



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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Newsletter

Medical Mission to Haiti: 'Walking in the Grace of God'

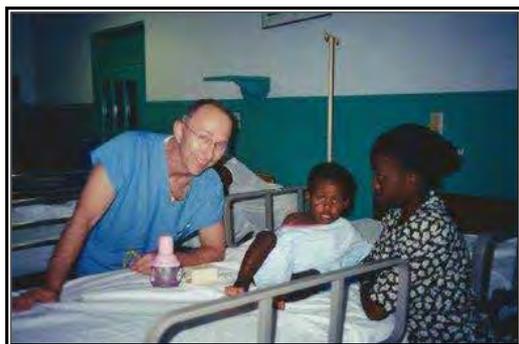
By Christine Corbett Conklin

In the rural village of Milot, Haiti, amid extreme poverty and desperate medical needs, Dr. Dale Peterson has felt truly uplifted by the grace of God.

The retired urologist, who, along with his wife, Camille, is a member of St. Joseph Church in Wenatchee, recently completed another in a series of 25 medical missions to this area of dense population in northern Haiti, set in a lush green valley with rolling hills.

"I've been going to Haiti almost every year since 1986," explained Peterson, who retired in 2008 from his practice at the Wenatchee Valley Clinic. "I made a decision a long time ago that I wasn't going to turn down any opportunity to serve Him."

And such an opportunity came last February, in the form of yet another telephone call from the CRUDEM (Center for the Rural Development of Milot) Foundation, begun in the 1960s by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and based in Massachusetts. A major focus of this group is to support Sacred Heart Hospital in Milot, where Peterson volunteers his time.



Dr. Peterson with a young Haitian patient.

Peterson, 76; Camille, 70; a friend from Leavenworth who is a surveyor; and the friend's son, began putting together plans to travel to Haiti this past April – both as a medical mission and to continue groundwork for the expansion of Sacred Heart Hospital.

When the group arrived in Milot,

about a half hour's drive from an airport in Cape Haitian, there were about 100 patients already waiting in the heat and humidity to see Peterson. Some had come by bus from as far as 100 miles away, with a variety of urinary and prostate issues.

"The need is so great," Peterson observed. "You're blessed to be there. We can do miraculous things for these people who have no hope otherwise. We can help give them a higher quality of life... They're so grateful."

At Sacred Heart, no one is denied medical care. For those who are able to pay something, there is a sliding fee scale.

Through the years, Peterson says that he has watched Sacred Heart Hospital grow from "a pretty primitive" setup with a recovery area equipped with little more than "a blood pressure cuff and an oxygen tank in the corner" to a more modern facility with "pretty much a first-rate recovery room."

And, in those same years, Peterson himself has been on a personal journey of faith. After becoming a Christian in 1979, he joined the Catholic Church in 1996. Now a member of the Knights of Malta (a lay, religious order of the Catholic Church) and the Knights of Columbus, he has gone on to help found three centers for the homeless in Wenatchee, in addition to work in pro-life and other community efforts.

Yet Haiti keeps drawing him back.

As a matter of fact, his partner from the days at Wenatchee Valley Clinic, Dr. Jeff



Dr. Dale Peterson (fourth from right) and other members of the medical team in front of the Hospital of the Sacred Heart in Haiti.

Monda, who's also a parishioner at St. Joseph Church, has joined in the treks to Milot. So have others from the clinic including anesthesiologists, surgical technicians and nurses.

"In Haiti, we see things we don't even see in our country," Peterson said. "When I look around (at other medical professionals who have come), I see the grace of God moving in their lives. There's nobody who hasn't wanted to come back."

Camille, whose background is in music but who assisted in Haiti in any way she could, agrees.

"It felt wonderful to help the people there," she said. "I kept thanking God I was there."

Somehow, you know the Petersons will return again.

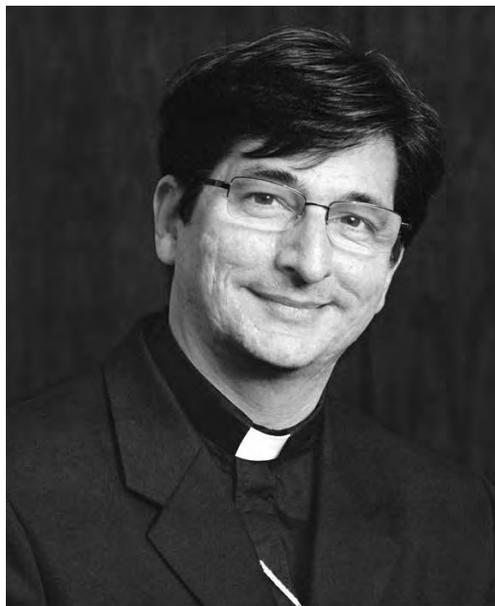
"At the end of the day, when it's been a long day in the O.R. (operating room), you just feel uplifted," Peterson observed. "You realize it's the grace of God. You feel a joy. You're walking in the grace of God."

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends,

I am keenly aware that so much of our parish life centers around the day-to-day routines of setting up and taking down chairs for parish breakfasts, gathering materials for weekly youth groups and catechesis, getting the collection counted and recorded, printing out the parish bulletin, cleaning the pews and keeping track of the various keys to parish facilities.

As important as these tasks are - and they ARE important - this issue of Central Washington Catholic reminds us that all that we do and all who we are as a Church points to mission. Dr. Dale and Camille Peterson's medical mission to Haiti is perhaps the most dramatic example we read about this month. But the annual "Celebration of Faith" from the Central Washington Catholic Foundation reminds us of our shared mission in Catholic education. Even our famous soccer match between priests and seminarians with its slogan



Bishop Joseph Tyson

"two teams...one mission" points to our mission in serving the Church.

On a personal note, my mother was a graduate of St. Paul Cathedral School –

now 100 years old – whose mission has been the sending forth of students so they can become missionaries of Christ's love in whatever their individual calls from God may be. Indeed, there's a direct link between St. Paul Cathedral School and the fact that I'm here as a bishop. My mom first learned the basic teachings of the Church from the Tacoma Dominicans who taught there so many years ago. She and my dad were my first teachers of the Faith.

Taken together I hope these articles will encourage you to see your daily activity adding up to something more: the mission of Jesus Christ. May we be faithful to His Mission!

With my every best wish and blessing,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

St. Mary Parishioners Attend Events

It's been a busy summer for the St. Mary Parish community in White Swan! Father John Shaw reports that parishioners participated in the annual St. Kateri Conference in Fargo, North Dakota, and celebrated the 125th anniversary of the parish.

Eleven representatives from St. Mary, including Father John and Father William Shaw, pastor, joined some 1,000 participants at the Kateri conference, July 23-27. The conference theme was, "To Walk Humbly In Her Footsteps." Keynote speaker, Sister Judi Gomila, a Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart, listed the attributes of St. Kateri Tekakwitha and reminded attendees, "We are the Church!", urging a spirit of unity with Christians in some 115 countries who are being persecuted for their faith.

The 125th anniversary celebration for St. Mary Parish was held on August 10, including a Mass of Thanksgiving, with Bishop Joseph Tyson as principal celebrant. Highlights included the signing of the Lord's Prayer by children. A teepee was erected on the church grounds to honor the first parishioners of the parish and a banner was hung in honor of the occasion.

Celebration of Faith *Continued from page 4*

"Schools are oases of Catholic culture in a society which is more and more secularized. Their necessity has never been greater, even as the difficulties of supporting them have increased. They are witnesses to the generosity of many people." George said.

Sister Kathleen Ross, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, an order of Catholic sisters dedicated to education, has been an educational leader in her own right, for decades helping especially the poor and disadvantaged to further their education.

In the 1970s, she served as provost of Fort Wright College in Spokane, overseeing the creation of outreach programs in Toppenish, on the Yakama Nation Reservation, that extended the opportunity for four-year college degrees to rural, minority and low-income populations.

When Fort Wright College closed in 1982, she became the founding president of Heritage – which has grown from 85 students to more than 1,100 students. The University now has branch operations in Moses Lake, Seattle, Tri-Cities and Yakima, plus an early learning center.

"The Sisters of the Holy Names have founded, staffed, and nurtured Catholic schools, especially for the underserved, for more than 160 years, so I am delighted and honored to speak at this important event," she said. "Education truly changes lives!"

Reservations are still available to attend the Celebration of Faith and hear these two remarkable speakers. Call the Foundation at (509) 972-3732 or click on the reservation form link at cwcatholicfoundation.org. The cost is \$100 per person, with festivities beginning at 5:30 p.m.

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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Seminarians Win Victory Over Priests In Annual Soccer Match

In a nail-biting overtime period, the seminarians of the Diocese of Yakima pulled off a 4-3 win over the diocesan priests in the third annual soccer match, August 3, at Marquette Stadium in Yakima.

Denny Canales, who serves as receptionist for the Diocese and administrative assistant to Bishop Emeritus Carlos Sevilla, S.J., drove in the winning goal to break a 3-3 tie and assure the seminarian team of their first victory in three years.

After he scored, Canales was lifted into the air by team captain, seminarian Antonio Lopez, and the seminarians ran a victory lap around Marquette Field at the conclusion of the match.

“The seminarians were very determined,” noted Canales, who played for the priests’ team last year and, ironically, scored the goal assuring the priests of their second victory in a row.

The priests made a valiant effort, even calling in substitute priests in several parishes to ensure that they fielded their best players, but they were not to taste victory this year. However, they maintained a positive Christian spirit about the match.

“It’s a great community event,” said Father Felipe Pulido, team captain for the priests.

“There’s a fraternity of coming together, not only priests and seminarians, but also people from all over the Diocese.”

Lopez agreed.

The soccer match shows a human side to these religious leaders on both teams, he observed.

“It really does bring us together,” he added. “It’s a bonding moment. And we have this community behind us – a large community.”

The first period of the 2014 soccer match ended with the seminarians leading 1-0, following a goal by Devan Vaca. In the second period, Fathers Lalo Barragan, Tomás Vázquez and Juan Godina scored, giving the priests a lead of 3-1. Then, it was all seminarians after that point, with César Carrasco, Lopez and Canales scoring the final goals of the match.

Next year, it will be game on again! (And the burning question remains, which team will be able to recruit Canales next year?)



Members of the seminarian team took a break during the match.

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NEWS

from Around the Diocese

Moxee Knights Plan Breakfast

All are invited to a pancake breakfast scheduled by the Knights of Columbus of Holy Rosary Church, Moxee, Council #2303, on Sunday, September 14.

Breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 11 a.m. in the Monsignor McGrath Hall behind the church at 201 North Iler. The all-you-can-eat meal includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, ham and beverage.

A free-will offering is requested, with proceeds benefiting pro-life efforts.

Natural Family Planning Explained

Learn about Natural Family Planning (NFP), the safe, effective method for married couples to limit the number of children they have – or to try and conceive. Unlike many family planning techniques, NFP is in keeping with the teaching of the Catholic Church.

Two certified Natural Family Planning instructors will each give a free talk (one in English, one in Spanish) and answer questions at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 16 at Holy Family Church, 5315 Tieton Drive in Yakima. Attendees will meet in the Father Murtagh Gathering Hall. Refreshments will be provided.

No reservations are required. For more information, call Holy Family Church at (509) 966-0830.

Life Principles Academy Scheduled

Ever wondered how to talk to your kids, colleagues and community about why you are pro-life? The Life Principles Academy, scheduled for October 18 in Wenatchee, will show you how to make a difference.

This conference for adults and young people, presented by Camille Pauley, president of Healing the Culture, is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wenatchee Community Center, 504 South Chelan Avenue.

The course will include a light lunch, free parking and \$70 worth of free textbooks. Cost is \$39 with scholarships available by calling John at (509) 885-2137. Register at www.healingtheculture.com.

Collection Helps Elderly Religious

The Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken up in our Diocese, September 13-14.

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals, and social-service agencies, often for little, if any, pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and elder care. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of elderly religious. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Third Annual Celebration of Faith Features Cardinal George, Sister Ross as Speakers

As he prepares to visit Yakima October 11 as a special guest speaker at the third annual Celebration of Faith, Francis Cardinal George says that he is “looking forward to meeting old friends and seeing how the diocese has progressed.”

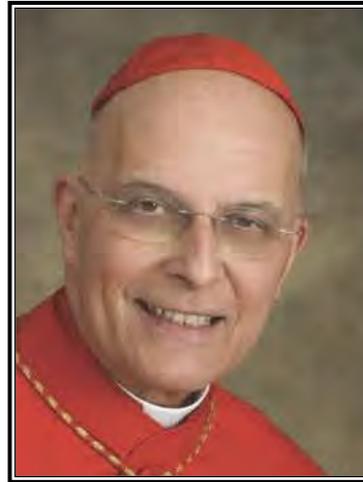
Cardinal George, who was Bishop of Yakima from 1990 to 1996 and is currently Archbishop of Chicago, will address attendees at the Yakima Convention Center event, along with keynote speaker, Sister Kathleen Ross, the founding president emeritus of Heritage University.

“Starting out as a new bishop in the Yakima diocese enabled me to meet many wonderful people who were striving to be holy people,” Cardinal George recalled in a message anticipating his upcoming trip to the Yakima Valley.

“Working with them was a source of great joy and a great grace for my own spiritual life.”

Leaving Yakima to become Archbishop of Portland, Oregon, George was created a cardinal by Pope John Paul II in 1998, later serving for several years as President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Prior to his address at the third annual Celebration of Faith, a dinner and program presented by the Central Washington Catholic Foundation to honor Champions of Catholic Education and raise funds to support Catholic education in the Diocese of Yakima, George underscored the importance of Catholic schools.



Cardinal Francis George



Sister Kathleen Ross

Continued on page 2



The “new” St. Paul School opened in 1949.

St. Paul School Celebrates Centennial

All are welcome to join in the celebration of St. Paul Cathedral School’s 100th anniversary!

Events will begin at 9 a.m., Saturday, September 13, with a 5K Fun Run taking off from Franklin Park, between 19th and 21st avenues on Tieton Drive in Yakima. Walkers are also invited to participate. The early registration fee is \$15 (by September 8), with proceeds going to the Monsignor John A. Ecker Foundation. For more information, contact Kevan Montoya at (509) 895-7373 or kevan@montoyalegal.com.

The centennial celebration will culminate in a special Mass at 9 a.m., Sunday, September 14, in St. Paul Cathedral. Former and current students, parents and staff are especially welcome. Following Mass, there will be an open house, program and refreshments at St. Paul Cathedral School.

The original St. Paul School, which opened in 1914, was replaced by the “new school” in 1949. This “new school,” which today houses about 220 preschool through eighth-grade students, was the largest Catholic elementary school west of the Mississippi in 1957-58, with 1,300 students attending. The Sisters of St. Dominic of Tacoma staffed the school from 1914 to 1975.