



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

AUGUST 2017 *Newsletter*

## Deacon Jesús Alatorre: Finding 'Work and Happiness' In A New Life

By Christine Corbett Conklin

The newest transitional deacon of the Diocese of Yakima has had a busy summer, ministering to the people of St. Joseph Parish in Wenatchee, before returning to Mundelein Seminary in Chicago late this month to resume his studies for the priesthood.

"After many years of formation and thinking and praying about ordination, this is the beginning of what I want to be and what I want to do to serve the people," observed Deacon Jesús Alatorre, 32, who was ordained to the diaconate May 26 in Wenatchee.

Originally from Colima, Mexico, Deacon Jesús came to the United States in 2012 after spending six years in a seminary in Colima and serving as a middle school Spanish teacher. He attended Central Washington University for more than a year to study English and has been at Mundelein Seminary since 2014.

Deacon Jesús hopes to be ordained to the priesthood next year, a desire that began for him in high school.

"When I was...like 15 years old, I realized I wanted to be something different," he recalled. After going on a high school retreat at age 17, he decided, "Okay, I want to try one year (in seminary)." Pope Saint John Paul II was an inspiration to him and the idea of teaching, preaching and serving people was very appealing, he said.

When it came time for his ordination to the diaconate this past spring, Deacon Jesús incorporated a bit of his Mexican heritage by wearing a very old "dalmatic" – or wide-sleeved, long vestment – that was loaned to him from the Cathedral Basilica of Our



*Deacon Jesús Alatorre wore a gold vestment borrowed from Colima, Mexico, for his ordination.*

Lady of Guadalupe in Colima. Gold with gold strings attached, it was embroidered with many flowers.

He also has had the opportunity to work with many of his countrymen since coming to the United States, both in four years of summer work in the fields, along with other seminarians, and in his parish assignments at St. Joseph.

"I'm nervous because, now, as a deacon, I have to do some work in the parish," he said, "but I'm happy. I realize that, as a priest, there's going to be more work, but more happiness."

Among his responsibilities as a deacon, he has preached at some Masses on weekdays and on weekends; visited the sick; performed baptisms, weddings and some spiritual direction; accompanied a group of volunteers from the parish to a migrant camp to evangelize; and helped in the organization and application of a program of preparation for the sacrament of marriage.

Throughout his duties, Deacon Jesús has received constant encouragement from his mother, who sends him a text almost every day.

"She reminds me that I'm working for the people of God and that I need to trust in God and pray every day," he explained. And, indeed, he has found that "being with God is the best thing we can do to be happy, truly happy."

What advice would he give to other young men who are considering the priesthood?

"Don't be afraid to say 'yes' to the calling of God, to whatever He wants you to do," he urges.

Please keep Deacon Jesús in your prayers as he goes on to complete his studies for the priesthood.

## Three Charitable Organizations Unite Under One Name

Three charitable organizations in the Diocese of Yakima – Catholic Family & Child Service, Catholic Charities Housing Services, and St. Vincent Center – are now operating under a single name, Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington.

"Our name has changed, but we remain committed to the same mission: 'Motivated by Christ's love, we bring hope to life, especially for those most in need,'" said Darlene Darnell, president and CEO.

The history of this charitable work may be traced back to 1946 when the Yakima Salvage Bureau was formed. Three years later, the agency's mission was solidified

when Father Thomas Gill established the Yakima Children's Bureau as a subsidiary of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Seattle.

The agency worked to protect the welfare of children by arranging adoptions and providing safe, caring foster homes. Over the years, services have remained focused on serving children, adults and families in the areas of counseling and behavioral health, basic needs, child care and early learning, affordable housing, and elder services.

Today, Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington reaches out to more than 40,000 individuals and families in Central



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Washington. The agency's administrative offices are located at 5301-C Tieton Drive in Yakima, with additional offices in Wenatchee and Richland.

For more information about the services provided by the organization, call Leanne LaBissoniere at (509) 367-5291 or visit [www.catholiccharitiescw.org](http://www.catholiccharitiescw.org).

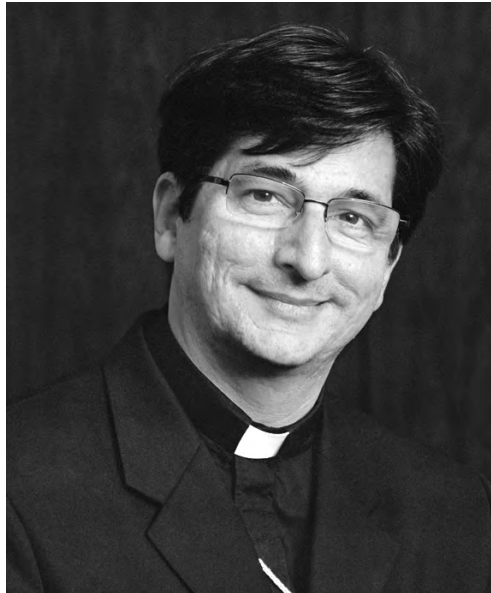
## A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

Welcome to another edition of the *Central Washington Catholic*. Needless to say, the big feature is our own Deacon Jesús Alatorre being ordained this summer. By the time you read this, he will be back at Mundelein seminary in Chicago, finishing his final year of theology in preparation for next year's ordination to the priesthood.

When I preached his ordination homily at St. Joseph Parish in Wenatchee, I anchored my reflections in the Acts of the Apostles and the selection of the first deacons. You may recall that, in the sixth chapter, a dispute arose because the Greek-speaking widows were not receiving the same charitable support as were the Hebrew- or Aramaic-speaking widows. This is why the first deacons all have Greek names. The early church made a deliberate point of selecting deacons who would reach the more under-served "Gentile" part of the early Church. From the beginning, deacons were ministers of charity.

It strikes me that our entire set of longer stories as well as our shorter



*Bishop Joseph Tyson*

features all point to our living out the charity that flows from the generosity of the Eucharist, where God gives himself to us in all of His humanity and all of His divinity. Our daily acts of service imitate this great generosity.

How else to explain the long years of loving service from Sister Agnes Huck, Sister Judeen Seeberger, or the recently deceased Sister Joan Wales? What better way to uplift the benefac-

tors who support our annual Celebration of Faith for student scholarships, our annual priest vs. seminarian soccer match, as well as our outreach to our parishes' charitable initiatives, through our sharing of the Operation Rice Bowl grants? Richland parishioner Bill Kitchen's dedication to serving the Church and the Tri Cities community following retirement is an inspiration as well.

Like the early Church, our deacons are meant to animate the charity that lies at the heart of community life. Let us give thanks for the wonderful acts of charity from so many across Central Washington. Let us pray that God will provide many more deacons to point out and stir up this charity through their teaching, preaching and pastoral care, imitating what we read in the sixth chapter from the Acts of the Apostles.

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

## Rice Bowl Grants Awarded to Area Ministries

Nine area ministries have received \$1,000 grants from the local share of the Rice Bowl collection.

The Rice Bowl collection is taken each year during Lent to benefit the work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), an organization commissioned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas. Seventy-five percent of the collection goes to support CRS' humanitarian and development programs overseas, providing life-saving assistance and hope in 112 countries around the world. The remaining 25 percent is returned to the individual diocese to support local hunger and poverty prevention programs.

In the Diocese of Yakima, the fol-

lowing ministries were awarded 2017 Rice Bowl Grants: St. Joseph St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Kennewick; FISH Food Bank, Ellensburg; St. Henry's Emergency Fund, Grand Coulee; Our Lady of Fatima Soup Kitchen, Moses Lake; Holy Rosary Sandwich Program, Moxee; Our Lady of Lourdes Food Bank, Selah; St. Joseph St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Wenatchee; St. Paul St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Yakima; and St. Vincent Center Food Bank, Union Gap.

For grant guidelines and application procedures for future awards, contact Leanne LaBissoniere, parish outreach coordinator for Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington, (509) 367-5291.

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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## Celebration of Faith to Honor Father Seamus Kerr —

Father Seamus Kerr, a beloved retired priest of the Diocese of Yakima and former pastor of many diocesan parishes, will be the special honoree at the Celebration of Faith scheduled for October 7 at the Yakima Convention Center.

Father Kerr, who is currently in residence at Holy Apostles Church in East Wenatchee, will be celebrated for his enduring role in supporting Catholic education.

Other highlights of the event, sponsored by the Central Washington Catholic Foundation, will include a keynote address by Fa-

ther Greg Boyle, founder of the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world.

Awards also will be made to outstanding "champions of Catholic education" in the categories of Catholic school teacher, director of Religious Education or catechist, and benefactor or volunteer.

The evening will begin with a 6 p.m. reception, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. For tickets, contact the Central Washington Catholic Foundation at [www.cwcatholicfoundation.com](http://www.cwcatholicfoundation.com) or (509)972-3732.

## Priests Smite Seminarians at Soccer Match —

As smoke from Canadian forest fires hovered overhead and temperatures soared into the 90s, the priests of the Diocese of Yakima once again smote diocesan seminarians in the annual soccer match, August 6.

The priests outpaced their opponents by a score of 5-1, with some 350 fans watching from the bleachers of Marquette Field in Yakima. Father Lalo Barragán was named Most Valuable Player for the game, scoring two goals, while Father Jaime Chacón (who once played semi-professional

ball in Colombia) made multiple key blocks.

Father Felipe Pulido and Father Tomas Vázquez also scored one goal apiece. (At press time, there was uncertainty as to who had scored the final goal for the priests and the one goal for the seminarians.)

The soccer match raised more than \$4,000 for the Seminarian Education Trust, with funds to be matched by Catholic Extension. So, you might say that, ultimately, the seminarians are the winners after all!

## St. Francis De Sales Statue Dedicated



Photo courtesy of Becky Cline

A new statue of the patron saint of the parish was dedicated recently at St. Francis De Sales Church in Chelan. The five-foot statue, which was hand-carved and painted in Ortisei, Italy, was a gift of a parish family.

Pictured above are Father Rogelio Gutiérrez, pastor, (right) and Deacon Del Sherman of the parish.

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# NEWS

## *from Around the Diocese*

### **Sister Agnes Huck Celebrates Anniversary—**

Sister Agnes Huck, OP (Mary Lawrence), a native of Yakima, recently celebrated her 65th anniversary as a Dominican Sister.

Sister Agnes attended St. Paul Cathedral School and St. Joseph's Academy in Yakima. Following graduation in 1950, she entered the Dominican Sisters of Tacoma.

With degrees from Central Washington University, Gonzaga University and Notre Dame University, she went on to minister in education and administration. Her service ranged from classroom teaching to school administration plus time in the educational offices of both the Seattle and Denver archdioceses. She also served in Tacoma and Walla Walla, and on the leadership team for her religious community. She now resides in Yakima.

May God richly bless Sister Agnes for her many devoted years of service!

### **Sister Judeen Seeberger Marks Anniversary—**

Sister Judeen Seeberger, OSB, celebrated her 70th Jubilee as a Benedictine Sister of Mother of God Monastery, Watertown, South Dakota, in July. She and two others in her class were honored in a private celebration.

Sister Judeen, a native of North Dakota, graduated from high school in Yakima, and received her education degree from Mt. Marty College in South Dakota, with postgraduate studies in Spokane and Boston. She worked in parish ministry for 20 years at Holy Family Parish and ten years at Holy Redeemer Parish, both in Yakima.

Congratulations to Sister Judeen on reaching this special milestone!

### **Sister Joan Wales, OP, Dies —**

A funeral Mass was held August 3 at St. Andrew Church in Ellensburg for Sister Joan Wales, OP (Mary Harold), with burial following at Holy Cross Cemetery, also in Ellensburg.

Sister Joan, who died at the age of 87 at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle, grew up in Ellensburg. She taught elementary school classes in Washington and California for more than 30 years, before caring for disabled individuals through the Department of Social and Health Services in Ellensburg.

Memorial donations may be made to: Dominican Sisters Retirement Fund, 935 Fawcett Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402.

May Sister Joan and all of our deceased religious and clergy rest in peace.

### **Cornerstone Conference Coming Soon—**

"Together for Life and Justice" is the theme of this year's Cornerstone Catholic Conference, scheduled for October 20-21 at the Tacoma Convention Center.

Highlights of the event will include keynotes by Washington State bishops. Several speakers also will be featured, including Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles, Robert McCloud from Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and Helen Alvare, former director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

There's still time to register for the conference. Visit [www.cornerstonecatholic.org](http://www.cornerstonecatholic.org) or call Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006.

## **Bill Kitchen: Turning Retirement Into A Life of Service—**

When Bill Kitchen retired in 2011, after 28 years in facility management and planning at sites including Hanford, Washington; Rocky Flats, Colorado; and the Idaho National Laboratory near Idaho Falls, he wasn't sure how he would fill his free time.

Now, this parishioner from Christ the King Church in Richland just may be busier than ever before. Kitchen recently returned from a Convocation of Catholic Leaders gathering in Orlando, Florida. He attended as the Chairman of the National Cursillo Secretariat. And, since 2012, he has served as Executive Director of the Tri-Cities Food Bank, in addition to other responsibilities.

It all began shortly after retirement, he recalls, when he was approached at the grocery store by an acquaintance who asked, "You're retired, aren't you?" Kitchen was asked to help out at the Tri-Cities Food Bank and, within six months, was named to the top spot.

At that time, the food bank had three branches located in Richland, Kennewick and Benton City. Under Kitchen's direction, the organization has grown to include a central office, central distribution facility, and a new branch in West Richland.

Kitchen said he was really surprised, even "shocked," when he learned how the Tri-Cities area, which tends to have a reputation for low unemployment, had such tremendous needs.

"So many people either are not employed or not making enough money to make ends meet," he observed.

Now, thanks to a streamlined "grocery store model" central distribution and automation of administrative functions which Kitchen helped institute, the food bank serves more than 50,000 families per year, representing about 160,000 individuals, 40 percent of whom are children.

Although he hears many sad stories, there are also encouraging moments!

"The best part is when some of those people come back to give a donation. That is tearful," he said. Moments like that make him believe that "this is the

highest paid job I've ever had, even though it's volunteer."

As if he didn't already have enough on his plate, last year, Kitchen became Chairman of the National Cursillo Movement. Cursillo is an organization which "helps people understand that God loves them," learn "how to increase their love of being Christian," and "go out and bring people to the Church, to Christ," he explained. He first joined

Cursillo in 1983.

Today, the national organization claims over 1,000,000 participants.

In his leadership role, Kitchen guides the equivalent of a board of directors for the organization and has already traveled from Pennsylvania to Texas to Oregon to fulfill his duties.

Then, in what Kitchen describes as the "frosting on the cake" of his dedicated service, he attended the Convocation

of Catholic Leaders in July. This is a group formed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in response to Pope Francis' call to spread the joy of the Gospel, going out into "peripheral" areas.

Some 3,500 people attended, including five cardinals, more than 150 bishops and over 300 priests, Kitchen said. In total, 18 people from the Diocese of Yakima attended. Keynote speakers and "breakout sessions" filled the program with topics ranging from intercultural awareness to isolationism and "disconnected Catholics," he explained. One highlight was viewing a video sent in by Bishop Joseph Tyson, in which the Bishop spoke of "working for the people in need" and addressed immigration issues.

In summary, Bill Kitchen believes that, although he may be "overstretched" in taking on so many responsibilities, "it's the best busyness I've ever had." He also has the support of his wife of 36 years, Judy, with whom he has five grown children.

He encourages others who are retired to become involved in helping their communities.

"You have time for whatever you want to do," he believes. And, (helping out) "is so rewarding. It really does make you feel better."



*Bill Kitchen serves as Executive Director of the Tri-Cities Food Bank.*