers of reporters to call.

In so many ways, the manner in which I received the news of the newly elected Holy



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

Father mirrors the way the Good News of Jesus Christ is now being spread and reinforced everywhere. However, it is our lives – up front and personal – that bear witness to this message. It is that personal contact with family, friends, neighbors as well as strangers, seekers and those searching for meaning that gives flesh and blood to the message. It is our personal love for them that draws them to Christ.

This issue of the Central Washington Catholic speaks to those personal ways our Church draws all kinds of people across Central Washington to this life-changing message of Jesus Christ. In this issue, we have a story about the renewal that can come to a woman in a crisis pregnancy through – not simply the ultrasound image of her child in her womb – but in the care of volunteers who will walk with her and that child

in her first years of motherhood. ImagePoint is becoming a valued partner with the Diocese of Yakima, and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Yakima, in renewing our commitment to the gift of life.

Our story about our parish in Grand Coulee gives witness to the kind of small-town personal contact that make the presence of Jesus feel close and real to those whose hearts are open. Father Bob Himes’ personal love for his parishioners is so evident!

Similarly, although so many Catholics “come home” based on initial contact with the “Catholics Come Home” website ([www.catholicscomehome.org](http://www.catholicscomehome.org)), our feature also uplifts the fact that personal contact with flesh-and-blood parishioners is what brings that homecoming to fulfillment.

Finally, our stories about two of our deceased priests, Father Tony Hannick and Father Neill Meany, S.J., point to the many lives these men touched by bringing them into contact with Jesus Christ through the sacraments of the Church.

Ultimately, I hope these stories assist you in making your own faith up-front and personal, giving those around you a direct experience of the Risen Christ alive in our Church. Know too that you can find more ways to nurture your faith and your personal outreach to those around you by visiting us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/yakima.diocese](http://www.facebook.com/yakima.diocese) or by going to our website at [www.yakimadiocese.org](http://www.yakimadiocese.org). Our website not only has this and past issues of the Central Washington Catholic, but is updated almost daily with new global and local information.

May we use all of the tools at our disposal to bring those around us into a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ and His Church!

With every best wish and blessing,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

## Catholics Returning Home: The Welcome Mat Is Out *Continued from page 1*

Faith, or somebody within the Church said something that hit them wrong,” she observed. “A lot of people think that if they go through a divorce, they’re not part of the Church anymore – which is not true unless they have remarried or have other special circumstances.”

Kay Shepard, the Faith Formation Coordinator for St. Joseph Church in Wenatchee, agreed.

“Most of the time, people are away because of marriage situations, or they have just gradually stopped going,” she said. Sometimes, children help to bring their parents back to the Church, when the parents find that they can’t answer their children’s questions about the Faith.

At St. Joseph, there is no set program for returning Catholics, Shepard explained. Rather, assistance is based upon individual needs. Sometimes, a person is encouraged to drop in to R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) classes, for the opportunity to ask questions, learn, and have the support of other Catholics. At other times, if several individuals are interested in coming back to the Church, a class will be started just for them.

“You don’t even need to go through a program to come back,” unless you have a specific issue such as a marriage that needs to be addressed, added Kay Kaffer, Adult Program Coordinator for Christ the King Parish in Richland.

However, Christ the King does offer an eight-week program called, “Catholics Come Home,” for those who desire a refresher course. Sometimes, the people who attend this class have already come back to the Church, but don’t really feel “secure” in the Faith and want to learn more, Kaffer said.

### Take That First Step

In the meantime, all practicing Catholics can play a part in welcoming back those who may have drifted from the Church, through the influence of living out the Faith, Kaffer said.

“They need to be inviting people. They need to put a smile on their face,” she suggested.

“All are welcome to come back,” Shepard added. “Don’t fear the unknown. Don’t make assumptions that you’ll be judged. Come and talk it over in confidence. Take that first step in faith.”

Claudia, who has been happily back at Church for the past couple of years advised, “Look ahead, down the road a bit (to the effects of staying away from the Church). If you can look far enough ahead, you’ll see that you’ll have a void in your life.”

For more information on programs for returning Catholics, call the local Catholic parish or visit [www.catholicscomehome.org](http://www.catholicscomehome.org).

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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Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson

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Monsignor Robert M. Siler

EDITOR

Christine Corbett Conklin

TRANSLATIONS

Indiana Blandón

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Email: [robert.siler@yakimadiocese.org](mailto:robert.siler@yakimadiocese.org)

# Pro-life Speaker Urges: Step Forward In Courage *Continued from page 4*

Americans are realizing that abortion is wrong.” Currently, for example, there are more than 700 pro-life student groups across the nation.

“Time is of the essence because abortion happens every single day,” Hawkins said. “(God) has called each and every one of us to be His hands and feet.” To fulfill this mission, it is crucial that we do three things, she urged: pray for our government leaders and stop funding abortion with tax-payer dollars; maintain our passion and dedication to envision a nation without abortion; and “get up and get active” in joining the pro-life cause.

“Today, you are being called to be courageous,” Hawkins stressed. Go to an abortion clinic (such as Planned Parenthood on Tieton Drive in Yakima or next to the Columbia Center in the Tri-Cities) and see what’s going on, she suggested.

“One day in front of that abortion facility and your heart will be changed,” she promised.

So often, an abortion-minded woman will decide to give birth to her child because of the support of just ONE person who offers her help, Hawkins noted.

We need to offer clarity in a culture in which so much incorrect information – often information which is based on the profit motive of abortion clinics – is circulating, added Lenette Lindemann, board chairwoman for ImagePoint Mobile Medical Services.

“We are bringing the truth – with love,” she said, referring to the mobile medical unit which will soon travel to communities throughout Central Washington, offering free pregnancy tests, fetal ultrasounds and other information services.

Citing ImagePoint’s slogan, she reminded the crowd, “Everyone deserves a chance to be born.”

For more information on how you can assist the pro-life movement, contact Lenette Lindemann at (509) 930-1380, visit the ImagePoint website at [www.imagepointmms.com](http://www.imagepointmms.com), visit [www.studentsforlife.org](http://www.studentsforlife.org) or call the Diocese of Yakima at (509) 965-7117.



**Kristan Hawkins**  
Photo courtesy of Jim Baer,  
Lifestream Images

## ‘March in Line’ For Child Safety

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is appropriate that this observance is held during the Easter Season, no better time to celebrate the protection of the most valuable gift from God – children. The Diocese of Yakima is committed to keeping our parishes and schools a safe place for everyone, especially our children and youth.

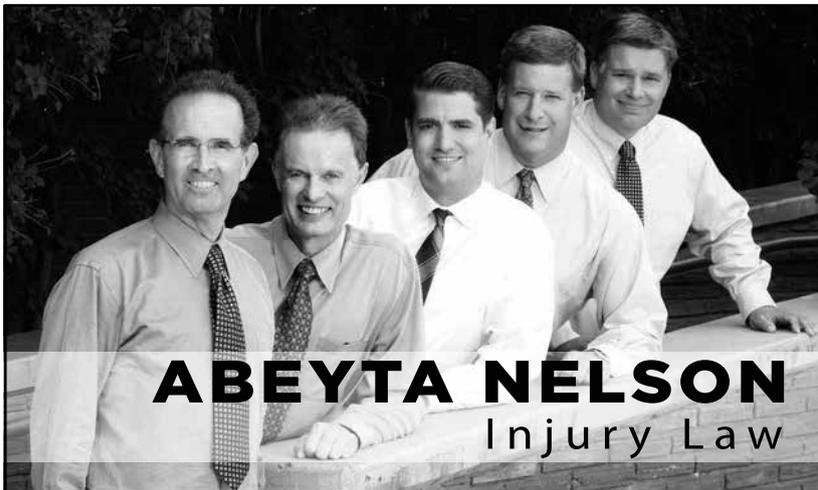
At a National Safe Environment Leadership Conference in 2010, Bishop Blase Cupich of Spokane, who was then Chair of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People, said that people who serve in diocesan parishes, schools and institutions are “marching in line” in our continuing efforts to keep children safe. They do this because:

- marching in line reflects their promise to prevent, protect and heal;
- marching in line blazes a trail and clears a path to explore new territory;
- marching in line lets others follow.

At that same conference, Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans, past Chair of the USCCB Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People, described the Church as a healer who must be nurturing while bearing the burden of society in the matter of child abuse.

The Catholic Church on the national level is doing much to protect children and to reach out to victims. The USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People is a plan of action to prevent child abuse and to promote healing. This document and other resources are available at the USCCB Office of Child and Youth Protection website: [www.usccb.org/ocyp](http://www.usccb.org/ocyp). Diocese of Yakima policies may be found at [www.yakimadiocese.org](http://www.yakimadiocese.org).

The Catholic Church is changing the way society looks at the issue of child abuse and prevention. Its members are “marching in line” together.



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# NEWS

## From Around the Diocese

### Father Neill Meany Remembered

Father Neill Meany, S.J., who served in the Diocese of Yakima for 33 years, died March 4 in Spokane at the age of 89. He had been in hospice care for a time.

Prior to moving to Spokane in 2011, Father Meany ministered at St. John Parish in Naches, for more than seven years. His 59 years of priesthood also included service as a teacher and chaplain at Marquette High School and parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish, both in Yakima. He also was administrator of St. Patrick's Parish in Granger, among other responsibilities.

Father Meany was known for his talent in design, including input for the rebuilding of St. Joseph Church and the planning for new stained glass windows there, plus an interest in writing.

Mass of Christian Burial was held March 9 in Spokane, with burial following there at Mount St. Michael Jesuit Cemetery. A Memorial Mass also was held for Father Meany, March 9 at St. Joseph Church in Yakima.

### Father Anthony Hannick Dies in Ireland

Father Anthony Hannick, a senior priest of the Diocese of Yakima who had been living in Ireland, died March 7 at the age of 89. His health had been failing for several months.

In his years of service to the Diocese, Father Hannick was Parochial Vicar of Christ the King Parish in Richland, Pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Chelan, and Pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Yakima. He later served as a chaplain with the Veterans Administration in Virginia and California, before his retirement in 1993.

The Mass of Christian Burial was said March 11 in Ballina, County Mayo, Ireland, where Father Hannick was born. He had attended college in Waterford and St. Richard's Seminary in Kilkenny, both in Ireland, prior to coming to the United States.

### Father Taneo Becomes Priest of Diocese

Father Teodulo Taneo, a parochial vicar at Christ the King Parish in Richland, was "incardinated" – or formally accepted – as a priest of the Diocese of Yakima by Bishop Joseph Tyson on March 19.

Formerly a member the Society of the Divine Word of the Philippines, Father Taneo discerned a call to diocesan priesthood and his order gave him permission to follow this call.

Father Taneo was born in 1959 in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, the Philippines. He was ordained a priest for the Society of the Divine Word in 1989. He came to the Diocese of Yakima in 2008, first serving as parochial vicar at St. Paul Cathedral, before moving to Christ the King Parish later that year.

### Latin Mass To Honor Pope Francis

All are invited to attend a Latin Mass which will be offered in honor of our new Holy Father, Pope Francis, at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, April 14, in the chapel of Holy Family Church in Yakima.

Come join in prayer for the first Pope from the Americas and first Jesuit ever to be elected, in this traditional rite of the Catholic Church, with its solemn liturgy and Latin hymns. An English translation of prayers will be available, making it easier to follow along.

Refreshments will be available following Mass.

## St. Henry Parish, Grand Coulee: 'A Little Oasis'

By Christine Corbett Conklin

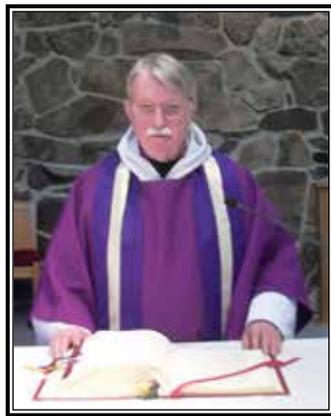
The year was 1934. Construction had begun on Grand Coulee Dam, which was to become the biggest electric power-producing facility in the United States. President Franklin Roosevelt would soon be coming for a visit. And, in the midst of this historic era, the first recorded Mass was said in what is today St. Henry's Parish in Grand Coulee.

St. Henry's officially began as a mission in 1937 and was later established as a parish by Bishop Joseph P. Dougherty in 1955. Since 2000, the parish, which now includes about 55 families, has been led by Father Robert Himes, pastor. From St. Henry's, Father Himes also serves the parishes of Holy Angels in Coulee City and St. Patrick in Hartline.

"The parishioners are really a wonderful group of people," he observed. "Even though they're small in number, they are very good about supporting the church." Many parishioners now work – or are retired from – positions with Grand Coulee Dam, the park service and local businesses.

Set "in the midst of sand, sagebrush and basalt rock," St. Henry's is what Sacristan and 12-year parishioner Stephen Tomaszewicz describes as a "little oasis."

The church itself is large, seating about 350 people, Father Himes said. It was built in 1965-66, at a time when the third power house for the dam was under construction and many more people lived in the area and worked on the project. A distinctive, modern structure with a flat roof and sides, "it reflects the Steamboat Rock" – a massive rock structure in nearby Banks Lake – he suggested. A wall of stone is set in back of the altar, with the other walls made of brick, banks of windows on the sides of the sanctuary, and statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Sacred Heart gracing the interior.



Father Robert Himes has served St. Henry Parish since 2000.  
Photo by Stephen Tomaszewicz

Other pastors who have served at St. Henry's, in more recent years, have included Fathers William Byron, Sean McManamon, John Murtagh, Albert Havens, Robert Shields, William Shaw, Maurice Peterson, Anthony King and Lawrence Reilly.

Although the parish itself is not large, St. Henry's draws many tourists who come to see the Dam or to enjoy water sports and boating in the area, observed Sue Shear, pastoral council president who has been a parishioner for 40 years. Banks Lake and Lake Roosevelt are among the most popular nearby recreational sites.

The church also has a wonderful variety of cultures among its fold –

Native Americans to Asians, Hawaiians to Hispanics, she said.

Father Himes helps to "keep everyone going in the right direction," Tomaszewicz said.

"I think everybody really respects and loves him," agreed Shear. "He's up for any and all suggestions."

Among special programs in which the parish participates are an outreach to needy persons in the area, coordinated by Mary Jane Bailey; and a choir led by Tamra Sacchi which joins in ecumenical concerts with other churches. Each spring, there is the legendary chicken dinner hosted by the parish, followed by a pulled pork dinner in the fall.

"It's a small, pretty stable community of parishioners who pretty much know everyone," said Bailey, who has been a parishioner at St. Henry's for 38 years.

"It's a great place to visit," added Father Himes.



St. Henry Church in Grand Coulee  
Photo by Stephen Tomaszewicz

## Pro-life Speaker Urges: Step Forward In Courage

By Christine Corbett Conklin

The time has come for all of us to step forward in courage, accepting that it is possible to end abortion in the United States and doing something to make a difference.

That was the message delivered by Kristan Hawkins, executive director of Students for Life of America, who came from Washington, D.C., to address several hundred people March 9 at the Yakima Convention Center. The event marked the unveiling and dedication of the new ImagePoint mobile medical services unit which will begin serving Central Washington in July.

Fathers John and Bill Shaw, who have been active in pro-life activities for many years, offered the benediction for the event.

"What would happen if a coach told his team members just before the beginning of a game that they had no chance to win?" Hawkins asked the crowd in her keynote address. Of course, the team would lose. In the same spirit, we need to understand that it IS possible to end abortion, and not give in to the popular culture's acceptance of this practice, she stressed.

"There is reason for joy because the tide is turning in America," she said. "Now, more than ever,



The colorful design proposed for the ImagePoint mobile medical unit welcomes patients inside.