



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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SEPTEMBER 2018 *Letter*

Monsignor Ecker To Be Honored at Celebration of Faith

Monsignor John Ecker, Vicar General of the Diocese of Yakima and Pastor of St. Paul Cathedral, will be recognized as the Special Honoree for the annual Celebration of Faith, October 13 at the Yakima Convention Center.

Sponsored by the Central Washington Catholic Foundation, the 2018 event, which will include a reception, dinner and program, will highlight the achievements of Monsignor Ecker, who this year celebrates his 60th anniversary of priestly ordination.

Seven Champions of Catholic Education also will be honored for their commitment to uplift Catholic education in Central Washington parishes and schools. They include: **Helen Ghirardo** from Christ the King Parish in Richland, **Bud Hollingbery** for La Salle High School in Yakima, and **Ann Sonn** from St. Joseph



The Celebration of Faith awaits your reservation.

School in Wenatchee, Benefactors; **Mary Hamelin** from Holy Family Parish in Yakima, and **Areli Campos** from Holy Redeemer Parish in Yakima, Catechists; **Lisa Jacobs** from Tri-Cities Prep High School in Pasco, and **Katie Crosby Ferguson** (posthumously) from Christ the King School in Richland, Educators.

The keynote speaker for the event will

be Father Bill Watson, S.J., Founder of the Sacred Story Institute, which is dedicated to revitalizing the classic 15-minute Ignatian Examination of Conscience. The mission of the Institute is to “help adults, teens and youth encounter Christ, the Divine Physician, who heals us in body, mind and spirit, transforming our lives into a Sacred Story!”

A choir from St. Rose of Lima School in Ephrata also will perform.

Registration for the Celebration of Faith fundraising event is available through the website at www.cwatholicfoundation.org

or by calling (509) 972-3732. The evening will begin with a 5:30 p.m. reception, followed by a 6:30 p.m. dinner. Proceeds will benefit Central Washington Catholic schools, parish religious education programs, Catholic college scholarships and religious education initiatives.

Another Look at Abortion

The following, slightly abridged article is reprinted from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website, in honor of October, Respect Life Month. It underscores the importance of respecting life from conception:

Uniquely You

By 18 weeks in your mother’s womb, you could swim, somersault, suck your thumb, and even cover your ears if you heard loud music.

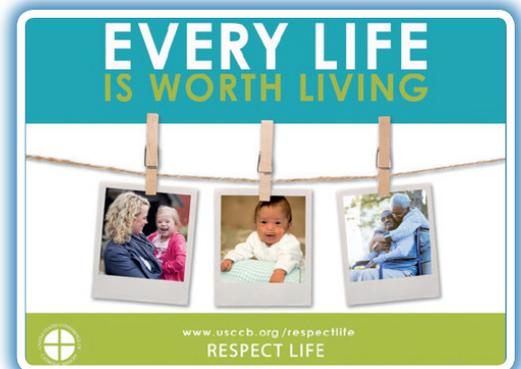
From your first moments of existence, you had all the DNA that would determine your sex, facial features, physique, and the color of your skin, hair, and eyes. At 24 days, your heart began beating. By 8 weeks, all your organs were present, and your unique fingerprints were forming. Ultrasounds show that by 18 weeks, you could swim, somersault, suck your thumb, and even cover your ears if you heard loud music. If you’d been born just 23 weeks after conception, your chance of survival

would be 50-80 percent; by 25 weeks, it’s over 90 percent, and that’s still months before full-term birth.¹

Now, if someone takes an innocent person’s life after he or she is born, it’s against the law; just minutes before birth, it’s legal in most states and called abortion. The only real difference is a declaration by the United States Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* (1973).

Abortion Is Permitted Up to Full-Term Birth

Many people don’t realize how unrestricted legal abortion is, misled by *Roe*’s claim that states may ban abortions after viability “except when it is necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother.” (“Viability” is when the baby has a reasonable chance of survival outside the womb.) But in *Roe*’s companion case, *Doe v. Bolton*, the Court defined “health” to include “all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman’s



age—relevant to the wellbeing” of the mother. That seems broad enough to permit virtually any abortion post-viability.

Effects of Abortion

Abortion results in the death of a child. For many mothers, abortion causes severe and long-lasting emotional, psychological, and spiritual trauma. Many women experience overwhelming guilt, shame, and grief.

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A Message from Bishop Tyson...

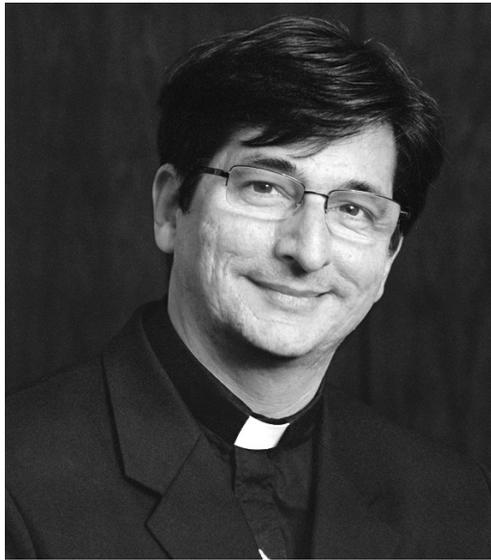
Dear Friends:

I am so sorry we are all going through another round of sexual abuse scandals. As I have written in various communications to you, to clergy and to lay leadership, I share with you the sadness and shock with the news of Archbishop Theodore McCarrick, the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report and the statement of Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, former papal nuncio to the United States.

I am so sorry for what you are all going through in terms of pain, confusion, rage and grief. I am keenly aware that the news undercuts your sense of trust in the bishops and even your sense of faith. Church is where we come to worship God. It is also the place where we share God. Trust is fundamental to the spiritual life. The erosion of trust undercuts the base attitude so necessary in the spiritual life. So, again, please accept my apologies for our many failings as bishops in monitoring and holding each other accountable.

How do we even begin to move forward? Shortly after the news broke in August, I asked the deans – priests elected to represent their region of the Diocese – to work with the priests of their region. I asked all the priests to talk with parish leadership. During the upcoming October Diocese of Yakima Priest Convocation, I will be hearing from them what they are learning from you as I prepare for this November's annual fall assembly of Catholic bishops here in the United States. So it will be important for local parish leaders to stay close to their parish priests.

I also told the priests in my first



Bishop Joseph Tyson

communication with them in August that I would be including the fruits of the upcoming November gathering as one of the items I will be discussing with their parish leadership during the annual deanery visitations I do each year. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, who is president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), will be providing us with a series of proposals that involve better accountability of bishops and deeper lay involvement.

These proposals will be circling back to the pastors of our parishes and they, in turn, will be able to share them with local parish leadership. Similarly, the Diocesan Lay Advisory Board (DLAB), established as part of our implementation of the 2002 Dallas Charter and Essential Norms, will be reviewing the proposals from

the USCCB as well as the information I receive from the parishes. They will consider any changes we need to make in our local efforts for the prevention of sexual abuse. I am grateful to the head of our review board, Russ Mazzola, as well as the cross-section of professionals who serve with him on the DLAB.

We all must remain vigilant. Any suspicion of sexual abuse by any Church personnel warrants contact with local law enforcement. In addition, anyone who has knowledge of sexual abuse or misconduct by a member of the clergy, an employee or a volunteer in any parish or ministry in the Diocese of Yakima is urged to call our hotline at (888) 276-4490. Our victim assistance coordinator, Dorothy Morales, monitors the hotline and does an excellent job to start the dual processes of investigation and healing that are needed when a complaint is made.

Most importantly, we must pray, drawing closer to Christ. There is no way to fully undo the damage done by the sexual abuse scandal. But we can draw close to Christ through reflection on his Word. We can be nourished by Christ through reception of the sacraments. We can make the purification and healing of the Church the focus of our prayer. I hope we can pray for each other and for our clergy and laity who serve the Church during this time of challenge. Be assured of my prayers for you.

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Magnificat Series Will Include Encuentro Dialogue *Continued from page 4*

“formation school of faith for leadership and lay ministry.”

All classes will be offered at the St. Paul Cathedral Building (the former school) in Yakima, Saint Joseph School in Wenatchee, or Holy Spirit Church in Kennewick, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For questions, please contact the diocesan office at (509) 965-7117 or email magnificat@yakimadiocese.net.

Fall classes will kick off with an October 20 session at Holy Spirit Church, 7409 West Clearwater Avenue, Kennewick. That day, Father Daniel Steele will discuss “The Sacraments”; Father Michael

Brzezowski will provide an overview of “Truth of Faith, Dogma”; and Steve Wilmes will review “The Social Doctrine of the Church.”

The same three classes will be repeated by the same presenters on October 27 at Saint Joseph School, 600 St. Joseph Place, Wenatchee. The classes also are scheduled for November 10 at the St. Paul Cathedral Building, 1214 West Chestnut Avenue, Yakima.

Other classes will continue from February through May, with certification for those who complete the entire series scheduled for June 1.

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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Another Look at Abortion *continued from page 1*

Family relationships may suffer as the aborted child's father, grandparents, or other family members experience their own guilt, grief, or loss. Even if the mother keeps her abortion secret, family members can be distressed by changes in the mother's behavior and mental or emotional health.³

What the Church Teaches

The Church has consistently taught that every human life is precious and worthy of protection. Every intentional abortion is gravely wrong.⁴ In April 2018, Pope Francis wrote: "Our defense of the innocent unborn ... needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development."⁵

The Church does not approach difficult pregnancy decisions with a false "either/or" mentality, pitting mother against child. For example, a baby conceived in rape is not an aggressor deserving death by abortion. She is innocent, like her mother. They both deserve compassionate care and support, not more violence.

Today, many babies diagnosed prenatally with a disability are aborted. Frightened parents, unsure of their ability to care for such a child, can trust that

God gave *them* this child for a reason. Parents raising children with disabilities often write about the unexpected joys and transformative effect on their families.⁶

Even when the disabilities are so severe that the baby is likely to die before or soon after birth, "many parents who carried their children to term say that protecting their baby and honoring his or her natural life, no matter how brief, was profoundly healing."⁷

Very rarely, continuing a pregnancy may put a mother's life at risk—for example, because of a tubal pregnancy or aggressive uterine cancer. It is morally licit to remove the threat to the mother's life by removing the cancerous uterus or the fallopian tube where the child implanted, even though it is foreseeable that the child will die as an indirect and unintended result of such surgery. But abortion—a direct and intentional taking of a child's life—is never morally permissible.

What Are We to Do?

Love them both! Support women who need help during *and after* difficult pregnancies through the work of your diocesan PREPARES program and local pregnancy care centers respectful of Catholic teachings.

Stay informed about key federal legislation and the voting records of your

elected representatives by visiting www.humanlifeaction.org and www.usccb.org/prolife. Stay updated on state issues...

Most importantly, pray daily for the end to abortion, that all mothers and children experience the loving support of the Church community, and that all who suffer after abortion find healing and peace.

¹"Fetal Development," Perinatology.Com; <http://perinatology.com/Reference/Fetal%20development.htm>; J.L. Hopson, "Fetal Psychology," *Psychology Today*, Sept. 9, 1998 (last reviewed June 9, 2016); <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/articles/199809/fetal-psychology>. ³ P.K. Coleman et al., «Women Who Suffered Emotionally from Abortion: A Qualitative Synthesis of Their Experiences» *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons* 22:4 (2017) 113-118; <http://www.jpands.org/vol22no4/coleman.pdf>; P.K. Coleman et al., «Induced Abortion and Intimate Relationship Quality in the Chicago Health and Social Life Survey,» *Public Health* 123:4 (2009)3318; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19324381>. ⁴ Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd ed., 2271. ⁵ Pope Francis, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, (Libreria Editrice Vaticana), 101. ⁶ See also: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, «A Perfect Gift» (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2018). ⁷ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, «Supporting Families Who Receive a Prenatal Diagnosis,» (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015). *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, second edition © 2000 LEV-USCCB. Used with permission. Excerpt from *Gaudete et Exsultate* © 2018, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

Champions of Catholic Education 2018

The
2018 Special
Honoree
**Msgr. John
Ecker**



Benefactors		
Helen Ghirardo	Christ the King Parish	Richland
Bud Hollingbery	La Salle High School	Wapato
Ann Sonn	St. Joseph School	Wenatchee
Catechists		
Mary Hamelin	Holy Family Parish	Yakima
Arelí Campos	Holy Redeemer Parish	Yakima
Educators		
Lisa Jacobs	Tri-Cities Prep High School	Pasco
Katie Crosby Ferguson	Christ the King School	Posthumous

Awards will be presented during the Celebration of Faith on October 13th. To register contact the Central Washington Catholic Foundation at www.cwatholicfoundation.org or call (509) 972-3732.

Holy Land Pilgrimage Scheduled

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. Early registration will merit a special discount.

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NEWS

from Around the Diocese

St. Andrew's Schedules Festivities

St. Andrew's Parish in Ellensburg will hold its annual October Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., October 4, at the church, 401 South Willow Street.

Craft, bakery and country stores will be featured. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with unlimited soup, bread, drink and one piece of pie offered for \$5.

Following the festival, the Knights of Columbus will host St. Andrew's Brats & Brews, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. For \$10 per person or \$25 for a family, two adult beverages, a brat and a side dish will be provided.

Richland Oktoberfest Benefits Charities

An Oktoberfest-themed event, benefiting Catholic Charities' homeless youth programs, is slated for October 6 at the Anthology event venue, 706 Williams Blvd. The evening will feature a chef-prepared dinner, cocktails, desserts and entertainment.

Bavarian-themed attire, including lederhosen and dirndl skirts, is welcome (but not required). The social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:45 p.m.

Individual seats or tables of eight are available. Tickets are \$100 per person. Call (800) 246-2962, ext. 1133, for more information, to purchase seats, or to make a donation.

Mission Congress Set for Yakima

There is still time to register for the Yakima Diocese Church Mission Congress 2018.

The event, entitled, "Missionary Disciples – Witnesses of God's Love," is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, October 13 at Holy Family Church in Yakima.

The Congress will feature speakers and networking of volunteers who can offer mutual support in passing along the Catholic Faith and building up the Church.

The cost is \$20 per person, registering by October 2, or \$25 the day of the event. The fee is due at the time of registration. To sign up, visit the diocesan website at www.yakimadiocese.org.

Catholic Relief Services Spokesman Offers Food for Thought

If you find yourself discouraged by life, you really should spend a few minutes listening to Thomas Awiapo.

A spokesman for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) who visited Yakima earlier this month, Awiapo tells a heartbreaking story of his youth in Ghana, West Africa. Orphaned at an early age, he and his three brothers were "four little boys who were very miserable, hungry kids," he recalled. Awiapo's two younger brothers died from malnutrition while his older brother ran away.

Finally, in desperate hunger, Awiapo walked five miles to the village school built by Catholic Relief Services, just to get the food which they provided to local children. He didn't like the idea of school at all, he noted, but he needed the food to survive.

"My whole life was turned around by Catholic Relief Services," he said. Today, Awiapo is married with four children and holds a Master's degree in Public Administration. He and his family still live in Ghana, with Awiapo spending 16 to 18 weeks each year traveling the United States on behalf of CRS.

Visiting La Salle High School; St. Joseph/Marquette and Christ the Teacher schools; and an Annual Catholic Appeal gathering at Holy Family Parish, Awiapo delivered a message of gratitude and a reminder of the serious needs that still exist in the world.

"CRS is bringing love into the world in which we live," he observed in an interview. "CRS cannot do that

without the American Catholic community." The agency has a history of "75 years of grace," serving 150 countries around the world.

As he visits schools, it is still very difficult for

Awiapo to see the amount of food which is thrown out after meals. Just a little of that food might have saved his two younger brothers from starvation, he realizes. He reminds students, "If you are ever tempted to be wasteful with food, remember my face and my two little brothers." A student at one of his many talks, obviously moved by Awiapo's words, observed, "I should never complain again about (something as trivial as) my internet speed."

"Be grateful, know that you are blessed and be generous and kind," is Awiapo's advice.

"There are still hungry children in the world!"

To learn more about Catholic Relief Services programs and how you can help, visit crs.org. Also, please plan to join in the annual Rice Bowl campaign to benefit CRS next Lent in the Diocese of Yakima.



Thomas Awiapo addresses a gathering for the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Magnificat Series Will Include Encuentro Dialogue



The Magnificat program of classes for 2018-19 will be combined with the Encuentro process so that English- and Spanish-speaking students can grow together in awareness of the Church's shared mission of being "witnesses to God's love."

Students will spend the first two hours each Saturday of Magnificat studying topics in their own language group. For the last two hours, the groups will study together one of the five themes of the national Encuentro process: "1) Called to a loving encounter with Jesus. 2) With words and actions: Do it! 3) Walking

together with Jesus. 4) Bearing fruits of new life. 5) Celebrating the joy of being missionary disciples."

Encuentro is an ongoing series of national gatherings that began in 1972 and continued in 1977 and 1985 as a way to help reach the growing Hispanic community in the United States. The Fourth Encuentro in 2000 was a gathering of all language groups found in the U.S. Church.

Bishop Tyson and several other representatives of the Diocese of Yakima will take part September 20-24 in the Fifth Encuentro in Texas. The focus this year is on the role of Hispanic parishioners to be "missionary disciples" in the United States. The themes discussed nationally are those to be discussed locally the coming year.

Magnificat classes are designed to encourage growth in knowledge of our faith, creed and doctrine of the Church. Led by Bishop Tyson, the English-speaking Magnificat program is a

Continued on page 2