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Newsletter

CF&CS Program For At-Risk Families Has Unexpected Benefits —

As a child in her native Mexico, Norma León left school in second grade to care for her siblings after her mother had a horrible accident. Three years later, with her mother's health improved, Norma tried to go back into the school system, but she was too far behind. Instead, she turned to work in the agricultural fields. At age 21, she came to the United States, illiterate in Spanish (her native language), as well as English. She felt that schools and teachers abandoned her, making her feel ashamed and untrusting of the educational system.

However, Norma's outlook changed when she began to participate in the home visiting program administered by Catholic Family & Child Service (CF&CS) in Yakima. The presence and encouragement of a trained professional – who worked with Norma to prepare her child for school entry by improving her child's literacy skills – empowered Norma to think about making changes for herself, her family and her future as well. Norma told her educator: "I want to be able to help my children with their homework."

Participant Has 'A Sense of Accomplishment'

With the help of her parent educator, Norma began English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. She borrowed books from her educator. At every visit, Norma shared her new reading abilities with a sense of accomplishment and pride.

"This program has been a life-changing experience for me and for my family," she said. With the help of her educator, she learned how to read and write in Spanish. Last year, she began ESL classes, and now continues ESL and computer classes. This experience has given her new confidence to help her children with homework and to communicate with people when she's out in the community.

"The foundation of this program is a focus on early education," said Renee Slaven, clinical supervisor and program manager. "To put it in the language of our program: the intended outcomes are that children have higher levels of school readiness, and there are reduced incidences of child abuse and neglect. The unintended outcome is that parents are looking at their own educational background and making the decision to return to school to further their education."

Grant Allows Adding Three Parent Educators

Recently, CF&CS was awarded a \$353,622 grant from the Washington state Home Visiting Services Account, which will allow the program to add three full-time workers to the existing staff of three. The three new parent educators will make it possible for CF&CS to support more families, specifically those in Moxee and Union Gap, and potentially empower more parents to think about furthering their education.

Currently, Slaven knows of at least three mothers in the program who have made the decision to return to school. Slaven added, "The message that this program sends to their

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As we celebrate the Holy Family at this sacred time of year, let us pray for their intercession, using the following prayer:

THE HOLY FAMILY PRAYER

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

– Missionaries of the Holy Family

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends,

The grand journey of faith as Christians takes us from Christmas to Easter and back again. Advent is a kind of Marian Lent where we follow Mary to Bethlehem, where the first shepherds of the field behold Jesus in the wood of the manger. Lent is the journey of Jesus where His followers behold His body on the wood of the cross. During that time of year we are on the road. Christmas has become a distant memory and the springtime high feast of Easter still seems far away. How do we make this journey of faith?

It seems to me such a journey requires solid spiritual guides. That's why the Church uplifts parents as the first educators in the faith. The origins of parents being the primary educators in the faith go straight back to the baptism questions. Recall that after the parents present their children for baptism, the cleric questions them by saying: "You have asked to have your children baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"

I love that final sentence: "Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?" The truth be known, most of the baptisms of children I have



Bishop Joseph Tyson

celebrated have been in the presence of parents who are often sleep-deprived and a bit overworked. If it's their first child they often do not have a clue what they are getting themselves into as new parents. Notwithstanding, they all answer "yes" which is a "yes" based more on the life of faith than the life of fact.

This issue of the Central Washington Catholic is dedicated to so many adults who work to pass on the faith. Our article on the 100th anniversary of St. Joseph Parish in White Salmon is really a story of adults who not only petitioned the bishop to get a parish started but adults who – even today – work hard together to pass on the gift of faith to the next generation.

I spent an entire weekend there recently celebrating Masses in Spanish and English as well as the wedding of the volunteer youth directors, Miguel and Lili Ramirez, whose celebration became a "teaching moment" for the youth group.

Catholic Family & Child Service is featured in a separate story on their "Parent as Educator" efforts. The Retrouvaille program for married couples struggling to remain faithful to their marriage might even have a subtext as adults who desire to live as good witness to the holiness of matrimony for their children as well as their children's children. Even our news from Calvary Cemetery here in the Diocese of Yakima might remind us of our obligation as adults to teach the things of eternity to the youngest in our midst. One gaze at the cover of the Holy Family speaks to the reality that all education comes from an education of the heart.

To all those who are featured in these articles, I say a profound thanks of gratitude to your witness of the indispensable role parents play as educators in the faith. And to all of you readers, my thanks for your own efforts in reading this issue to be life-long learners and thus well-formed teachers for those around you.

With every best wish and blessing,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

A Smile For Christmas...

One year, during the kindergarten Christmas Pageant of Christ The King School in Richland, Mary had a problem with her costume.

As the audience reverently sang "O Little Town of Bethlehem," Mary and Joseph slowly walked down the main aisle. The "donkey" was crawling too slowly, so Joseph periodically would yank on his rope, knocking the poor donkey to the floor. Then, Mary's four-foot veil slipped to the floor. She calmly picked up the front end; Joseph, the back. Both pulled up, and the veil ended up between Mary's legs. Her gorgeous blue satin gown now resembled gaucho pants, and Joseph was now dragging both a donkey and a reluctant, tripping wife down the aisle.

Luckily, while the Holy Family stood waiting for the innkeepers to talk, the seasoned teacher reading the Nativity story revised the narration to include, "At the inn, Joseph helped Mary put her veil back on her head." The story had a happy ending with the birth of Christ, the arrival of the shepherds, the baby angels, the three kings, and both of His parents appropriately dressed!

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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Troubled Marriage? Try 'Retrouvaille'!

Are you feeling hopeless about your marriage? Do your problems seem impossible to overcome? Have you even thought of divorce?

You just might find the help you need in "Retrouvaille" (pronounced, "retro-vy"). It's an innovative program which is an outgrowth of Marriage Encounter, but designed specifically for "hurting couples."

"Retrouvaille" is a French word meaning "rediscovery." The international program, which began in 1977 in Quebec, Canada, offers tools to help couples rediscover love and meaning in their marriages.

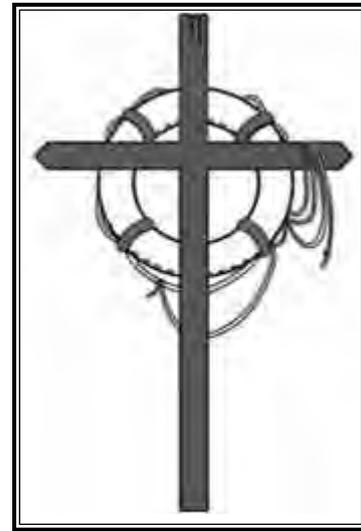
"It's a hospital for hurting couples, those with communication problems or other issues, those who may be on the brink of divorce," explained Berta Garrity, who, with her husband, Ben, helps lead area Retrouvaille weekends.

In the program, several married couples and a priest teach troubled couples how to communicate with each other, Garrity said. Later on, couples learn how to address the painful issues that brought them to Retrouvaille in the first place.

The next Retrouvaille weekend scheduled for our area will be March 8-10 at the Red Lion Hanford House in Richland. The registration cost is \$150, however no one will be turned away because of inability to pay, Garrity said.

Registration is required and may be done by visiting www.retrouvaille.org or by calling (509) 946-5702 or 1 (800) 470-2230.

Each Retrouvaille session is a "working weekend," Garrity said. "Don't expect bubble baths and champagne." However, the investment of time and effort can make a priceless difference in a marriage.



CF&CS Program For At-Risk Families Has Unexpected Benefits *continued from page 1*

children is that school is important, and that is value you cannot put a price on."

The CF&CS program adheres to the Parents as Teachers model, an evidenced-based and internationally recognized parent education and support program. Parents as Teachers educators provide home visits to families as early as during pregnancy until the child turns three. The program began in East Yakima in spring 2008 and serves more than 100 families, including more than 150 children. Funding is provided through a public-private partnership with Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital and the Home Visiting Services Account.

Evidence shows that when families receive this kind of support, their children are born healthier, are less likely to suffer from abuse or neglect and are better prepared for school.

Children receiving Parents as Teachers home visits have demonstrated higher levels of school readiness at kindergarten entry and beyond. When compared with parents who do not receive this service, parents participating in the program are more likely to read aloud to their children, tell stories, recite nursery rhymes, and sing with their children.



Norma León held Ludwika Kaileen Rosas.

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NEWS

From Around the Diocese

Father William Vogel Named Pastor

Father William Vogel, S.J., has been appointed pastor of Resurrection Parish in Zillah. The appointment was made by Bishop Joseph Tyson, with the blessing of Father Patrick J. Lee, S.J., superior for the Oregon Province of the Society of Jesus.

Father Vogel has been in residence at Resurrection Parish for several years, while serving as chaplain at Toppenish Community Hospital. His new appointment comes at a time when the hospital has eliminated its pastoral care department.

The appointment helps to ease the burden for Father Juan Flores, who has served as pastor of both Resurrection Parish and St. Aloysius Parish in Toppenish.

Father Jerome Young Dies

Father Jerome Young, OSB, 54, who served as a teacher and spiritual director at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon, died December 8.

Father Young had battled leukemia for many years and recently suffered a serious fall which hastened his death.

His funeral was held December 13 at the Mount Angel Abbey Church. May he rest in peace.

New Format Speeds Genealogy Research

Amateur genealogists searching for information about their ancestors can receive quick information from Calvary Cemetery in Yakima, thanks to a new electronic format for burial records.

Earlier this month, the Yakima Valley Genealogical Society completed a free electronic scan of all 11,160 paper burial records for the cemetery, some of which date back to the late 1800s. Prior to this, cemetery staff sometimes needed to take the time to pull paper records from a vault.

The cemetery averages about five genealogy-related calls each week, said Father Darell Mitchell, director. He is currently exploring the possibility of making the new electronic records available through a website.

To reach Calvary Cemetery, call 457-8462 or email calvarycemetery@qwestoffice.net.

New Statue Graces Cemetery

A new statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary now overlooks the graves of priests and one former bishop in Yakima's Calvary Cemetery.

The statue, purchased in part through donations, replaces a statue which was brought from Italy by the late Bishop Joseph P. Dougherty, after Vatican II. The former statue, made of marble, had suffered considerable damage through the years due to freezing winter temperatures. After being refurbished, the marble statue now resides in the cemetery office.

The new, weather-resistant statue is nearly identical in appearance to the one which has watched over clergy graves for decades.

St. Rose of Lima Parish Offers Prayers

Father Miguel Gonzalez, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church in Ephrata, has called upon members of his parish to sign a prayer card expressing solidarity with the parishioners of St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown, Connecticut. Newtown was the site of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14.

Members of all of our Diocesan parishes are encouraged to join in prayer for the citizens of Newtown.

St. Joseph Church, White Salmon: One Hundred Years of Devotion On 'The Rock' – And A Mystery!

"...Upon this rock I will build my Church." This quotation from Matthew 16:18 has special meaning for the parishioners of St. Joseph Church in White Salmon, Washington. Their picturesque church on a bluff overlooking the Columbia River is quite literally built on solid rock – requiring the "blasting out of boulders" to build the church hall.

"The church is a part of the mountain," observed Father Salomón Covarrubias, pastor since 2010. "The symbol of the rock is very applicable. The river is very close, so the only place to build was the mountain. The church is at the highest point and the view is breathtaking. You can see Mount Hood and the river, other mountains."

This parish of some 300 families is set in what Father Covarrubias describes as a "sportsman's paradise," with everything from fishing to kayaking, rafting and windsurfing close at hand. Celebrating its 100th anniversary this past spring, the parish includes orchardists, farm workers and other business people from a variety of professions. Three major business operations: the Mt. Adams pear orchard, the Insitu unmanned aircraft manufacturer and the SDS sawmill, account for many local jobs.

St. Joseph Church itself is what Pat Randall, a parishioner for 54 years, describes as "a charming, beautiful, little sacred place." With its gothic windows, stained glass, vintage statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Sacred Heart, and traditional sanctuary lamp, it has a very special, devout quality, she observed.



Father Salomón Covarrubias



St. Joseph Church, White Salmon

Parishioners also point out the "mystery of the missing bell" from the bell tower. No one is quite sure what happened to the original bell. It may have been sold, one mentions. It's possible that the local Methodist Church now has it, someone suggests. In any case, parishioner Joan Barrett is credited with mounting a search for a bell and finding a new one, about 12 years ago. (It is rumored that Father Covarrubias now rings that bell with great gusto!)

The present church structure was dedicated in April 1912. It remained a mission for many years, served by Holy Trinity Parish in Goldendale. In 1955, Bishop Joseph Dougherty officially proclaimed St. Joseph a parish. The church basement was dug out and the legendary rock blasting done in 1957 to create the parish hall. The current altar arrived in the 1980s, and a Grotto was completed, on the north side of the church, in 2003.

In recent years, other pastors of St. Joseph's have included Fathers John O'Dea, Robert Himes, Kenneth Kron, Richard Mel House, Tom Dahlquist, Felix Rodriguez and Alejandro Trejo. The current Deacon, who has helped to serve the growing Spanish community, is Angel Oríz.

For many years, St. Joseph Parish has had a high quality of music "disproportionate to our small size," observed David Sauter, a parishioner for 49 years.

"Various bishops have commented on this," he said, noting that the parish actually has four choirs: one of Anglo adults and young people, two Spanish choirs and a bell choir of children which performs at Christmas time. Sauter credits his mother, Georgia Sauter, with having a pivotal role in this musical phenomenon. She directed the Anglo choir until retiring at age 80 from the music ministry. She and numerous other parishioners trace their musical "roots" to excellent instruction at St. Mary's Academy in The Dalles, he said.

Sauter also suggested that St. Joseph Church has made a good transition from being, at one time, a "very Anglo parish" to "a good combining of cultures," including an Hispanic membership that now accounts for the majority of parishioners.

"It's important to us that people feel welcome and included here," he said.

"We're a good faith community," agreed Heidi Shultz, a parishioner for a total of 24 years who directs the Religious Education program for the parish. "In this Year of Faith, we're all trying to deepen our faith, instill these values in our families... In his sermons, Father Salomón talks a lot about families and teaching values to our kids."

Parishioners love the White Salmon area, Shultz said. "The beauty of the area reminds us that God is always in our presence," she observed.