



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

APRIL 2018 *Newsletter*

## Mark Your Calendar

### Priests To Go On Retreat

The priests of the Diocese of Yakima have scheduled a retreat for Monday, May 7 through Friday, May 11 at the Palisades retreat house in Federal Way, Washington.

If you have an emergency during this time which requires the presence of a priest, contact your parish office or the Diocese of Yakima at (509) 965-7117 for assistance.

Please keep all of our diocesan clergy in your prayers.

### Memorial Day Mass Is Open to All

All are invited to the annual Memorial Day Mass scheduled by the Diocese of Yakima for 10 a.m., Monday, May 28. The Mass will be held at Calvary Cemetery, 1405 South 24th Avenue, in Yakima.

This is an occasion to draw together in prayer for the souls of all of our departed loved ones. Flowers also are welcomed for the graves of loved ones, deceased clergy of our Diocese and the burial site for unborn babies.

### Catholic Youth Camp Scheduled

Now is the 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 [cwcyc.org](http://cwcyc.org), and/or "like" our Facebook page, [CWCYCclick](https://www.facebook.com/CWCYCclick). The cost is \$300 per camper, although scholarships may be available.

## The Mystery of the Chalice: Yakima Diocese Helps Find Answers—

A silver chalice given to an Irish priest in 1874 by grateful parishioners of their church in England went missing 10 years ago. However, the chalice has been located and is scheduled for return, thanks to a cooperative effort by the Grand Coulee Police Department and the Diocese of Yakima.

The "whodunit" began in St. Joseph Church in Sunderland, England, when parishioners noticed that the 8-inch, silver-plated chalice had "vanished," said Tony Durkin, archivist for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.

Fast forward to February of 2017, when a Grand Coulee police officer spotted a 56-year-old resident whom he knew was wanted on a warrant. After arresting the man, the officer found the chalice in a black bag in his possession. The man stated that he found it in the garbage next to the town's senior center.

As the man's legal troubles worked their way through the court system, police made an effort to find the owners, said Kris Thiesfeld, secretary for the police department. An inscription on the base referenced a Father M. Ryan at St. Joseph's Mission, and stated that it was given as



Photo by Monsignor Robert M. Siler

*The chalice that traveled from Europe to Yakima was used to celebrate Mass.*



Photo by Monsignor Robert M. Siler

*An inscription on the base of the chalice offered clues to its origin.*

a "mark of esteem and affection" by parishioners in December 1874.

However, the location was somewhat obscure due to the styling of the script. Eventually, police approached the Diocese of Yakima, thinking it might be connected to the St. Joseph Mission on the Ahtanum. Another possibility was St. Joseph Mission in North Idaho, now part of the Nez Perce National Historical Park.

The Diocese agreed to take responsibility for the chalice, and a careful study of the inscription suggested a connection with the Sunderland parish, which was established as a mission in 1873. A parish history for its 100th anniversary found on the internet stated that Father Michael Ryan, the first priest at the mission, baptized the first child in October 1873, and that he left in November 1875.

An e-mail to Durkin at the English diocese

revealed that Father Ryan was an Irish missionary from Limerick, who returned to Ireland, leaving the chalice at the mission. It will be returned to the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. The parish is still active, though it no longer has a resident priest.

The chalice was recently used to celebrate Mass at St. Paul Cathedral and will soon be winging its way back to England.

As to where the chalice spent the last 10 years? That is still a mystery.

## A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

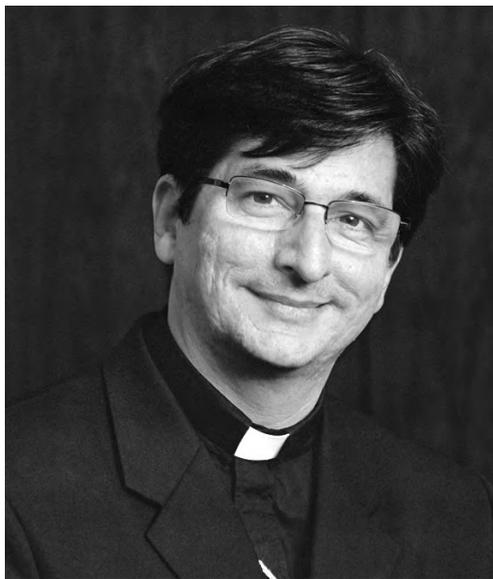
“Rejoice and be glad!” Those words come to mind regarding the recent recovery of an old chalice taken from a parish in England 10 years ago and found by police in the city of Grand Coulee. “Rejoice and be glad!” What’s the attraction of finding an old chalice?

Perhaps a clue can be found in the revered English stories of King Arthur and his search for the “Holy Grail.” What was the Holy Grail? I recall reading these stories as part of high school literature class and getting lost in the legends so that I really never grasped what the Holy Grail actually was, even as so many of the knights searched for it.

But the legend stems from an age when relics served as catalysts for popular piety and spirituality. Even today, across the great churches of Europe, one can still venerate and pray before various relics of saints and martyrs. During our diocesan pilgrimage tied to the deacon ordinations of Jesús Mariscal and César Izquierdo, we pilgrims prayed before relics of St. Francis found throughout the churches of Assisi. Relics give us a material connection to the saint or the martyr. We see in their clothing, their prayer books and even in their bones a sign of their humanity. It is that humanity, lived in holy ways, that gives us the courage to aspire to be like them in our own humanity, living in holy ways.

In the legend of King Arthur, we learn that the search for the Holy Grail was the search for the very chalice that Jesus used at the Last Supper – the search for the very instrument that held his Precious Body and Blood. I did not really grasp this connection emotionally until I was on the tour of the tombs beneath St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. The climax of the tour was seeing the jaw bone of St. Peter. The bones of St. Peter are directly below the altar of St. Peter. The well-educated tour guides slowly walked us through the research and the archaeological evidence that strongly suggested we were looking at the jaw of Peter. Peter the first Holy Father, Peter who participated in the Last Supper. My voice choked up as I read the eucharistic account from First Corinthians while contemplating the jaw that consumed the Body and Blood of Christ.

The stories of King Arthur searching for the Holy Grail might give you a clue about our rejoicing at the recovery of the chalice in Grand Coulee. Indeed, the sto-



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

ry reveals the great sensitivity of civil officials and everyday people for the sacred objects of the Church. It seems there’s a bit of King Arthur in all of us!

Even more, I hope this issue might help you consider what your pilgrimage and your spiritual search might be like. Where are you on the journey of faith? Maybe you don’t possess any relics. But what are those practices and devotions that draw you closer to Christ? Pope Francis, in his recent Apostolic Exhortation, “Gaudete et exsultate” (“Rejoice and be glad!”), suggests that the Beatitudes form the pathway for our life pilgrimage. When we live the Beatitudes we become holy. We literally become “relics” for others through our living the Beatitudes of Jesus.

What’s particularly sobering about Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation is that the title “Rejoice and be glad!” actually comes from the final beatitude, “Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you...” In so many ways, Pope Francis’ writings and preaching start – not with the easiest demands – but with the hardest demands. Perhaps this is why many of Pope Francis’ writings tend to generate so much publicity and debate – positive and negative.

We might want to ask ourselves why? Why does he start with the stiffest and deepest commands? Why does he start his apostolic letter with a title from the most difficult of all the Beatitudes?

A hint might be found in the writings of Fr. Servais Pinckaers, OP, one of the key writers of the third pillar of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and one of the moral theologians most responsible

for re-reading the moral teachings of the Church through the lens of the Beatitudes. In his small but powerful book: “The Pursuit of Happiness God’s Way: Living the Beatitudes,” Fr. Servais writes this:

“We need no teachers to tell us that good fortune and joy will make us happy. But what we could never have discovered for ourselves is that poverty and suffering could be the most direct road to happiness and that Christ has chosen them as our way to the Kingdom. This is a paradox well worth proclaiming from the mountaintops.”

Our way to the kingdom! That’s the pilgrimage of King Arthur and his search for the Holy Grail – the relic that was thought to most unite us to the blood of Christ – the same blood He shed in a torturous death. That’s why, especially in the face of persecution, we follow the opening words of Pope Francis and his Apostolic Exhortation as well as the closing words of Jesus on Mt. Tabor: “Rejoice and be glad!” My hope and prayer is that as the seasons change and you contemplate the beauty in the flowering of our trees and bushes, your spiritual lives might flower as well, that you might bear the Body and Blood of Christ for others!

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

# Don't Forget Marriage Preparation In That 'I Do' List

The date has been set. The perfect dress has been found. The cake and flowers are ordered. Everything is set for the wedding, right?

Well, not exactly. Any Catholic being married in the Diocese of Yakima is required to attend a three-day Engaged Encounter weekend or arrange private counseling sessions with trained married couples or a priest or deacon, before the big day.

Pegi Ackerman of Yakima, who, with her husband, Paul, has helped to register couples for Engaged Encounter for the past 18 years, is the first to tell you how worthwhile the time spent in these sessions can be.

"It was the best thing in our marriage," she observed, thinking back to a weekend when she and her husband sat in on an Engaged Encounter after they had already been married for **28 years!** "It was amazing how much we didn't know about each other." The couple learned, for example, that they didn't properly listen to each other, she said.

Rather than regarding time spent in



marriage preparation as just one more thing to do on a long list, look at it as "an investment of time with each other," she suggests.

Engaged Encounters are offered in the Diocese of Yakima twice each year at Lazy F Retreat Center, about 10 miles outside of Ellensburg. Arriving Friday evening, couples have the chance to get acquainted with each other. On Saturday, a variety of sessions are scheduled, covering topics ranging from communication and finances to prayer, children and Natural Family Planning. The sessions end in mid-afternoon

Sunday with Mass and a "graduation" ceremony.

After years of watching couples arrive on the first evening and leave after completion of the weekend, Ackerman says that there is a definite pattern. "Friday night, when they come in, they're so apprehensive. They have no idea what to expect," she said. "Sunday, when they walk out, they're even more in love with each other."

Each Engaged Encounter can accommodate 16 couples who are Catholic or include one Catholic person. The next session is scheduled for June 22-24. The cost is \$315 per couple, which includes overnight accommodations and meals. Financial assistance may be available if a couple is unable to pay. For more information or to register, call Pegi and Paul Ackerman at (509) 575-4931 or (509) 969-8154 or Dor and Rose Collado in the Tri-Cities at (509) 395-0566 or (509) 308-4548.

"There is much value in this," Ackerman said, reflecting on the benefits to her own 46-year marriage.

## What is the relationship between the Church, the Catholic Foundation and the Faith?

"As a Foundation trustee for nine years, I believe the Foundation is now poised to become strategically important, if not critical, to the future of Catholic education in the Diocese of Yakima. The triangle, as we know, is the very strongest shape of support. The Church, our faith and the **Central Washington Catholic Foundation** together are the bedrock of our Catholic community in the Diocese of Yakima. In just 15 years, the Foundation has grown into an indispensable component of faith formation and educational support for our Diocese. There are dozens of organizations I could share my time, talent and treasure with, but I choose to work with the **Central Washington Catholic Foundation** as its mission, values and vision resonate with who, I believe, God intended me to be. That person is someone in a unique position to directly assist others to become recipients of a Catholic education."

Jane Baldock, St. John the Baptist Parish, Cle Elum

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# NEWS

## *from Around the Diocese*

### **Collections Highlight Generosity**

Parishioners in the Diocese of Yakima generously gave more than \$650,000 through a variety of special collections in 2017, according to a review of diocesan records.

The annual collection for seminarian education and priest retirement tops the list at more than \$238,000. Meanwhile, the Christmas collection for Catholic Charities brought in more than \$211,000. Third in line was the annual collection for retired religious, at more than \$35,000.

CRS Rice Bowl and Peter's Pence raised more than \$27,000 each; Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land, more than \$25,000; Catholic Communications Campaign, nearly \$20,000; Campaign for Human Development, nearly \$19,000; Catholic Home Missions, nearly \$18,000; Black & Indian Missions, more than \$14,000; World Missions, more than \$13,000; and the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, more than \$10,000.

Some special collections are part of a three-year rotation (Black & Indian Missions, Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Church in Latin America, the Solidarity Fund for Africa, the Archdiocese for Military Services and Catholic Relief Services). If a collection is not taken up in a particular year, then a donation is made from the Annual Catholic Appeal, typically ranging from \$4,000 to \$6,000.

Nearly every issue of the *Central Washington Catholic* highlights a special collection. Since May is reserved for local stewardship efforts in parishes, the story this month is simply this: Thank you for your generosity!

### **Fall Pilgrimage Open for Registration**

Bishop Joseph Tyson and Father Felipe Pulido will serve as spiritual directors for a 12-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land beginning October 29.

The pilgrimage will include visits to Tiberius, Nazareth, Cana, the Sea of Galilee, Mount Tabor, the Mount of the Beatitudes, Jericho, Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

To download the free brochure and registration form, visit [www.GoCatholicTravel.com/TysonPulidoHolyLand](http://www.GoCatholicTravel.com/TysonPulidoHolyLand). For more information, contact Father Pulido or Ana at (509) 248-1911 or email [fpulido1@gmail.com](mailto:fpulido1@gmail.com).

### **Holy Land Pilgrimage Planned**

A 10-day, Catholic pilgrimage to the Holy Land is scheduled for early next year.

Deacon Mikhail Alnajjar will lead a group to numerous sites featured in the life of Jesus Christ, from February 18-27. They will visit the Road to Emmaus, the birthplace of Jesus and His baptismal site, the Dead Sea, Sea of Galilee, Jericho, Mount of Transfiguration, Cana, Jerusalem, the Garden of Gethsemane and site of the Crucifixion.

To receive additional information, send your mailing address to Deacon Alnajjar at [dmikhail925@gmail.com](mailto:dmikhail925@gmail.com). Early registration will merit a special offer.

## **Kurt Hadley: Nearing the Top Rung on the 'Ladder to Priesthood'**

*By Christine Corbett Conklin*

Kurt Hadley compares the process of becoming a priest to climbing a ladder. For many of us, that means simply taking one step after another, progressing through Philosophy 1, Philosophy 2, Theology 1, and the many other required classes until you reach the top rung. However, the formation of a priest is a much more complex process, requiring dedication, overcoming obstacles that might impede your progress, and an intangible factor of God-given consolation and guidance, he suggests.

Happily, Kurt is almost to that top rung. On **June 1**, the 38-year-old Kennewick native will be ordained to the transitional diaconate, the final step before the year intended to lead up to his ordination as a priest. **All are invited to the Mass scheduled for 5 p.m. at St. Joseph Church in Kennewick.** A reception will immediately follow at the adjacent Dillon Hall.

For Kurt, it's been a long climb toward the priesthood. "I wanted to be a priest when I was in middle school," he recalled. "I didn't receive much support. Everyone my own age thought it was just crazy. My family did not oppose it, but they didn't really support it, either. I think that they were afraid of pushing me into it."

So, following graduation from Kamiakin High School in Kennewick, and receiving a Bachelor of Arts in History and a teaching certificate, both from Washington State University, Kurt went in another direction: north to Alaska. There, he taught middle school, high school and special education classes from 2006 until 2009 in Quinhagak, an Eskimo village, later moving on to Huslia, an Indian village.

"Suddenly, it just popped into my head, 'Why not look at the priesthood?'" he said. "I hadn't thought about the priesthood for 15 years." Coming back to Washington state, he began talking with his family about his interest.

"Most of my extended family is not Catholic, but they were very supportive," he said. "I believe it really was the Holy Spirit working....I had a sense of peace about it once I felt that was what God was calling me to do."

Since applying to the Diocese of Yakima to become a priest, there's been "so much support from so many people around me, I've never really doubted," Kurt said. However, there were many challenges ahead, including the requirement that he lose "70 pounds" before entering the seminary, "to be healthier."

When he finally began his formation at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon in 2011, Kurt was ready for the magic to begin. "I thought that once I entered seminary, with daily Mass, the Rosary, (Divine) Office prayers, Holy Hour, spiritual direction and confession, just by doing all of these things I would be given holiness, a great spiritual joy and enlightenment," he recalled. However, it doesn't happen just like flipping a switch, he came to realize over the next several years. Instead, God works in His own time, offering consolation and formation.

Kurt progressed through two years of Philosophy at Mount Angel, a year of Theology at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago, and, after beginning a second year at Mundelein, became somewhat discouraged. He took a year off and was assigned to St. Joseph Parish in Yakima, teaching, doing jail ministry and assisting with other parish programs, followed by a summer in migrant ministry. He then returned to Mount Angel for Theology 2, served a "pastoral year" at St. Joseph Church in Wenatchee and completed more studies at Mount Angel. On his climb to the priesthood, he's gained a new and richer understanding of the process.

"We call this process 'formation,'" Kurt observed. "(A man) grows to be the man God wants him to be. We want to impose our own schedule, but there is an intangible factor that doesn't always meet the paper schedule. He's forming us on His own schedule."

Along the way, he also gained a much deeper appreciation for the sacraments of the Catholic Church, regarding them "as not just something we participate in as Catholics, but as God's primary activity in the world."

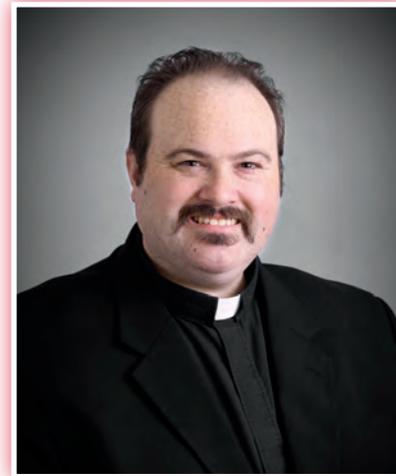
Now, as his ordination to the diaconate approaches, Kurt says that he's "not afraid or stressed out," but rather, "it seems to be kind of happening as a natural process" with God in charge.

"I want to encourage anyone who believes or suspects that he has a vocation to the priesthood: don't disqualify yourself through self-doubt or such strong expectations of how it 'should' be. Keep plugging away."

Kurt says that he particularly looks forward to becoming a pastor of a parish one day, having thoroughly enjoyed interacting with parishioners in his pastoral ministry experiences. And, with the current priest shortage, he hopes that his odds are good of becoming a pastor, he says, with a good-hearted laugh.

Oh, and one other advantage to becoming a priest. After years of playing on the seminarians' team in the annual priests vs. seminarians soccer match and suffering defeat, he'll finally get to play on the priests' team and experience the joy of winning!

Please keep Kurt Hadley in your prayers as he moves forward in his service to the Diocese of Yakima.



*Kurt Hadley*