



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

El Católico de Washington Central

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

JANUARY 2018 *Newsletter*

Mark Your Calendar

'Men of Mercy' Is Retreat Theme —

Men of all ages and faiths are invited to attend a retreat entitled, "Men of Mercy," scheduled for February 2-3 at St. Joseph Church in Wenatchee.

The retreat, which will include three talks by Bishop Joseph Tyson, is designed for fathers, grandfathers and "potential fathers," offering inspiration, prayer and education.

Sponsored by the Divine Child Institute, the event will begin at 6:30 p.m., Friday, February 2, with a talk by Bishop Tyson, plus Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.

On Saturday, February 3, there will be Mass, breakfast fellowship and two talks by Bishop Tyson, ending with prayer at 11:30 a.m.

For more information, call St. Joseph Church at (509) 662-4569.

Valentine Boxes Need Donations —

It's time again to help Catholic Charities Volunteer Services assemble Valentine boxes for low-income elders and adults with disabilities.

Non-perishable food items may be donated in Diocesan churches featuring a decorated Valentine box. Checks also are welcome to purchase fresh produce, mailed to: Volunteer Services, c/o Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington, 5301 Tieton Drive, Suite C, Yakima, WA 98908.

Please make sure that your food donation or check is received no later than February 9. Thank you for helping those in need!

Latin America Collection Set —

Parishes in the Diocese of Yakima, February 17-18, will take up a special collection for the Church in Latin America. For many living in Latin America and the Caribbean, rural terrain and lack of ministers make it difficult to practice the Faith.

Our donations and renewed support will fund catechesis, marriage and family life programs, as well as seminarian and religious formation so people can grow closer to Christ. Please prayerfully consider supporting this collection as a way to share your Faith with our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Thank you!

Monsignor Ecker To Celebrate 60 Years of Priesthood

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Monsignor John Ecker, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Yakima and Pastor of St. Paul Cathedral, will soon celebrate another milestone in his long ministry to the people of Central Washington.

To mark his 60th anniversary of priestly ordination, a special Mass of Thanksgiving will be held at 11 a.m., Sunday, February 4, in the Cathedral. All are invited to attend. A reception will follow.

"It feels wonderful," Monsignor said, commenting on this milestone. "God has blessed me with so many years to serve."

Among the many highlights of his continuing ministry to our Diocese, Monsignor said that "celebrating the Mass and preaching is my greatest pleasure." Other highlights through the years have included teaching school, serving as a Navy chaplain with the



Photo courtesy of Baumgardner Studio

Monsignor John Ecker

U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam, and even meeting with the Apollo 17 astronauts on the U.S.S. Ticonderoga.

"We all owe a great deal of gratitude to God for Monsignor Ecker's 60 years as a priest," said Bishop Tyson. "He's been a part of so many families' lives – including my own. He presided at my grandfather's funeral. When I was ordained a priest, my grandmother made my vestments by hand. She used Monsignor's vestments as a sewing pattern.

"Indeed, in many ways Monsignor Ecker has set the 'pattern' for so many priests for so many years here in the Diocese of Ya-

kima. I'm grateful to him, his friendship to me, to so many priests and to so many parishioners."

Please plan to come to the February 4 Mass to honor this remarkable priest and thank him for his dedicated service!

Students for Life Forms New Yakima Valley Chapters

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Two new chapters of Students for Life of America are forming in the Yakima Valley, carrying the pro-life message forward with another generation.

"It's our future that we're fighting for," observed Connor Henning, a chapter member and 2016 graduate of Washington State University (WSU) who attends programs at The Haven, Yakima's Catholic college student center.

If young people do not join in pro-life efforts, before long, "it's going to be not only can we kill any child... but we can deem any person (of any age) unwanted," agreed Ramses Yates, also



Students for Life gathered at Millennium Plaza following the Walk for Life in Yakima.

a chapter member, WSU student in the Tri-Cities and leader at The Haven.

Students from age 13 to their mid-

Continued on page 3

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

How heartening it is to read about our two new “Students for Life” groups here in the Yakima Valley!

Social media seems to have shaped powerfully the harsh and inappropriate language in public discourse. Such language overshadows the very real public policy debates. Even some candidates that assume for themselves the banner of “pro-life” undercut their own position by terrible language.

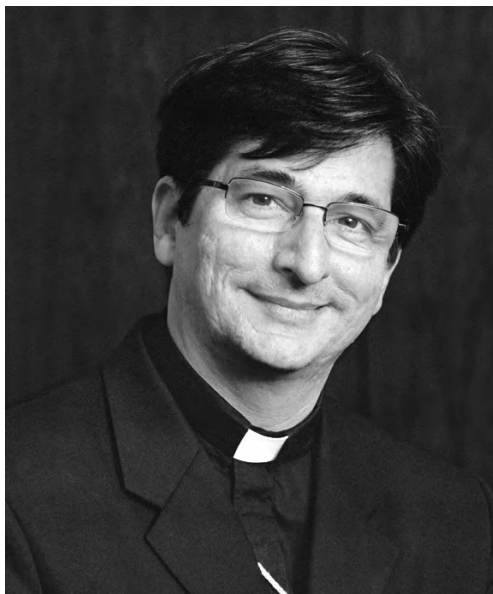
All the more reason to uplift initiatives like “Students for Life” that work in favor of real changes in public policy promoting the gift of life – especially the life of the unborn – because this human right is foundational for all other civil and human rights that flow from natural law.

Natural law is not a popularly accepted concept today. It may be one we need to recover if we are to find ways to anchor the rights of the unborn more deeply in our culture. We need to develop tools of reflection flowing from a renewed understanding of the natural moral law. Otherwise our proposal on life issues will be reduced to political slogans and our debates will default to the coarse political language fed by the sensationalism of social media.

“Students for Life” and life groups like this offer the opportunity for a human encounter and an environment of relation. Such groups can be seed beds for the entire spectrum of social and public policy initiatives. They can reformulate a more positive message and a more respectful language that might change minds and hearts.

The key evaluative question is this: Is what we are saying and teaching, what people are hearing and learning? New groups in the pro-life movement hold the potential for this kind of reflection.

I want to close by thanking so many across the Diocese of Yakima for the many ways we uplift the gift of human life. I am grateful for those who carefully consider how they witness to women



Bishop Joseph Tyson

considering an abortion, how they provide alternative pathways for women in crisis.

While I have found some of the tactics of some in our ecumenical community to be overly harsh, I am so grateful for the vast majority of our fellow Christians. So many evangelical Christians have been wonderful partners for pregnancy resource centers as well as partners in the 40 Days for Life movement.

I would also be quick to add that Human Life of Washington – a group for whom I once served – has spent years promoting the gift of life. My memory goes back to the first state director, Barbara Geraci, with whom I had a long friendship. I also think of the late, great Kathy MacAtee, who assisted me when we renewed the statewide Mass for Life at St. Michael in Olympia.

Needless to say, I am deeply grateful to Darlene Darnell of Catholic Charities and our great team at PREPARES that have helped me and all the bishops across the state develop a clearly branded Catholic response to the plague of abortion on demand.

This initiative is especially important because – in terms of public policy issues – the reversal of Roe vs. Wade means abortion remains legal in Wash-

ington State, due to the passage of Referendum 20 here in 1970. Remember this: Some who are pro-life often focus only on the goal of reversing Roe vs. Wade and a return to states’ rights.

But reversing Roe vs. Wade is only the doorway. If all we dream for is a reversal of Roe vs. Wade, then our dreams are too small. PREPARES is part of a bigger dream to build a positive response and an abortion-free world that is a compelling, compassionate and beautiful building up of the dignity of women, the strengthening of families and the upholding of the rights of the unborn.

Obviously, what I am laying out is a long journey. I know. In the aftermath of Referendum 20, I was the treasurer for what has often been considered the first high school student pro-life group in the country at Bishop Blanchette High School in Seattle. But dreams take a long time to take shape in reality. Thanks for sharing the dream and supporting the dreams of countless children yet to come!

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

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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

Students for Life Forms New Yakima Valley Chapters *Continued from page 1*

20s gathered on December 16 at Pizza Hut in Yakima to launch plans for both high-school-age and college-age chapters, under the invitation of Human Life of Washington. A number of home-school students were included.

Students for Life is the United States' largest pro-life youth organization. With more than 1,200 chapters across the nation, its goal is to help "defend the preborn and help young mothers". More than 55,000 students have been trained in pro-life principles since the organization officially launched in 2006.

Students for Life has five key "pillars" of activity: to create awareness of the abortion crisis and recruit students to help confront it; to systematically expose the abortion industry; lobby for the passage of pro-life legislation and opposition of pro-abortion legislation; identify and counter the abortion agenda; and provide resources and help to those



Students for Life met in December in Yakima for an organizational meeting.

targeted by abortion.

Locally, members of the two newly forming Yakima chapters joined in the January 13 Walk for Life in Yakima, some carrying large banners that called for respect for all human beings, from conception through natural death.

"It's important to get involved in saving lives all of the time, but especially now when we have so much momentum," observed Paula Heine, a high school senior who home schools and chapter

member who helped carry a banner in the Walk. "There are so many leaders in government who support our cause," she added, referencing Vice President Mike Pence's recent, strong pro-life speech.

Having young people, "their own peer group," involved in the pro-life movement will "make the movement more attractive" to other youth, added Henning.

Participants in the new Students for Life groups also joined in the Mass for Life, held January 28 at Holy Family Church in Yakima. Their next joint meeting, at which officers will be elected for the two chapters, is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, February 13 at Bob's Burgers & Brew. All high-school and college-age students are welcome and encouraged to attend. Free food and door prizes will be provided.

"We're the next generation and we're going to be the ones in control. We need to nurture that (the pro-life spirit)," concluded Yates.

Champions of Catholic Education

2017 Special Honoree
Fr. Seamus Kerr



Who is inspiring the youth in your parish?

Nomination categories include Catholic School Teacher, DRE or Catechist, and Benefactor or Volunteer.
Nomination deadline is **June 15**.

Awards will be presented during the Celebration of Faith on October 13th. For more information or to make a nomination, contact the Central Washington Catholic Foundation at www.cwatholicfoundation.org or (509) 972-3732.



Trip to the Holy Land Planned

Have you always wanted to visit the Holy Land, but need some time to plan?

All are invited to join Deacon Mikhail Alnajjar on a Catholic pilgrimage to the Holy Land, February 18-27, 2019. The journey will include visits to the Road to Emmaus, the birthplace of Jesus and His baptismal site, the Dead Sea, Sea of Galilee, Jericho, Mount of Transfiguration, Canna, Jerusalem, the Garden of Gethsemane and site of the Crucifixion.

For more information, send your mailing address to Deacon Alnajjar at dmikhail925@gmail.com. Early registration will merit a special offer.

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NEWS

from Around the Diocese

Three Masses To Honor Professions

Bishop Joseph Tyson will celebrate three evening Masses in the St. Paul Cathedral chapel, providing an opportunity to honor and pray for individuals in various professions.

A "White Mass," honoring all doctors and other medical professionals in the Diocese of Yakima, is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 20.

A "Blue Mass," recognizing all first responders, including fire, police and emergency vehicle personnel from our area, is set for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 27.

Finally, a "Red Mass," celebrating all area personnel in the legal profession and government service, is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 6.

Family members and friends of these professionals are also most welcome to attend the Masses. Receptions will follow in the St. Paul Assembly Place.

Rachel's Vineyard Ministry Needs Counselors

The Rachel's Vineyard abortion healing ministry is seeking one or more Master's-level counselors to be part of the retreat team now being formed by volunteers in the Wenatchee area.

Individuals must have experience, be comfortable in a group setting, have a strong faith rooted in a prayerful, humble spirit and be capable of flexibility and working together with others on the retreat team.

If you know of counselors who might be a good fit for this ministry, encourage them to contact Dr. Lisa Petersen at: lisapetersen65@gmail.com.

The Diocese of Yakima also is working toward establishing a hotline for its Project Rachel abortion healing ministry. If you know of counselors who would be willing to have their names on a referral list for women seeking healing from abortion, encourage them to contact Monsignor Robert Siler at: robert.siler@yakimadiocese.net.

Have You Tried Catholic Radio?

Want to put a little more Catholicism in your day? News and views from a Catholic perspective are featured on Sacred Heart Radio, FM 88.1.

There's also a new Sacred Heart Radio app available for iPhone and Android, so you can listen anywhere you go.

Another Chance to Test Your Knowledge of the Faith

By Christine Corbett Conklin

We received positive comments on last month's Catholic Faith Challenge quiz, based on a study guide used by St. Joseph School in Kennewick. So, here are some more questions to test your knowledge of the Faith!

Remember, this quiz follows the format of the Jeopardy television show in which the answer is given and you supply the question. After you're done, you'll find the correct questions below the quiz.



1. A: The sacred compartment for unused, consecrated hosts.
2. A: A solemn declaration by the pope that someone is in Heaven.
3. A: The mother church of a diocese and official church of a bishop.
4. A: Since St. Francis of Assisi, he is the first man to carry all five marks of the "stigmata" (the wound marks of Jesus, on the hands, feet and side, for example).
5. A: This is what Mary the Mother of God has in Heaven that we will not have until the Final Judgment.
6. A: Two ways to show honor to the saints.
7. A: His mother prayed 17 years for his conversion.
8. A: Two ways to dispose of blessed articles.
9. A: In case of an emergency, this person may baptize another.
10. A: The prayer on the Divine Mercy image.
11. A: The three U.S. Holy Days of Obligation that celebrate Mary.
12. A: This apostle questioned and doubted Jesus' resurrection.



1. Q: What is a tabernacle? 2. Q: What is canonization? 3. Q: What is a cathedral? 4. Q: Who is St. Padre Pio? 5. Q: What is a body? 6. Q: What are imitating their lives and naming our children after them? 7. Q: Who is St. Augustine (St. Monica)? 8. Q: What is to burn or bury them? 9. Q: Who is anyone? 10. Q: What is "Jesus, I trust in You"? 11. Q: What are the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, January 1; The Assumption, August 15; and the Immaculate Conception, December 8? 12. Q: Who is St. Thomas?

Support Your Diocese With Amazon Smile

There's a new and easy way to help support the Diocese of Yakima and its ministries throughout Central Washington!

In your regular online shopping through Amazon, you can donate through Amazon Smile, helping to support programs such as Priest Retirement, Seminarian Education, Migrant Ministry, the Magnificat Program and the Ahtanum Mission.

The Diocese of Yakima is registered as a charitable organization with Amazon Smile, which means that we are now eligible to receive a donation of 0.5% from Amazon for all purchases made by customers who choose us as their charitable organization.

To support the Diocese of Yakima with each and every purchase, simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0586353>. You must use smile.amazon.com in order for the purchase to be eligible. The entire shopping experience is the same and most items available on amazon.com are available on Amazon Smile. Once you have confirmed the Diocese of Yakima as your charity, everything else functions the same. Most products are eligible on Amazon Smile – if not, you will be notified. You can check out normally as well. No extra cost is passed on to you – Amazon will simply donate 0.5% of your purchase to the Diocese of Yakima!

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