



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

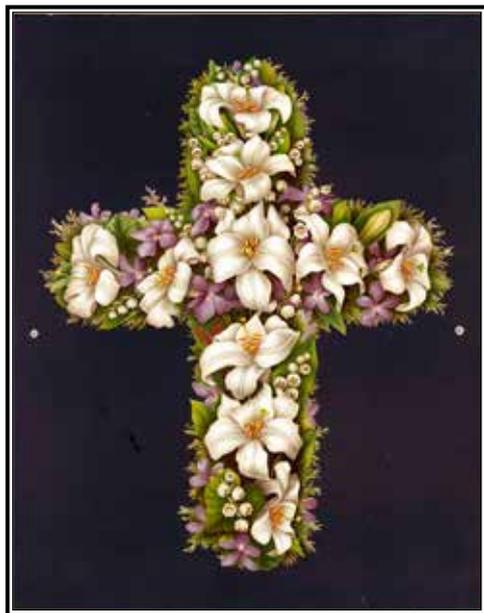
El Católico de Washington Central
Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

MARCH 2014
Newsletter

Look for Religious Meaning in the Symbols of Easter

So, you're stocking up on Easter candies. Have an egg hunt planned? Still need to buy an Easter lily? Maybe you even hope to make that complicated lamb-shaped Easter cake this year!

In the midst of all of this holiday hype, it's a good idea to slow down and remember the true "reason for the season." Easter is not just any holiday. It's a celebration of the greatest event



The Easter lily is a symbol of beauty, purity, holiness and new life. Easter Lily Cross, by Olive E. Whitney (c. 1861-1897).

in human history: the redemption of the human race by Jesus Christ.

The good news is that, even as you go about your Easter shopping and decorating, there's an opportunity to reflect on the symbols of Easter and share some "teaching moments" with the young people in your life.

The ever-present egg, for example – whether it's foil-wrapped candy or a real egg in an Easter egg hunt – is a symbol of rebirth. "As a chick breaks the shell when it is hatched and begins



This stained glass window in an old convent chapel of El Cajon, California, portrays the "Lamb of God" or "Agnus Dei."

life, so our Lord comes forth living from the tomb," explains the Catholic Culture website. Other sources suggest that an egg may resemble the stone placed at the opening to Christ's tomb, with the same symbolism of New Life emerging, or that a brightly decorated egg is a sign of rejoicing.

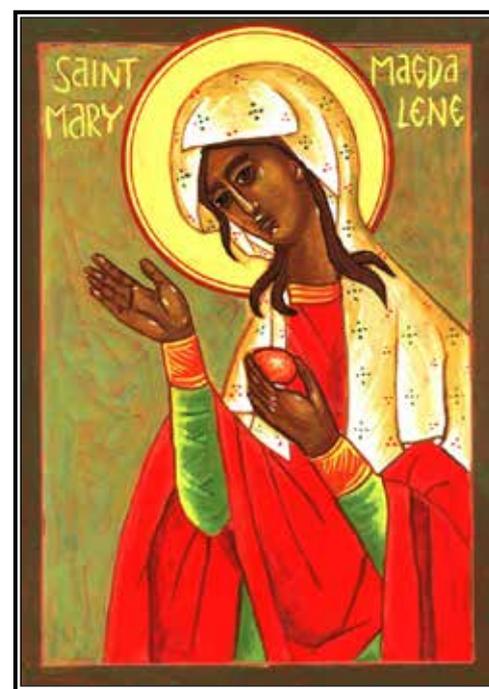
"In Christian iconography, white lilies have always been the symbol of beauty, purity and holiness," according to information from the Catholic Education Resource Center. Since 1882, when the white "Easter lily" was introduced in the United States, it "...became very popular in the Easter decorations of churches, symbolizing the new life of our Risen Lord," the Center says.

The lamb is another important Christian symbol, points out Catholic Online. It reminds us of the Scripture verse, John 1:29, which says, "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him,

and he said: 'Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'"

Remember also that "the Jews sacrificed a lamb for Passover during the time of Moses; because of the Passover sacrifice, the Jewish people were freed from slavery in Egypt and taken to the Promised Land. Christ is the new paschal Lamb," according to *The Significance of Easter Food* by Father William Saunders, reprinted by the Catholic Education Resource Center.

So, take some time to think about these rich symbols whose meaning often becomes lost in today's secular world. Find the true beauty of the approaching Easter season everywhere you look!



*A witness to the Resurrection, Saint Mary Magdalene, is shown in Eastern Catholic art holding a red egg. Tradition says she used the egg as a symbol to explain Christ's rising from the dead to Tiberius Caesar. He scoffed at the notion, saying it was no more likely than the egg turning red – upon which, the egg changed colors.
– Icon written by Robert Béla Wilhelm, Th.D.
www.sacredstorytelling.org*

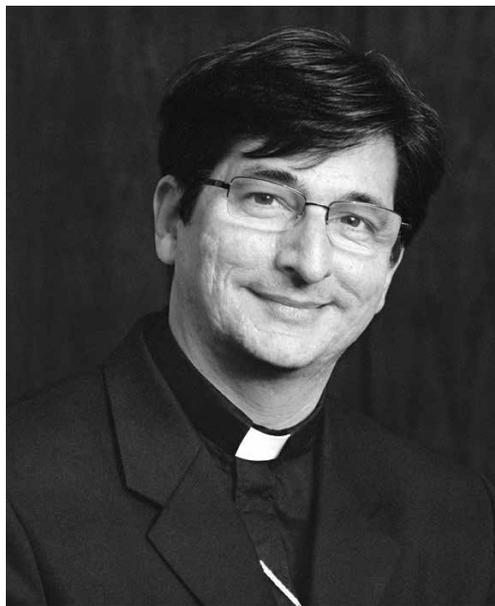
A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends,

On one of my recent busy weekends, I was traveling between an afternoon meeting in Cashmere with parishioners and an evening gathering of our Knights of Columbus in Richland. As I drove along the highway near Mattawa, I saw that the fruit trees were just beginning to blossom – a sure sign of the coming of spring.

With Easter coming rather late in this year's calendar, we literally are experiencing "Lent" in the old English meaning of that word – "to lengthen." The days are growing longer. There are more "degree days" for our orchards. The daily temperatures are beginning to warm.

This month's issue of the Central Washington Catholic points us to the new growth that stems from our fundamental belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. "Our Lady of the Desert" in Mattawa gives a snapshot of a parish that is alive and active precisely because so many have walked desert journeys of faith to share with each other the Good



Bishop Joseph Tyson

News of Jesus Christ.

The Easter Egg – itself – symbolizes that rebirth we know as the "Resurrection." Our upcoming "Congreso Familiar" in Yakima, the Diocesan youth Confirmation retreat in Benton City as well as our

Chrim Mass at St. Paul Cathedral all serve as spiritual steps towards our full celebration of the Easter Sacraments.

The Central Washington Catholic Foundation's grants for parishes in their religious education efforts are meant to highlight and support the many efforts of so many parishioners in passing on this gift of faith.

Taken all together, Easter is in the air. Christ's rising is real. Evidence is all around us in our life as a Church. My thanks to you, our readers, for the many ways you proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ in your daily lives. I hope these stories in this month's issue encourage you to deepen your financial stewardship of our Church as well as inspire you to deepen your service to your local parish.

With every best wish and blessing,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Help Prevent Child Abuse: Make Kindness Go Viral

Note: April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The following article is provided by Virtus, which offers safe environment training materials used in many of our parishes.

A primary and perennial goal we all have is to protect God's children from the bullying and harassment that occurs in and among peer groups. You have undoubtedly read and learned from many articles clarifying how to respond to incidents and address peer conflict, hate and humiliation. However, those efforts will bear much more fruit if accompanied by intentionally teaching and inspiring kindness in their place. It is not enough just to stop teens from being cruel to each other. We must motivate them toward actively caring for others, and your position as a parent or educator offers you the ability to influence legions of kids through modeling and instruction.

Interestingly, research now shows that people who learn about and demonstrate compassion and kindness toward others are more likely to establish long-term patterns of positive behavior. Dr. Richard Davidson at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and his colleagues have been studying the ways that compassionate behavior actually changes the brain. They found that "participants who learned compassion were more generous" and that "greater generosity ... was associated with changes in the brain's response to human suffering in regions involved in empathy and increasing positive emotions." In short, encouraging kids and teens to be kind and caring can result in neurological changes that may lead to expanded and consistent empathy and compassion toward others.

With that in mind, here are some ways you can encourage the children and teens in your life to "make kindness go viral" this year.

Set Up a Social Media Compliments Page: Most teens have a profile on one or more social networking platforms and are very comfortable navigating these environments. Perhaps you could encourage them to use their own account or set up a separate account for the purpose of "dishing out" anonymous accolades to their classmates, as long as the separate accounts do not violate any user agreements. This idea was made famous by Kevin Curwick's "OsseoNiceThings" Twitter feed and Jeremiah Anthony's "West High Bros" Facebook compliments page. Now dozens of social media accounts have been set up by teens for the purpose of encouraging and praising their peers.

Participate in Random Acts of Kindness: More and more individuals in all walks of life are realizing that it is actually really cool to be kind. It is even cooler when kindness is dished out anonymously and unexpectedly. Encourage your students or children to engage in random acts of kindness in their school or broader community. Search online for examples of young people being kind to others to give them inspiration. Dozens of videos and even a Twitter hashtag (#RandomActofKindness) can direct you to ideas as well.

Share Positive Stories: There seem to be an increasing number of sites sharing meaningful stories of teens (and adults) doing kind things! Many adults are keen to focus on teen conflict,

Continued on page 3

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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Help Prevent Child Abuse: Make Kindness Go Viral *Continued from page 2*

drama, harassment, and hate, and share those stories in an attempt to discourage negative behavior. But we've found that those good intentions do not lead to the desired effect. Instead, it comes across as condescending and preachy. Being subjected to those stories makes teens feel adults expect the worst of them, and that they need to be managed and controlled instead of trusted and empowered. Instead, we recommend you indirectly try to inspire them by showing them examples of teens just like them who are making a difference by standing up for what is right. Check out Huffington Post's Good News or A Platform for Good to get started. After showing them the content, make sure you dialogue with them to get their feedback.

In closing, remember that promoting kindness does not have to be a big production. The best ideas are often among the simplest. Working together, parents, teachers, and teens can make tremendous strides toward replacing cruelty with compassion this year. Hopefully, as you share these ideas and stories of kindness, your teens will feel compelled to write their own.



Even young children can practice random acts of kindness.

Diocesan-Wide Confirmation Retreat Offers Inspiration

Dozens of youth and youth ministers came to Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Catholic Church in Benton City, February 28 through March 2, for a three-day Confirmation retreat.

The young people preparing for Confirmation came from all corners of the Diocese, including Our Lady of the Desert in Mattawa, Christ the King in Richland and Saint Pius X in Quincy. The Church Hall was almost filled to capacity with nearly 80 enthusiastic youth plus their chaperones gathering for prayer, skits, music, testimonials and fun.

While most parishes hold their own Confirmation retreats, there is value to a retreat that draws youth from different parishes, noted Father John Vogl, parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick as well as the Benton City parish.

"It is highly recommended that candidates from different parishes experience a Confirmation retreat together," said Father Vogl, quoting from diocesan guidelines. "This will help the candidates to realize they are being confirmed not only in a parish, but also within the larger Church..."

The five-member Reach Youth Ministry team stationed in the Diocese this year helped direct the retreat. Their energy and dedication to the Catholic Faith was obvious. Reach, now based in Montana, has a wonderful history of work with young people, with its origin here in the Diocese of Yakima.

The Knights of Columbus, including councils from Christ the King Parish, and Saint Joseph Parish in Kennewick, provided meals for the weekend gathering.

The candidates for Confirmation all had the chance to go to Confession and to attend Mass concelebrated by Bishop Joseph Tyson and Father Vogl. Monsignor Perron Auve and Father Fernando Maldonado (from the Diocese of Spokane) also were available for the young people during the weekend.

Bishop Tyson's homily focused on the Gospel verse: "... Seek first the Kingdom of God..." (MT 6:33A)—a source of inspiration for these young people preparing for Confirmation.

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NEWS

From Around the Diocese

Chrism Mass Set for Cathedral

All are invited to the annual Chrism Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Joseph Tyson at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, in St. Paul Cathedral, Yakima. The Mass will follow an afternoon of reflection offered for the clergy of the Diocese.

At the Chrism Mass, Bishop Tyson will bless the sacramental oils to be used throughout the Diocese for the next year. Also, clergy will have the opportunity to renew their promises of service.

Catholic Hispanic Congress Planned

The Catholic Hispanic Congress of Evangelization plans its annual gathering for April 25-27 in the Yakima Valley SunDome. Celebrating its 15th anniversary in the Yakima Valley, the theme for this year's event will be, "and He said to them, 'Go into the world and proclaim the Good News to all creation.'" (Mark 16, 15)

The Congress will feature speakers including Bishop Joseph Tyson; Father Gustavo Gómez, Diocesan priest and advisor for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Yakima; Father Wilder Hernández, an advisor for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal from Colombia; and Father Mauricio Pardo, also of Colombia. Noted gospel singers from California also will be on the program.

Admission to the Congress is free. For more information, call (509) 949-5991 or (509) 307-1299, or visit www.congresocatholicodeevangelizacion.org.

Grants Offered for R.E., Tuition

The Central Washington Catholic Foundation is offering grants to parishes within the Diocese of Yakima for Religious Education (R.E.) programs and tuition assistance to students enrolled in area Catholic schools.

The Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) offers: \$500 stipends (matched by the parish) for R.E. Coordinators/Directors; \$750 support for R.E. staff to attend the annual R.E. Congress in Los Angeles; and grants to support R.E. programs in purchase of Bibles, curriculum materials and equipment, for example. In the past, one parish even used grants to begin an R.E. program.

Application deadline for the PREP program is May 15. Applications are available at www.cwatholicfoundation.org/REgrants. Enrollment for the TAP program will run through August 15, or when funds are expended, whichever comes first. English and Spanish applications are available at www.cwatholicfoundation.org/tuition.

Our Lady of the Desert: Parish Observes Lent 'In A Big Way'

Each year, in the small town of Mattawa, Washington, Lent is observed in a big way!

As part of their commemoration of Christ's passion and death, hundreds of parishioners from Our Lady of the Desert Catholic Church recreate the walk to Calvary. Several men, dressed in traditional robes, take turns carrying a large wooden cross about a mile and a half from a local park to the church. They are accompanied by parishioners of all ages who quietly pray, sing or even dance to religious music along the route. Once at the church, they attend a Good Friday liturgy, followed by outdoor Stations of the Cross.

This congregation of about 582 families is "very positive and enthusiastic" about their Faith, observes Father Jorge Granados, who has served as pastor in Mattawa since 2010. "The parish is mostly Hispanic. This is a very active community," he said.



Our Lady of the Desert Church is in the Spanish-mission style.

The majority of parishioners are involved in the agricultural industry in some way, Father Granados said. Mattawa, with its population of about 4,500 people, is set in the midst of land which has been cultivated for growing apples, cherries, grapes, potatoes and onions, among other crops.

These parish families have "many, many" children who play an active role in the life of the church, Father Granados observed. This year alone, 151 children are registered for First Communion and 38 young people are preparing for Confirmation. Young parishioners even take part in the Annual Catholic Appeal, already this year collecting \$3,300 in coin containers, said Erika Erazo, parish bookkeeper/secretary.

There is also great interest in Bible study at Our Lady of the Desert. About 200 adults and 30 young people attend the Bible study classes taught by Father Granados. The majority of parishioners own Bibles, often bringing them to Mass, Erazo added.

The smaller population of Anglo parishioners includes very dedicated individuals, some of whom have been parishioners for many years. Most live in the Desert Aire community and other rural areas, including a number of "snow birds" who fly south for the winter.

Construction of Our Lady of the Desert Church began in 1986, recalled Jerry Fox, a parishioner "from the beginning" and unofficial historian for the parish. The Spanish-mission style church, which seats about 200 people, was dedicated in 1987. In earlier years, this area was a mission run from Royal City, he explained. Then, by the early 1980s, a local mission was established, with a priest coming from Royal City and parishioners attending Mass in a small community church in Mattawa, Fox said.

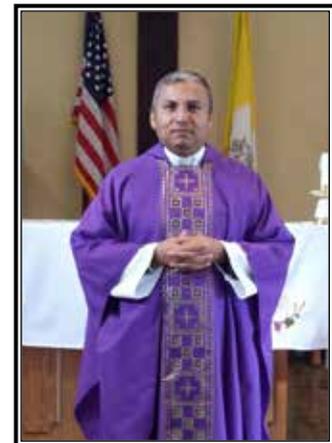
Prior to Father Granados' arrival in the parish, pastors included Fathers Roberto Sáenz, S.J., John Turula, S.J., Francisco Hernández, Salomón Covarrubias-Pina, José DeLoza and Gustavo Gómez.

The special religious celebrations at Our Lady of the Desert are not limited to Good Friday, Erazo noted. The parish also has a procession through town on Palm Sunday. In September, they mark Mexican Independence Day with a carnival, Mass, another procession, and festival in front of the church. A celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe and "posadas" follow in December.

"I'm so happy to be the pastor of this parish because of the people and also because of the desert here," said Father Granados. Despite the large church gatherings, there is still a feel of "the cloistered life, of living in solitude" in the Mattawa community, he believes. "The people are very welcoming, very generous, very willing to help with anything we need."



Parishioners in Mattawa recreated the walk to Calvary.



Father Jorge Granados has been pastor of Our Lady of the Desert Church since 2010.