



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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DECEMBER 2018 *Letter*

Join In January Activities to Honor the Dignity of Human Life

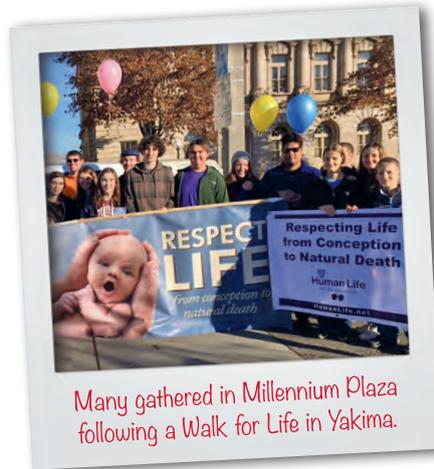
By Christine Corbett Conklin

The month of January will offer numerous opportunities to celebrate and honor the dignity of human life from conception through natural death!

All are invited to attend the annual **Mass for Life**, scheduled for 11 a.m., Sunday, January 27, at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima. This Mass marks the 46th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion, dated January 22, 1973.

A reception in the Assembly Place, located adjacent to the Cathedral, will follow the Mass.

A third walk will begin at 1 p.m., Saturday, January 26, at Grace of Christ



Many gathered in Millennium Plaza following a Walk for Life in Yakima.

Monday, January 14, at North Town Coffee in Yakima, planning outreach efforts to the community.

If you would like to start a Students for Life group in your community, or arrange for a free speaker on a pro-life topic for your organization, contact Christine at the Pro-Life Coalition of Central Washington, (509) 985-6248. To learn about other pro-life activities planned in your area, check your parish bulletin.

With an estimated 1,000 to 2,000 abortions performed annually, between abortion clinics in Yakima and Kennewick, and an ongoing need to promote respect for the elderly and infirm, let's all join together to champion human life!

Church on Yakima Avenue in **Yakima**. All are encouraged to bring organization banners and signs promoting life and join in the walk to Millennium Plaza.

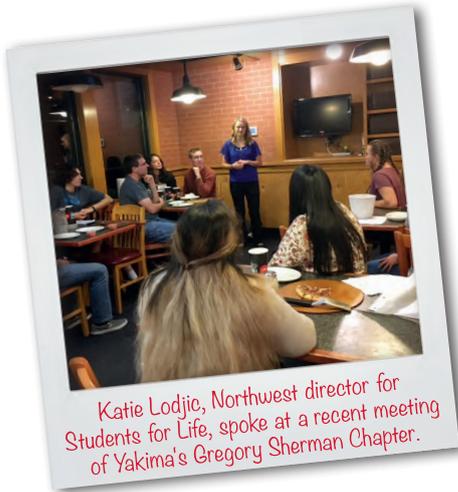
Students for Life groups within Central Washington also have meetings planned for January.

The new **Tri-Cities** chapter of Students for Life will meet at 7 p.m., Tuesday, January 8, at Round Table Pizza on Leslie Avenue in Richland. Free pizza, door prizes and a speaker will be featured.



Students for Life in the Tri-Cities got acquainted during their first meeting last month in Richland.

The Gregory Sherman Chapter of Students for Life will meet at 7 p.m.,



Katie Lodjic, Northwest director for Students for Life, spoke at a recent meeting of Yakima's Gregory Sherman Chapter.

In addition, several communities have slated **walks for life**.

On January 19, Wenatchee Right to Life will hold its annual March for Life and rally, from noon to 1 p.m., meeting on the Chelan County Courthouse steps in **Wenatchee**. A speaker will be featured.

Then, at noon, Tuesday, January 22, participants in the statewide March for Life will gather on the steps of the legislative building in **Olympia** to hear speakers.

Preceding the March, Mass will be offered at 9:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Lacey and at 10 a.m. at St. Michael's Church in Olympia.

A prayer for World Peace highlighted the center of a shrine in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima, December 12. The globe emerging from a wall below a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary was covered with photos of lay people, priests, bishops and Pope Francis. It signified the Catholic Church's global ministry of care and concern for all the people of the world through the intercession of our Lady of Guadalupe on her Feast Day. Most churches in the Diocese held special celebrations that day to honor the Blessed Mother.



A Message from Bishop Tyson...

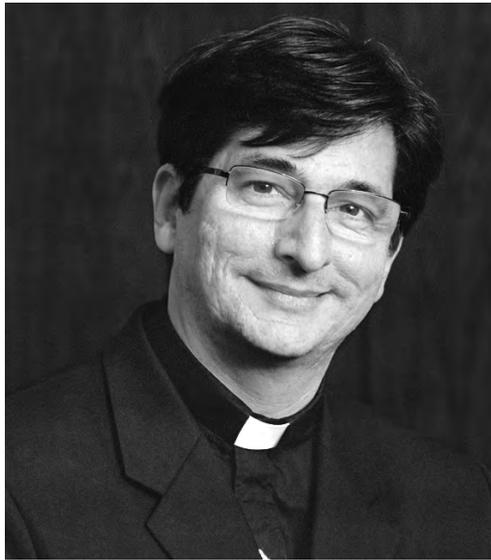
Dear Friends:

In January we always remember the fateful 1973 court decision of *Roe vs. Wade*, which legalized abortion in the United States. We also celebrate the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops recently issued a pastoral letter on racism, in part to mark the 50th anniversary of his assassination last year and the 90th anniversary of his birth this coming January. His niece, Alveda King, brings together these two key themes in her life and her ministry. She still remains connected to her uncle's Baptist roots. Yet a year ago last December she also met with Pope Francis. In an interview with EWTN she said how much she appreciates Pope Francis and the fact that he "doesn't take one issue and make that his issue. He seems to be able to connect it and see that it all belongs together. I appreciate that."

Ms. King sees the Catholic Church as a natural ally in the protection of life at all its stages. She has been involved with a number of Catholic pro-life ministries, including one particular ministry which we are reviving in the Diocese of Yakima: "Rachel's Vineyard," our regional retreat ministry for those needing healing in the aftermath of an abortion. Having come through the trauma of abortion herself, Alveda King presents her project as "Civil Rights for the Unborn." In her public speaking and presentations, she often highlights the disproportional effect abortion has on poorer communities, immigrant communities as well as her African American/Black community.

Indeed, the Pew Trust notes that among non-Hispanic white teens, the birth rate in 2013 was 19 births per 1,000. Among black teens it was 39 births per 1,000. Latina/Hispanic teens have the highest birth rate at 42 births per 1,000. Perhaps this is why we see Spanish-language billboards advertising "Planned Parenthood." While not every "Planned Parenthood" clinic provides abortion services, I have listened to enough anecdotal evidence to suspect that the family services and counseling often provided to our Hispanic community escalates towards promotion of abortion. Even a quick glance at the "Planned Parenthood" website suggests a very different worldview of sexuality and family – a worldview at right angles to the family-oriented tradition of our Hispanic communities across Central Washington. It's very hard not to conclude that abortion services for our Hispanic community are anything other than racial profiling and racial targeting of our most vulnerable population.

The recent pastoral letter by the bishops on racism: "Open Wide our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love" does not draw connections between abortion and racism. But it does address the social environment that allows for racial profiling of abortion services: "Racism comes in many forms. It can be seen in deliberate, sinful acts. In recent times, we have seen bold expressions of racism



Bishop Joseph Tyson

by groups as well as individuals," notes the pastoral letter. "Racial profiling frequently targets Hispanics for selective immigration enforcement practices, and African Americans, for suspected criminal activity." The political left, which generally supports abortion rights, often attempts to seize a higher moral ground by attacking the racism of the political right on these very topics for political gain. The political right often suffers from an incapacity to clearly distance itself from political fellow-travelers trafficking in some of the most offensive and racist language. Sadly, even our highest political leaders can undercut their support of the unborn through their characterization of the Mexican immigrant community in the United States.

Pope Francis has been strong in condemning this kind of selectivity. In his most recent Apostolic Exhortation, "Gaudete et Exultate," he writes: "We often hear it said that, with respect to relativism and the flaws of our present world, the situation of migrants, for example, is a lesser issue. Some Catholics consider it a secondary issue compared to the 'grave' bioethical questions. That a politician looking for votes might say such a thing is understandable, but not a Christian, for whom the only proper attitude is to stand in the shoes of those brothers and sisters of ours who risk their lives to offer a future to their children. Can we not realize that this is exactly what Jesus demands of us, when he tells us that in welcoming the stranger we welcome him (cf Mt25:35)?"

Pope Francis concludes this thought with a reference to St. Benedict who demanded that all who come to the monastery door be welcomed "like Christ." Here in the United States, what ties together the unborn with the undocumented is their lack of legal standing. The key to ending racism and the key to overcoming abortion are one and the same: welcoming all life as Christ. A year ago, during the November 2017 USCCB gathering in Baltimore, some discussion took place about

the tendency to split off issues of life and issues of justice. Some consider issues of justice – such as the Holy Father's challenging statements on migrants, refugees and immigrants – as merely a matter of "prudential judgement." Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco rose to counter this, noting that our teachings on immigration are not a matter of "prudential judgement." They are part of Church teaching.

We can be grateful for the intuition of Alveda King and the connections she draws between racial injustice and the injustice of abortion. We can be grateful for Pope Francis and his strong leadership on a robust and well-integrated presentation of our Catholic social teaching. We can be grateful for the foundational reverence for the gift of life for the unborn and how this issue anchors all other issues of justice in our Church teaching. I hope this issue of our *Central Washington Catholic* increases your appreciation for the many ways we uplift the gift of the unborn. I hope it inspires you to support PREPARES, the statewide initiative of the Catholic bishops of Washington State for women and their children and the way it is poised to reach women before they even consider walking into an abortion clinic.

In this regard I am so grateful for our three Catholic Charities agencies in Washington State for administering and animating PREPARES and its wraparound of support, love and care with social and human services for women and their unborn children from conception to age five. I also want to express my appreciation to the many ecumenical pro-life efforts across the Diocese of Yakima through pregnancy resource centers, ultrasound and pregnancy services as well as simply material support for new moms and their children. I hope you will join me as well as Catholics from across the nation in our upcoming Novena for Life. I hope I will see you at our annual Mass for Life at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima at 11 a.m. Sunday, January 27.

With every best wish and blessing!
Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Central Washington Catholic

DECEMBER 2018 • Volume 59 • Issue 12

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The *Central Washington Catholic* (ISSN 0195-1831) is published monthly by the Diocese of Yakima, 5301-A Tieton Drive, Yakima, WA 98908-3493.

Submission schedule: Deadline for the submission of material is at noon on the first day of the month of publication.

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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

Magnificat Classes Coming Soon

As you consider making New Year's resolutions, why not plan to attend upcoming Magnificat sessions in English, designed to help develop faith, leadership and lay ministry?

On February 2, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Holy Spirit Parish, 7409 West Clearwater Avenue in Kennewick, Father Jacob Davis will discuss the "Bible"; there will be a presentation on "Apologetics and Ecumenism"; and Father Ricardo Villarreal will talk about "Mission of the Church." Then, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., a special Encuentro program will be held, entitled, "With Words and Actions: Do It!"

On February 9, at the same times, these same presentations will be made

at Saint Joseph School, 600 St. Joseph Place in Wenatchee. The only change will be that Bishop Joseph Tyson will discuss the "Bible."

Then, on February 16, at the same time, these presentations will be made at the St. Paul Cathedral Building, 1214 West Chestnut Avenue in Yakima. Bishop Joseph Tyson will again be the speaker on the "Bible."

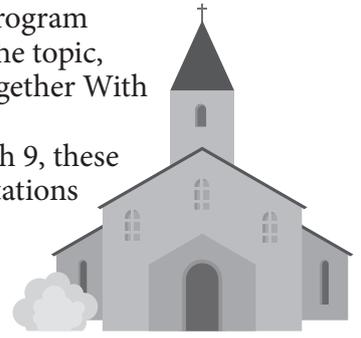
The next Magnificat sessions are slated for March 2, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Holy Spirit Parish. Then, Maria Elena Trevino will discuss "Ministries"; Bishop Joseph Tyson will talk about "Ecclesiology"; and Deacon Tom Huntington will present on "Catechesis." And, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., a special

Encuentro program will feature the topic, "Walking Together With Jesus."

On March 9, these same presentations will be made at the same times at St. Joseph School in Wenatchee.

Then, on March 16, the presentations will be repeated at the St. Paul Cathedral Building.

For questions please contact the diocesan office at (509) 965-7117 or email magnificat@yakimadiocese.net.



U.S. Catholics Prepare for Launch of "9 Days for Life" Campaign

On January 14, 2019, thousands of Catholics across the country will join in prayer for "9 Days for Life." The prayer campaign, sponsored by the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, leads up to the annual Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn

Children. The novena and day of prayer are a time of recollection and reparation in observation of the anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade* – the Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal throughout the United States.

The overarching intention of the novena is that all human life will be

respected. Each day of the "9 Days for Life" novena highlights a related topic and provides a reflection, educational information, and suggested daily actions.

Participants can subscribe to receive the daily prayers at www.9daysforlife.com.

As you celebrate the miracle of this special season, may your heart be filled with joy and peace.

Merry Christmas from the Central Washington Catholic Foundation Board of Trustees and Staff

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NEWS

From Around the Diocese

Celebrate Mary at Mass

Just a reminder. On January 1, the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. This is a Holy Day of Obligation on which attendance at Mass is required. (An exception can be made for those who are ill, homebound or otherwise unable to attend.)

It's a special day to celebrate Mary, our Mother, to thank her for her contribution to human history and to ask for her intercession.

Retrouvaille Retreat Scheduled

Retrouvaille, a program for couples who have challenges in their marriages, has scheduled an English-language weekend retreat at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center in Spokane, February 15-17. A Spanish-language retreat will be held at the retreat center that weekend as well.

Some couples feel frustrated or angry in their marriages. Many find that talking about it only makes it worse. Some couples experience coldness and simply shut down. Other couples have severe conflict and arguments. Most don't know how to change the situation or even talk with their spouse about it.

Retrouvaille (pronounced *retro-vi* with a long i) has helped thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels of distress including disillusionment and deep misery. The program is designed to provide the tools to help get marriages back on track.

For more information, visit www.helpourmarriage.com or, for confidential information, call (800) 470-2230.

CCHS Breaks Ground In Wenatchee

Catholic Charities Housing Services (CCHS) recently broke ground on a \$16.9 million, 67-unit affordable housing development at 1545 S. Mission Street in Wenatchee. This new development will provide affordable housing and integrated services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities and low-income residents. The four-story, 71,846-square-foot building will include one-, two- and three-bedroom units to serve a broad spectrum of needs.

"Today is the culmination of more than three years of planning and simply would not have been possible without strong partnerships with a number of community agencies, City and County support as well as other public and private partners," said Bryan Ketcham, CCHS director, at the groundbreaking ceremony.

The development will have on-site management, a community room and meeting spaces for services. For more information on the project, contact Holly Anderson at handerson@catholiccharitiescw.org or call the Yakima CCHS office at (509) 853-2800.

Troops of St. George 'Light the Way' for Catholic Fathers and Sons—

By Christine Corbett Conklin

When Steve Branch's son, James, turned five, Steve began thinking about how the two of them could become more active in father-son activities. Compared to other community programs, however, Steve wanted to find something that centered on the Catholic Faith.

Research turned up the Troops of St. George, a Catholic organization founded in 2013 by author Dr. Taylor Marshall and headquartered in Keller, Texas. The organization focuses on outdoor activities and the sacraments "to light the way for the formation of holy Catholic men and boys."

Branch, who lives in Yakima, and other interested fathers soon formed Troop 1969 of the Troops of St. George. It's an official ministry of Holy Family Parish in Yakima, with church pastor, Father Cesar Vega, serving as chaplain. There are now some 30 people comprising the troop, including boys between ages six and 18 and their fathers. They come from Yakima, Selah, Moxee, Zillah, and as far away as Pasco to participate.

The troop focuses on "traditional, outdoor skills" ranging from archery to hunting, orienteering, camping, boxing, astronomy and even automotive basics, explained Nathan Draper of Moxee who serves as Second Lieutenant of the troop and participates with his son, Brady, 13. As campout leader, Draper says that he helps guide the boys through preparing meals, from planning a menu through barbecuing or perhaps using a Dutch oven.

The troop also assists with service

projects ranging from planting new trees at their home base of the Ahtanum Mission to raking leaves for elderly and disabled individuals. And the boys even learn to serve Mass, including the Traditional Latin Mass.

The boys work their way up through ranks such as St. Matthew's Angels (first grade), St. Mark's Lions (grade 2), St. Luke's Oxen (grade 3), explained John Lynch, also of Yakima, who serves

as Captain of the troop. As they age and develop certain skills, they advance in rank. The dads join in on the process.

"On a father level, it means being able to spend dedicated time with my son and in an environment that fosters and grows our Faith," said Branch, who is First Lieutenant of the troop.

Lynch agreed.

With five sons and a busy career in the medical field, it's hard to find opportunities to devote quality time to each child, Lynch said. "This helps me to take individual time with the older boys" (Adam, 11; Patrick, 9; and Thomas, 7).

There is also a lot of mutual support and encouragement in the Faith, by working together with other fathers and their sons, the dads agree. If a boy does not have a father who's available to participate, he can come

with a grandfather or other relative, or arrangements will be made for daytime activities with another father stepping in to help, they said.

"We'd love to have more people come and participate," Branch observed. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., January 7, at Christ the Teacher

School next to Queens Gym, Draper noted. For more information on the Troops of St. George, call John Lynch at (509) 966-3732 or Steve Branch at (509) 480-9685.

