



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

Easter Blessings!

El Católico de Washington Central
Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas



MARCH 2018 *Newsletter*

Mark Your Calendar

Students for Life To Meet

All young people between 13 and college age are invited to a meeting of Students for Life at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, at Pizza Hut in Yakima, 3915 Kern Road (just off of 40th Avenue).

The meeting will feature a Skype training session by Katie Lodjic, Northwest coordinator for Students for Life. Lodjic will outline key talking points for pro-life and provide background information on how the student group functions.

Pizza will be provided by the Diocese of Yakima.

Smith To Discuss Healthcare Risks

Wesley Smith, an internationally known author and consultant to the Patient Rights Council, will speak on April 28 at The Seasons performance hall in Yakima, sponsored by Human Life of Washington.

Smith will discuss the dangers inherent in a healthcare system that increasingly does not honor the sanctity of human life. He will present crucial information we need to know in case of hospitalization for a serious accident or illness.

The free program is scheduled for 3-5 p.m., and will include display tables by eight area pro-life groups plus a chocolate dessert buffet.

Dinner To Honor Monsignor Ecker

A special dinner to honor Monsignor John Ecker's 60 years of service in the priesthood is scheduled for 6 p.m., May 11, at La Salle High School.

All are welcome to attend and celebrate the remarkable story of this dedicated priest who has led his flock with compassion and humor, reaching out to the greater Central Washington area and touching so many lives.

Tickets are available at \$25 each from your parish office or from the St. Paul Cathedral office at 575-3713. The event is sponsored by the Monsignor John A. Ecker Foundation.

Father Lalo Barragan: Offering Direction on the Road to Priesthood

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Becoming a priest is no easy task. Think years and years of philosophy and theology, plus endless terminology and rites to learn. Now, add the fact that many of our priests come from other countries with a different language and customs. At times, it can all seem overwhelming!

In an effort to ease the adjustments and offer counsel on the road to priesthood, Father Lalo Barragan of the Diocese of Yakima is on assignment at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon. He has been asked to serve a five-year stint, ending in 2022, with the mission of working with seminarians, helping them as they adjust to not only a new way of life, but, in many cases, also to a new country.

"I'm the 'human formation director' (for numerous students)," explained Father Barragan, a former parochial vicar at St. Joseph Church in Yakima who also served Holy Rosary Church in Moxee.

About half of the 125-member student body at Mount Angel is Hispanic, Father Barragan noted.

"Bishop Tyson said, in fact, that I'm the very first Hispanic diocesan priest ever to be a formator in the seminary," he observed. "The main idea is to be a mentor, to tell them it's possible for them to be ordained, to understand where they're coming from."

Cultural differences – to say nothing of language – can be a real challenge for

those studying for the priesthood, Father Barragan pointed out. Something as simple as shaking hands when greeting someone is not common to the Hispanic culture, for example, he said. Instead, Hispanics tend to touch the shoulder of someone they're meeting, or to hug the person. Other differences range from such basics as kitchen hours at the seminary (more open, compared to seminaries elsewhere) to sports activities (optional here, while required elsewhere).

Father Barragan meets one-on-one with two or three seminarians each day and also attends "formation" meetings of 11 faculty members in which the progress and particular needs of each seminarian are discussed.

After coming from Mexico and spending 28 years in the United States, Father Barragan says that he "embraces" American culture, American traditions. His goal is to achieve a balance in which the seminarians lean to appreciate this country while having their own customs understood and respected.

Father Barragan admits that he does miss the frequent opportunities to preach at Mass which he had in a parish. However, "God willing," he will

be able to begin teaching at Mount Angel next year, and he's looking forward to that.

"The main challenge is to understand the seminarians," he pointed out. And, with characteristic good humor and sincerity, he's giving that his all!

Please keep Father Barragan and all of the seminarians and faculty at Mount Angel in your prayers.



Father Lalo Barragan prepared for Mass in the forest surrounding Mount Angel Seminary.



Father Barragan took time to talk with a Mount Angel seminarian.

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Note: The text is taken from Bishop Tyson's homily for Easter 2018.

Peace be with you! What's the point of Easter? Simply put: Jesus rises from the dead. Jesus puts an end to death. He rises from death – a violent and tortuous death. In doing so, he shows us a pathway to life, too.

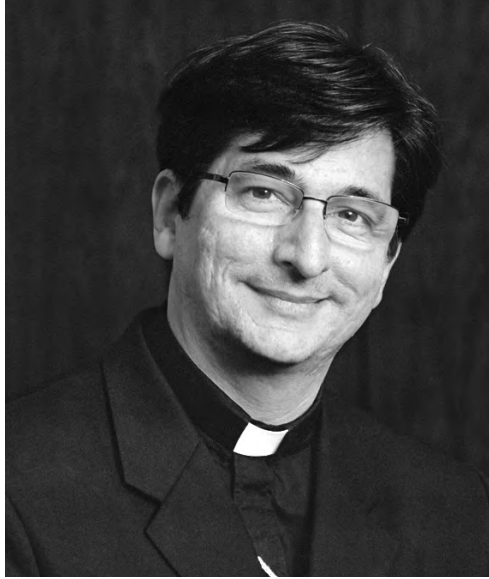
Why is this so important? It's easy to forget the great innovation in human thought that came with this concept of resurrection from the dead. All along the historic Appian Way in Italy, travelers can see tombs with writings that express sentiments similar to this: "O Horatio we miss you!" "O Catherina where are you now?" "O Marcus you are never to be seen again!"

"From the beginning, Christian faith in the resurrection has met with incomprehension and opposition," notes paragraph 996 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Then the Catechism goes on to cite the writings of St. Augustine: "On no point does the Christian faith encounter more opposition than on the resurrection of the body."

Indeed, even among Christian circles, there has been a certain tendency to domesticate the edginess of this central claim. Many simply see resurrection as a myth pointing to the cycle of nature and the renewal of life. Our cute Easter bunnies and the shoots of spring flowers all serve as mythic metaphors of "new life." The idea of a bodily resurrection from the dead simply does not square easily with our scientific world view.

Yet this is precisely the point of the scriptures. In the ancient world there were many theories of what would happen after death. The Old Testament proposes a number of them and in the New Testament we know that the Sadducees and the Pharisees differed on their opinions about life after death.

Our scriptures this Sunday report the unexpected. The bodily resurrection from the dead startled the woman at the empty tomb. It shocked the men who went back to their fishing only to encounter the Risen Christ on the shore, cooking fish. This bodily resurrection surprised the travelers who were leaving Jerusalem and going back to Emmaus. Thus, this "bodily" resurrection of Jesus from the dead not only challenges the world view of us so-called "moderns," it was equally challenging for those who lived at the time of Jesus. This is precisely why excitement leaps off the page of the Gospel accounts. The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ breaks through all previous concepts and



Bishop Joseph Tyson

categories about life after death – those who lived at the time of Jesus – and ours today as well.

What does this mean for us now? Our second reading from St. Paul to the Colossians reminds us that there is more to life than what we can see. Thus, the words "Seek what is above." The famous Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor in his weighty tome, "The Secular Age," describes so many of us as having a "buffered self."

What does he mean? He means that in a touch-and-drag, point-and-click world we tend to equate that which is real with that which we create. We tend to see realness only in what we control and put together. As a result, we tend to become "buffered" against anything that is transcendental and a bit beyond.

Yet within ourselves we also know that the stirrings of desire, our hope for love and its competing sense of loneliness suggest that it's these hidden and unseen realities that are the most real parts of our human experience. Where do I come from? Who am I to be? What is my destiny? What endures after death? Often, we look to poetry, literature and art to bring meaning to these stirrings of the soul.

Christ's resurrection serves as the starkest evidence that there is more to life than we can see, that God is not simply one more object within our universe with whom we can choose to contend. No. The resurrection points to the foundation of the world, the source of life and the ground that – in the words of St. Paul – lives and moves and has its being.

As I close with these words of the

noted poet and religious writer Christina Rossetti, I hope you will consider them a kind of response to the epitaphs along the Appian Way with which I opened my homily:

*Words cannot utter
Christ his returning:
Mankind, keep jubilee
Strip off your mourning,
Crown you with garlands,
Set your lamps burning.*

*Speech is left speechless,
Set you to singing,
Fling your hearts open wide,
Set your bells ringing,
Christ the Chief Reaper
Comes, his sheaf bringing.*

*Earth wakes her song-birds,
Puts on her flowers,
Leads out lambkins,
Builds up her bowers:
This is man's spousal day,
Christ's day and ours.*

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. 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

Do Bad Things Happen to Children of Good Parents? *Continued from page 4*

and to behave in such a way that they are wonderful role models for their children. We expect good parents to ALWAYS protect their child from harm – even when we know from experience that that is neither practical nor possible.

Now, let's consider another social factor. It is difficult for a faith community to believe that a beloved clergyman or other trusted member of the community could commit something as horrible as child sexual abuse. Often, it is easier for members of the community to blame the victim and the victim's parents than to believe that a beloved Church leader would commit such an act.

The fact is ... bad things sometimes happen to the children of good parents. That means that all children are at risk. As Bishop Raymond Boland says in the video, A Plan To Protect God's Children: "[Parents] must develop a very healthy

suspicion about every program to which they entrust their children..." As adults in the faith community, it is our duty to share this responsibility with parents and to work together – as a community – to help protect all children.

It is important to remember that the perpetrators of abuse are usually master manipulators. They are particularly skilled at becoming heavily involved in the lives of children and families. Most often, child molesters are people parents have learned to trust – friends, neighbors, teachers, and family members. They are people who convince us that they are generous and kind and that they genuinely care about children. Parents, and others, are lulled into believing that the person can be trusted with those dearest to them – their children.

Assigning blame for child abuse at the feet of good parents will divert us from

our primary purpose – protecting God's children. Each time we are distracted from our goal to create safe environments for children, child abusers recognize the opportunity to twist and confuse us with their manipulative mind games. As adult members of the faith community, we must educate ourselves about the warning signs of potential risks to children. It is our job to watch over all children, and to support others around us in creating safe environments for all the children in our communities, parishes, neighborhoods, and homes.

As individuals, we must avoid distractions and stay focused. And, as a community, we must support appropriate behavior and create environments where child abusers have no place to hide.

Note: Ms. Doty is a consultant to Virtus, which provides safe environment resources to many dioceses in the United States.

Register for Catholic Youth Camp

There's still time to register for a Central Washington Catholic Youth Camp scheduled for August 19-24 at YMCA Camp Dudley, west of Yakima near White Pass.

This quality, week-long summer camp welcomes those between the ages of 10 and 18. It will include daily



Mass and the 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!

To reserve a place or to learn more, visit cwyc.org, and/or "like" our Facebook page, CWCYCclick. The cost is \$300 per camper, although scholarships may be available.

**Celebration of Faith
Education Funding Available**

Looking for college scholarships?
Check out our website for available funding. Deadline is April 1st

Does your parish desire to provide a more dynamic religious education experience for your children?
Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) grants provide support for parish religious education programs and Catechists. Deadline is May 1st.

Want to send your child to a Catholic school?
Tuition assistance is available for children to attend one of our eight area schools. Contact your local school to learn more. New students may apply from April 1 through June 1.

For more information, go to www.cwatholicfoundation.org or call (509) 972-3732

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NEWS

from Around the Diocese

Support the Home Missions Appeal

Parishes throughout the United States will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal April 28-29 to assist our country's mission dioceses, including the Diocese of Yakima.

A program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Home Missions is providing the Diocese of Yakima \$155,000 this year, for seminarian education, the Magnificat adult education program, and the annual Church Mission Congress for religious educators.

Nearly half of our country is considered home mission territory. This appeal helps dioceses in the United States which cannot always assure access to basic pastoral services such as Mass, the sacraments, and religious education.

Through your support, the Catholic Home Missions Appeal helps these mission dioceses form vibrant faith communities and strengthens the Church at home. Please be generous.

Grant Applications Available

Parishes and non-profit organizations in the Diocese of Yakima are invited to apply for grants of up to \$1,000 from the local portion of the Rice Bowl collection.

Each year during Lent, parishes around the country participate in Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl Program. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the official international Catholic relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Seventy-five percent of the collection is used to support humanitarian work in more than 100 countries around the world. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds from the Rice Bowl collection is returned to the Diocese to support local efforts to alleviate poverty.

Guidelines and procedures for applying for the local grants are available on the Diocese website, www.yakimadiocese.org, or by calling Leanne LaBissoniere, diocesan Rice Bowl coordinator, at (509) 367-5291.

Join Wenatchee 'First Saturdays'

All are invited to join in a new Communal First Saturdays program at St. Joseph Church in Wenatchee. The program features 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." By meeting as a group, individuals may be encouraged to join in the devotion, organizers say.

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

Doug Rich Named Director of Schools for Yakima Diocese

The six Catholic schools of the Diocese of Yakima have a new advocate. Doug Rich, a longtime real estate investment professional in the Yakima Valley, has been named Director of Schools.

Rich began his responsibilities in mid-February, doing initial visits to schools and consulting with academic leadership across Central Washington. His overview will include Saint Joseph/Marquette and Christ the Teacher (the former St. Paul's) schools in Yakima; St. Joseph School in Kennewick; Christ the King School in Richland; St. Rose of Lima School in Ephrata; and St. Joseph School In Wenatchee. He also will have some interaction with La Salle High School in Yakima and Tri-Cities Prep in Pasco, although these Catholic facilities are not operated by the Diocese.

"The future of our Church really is our youth," observed Rich, who will close his business, Prestige Realty, at the end of this month. His mission, he says, is to help our hundreds of students "to grow spiritually and academically."

Rich will put particular emphasis, he said, on "governance" and "stewardship" for diocesan schools, two of the five standards of school excellence promulgated by Bishop Joseph Tyson in 2013. Gregg Pleger, principal of St. Joseph Parish in Yakima, will continue to coordinate the schools' efforts in "academic excellence," "accessibility," and "Catholic identity," the other three areas of school excellence.

Rich will support communication between pastors and school leadership and help with strategic planning, marketing and budgeting, including developing roadmaps for future repairs and expansions of our schools.

Another priority is "to make Catholic education accessible to all who want it," ensuring that schools have the capacity and financial support to make this possible, he stressed.

In addition to providing real estate brokerage services to the Diocese, Rich has served the Church over the last 15 years in varying capacities, including nine years as a member of the Catholic Family & Child Service advisory board (two years as chair), and as a member of a diocesan educational task force, the Diocesan Building Council, and Catholic Charities Finance Council. He is the music director of St. John Parish in Naches.

"The Church has been my rock through very difficult times," he said. With his new position, he will have an opportunity to make a difference in a key area of Church life: the education of our young people. In respecting the unique circumstances and individuality of each of our six Catholic schools, "there are going to be six very unique stories for what these schools are going to do," he predicted.

Please join in welcoming Doug Rich to his new post with the Diocese of Yakima. He may be contacted at (509) 965-7117 or doug.rich@yakimadiocese.org.



Doug Rich

Do Bad Things Happen to Children of Good Parents?

By Sharon Doty, J.D., M.H.R.

Note: April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Americans have come to expect quick relief from the pain in our lives. We want the fastest acting pain reliever available. We look for the antiseptic spray that immediately stops the pain of scraped knees. We expect quick, easy answers to difficult problems. And, we want to assign blame when things go wrong – especially when what's wrong threatens our families and/or our emotional well-being, such as the abuse of a child.

In our zeal to find an easy answer to why such horrible things could happen, we sometimes point our finger at some of the very people who are suffering the most – the parents of the abused child. Compassion for the victim's family may shift to anger and blame aimed at the victim's parents. Parents who are dealing with the pain and agony of caring for their victimized child often become the victims of public opinion, public judgments, and public censure. But why do we, as a community, respond in this way?

We may think that if we can blame the victim's parents, we can relax and not worry about the risk to our child or our family members ... because, after all, we are good people (and, if we are parents, then we are good parents). We would never let our guard down. We would never let "someone like that" get close to our child or family member. "It must be the victim's parents' fault," we say to ourselves. "How else could something like that happen?"

We expect parents to automatically know what to do, to always take appropriate actions, to consistently respond in a helpful and effective manner to any situation,



Continued on page 3