

Annual Catholic Appeal

DIOCESE OF YAKIMA

A Note From Bishop Tyson

Dear Friends,
 With summer upon us, we are now halfway through the 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). With heartfelt gratitude, I thank each and every one of

our donors who have put their faith in action by contributing to this important appeal. It is your participation and personal sacrifices that continue the success of the ACA each year.

take note that I will be ordaining Deacons Dan and Peter Steele to the priesthood

in this special event!

The theme for this year's ACA is "Working the Lord's Vineyard in Central Washington." This theme suggests that we are urged to live our life of faith with an evangelizing spirit, generously sharing ourselves and the Gospel with others. Thank you for tending to God's vineyard through your ACA donations!



Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
 Bishop of Yakima

on May 27th at 7 p.m. in St. Paul Cathedral. My hope is that you can join us as our diocesan community rejoices

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Picture of Bishop Tyson printed with permission from Catholic Extension. Copyright 2015. www.catholicextension.org

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To help you keep in touch with the many ministries that your donations fund, we are excited to present this first edition of the Annual Catholic Appeal Newsletter. Inside, you will find the focus to be just some of the ways in which the ACA helps to foster and fund vocations here in the Diocese of Yakima. I would ask you to especially

A Bridge Between:

The Deaconate Vocation of Service

When Catholics hear the word "clergy," they often think of priests, bishops, and the pope. However, the first rank of the Sacrament of Holy Orders is deacon, whether as a transitional deacon, a step in the

process of becoming a priest, or a permanent deacon. The ministry of this vocation is rooted in its very name since the word "deacon" is taken from "diakonia," which is Greek for "service." In Holy Scripture, we read about dea-

cons at the time of the Apostles. However, over the centuries, the role of deacons became limited and only men who were in seminary training were ordained as deacons. One of the fruits of Second Vatican Council was restor-

ing permanent deacons to the Latin Rite of the Church.

While being a part of the clergy, permanent deacons often are married men who hold jobs in the community.

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Brothers by Blood and Holy Chrism

Growing up in Olympia, Dan and Peter Steele shared a bond as brothers like any other siblings would. Now, with only weeks of formation left, these brothers will soon share the fraternal bond of the priesthood.

For the past year, they have been fulfilling their roles as transitional deacons while completing their seminary studies. Both Dan and Peter used the word “unreal” when describing these final months of preparation as they practice saying Mass and hearing

mock confessions. In learning the prayers of the Mass and the words of Absolution, Dan noted that “Ordination will be a real test of my faith, to pronounce what are merely words for me now, will soon effect a supernatural reality.” Whether it was deep theological discussions in the classroom or eating out with his fellow seminarians, Peter finds that “all of it has helped prepare me to be a priest because it has simply helped me understand how to be a human being. I

think that is a big part of the priesthood, learning and then trying to help other people to learn how to live as God has always meant us to.”

One part of their duties as deacons that gave great joy to both brothers was the opportunity to preform baptisms. Peter shared the following memory: “When I did my first baptism, I remember thinking, ‘Did that actually work? Did God really just perform a total change in this child’s life through my words and actions?’” Dan shared a similar story: “I saw a family whose baby I baptized...it brought me so much joy to say to my seminarian brothers who were with me, ‘I baptized that baby.’ I realized after that experience that I had a special relationship with that cute little guy, a relationship that will literally last forever.”

After their ordination, the brothers will have a brief two-week break before they go back to the seminary for further theological study over the next three summers. During the rest of the year, they will be serving within the Diocese of Yakima. While excited and grateful for the opportunity to further their studies, Peter notes how he also looks forward to the day when he can “finally



Deacon Peter Steele



Deacon Dan Steele

If you are not able to attend the ordination Mass but would like to acknowledge Dan and Peter with a card, please send it to the Pastoral Office address listed on the back page, making the “Attn:” line in their name.

begin the long awaited work of parish life.”

Please join Dan and Peter as they celebrate the beginning of their priestly life serving the people of the Diocese of Yakima!



*Ordination
TO THE
Priesthood*

*This is the day the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

Psalm 118:24

With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Yakima announces
The Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood of

Deacon Daniel C. Steele
&
Deacon Peter J. Steele

by the Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson.
Friday, the twenty-seventh of May
two thousand sixteen
at seven in the evening.

The Cathedral Church of Saint Paul
15 South 12th Avenue
Yakima, Washington 98902

Your prayers and presence are requested



A Bridge Between

Continued from page 1

Their vocations as deacon and as husband and father put them in the unique position of bridging life between both the ordained clergy and the laity. They can perform many liturgical functions, such as preaching, performing baptisms, and witnessing marriages as well as assisting in numerous other areas of parish life.

Here in the Diocese of Yakima, formation of our permanent deacons is just one of the many ministries which are funded through the Annual Catholic Appeal. There are currently over 40 deacons in the Diocese of Yakima. Deacon James Kramper of Holy Family Parish, Yakima, shared some of his experiences on his journey to the diaconate.

Coming from an Irish background where the Catholic Faith is an integral part of his family, Deacon Kramper has several relatives who are priests, deacons, religious sisters, and a religious brother. It was only natural that he also considered the possibility of such a vocation.

*“Ordination is a challenge to be more than yourself.”
- Deacon Jim*

“I went to the seminary when I was 13 years old,” Kramper shared with a smile. “I was there one whole night before my dad came and got me.” Even though he found that the priesthood was not his calling, he stayed open to what God might be asking of him. Originally from Nebraska, Kramper met his future wife, Pat, at Creighton University, and they were married in 1972. He noted that he was not look-

ing to become a deacon, but that other people began to suggest it to him. Being active in Catholic groups such as the Knights of Columbus and the Cursillo Movement encouraged him to consider this second vocation in his life.

After completing the education, Kramper was ordained a deacon on October 7, 1987, in the Archdiocese of Omaha. A year later, while looking for a career change from his job as a realtor, he came across an opportunity to move to Yakima and was the first deacon to be incardinated into the Diocese of Yakima. In 1989, he was invited by Fr. John Murtagh, who was the current pastor of Holy Family, to join his parish and has been there ever since.

Deacon Kramper works as an insurance inspector and is also a volunteer mediator for the Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties. He has two children and four grandchildren. Kramper stressed the importance of the link between his vocation in marriage and his vocation in the diaconate. He noted that part of the discernment process and ordination ceremony was his wife giving her consent. As a deacon, he pledged his service to the Bishop; however, with a smile he added, “I obey my wife first, and the Bishop second, except in faith and morals.” He went on to explain that, “Marriage is my first vocation. It is the responsibility of the husband and wife to bring each other to heaven.” He explained that a strong marriage gives him a foundation to build his vocation as a deacon and that his wife is a source of tremendous support. At Holy Family, some of his ministries include marriage preparation classes,



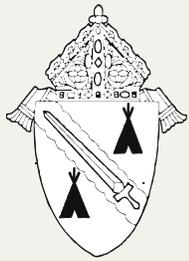
Deacon Jim proclaims the Gospel

baptism preparation classes, and funeral planning. It is his experience as a husband, father, and grandfather, which he can draw from when helping people who are in many different stages of life.

Being a deacon is not always easy. Kramper described the process he goes through when preparing a homily: “With the research and writing, I usually spend 10 to 12 hours on each of my homilies.” He noted how it can be difficult to find the right words because, “How do you feed everyone who is at a different point in their faith journey?” However, he credits the Holy Spirit with helping him to find the right words at the right moment when preaching or counseling parishioners.

The many deacons throughout the Diocese of Yakima are a special gift to the parishes in which they serve. Kramper described ordination as “a challenge to be more than yourself.” Thank you to the men who have answered this challenge of living out the diaconate vocation of serving others.

If you would like more information or feel called to participate in the Deacon Formation Program, please contact Fr. Osmar Aguirre, Pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Wenatchee and Vicar for Parish Life, at (509) 662-4569 or visit www.yakimadiocese.net/ministries/deacon-ministry.



Diocese of Yakima

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If you would like more information about the Annual Catholic Appeal, please contact:

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Articles written by Sandra Boguslawski

**Please visit our website:
www.yakimadiocese.net**

Stewardship Prayer

God my Creator, you made me all that I am and gave me all that I have. Help me show my gratitude by using these gifts to serve others in your name. Jesus my Redeemer, you taught me the way to eternal life by your example of loving service to others. Grant me the courage to respond to your call to Discipleship by following in your footsteps. Holy Spirit of God, be with me as I choose each day to put you first in my life. Let me be a model of Christian Stewardship so others will come to know you through my actions. I pray, dear Lord, that you open the minds and hearts of all the men, women and young people of our parishes, that we may joyfully accept your challenge to be good stewards. Amen.

ACA Status Quick Facts

The Annual Catholic Appeal, which runs each year from Nov. 1st to Oct. 31st, stills needs your help for the 2016 year! This once-a-year appeal is essential to funding the many ministries that nurture both the spiritual and physical needs of the people of the Diocese of Yakima. The following data shows the status of the ACA as of April 15, 2016:

- ◆ There are 41 parishes with a total overall goal of \$1,565,538.
- ◆ To date, over \$2 million in pledges and \$1.4 million in payments have been received.
- ◆ All parishes that exceed their goal receives a rebate for the excess collected. So far, 14 parishes have met their goals with a total of \$102,570 going back to those parishes. If all pledges are completed during the year, there is a potential of \$550,262 that could go back in rebates to your parishes!
- ◆ There are 6,613 participants in the ACA for 2016 with an average of 28% participation in the parishes.
- ◆ The current shortfall of the goal for the Diocese is \$198,669.
- ◆ We would like to thank the following parishes that have met their 2016 goal: St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima, St. Anne in Bridgeport, St. Francis de Sales in Chelan, St. John the Baptist in Cle Elum, Holy Apostles in East Wenatchee, St. Andrew in Ellensburg, Holy Trinity in Goldendale, St. John in Naches, St. Pius X in Quincy, Christ the King in Richland, St. Joseph in Waterville, Our Lady of Lourdes in Selah, St. Patrick/Holy Angels in Coulee City/Hartline, and Holy Spirit in Kennewick.
- ◆ Thank you to our generous donors who support the ACA!

Did you know? Online giving is available!

Haven't made your pledge to the ACA yet? It's not too late! Our website can accept both pledges and payments on pledges. You can make your payments with any type of

credit or debit card, or even make monthly withdrawals from your checking account. One-time payments or setting up recurring monthly payments are both options that are available.

Please visit www.yakimadiocese.net, click on the Annual Catholic Appeal 2016 Banner, and click the "Donate" button. Thank you for supporting the vital ministries of the Diocese of Yakima!