



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

El Católico de Washington Central

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

FEBRUARY 2018 *Newsletter*

Mark Your Calendar

Novena of Grace Scheduled

The Novena of Grace has returned to St. Joseph Church in Yakima!

This year's nine-day session of spiritual renewal, scheduled for March 4 through March 12, will be led by Carlos Sevilla, S.J., Bishop Emeritus of Yakima, who will travel from his home in San Jose, California.

The Novena of Grace, which features talks, prayer and song, will be held at noon and 7 p.m., weekdays and Saturday, March 10; and at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Sundays, March 4 and 11.

All are invited to join in this novena sponsored by the Ignatian Spirituality Center of Yakima.

Luncheons to Celebrate Catholic Education

Several "Friends of the Foundation" luncheons are planned across the Diocese of Yakima in March to celebrate Catholic education in our parishes and schools.

You are invited to join the trustees of the Central Washington Catholic Foundation to learn more about their mission and to hear stories of success as dedicated teachers and catechists are sharing the Faith – and young people are coming to know Christ.

The luncheons will be on March 8 at Holy Family Church in Yakima; March 13 at St. Joseph Church in Wenatchee; and March 22 at Christ the King Church in Richland. Lunch is free, but an R.S.V.P. is required. This is an informational event. You will not be asked for a donation. To register and receive more details, call (509) 972-3732 or email kwilmes@cwccatholicfoundation.org.

Wenatchee Plans St. Patrick's Dinner

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and support the work of Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington at the annual benefit dinner and dessert dash on Saturday, March 17, at the St. Joseph Church Kuykendall Hall in Wenatchee.

Proceeds from this year's fundraiser will support Early Learning "Play & Learn" groups in Wenatchee. The event opens with a social hour at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30.

Tickets are \$50 each. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Julie Heilman at (800) 246-2962, ext. 1133.

Reflect Upon the Sufferings of Christ – He Did It For Love of Us

By Christine Corbett Conklin

As we approach Holy Week, reflecting upon the sufferings of Christ before and during His crucifixion, the following information from the "The Shroud of Turin" by Larry Schauf emphasizes Jesus' incredible love for us. The details are based upon decades of scientific studies of the Shroud of Turin, which is believed to be the burial cloth of Christ, by Dr. Frederick Zugibe, a respected forensic pathologist and expert on the crucifixion:



Jesus gave His life for us.

cap, not a circlet," tied to His head, causing a condition known as "trigeminal neuralgia," described as "the worst pain that man (can suffer)...devastating and unbearable."

4. The Carrying of the Cross. Signs of "shoulder abrasions" and knee wounds indicate injuries sustained while carrying the cross and falling numerous times. "I find it extraordinary that He was able to make the trek to Calvary at all in the condition that He was in..." Zugibe stated.

- 1. The Agony in the Garden.** The extreme anxiety Jesus endured at Gethsemane caused a condition known as "hematidrosis" in which His "sweat (literally) became blood".
- 2. The Scourging at the Pillar.** Evidence shows that this scourging was "particularly brutal," with "blows to the forehead, brow, right upper lip, jaw and nose," in addition to the lashing, totaling more than 125 hits to the body.
- 3. The Crowning With Thorns.** This crown was actually in the "shape of a

5. The Crucifixion. The crucifixion itself caused "causalgia," an "agonizing pain like lightning bolts traversing the arms and legs" as nails were driven in. The cause of death was ruled as "cardiac and respiratory arrest". Jesus had endured extreme shock to the body and could not even breathe without needing to raise himself up slightly on the cross, in incredible pain, just to try to take in air.

As you reflect upon these mysteries, remember the underlying message: Jesus did it all out of love for us, to offer us eternal salvation!

Bishop Tyson Testifies Before Legislative Committees

Bishop Joseph Tyson traveled to Olympia on February 7, to testify before Washington State legislative committees. He addressed key issues such as insurance coverage of abortion and financial obligations for those completing prison sentences.

Bishop Tyson appeared before the House Health Care and Wellness Committee, to express his opposition to Senate Bill 6219. This bill, known as the Abortion Insurance Mandate, would require employers to provide contraceptive and abortion coverage through health care insurance.



Bishop Joseph Tyson waited to testify in Olympia.

"The Catholic Bishops of Washington strongly oppose this bill, because it would require contraception and abortion coverage while violating the constitutionally-protected conscience rights of individuals, churches, businesses and others," he told the committee. "Belief in the inherent dignity of each human life from the moment of conception until natural death is the most fundamental principle of our moral teaching as Catholics. This principle leads us to reject policies that promote abortion..."

Tyson stressed that "(m)aintaining the State's commitment to religious freedom is vital. We

Continued on page 2

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

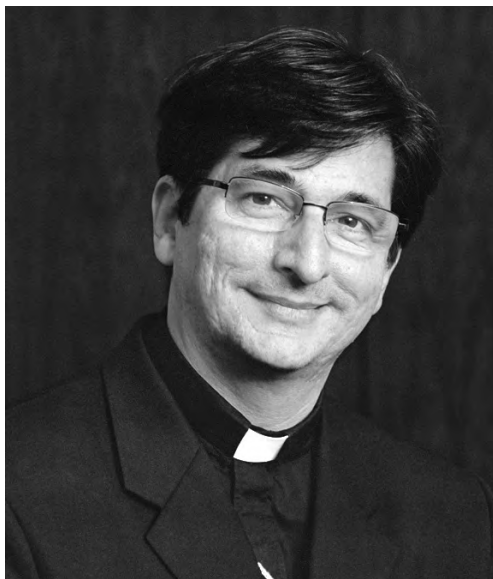
Dear Friends,

As we enter Lent, this month's *Central Washington Catholic* uplifts articles on life. The Church proposes a rich and deep respect for life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. The Lenten three-fold disciplines of prayer, fasting and abstinence help focus us spiritually so that we better appreciate the gift of life given to us by God. Our stories on the Mass for Life as well as the talk given by Dr. Lisa Petersen provide a kind of anchor for grasping the kinds of activities that support life all across Central Washington. Yet the other smaller stories and bits of information also point to the ways we walk the journey of life at every stage.

Lent gives us a chance to reassess where we are on the journey of life and with whom we are sharing the journey, too. Prayer is not about us poking at God trying to get his attention. It's just the opposite. Prayer begins with God. It's God getting our attention so that we might deepen our humanity and better become the person God created us to be. Through the scriptures we see God's very face in Jesus as He shared this earthly journey. In the Holy Spirit we can follow the journey of his footsteps today through the Church. Thus prayer builds our relationship with Christ. Prayer is fundamental to the Christian journey and is the first and foremost Lenten discipline.

Fasting fits neatly into the discipline of prayer, for the pang of physical hunger ought to awaken in us our hunger for God. Our desire to be in relationship with God points us to our desire to be in relationship with those around us in this world – especially the poorest and neediest in our midst. We fast to remind ourselves that the gift of life that begins at conception must be sustained day by day by our response to the God who draws close to us in prayer.

Almsgiving then becomes the fruit of our prayer and our fasting. We fast so that others can feast. Our almsgiving places us in



Bishop Joseph Tyson

solidarity with the Church and its mission of charity all around the world. What we truly value can often be seen in what we are willing to give. Indeed, embedded in the English word "almsgiving" is the Spanish word "alma" which means "soul." Almsgiving is recognizing that the person in front of us is human and has a human soul. The person receiving our "alms" is a human life worthy of reverence and respect. Our almsgiving ought to remind us not only that life is precious from the first moment of conception but challenge us to know that there is more to reverencing the gift of life than stopping an abortion. It takes the sustained efforts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Indeed, a little-noticed feature of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is the fact that both the spiritual and corporal works of mercy are listed under the Seventh Commandment: Thou shalt not steal. Our good works do not earn us salvation. They mark us as already saved and are the fruit of our mis-

sionary zeal that others might know Christ if only through our gestures of love. The Catechism goes on to cite St. Thomas Aquinas in his "Summa Theologiae," 2.2.77.7, noting that "according to natural law, goods that are held in superabundance by some people should be used for the maintenance of the poor."

St. Thomas then cites St. Basil's own words, "The bread you are holding back for the hungry, the clothes you keep put away for the naked, the shoes that are rotting away from disuse are for those who have none. The silver you keep buried in the earth is for the needy. You are thus guilty of injustice toward as many as you might have aided and did not."

Simply put, our failure to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to comfort the sick, to visit the imprisoned and to bury the dead means we are stealing from the physically poor. Our failure to instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, gently correct the sinner, patiently bear wrongs, willingly forgive offenses, comfort the afflicted and pray for both living and dead means we are stealing from the spiritually poor.

Lent forces us to ask the hard question: Are we stealing? Are we failing to share and sustain the gift of life at every stage from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death? How might we be falling short? How might we be called to grow? The very word "Lent" comes from an old English verb "to lengthen." My hope and prayer for you and for me is that this Lent be a time of renewal, a time of growth and a time in which we stretch and lengthen our Christian witness in support of the gift of life at every stage, for everyone here at home and around the world.

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Bishop Tyson Testifies *Continued from page 1*

Catholic bishops want to be very clear: the Catholic Church in Washington State simply cannot offer coverage for abortion in our health care plans." Referring to the PREPARES initiative of the Catholic Bishops, which addresses the needs of women and children from conception through age five, he urged committee members to also "find a better way to address women's access to health care that acknowledges every individual's fundamental right to conscience and to exercise their religious beliefs."

Bishop Tyson also appeared before the Senate Law and Justice Committee, speaking in favor of House Bill 1783. This bill, known as Legal Financial Obligations, would prevent courts from imposing costs on a defendant who is indigent at the time of sentencing; eliminate the accrual of some interest on legal financial obligations, except for restitution owed to the victims; and prevent an offender from being

sanctioned for failure to pay unless the failure to pay is willful.

Catholic teaching on human dignity "drives our care for the most vulnerable in our communities and those living on the margins such as criminal offenders," he said.

Tyson quoted a statement from the U.S. Catholic Bishops in 2015 which urged, "...A humane and remedial, rather than a strictly punitive, approach to offenders should be developed. Such an approach includes supporting efforts that justly reduce the prison population, help people leaving prison to reintegrate into their communities, combat recidivism, promote just sentencing reform, and strengthen relationships between the police and the communities they serve."

Please contact your state senator and representatives, to add your voice in support of issues which affirm respect for life!

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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

Holy Family Mass Celebrates Life

By Leanne LaBissoniere

Hundreds of parishioners from throughout the Diocese of Yakima gathered at Holy Family Church in Yakima, January 28, for the Mass for Life.

Bishop Joseph Tyson celebrates the Mass each January to commemorate the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion. Father Cesar Vega-Mendoza, pastor of Holy Family, concelebrated this year's Mass. Members of the Knights of Columbus' Fourth Degree Honor Guard participated and members of Students for Life carried a banner during the procession.

"For Catholics, abortion is an anchor issue for if there is no right to life for the unborn, then there are no other rights for that child along the spectrum," Bishop Tyson said in his homily. "In a very real way, the unborn child is the 'indicator species' of how we are sustaining the gift of life at every stage of vulnerability: the aged, the sick, the dying,

the undocumented, the immigrant, the refugee," he said.

Drawing on the teachings of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Pope Francis regarding ecology, Bishop Tyson underscored the point: "This is why Catholic teaching both insists that the heaviest weight of its teaching be given to the unborn and does not allow for any decoupling of its life teachings on abortion from other aspects of its social teaching, especially the undocumented, the refugee, the poor, the aged, the dying as well as anyone standing in the shadow of society. The unborn are the indicator of the entire human ecology of life."

Bishop Tyson honored volunteers working in the life movement during the Mass and at a luncheon following Mass in the Father Murtagh Gathering Hall. The guest speaker at the luncheon was Heidi Rodriguez of Wapato who shared her personal story about facing an unplanned pregnancy,

and the help she has received through the PREPARES program.

PREPARES is an initiative of the Bishops of Washington to support women, their children and families through the first five years of a child's life. "We seek to spread love," Bishop Tyson said. "We want to spark a love of all life – most importantly the life of the unborn – even in the middle of divisive and polarizing political debates."



Heidi Rodriguez spoke at the luncheon following the Mass for Life.

Central Washington Catholic Youth Camp Slated

It's already time to start thinking about summer camp!

Reservations are now being accepted for a Central Washington Catholic Youth Camp scheduled for August 19-24 at YMCA Camp Dudley, west of Yakima near White Pass.

This is a quality, week-long summer camp for kids between the ages of 10 and 18. It will include daily Mass and Rosary; Stations of the Cross; Reconciliation; the presence of priests, sisters and seminarians; daily Faith talks; plus songs and games, swimming,

canoeing, rock climbing, a zipline, and campfire every night!

For more details and to make reservations, visit cwcyc.org, and/or "like" our Facebook page, CWCYCclick. The cost is \$300 per camper although scholarships may be available.

St. Patrick's Day Annual Benefit Dinner & Dessert Dash

Please join us for an evening of hope in Wenatchee – the proceeds will benefit **Play & Learn** – you can help children get ready for success in school!

Saturday, March 17

St. Joseph's Catholic Church – Kuykendall Hall - Wenatchee



For more information, call Julie Heilman at **800.246.2962, ext. 1133**

Individual seats, or tables for ten are available. \$50 per seat.

This event is for guests 21 years and older.



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NEWS

from Around the Diocese

Catholic Foundation Announces Scholarships

The Central Washington Catholic Foundation has announced that applications are now open for numerous college scholarships. The application deadline is April 1.

The **Mary Ellen Chott-Mahre Scholarship** is available for a Catholic student from Central Washington, with a preference for applicants from Naches Valley High School who are members of St. John Parish in Naches.

The **John Rodriguez-Kranz Scholarship** is a one-time scholarship benefiting a student graduating from Davis High School in Yakima.

Celebration of Faith Scholarships are offered for up to three students who are attending, or plan to attend, a Catholic college or university and demonstrate a commitment to serve the Church, through past activities and future plans and goals.

Applications are available for all scholarship categories on the Central Washington Catholic Foundation website at <https://cwcatholicfoundation.org/college-scholarships>.

Wenatchee Celebrates 'First Saturdays' —

St. Joseph Church in Wenatchee has begun a new program, The Communal First Saturdays, featuring 8 a.m. Mass, the rosary and a guided meditation on the first Saturday of each month, asking for peace in the world.

The devotion is based upon a program out of Texas and a book by the same name with the imprimatur of Daniel Cardinal DiNardo of Galveston-Houston. Plans are to continue the program "until Mary's Heart triumphs and the world is at peace". Meeting as a group helps to encourage individuals to join in the devotion, organizers say.

Other parishes interested in starting their own communal First Saturday program may visit <https://communalfirstsaturdays.org> for more information.

'Rice Bowl' Collection Underway —

As Pope Francis asks us to "Share the Journey" with migrants and refugees around the world, Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Rice Bowl offers Catholics in the United States a way to encounter Lent and to learn about the challenges faced by families around the world.

Parishes and schools through the Diocese of Yakima are participating in this year's Rice Bowl collection throughout Lent. Seventy-five percent of every donation goes to CRS' humanitarian efforts around the world, while 25 percent is returned to the diocese to support local efforts to alleviate poverty.

At the end of Lent, Rice Bowls may be returned to your parish office. For further information, visit www.crs.org or call Leanne LaBissoniere, diocesan Rice Bowl coordinator.

Talk Highlights Harm of Contraception

The following excerpts are from a talk given by Dr. Lisa Petersen, M.D. a family practice physician, at the Wenatchee Right to Life Rally January 20. Dr. Petersen is STI manager for Life Choices of Wenatchee Valley and a parishioner at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

When I graduated from medical school almost 30 years ago, I raised my right hand and recited the Hippocratic oath. This is an oath to uphold specific ethical standards while practicing medicine. An instrumental part of the oath is to acknowledge that as a physician, I should "first do no harm."

Well, I am here before you today to tell you that I harmed hundreds and hundreds of women during the first 23 years of my medical practice as a family physician. I harmed women by prescribing contraceptive pills and contraceptive shots, by inserting intrauterine devices into the wombs of women, and by placing hormonal contraceptive rods in the arms of women.

Contraception harms women physically, psychologically, and spiritually. I have personally suffered the consequences of contraception use, and have witnessed the harmful consequences of contraception use in my patients.



Dr. Lisa Petersen spoke in Wenatchee.

The truth to keep in mind is that a woman's fertility is a great gift, and to be fertile means that a woman's body is in a state of good health. Our current society and medical system tend to treat fertility as a dreadful disease that needs to be cured. Contraception treats a woman's body as if there was something wrong with it, as if God somehow made a mistake in the way he designed the female body, and that we must correct God's error.

We are so wrong!

Man cannot continue to strive to control the natural and moral laws that regulate the propagation of life. ...

The Catholic Church, teaches that contraception is morally wrong because it violates the very purpose and nature of the human sexual act, meaning it violates the procreative and unitive meaning of the sexual act, and therefore violates the dignity of the human person. Contraception is an offense against one's own body, against one's sexual partner, and against one's relationship with God.

The Catholic Church, however, does not condemn the use of contraception because it has undesirable consequences; rather the Church teaches that since contraception is morally wrong, it is predictable that it will cause immoral societal consequences.

In our society, we have turned our backs on the fundamental truth that if you are not ready for the parenting responsibility of a new baby, then you are not ready for sexual intercourse. We have lost sight of the truth that sexual intercourse implies great relationship commitment and the opportunity to work with God to bring forth new human life. Both commitment and children are wonderful gifts.

Today, some 50 years after the widespread promotion and use of contraception, our society has undergone a rather rapid transformation in terms of sexual behavior and family structure. Some of the social consequences of contraception include: rising numbers of STDs, HIV transmission and AIDS, increase in unwanted pregnancies, millions of lives lost to abortion, increase in divorce rate, increase in sexual exploitation of women, an increase in pornography, and an increase in the number of children in fatherless families. ...

The encyclical *Humanae Vitae* was written by Pope Paul VI and was released in July 1968, just as contraceptive pills were gaining widespread use in our society. *Humanae Vitae* caused great dissent among theologians and lay people alike. It predicted a general lowering of morality in society should contraception become widely available. *Humanae Vitae* was a masterful prophetic message that went unheeded.

We as the Church cannot abandon the duty to speak the truth regarding the moral natural Law of God. None of us will achieve true happiness unless we observe the moral truths inscribed on our hearts by our God and Creator. The happiness we strive for is not a feeling. Happiness reflects the state of our soul.

I pray that your hearts be ever open, so that the Grace of God may illuminate your hearts with the truth. God's Grace is the only reason I stand before you today as a physician who no longer prescribes contraception. ... Thank you.