With three knocks on the door of St. Paul Cathedral, the evening of May 30, a new era began in the Diocese of Yakima. Bishop Joseph Tyson, the seventh Bishop of Yakima, had come to officially “take possession of his Cathedral” in keeping with Church tradition.

After entering the door, and being invited by outgoing Bishop Carlos Sevilla to “receive and reverence the cross of this Cathedral,” Bishop Tyson began his walk up the main aisle of the church, as the large congregation broke into spontaneous applause.

The Rite of Reception continued with the sprinkling of holy water, prayer, hymns, and greetings for the new bishop from a variety of church, school and community groups.

“I’m so thrilled to meet so many (of you),” said Bishop Tyson, returning for this vigil of his installation ceremony to the site where his parents were married and he was baptized.

Honoring both the eve of the feast of the Visitation and Memorial Day, he went on to speak of the meaning of “real” freedom.

“Real freedom is freedom for a greater good, modeled by God Himself on the Cross,” he noted. “In (His) Word and the sacraments, God reminds us of who we are and calls us to be the very best person we can be.”

The evening was a fitting prelude for Bishop Tyson’s solemn Mass of installation the next morning at Holy Family Church, a regal event complete with trumpets and a combined choir from Holy Family Church and St. Paul Cathedral. The installation ceremony began with a formal procession including Cardinal Roger Mahony, retired archbishop of Los Angeles, and many other bishops, priests and deacons from throughout the state.

The apostolic letter from Pope Benedict XVI, appointing Bishop Tyson as Bishop of Yakima, was read by papal representative Msgr. Jean Francois Lantheaume. Monsignor John Ecker then displayed the document to priest “Consultors of our Diocese” and Bishop Tyson was led to the Cathedra – or bishop’s chair.

In his homily, Bishop Tyson addressed the standing-room-only congregation with a message about “visitation,” marking the Church feast day.

After noting his tremendous gratitude to God, Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop Carlos Sevilla and the clergy, religious and laity, Bishop Tyson echoed the words of the Blessed Virgin Mary, “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.” He talked of various “visits” chronicled within the Bible, including the visits of angels, noting that “God’s visit” is a timeless concept, with deep meaning for us.

“It is one continuous act of salvation…in the person of Jesus Christ,” he said.

The concept of “visit,” in a Biblical context, might also describe his own role as Bishop, assuming responsibility for the welfare and salvation of his flock, he noted.

“We are all brothers and sisters together in one holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church,” he concluded. He cited the Diocese of Yakima motto, “One Faith, one people.”
Dear Friends,

“I call you friends…” is a statement that comes from the Gospel of St. John. It’s not the typical friendship of a “Facebook” account, or even the casual friendship of business connections or those we join for a barbeque.

Queridos Amigos:

“Les llamo amigos…” es una afirmación que viene del Evangelio de San Juan. No es la típica amistad de una cuenta en “Facebook”, y tampoco la amistad casual de contactos de negocios o de aquellos con quienes nos reuniéramos para una barbacoa.

Al lado opuesto del espectro sacerdotal, los Padres Ron Patnode y Mario Salazar y Monseñor Desmond Dillon han pasado años dando sus vidas en servicio de la gente de nuestra Diócesis. También me sentí muy conmovido, el día que pasé con los sacerdotes de Yakima en su retiro en el Centro de Retiros Palisades, cuando uno de los que iban a ser ordenados me dijo que otro sacerdote, el Padre John Shaw, era su héroe, dando su vida por su pueblo.

Los artículos sobre el Catecumenado y Caridades Católicas hablan del servicio heroico de nuestros líderes laicos pasando la Fe a aquellos que buscan a Cristo. Su amistad centrada en el Evangelio, basada en el dar su propia vida, ocurre en formas que no son vistas por el resto de nosotros.

No necesito decir, que tanto en las preparaciones como en el evento de mi instalación como Obispo de Yakima, me he sentido abrumado por la amistad extendida por tantos de ustedes, a través de su servicio y hospitalidad. Me siento especialmente agradecido con el Obispo Carlos Sevilla que ha animado el discipulado de ustedes con Jesús por tantos años y ha aceptado permanecer con nosotros durante su jubilación. Quiero que sepan que me siento muy agradecido por su amor y apoyo. “Les llamo amigos…”

Sinceramente en Cristo,
Reverendissimo Joseph J. Tyson
Obispo de Yakima

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

Si usted ha sido abusado o ha sido víctima de un miembro del clero católico, le pedimos que crea en la posibilidad de esperanza, ayuda y sanación. Le animamos a que nos hable.

La Diócesis de Yakima ha establecido un numerotelefónico especial para personas que desean dar un informe concerniente un abuso sexual cometido por un obispo, sacerdote, diácono, empleado diocesano o voluntario. (888) 276-4490
Bishops and Priests Begin “Good Leaders, Good Shepherds” Program

By Father Robert M. Siler

Seeking to further develop their skills, nearly 40 priests of the diocese, along with Bishop Joseph J. Tyson and Bishop Emeritus Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J., began a leadership training program in mid-June called Good Leaders, Good Shepherds.

During the next 18 months, the men will take part in a total of seven training sessions, over 26 days, designed to strengthen their ability to lead the parishes and institutions of the diocese. A complementary training program for laity is being considered as a follow-up.

The program, part of the Catholic Leadership Institute of Wayne, Pa., began several years ago on the east coast. Yakima is the first diocese in the Pacific Northwest to take part.

The program’s goal is to “minimize the frustration and energy spent on (the clergy’s) administrative roles and maximize the joy and time spent on their pastoral duties…” The impact is expected to be “more holy, healthy and happy shepherds of vibrant parish communities, leading more people to a deeper relationship with Christ.”

The program is estimated to cost about $400,000. Each participant will pay 25 percent of the cost per individual, and his parish or institution another 25 percent, with the diocese responsible for the remaining cost of roughly $200,000.

Can you help fund this worthy program? Send your donations, marked GL/GS, to the Finance Office, Diocese of Yakima, 5301-A Tieton Drive, Yakima, WA 98908.

Obispos y Sacerdotes Empiezan Programa del Liderazgo

Por Padre Robert M. Siler

Buscando como desarrollar sus habilidades, cerca de 40 sacerdotes de la diócesis, junto con el Obispo Joseph J. Tyson y el Obispo Emérito Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J., comenzaron un programa de entrenamiento de liderazgo a mediados de junio llamado Buenos Líderes, Buenos Pastores.

Durante los próximos 18 meses, los hombres tomarán parte en un total de siete sesiones de entrenamiento, durante 26 días, diseñados a fortalecer su habilidad de guiar las parroquias e instituciones de la diócesis. Un programa de entrenamiento complementario para los laicos está siendo considerado para después.

El programa, parte del Catholic Leadership Institute de Wayne, Pa., comenzó hace varios años en la costa del este. Yakima es la primera diócesis en el Noroeste del Pacífico que toma parte.

La meta del programa es para “reducir la frustración y energía gastada (por el clero) en papeles administrativos y aumentar el gozo y tiempo que pasan en sus responsabilidades pastorales para que los ellos fueran originalmente ordenados. El impacto será más pastores santos, saludables y contentos de comunidades parroquiales vibrantes, guiando a más gente a una profunda relación con Cristo.”

Se estima que el programa costará cerca de $400,000. Cada participante pagará un 25 por ciento del costo por individuo, y su parroquia o institución otro 25 por ciento, y la diócesis responsable del costo restante de aproximadamente $200,000.

¿Podría usted ayudar a este meritorio programa? Envíe sus donaciones, marcadas con las iniciales GL/GS, a la Oficina de Finanzas, Diócesis de Yakima, 5301-A Tieton Drive, Yakima, WA 98908.

Catholic Family & Child Service Program Wins Award

The “Foster Teens to College” program of the Diocese of Yakima’s Catholic Family & Child Service has received a Mutual of America’s 2010 Community Partnership Merit Finalist Award.

The award recognizes outstanding nonprofit organizations in the U.S. that have shown exemplary leadership by facilitating partnerships with public, private or social sector leaders.

Foster Teens to College provides high school students and young adults throughout Central Washington who are exiting the foster care system the support they need to earn post-secondary education and become successful, independent adults. In addition, the program provides mentoring to help teens develop future goals, transition plans and a relationship with their community.

Foster Teens to College is supported with funds from Washington State Children’s Administration, United Way of Central Washington and Casey Family Programs, and is in partnership with Yakima Valley Community College.
Ordinations Held for Priests, Transitional Deacon

In the first of three major celebrations held in the Diocese of Yakima in late May, two new priests and a transitional deacon were ordained.

Bishop Carlos Sevilla presided over the evening rite on May 27 in St. Paul Cathedral. Deacon Eleazar Diaz, a native of Tecomiltlan, Jalisco, Mexico, and Deacon Roleto Amoy, a native of Loay, Bohol, Philippines, were ordained priests. Father Diaz will serve as Associate Pastor at St. Paul Cathedral. Father Amoy will be Associate Pastor for Grandview and Mabton.

Mauricio Munoz, a native of Salamina, Caldas, Colombia, was ordained a transitional deacon. He will serve this summer at St. Paul Cathedral and plans to return to St. Patrick Seminary in the fall.

Ordenaciones de Sacerdotes, Diácono Transitorio

En la primera de tres grandes celebraciones realizadas en la Diócesis de Yakima a fines de mayo, dos nuevos sacerdotes y un diácono transitorio fueron ordenados.

El Obispo Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J., presidió el rito de la noche el 27 de mayo en la Catedral de St. Paul.


Mauricio Muñoz, nativo de Salamina, Caldas, Colombia, fue ordenado como diácono transitorio. Él servirá este verano en la Catedral de St. Paul y planea regresar al Seminario St. Patrick en el otoño.

Three Priests Celebrate Anniversaries

Three priests from the Diocese of Yakima deserve our warm congratulations for celebrating special anniversaries this year.

Monsignor Desmond Dillon celebrated 70 years as a priest, with festivities at St. Joseph Church in Kennewick in May.

“I’m still breathing, in spite of it,” Monsignor Dillon observed, with his characteristic humor. “It’s a happy life,” he observed. “I’ve come to understand that this is what I was meant to do.”

Highlights of the past 70 years, for Monsignor, included everything from serving as a pastor, Director of Catholic Charities and one of the founders of Tri-Cities Prep, to playing a role in encouraging 30 young men to become priests and gathering with a group of fellow priests for prayer and affirmation in the “Jesus Caritas” fraternity.

Father Ronald Patnode celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination with a celebration at Holy Family Church, also in May.

“God is full of surprises,” he observed. “I’ve had so many adventures, things I never dreamed I would be doing. Initially, I just wanted to be a parish priest.”

Father Patnode’s priestly career has called him to teaching, working with youth, helping Spanish-speaking people including refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala, serving as a parish administrator and assisting with jail ministry, among other duties.

Father Mario A. Salazar, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Quincy, also marked his 50th anniversary in the priesthood in February. He has served in that parish for 13 years.

Father Salazar was unavailable for comment because he is visiting his family in Colombia.

Thank you to these three distinguished servants of Christ and our diocese!

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Mark Your Calendar

RCIA Workshop Scheduled for October

“A Vision of Ministry” is the theme of a two-day Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) workshop slated for October 21 and 22 at Holy Family Church in Yakima.

Presented by the North American Forum on The Catechumenate, the workshop will cover such topics as the principles of the Initiation Rite, the impact of rituals on the Rite, pastoral care dimensions, ways to implement the Rite and how to strengthen a team approach.

The event is open to pastors, associate pastors, deacons, parish lay leaders and those involved in RCIA, ministry coordinators and music directors.

The registration fee is $80. For more information, or to register, visit RCIAyakima.org or call Deacon Kerry Turley at (509) 840-0980.

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Gathering To Explore Catholic Stewardship

On August 4 and 5, there will be a gathering of clergy, religious and laypersons in Boise, Idaho, exploring stewardship as a way of life for Catholics. This Northwest Region Catholic Stewardship Conference, entitled “Answering God’s Call,” will offer more than 16 educational sessions and opportunities to network with others on ways parishes can facilitate lifelong Stewardship Formation for youth and adults.

The conference schedule, a complete list of speakers and topics, and online registration are available at www.catholicidaho.org.

Father Brooks Beaulaurier, Director of Stewardship & Development for the Diocese of Yakima, notes that registration is $75 per person. However, thanks to the Catholic Church Extension Society, our diocese has eight partial scholarships of $50 each available to lay leaders from our parishes. Anyone interested in applying for a scholarship should contact Father Beaulaurier at (509) 965-7117 or email bbeaulaurier@yakimadiocese.org.

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News From Around the Diocese

“Bishop Carlos Sevilla presided at ordinations.”

Monsignor Desmond Dillon

Father Ronald Patnode

Father Mario A. Salazar