



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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Newsletter

Easter in a New Light: Holy Land Pilgrimage Brings Scripture Readings to Life —

By Christine Corbett Conklin

The readings and observances of Holy Week had intense meaning this year for a group of pilgrims from the Diocese of Yakima who journeyed to the Holy Land in March.

After walking in the footsteps of Christ, and seeing many of the sites associated with His life, suffering, death and resurrection, they came away with a greater appreciation for the sacrifice which led to our salvation. They also gained a new sense of perspective of the places described in the Scripture readings.

Father Felipe Pulido, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Yakima, was spiritual director of this group of 30 people who visited the Holy Land from March 16-26. For him, the highlight was visiting the Mount of the Beatitudes and staying there for a couple of nights.

“I (loved) being able to walk in the evenings and early in the mornings. It



Norma Martínez and her father, Salvador Baldovinos, with a backdrop of Jerusalem. -Photo courtesy of Norma Martínez

was very peaceful,” he observed. “I was thinking about Jesus. No wonder He loved that place so much. You can sense a harmony there.”

As the group traveled through Jerusalem, Jericho, Nazareth, Bethlehem and to the Sea of Galilee, other tour members also experienced particularly poignant moments.

For Father Tomás Vásquez, pastor of



Jerusalem shown from the side of the Jewish colony looking toward the Muslim colony. -Photo courtesy of Norma Martínez

St. Andrew Church in Ellensburg, it was “powerful” to be able to celebrate Mass in a chapel of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The church is believed to be located over the cave in which Jesus was born.

“Now, when you read (Scripture), you think about the actual places,” he noted.

Celia Butterfield, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Yakima, was moved by the chance to renew her baptismal promises in the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized by John.

“Some of us bought white robes, then Father Felipe submerged you completely in the water,” she recalled. It was striking to think that “Jesus had the same thing done to Him,” she said. Repeating their baptismal promises was symbolic of a fresh start.

Butterfield and other pilgrims also were impressed to see the approximate site where Jesus had been held prisoner before being taken before Pontius Pilate. They went down into a cave where there are some holding cells.

“He suffered so much for nothing He did wrong,” observed Luis Díaz, a parishioner from St. Peter Claver Church in Wapato. “That touched our heart.”

The group retraced the complete route of the 14 Stations of the Cross. For a

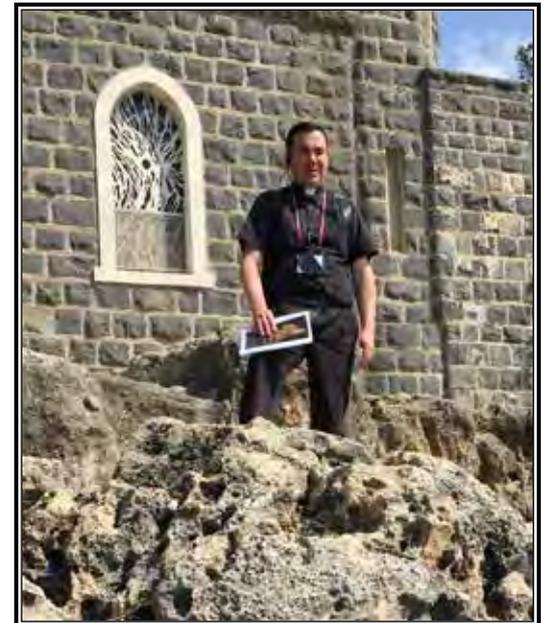
short time, six or eight of them helped to carry a large wooden cross where Jesus had struggled with His cross, said Roybal Lawrence, a parishioner of St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima.

“(The trip) really helped to understand things,” he said. “I just don’t see how the Virgin Mary could go through that.”

Being at the actual sites of these key events was “like tasting peaches when you’ve never eaten them,” Lawrence said. “I felt that I was blessed. I had a feeling Christ was close.”

Father Vásquez added that he was surprised that “it’s not that far from one place to another where these events happened. I was thinking it was farther.”

The group did not encounter any violence or moments of worry on the



Father Pulido stood near the site where Jesus asked Peter three times, “Do you love me?” -Photo courtesy of Father Felipe Pulido

trip, despite the political unrest in the Holy Land. The closest they came was in witnessing a group of Jewish protesters holding signs and chanting near the Temple wall in Jerusalem.

On the contrary, “people responded (to us) so well, they just wanted to give love

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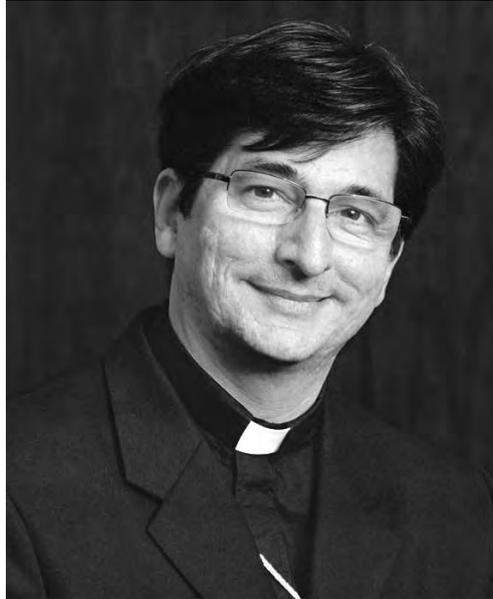
A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends,

St. Luke's Easter Gospel, where the Risen Christ becomes known to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, serves as a challenge of how we come to know Christ as well. Christ becomes real on the pilgrimage of daily life. We need go no farther than our daily lives to discover Jesus.

Indeed, our story about the recent Holy Land pilgrimage of Father Felipe Pulido with parishioners across Central Washington returns those same pilgrims to daily life with eyes renewed to catch a glimpse of His passing here on the road at home. Likewise, our feature on the parish of San Juan Diego in Cowiche speaks of a pilgrim parish where so many have come from Mexico, establishing and enriching a new place of pilgrimage with their lively faith.

Even our feature story on creating a safe environment for young people who may be "lost" on the road speaks of our



Bishop Joseph Tyson

desire that our pilgrimage as a Church have a quality where the dignity of every person is respected along the way. The upcoming June Stewardship Conference

reminds us that our gifts of time, treasure and talent make our pilgrimage of faith back to Jesus possible – not simply for ourselves – but for all our fellow travelers who share this road to Emmaus.

As we travel from Easter toward Pentecost, my hope and prayer for each of you is that the Holy Spirit might guide you on your life journey and that, in reading these stories, you might be inspired to keep showing up for the pilgrimage that is our Church of 41 parishes and missions across Central Washington. My thanks to all of you for your desire to become ever more faithful pilgrims of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

With my every best wish and blessing!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Holy Land Pilgrimage Brings Scripture Readings to Life *Continued from page 1*



Julia Parra and Celia Butterfield knelt before an altar in the Church of the Beatitudes. -Photo courtesy of Father Felipe Pulido

back," observed Norma Martínez, a parishioner of Holy Redeemer Church in Yakima. It helped her to remember that we all "have the spirit of God within us."

After seeing so many moving sights, including Golgotha where Christ was crucified and the site in old Jerusalem where He was buried, Martínez said she came away with a fresh perspective of our own day-to-day life.

"It made me realize that, sometimes, we complain about the small details, anything and everything, and we don't have the right when the Son of God suffered so much more," she said.

"We feel so blessed that we went to places that even in your dreams we never thought we would go," said Díaz.

For Father Pulido, this pilgrimage also was symbolic.

"I see the Church as a pilgrim church," he said. "We're all like a family.... You keep going to the Holy City."

Wenatchee Dinner Benefits Catholic Charities

A March 14 Benefit Dinner & Dessert Dash in Wenatchee netted more than \$30,000 to support Catholic Family & Child Service programs. The event, which featured a St. Patrick's Day theme, was held at St. Joseph's Church. Local wineries donated signature wines and 31 individuals and businesses donated delicacies for the dessert dash.

The evening's program also included presentation of awards. Pat Lynam, who was lauded for his commitment to maintaining the parish food bank and serving as a mentor to the St. Vincent de Paul staff and volunteers, was awarded the 2014 Community Award. The 2014 Employee Award went to Shirley Wilbur, program manager for Outpatient Services, who has logged more than 10 years of service to individuals and families.

All proceeds from the annual benefit support the wide-ranging programs of Catholic Family & Child Service.

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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What Should You Do If You See A Child Who Appears To Be Lost?

Note: April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) encourages people to be alert and report situations regarding children who appear to be lost.

NCMEC teaches children to seek the assistance of adults who may be sources of help if they become lost. NCMEC encourages children to ask for help from adults such as uniformed law-enforcement or security officers and business/store personnel wearing nametags.

But what should you do when you see a child who appears to be lost? The steps noted below are ways you can provide assistance to a lost child:

- Get involved if you see a child who appears to be lost.
- Comfort the child but avoid physically touching him or her.
- Ask the child if he or she is lost or knows the location of his or her parent/guardian.
- Refrain from requesting too much personal information since children are taught not to give out this information to people they do not know.
- Contact law-enforcement authorities to report the incident.
- Ask other adults in the area for assistance in reporting the incident to a person in a position of authority in the area while waiting for law enforcement's arrival.
- Remain in the immediate location, and do not take the child elsewhere. Do not place the child in your vehicle and drive to a different location to seek help.
- Wait with the child until help arrives.

Note: If you see a child whom you recognize as one who is missing, based on information from sources such as media reports, missing-child alerts, or fliers issued by law-enforcement authorities, immediately call law enforcement and follow their instructions.



There are ways to help, when a child appears lost.

Garden Gala Comes to Life

Step into a lush garden setting, reminiscent of wine country, at the 11th Annual Garden Gala, June 13 at Holy Family Gathering Hall in Yakima.

Guests will enjoy a chef-prepared dinner, local wines and beer, entertainment, and an auction. Proceeds will benefit Catholic Family & Child Service programs in Yakima.

Contact Steve Wilmes at (509) 759-7780 or visit www.ccyakima.org to learn more, or to register to attend.

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NEWS

from Around the Diocese

Engaged Encounter Retreat Scheduled —

There's still time to register for the Engaged Encounter retreat scheduled for June 19-21 at the Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center in Ellensburg.

The retreat is open to all engaged couples preparing for marriage. It offers an opportunity to talk honestly and in-depth about the future together, including goals; attitudes about everything from money to children; and individual strengths and weaknesses. It helps couples focus on communications skills and other ways to enrich a marriage.

For more information, call (509) 528-4653, email info@eecentralwa.org, or visit the website for Catholic Engaged Encounter of Central Washington at www.eecentralwa.org.

All Invited to Stewardship Conference —

Catholic stewardship – or how to administer our God-given gifts – will be the topic of a conference scheduled for June 26 and 27 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Kennewick.

All are invited to attend this 10th Northwest Regional Catholic Stewardship Conference which will include practical forums and roundtable discussions for parishes of all sizes. Come and learn about everything from implementing and budgeting for stewardship to hospitality, finding individual strengths, pastoral leadership, spirituality and social media.

Both English-language and Spanish-language tracks will be offered, with keynote addresses by Bishop Joseph Tyson; Bishop Liam Cary of the Diocese of Baker, Oregon; and Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad of the Diocese of Spokane.

To register, or for more details, visit yakimadiocese.org/stewardship-conference.

Masquerade Ball Set for Tri-Cities —

If you've always wanted to attend a masquerade ball, here is your opportunity.

Catholic Family & Child Service's 28th Annual Gala Dinner and Auction is scheduled for May 16 at the TRAC in Pasco. "Mystique and glamour" are promised as a backdrop at The Masquerade Ball, featuring hors d'oeuvres, wine, a gourmet dinner of petite top sirloin, silent and live auctions, a dessert dash, wine grab and dancing.

Funds raised at the event will ensure that the agency continues to meet the needs of more than 13,000 people in the Tri-Cities area. Contact Caroline Cabrera at (509) 946-4645 or visit www.ccyakima.org to learn more, or to register for the event.

St. Juan Diego Parish, Cowiche: 'A True Sense of Belonging'

There is a true sense of belonging for the parishioners of St. Juan Diego Church in Cowiche. With just over 200 families in the parish and Mass celebrated in a renovated former gymnasium, there is a closeness and sense of community that they value, parishioners say. "It's not too big. Everybody knows you," observed Alejandro Galeana, who has been a member of the parish for about seven years, organizes Confirmation classes, trains altar servers and is a lector and Eucharistic Minister. "I help a lot. I feel like I'm needed there."

The friendly spirit of the parish reminds Galeana of going to church in his former home community of Colima, Mexico – coincidentally, once the home community of the parish pastor, Father Cesar Vega Mendoza.



Live Stations of the Cross were presented on Good Friday at St. Juan Diego Church.

Luann Anderson, who's also been a parishioner for seven years, says that she "grew up in a very small church in Montana. The parish there was probably smaller than here." When she moved to the Yakima Valley, she was hoping to find a small parish where she could help out.

At St. Juan Diego, she quickly jumped into responsibilities ranging from being president of the parish altar society, to helping set up for 9 a.m. Sunday Mass, to even helping check the church boiler on occasion.

"I want to be part of it and they let me," she said.

Father Vega, who became pastor of this parish in 2013 in addition to his duties as pastor of Holy Family Church

in Yakima, calls it "a very vibrant and committed community. ... It doesn't matter if you're Anglo or Hispanic." There's a "huge sense of loyalty," he said. Although some people do travel from Cowiche to attend Mass in Yakima, others drive from West Valley and Yakima to attend Mass at St. Juan Diego because it was their first parish, he noted. "It's a place where they come to celebrate their Faith and grow more spiritually and in their relationship with Christ."

St. Juan Diego Parish traces its roots to St. Peter the Apostle Parish which was founded in 1959 on the grounds of what was once the Central School. The adjacent St. Peter Seminary was open from 1962 to 1966. Former pastors of the parish included Msgr. Perron Auve and Fathers Patrick O'Donnell, Tom Lane, Jerry Corrigan, Kevin Minder, Lawrence



Pillars added to the sanctuary help to enhance the altar, as seen on Easter Sunday.

Reilly, Francisco Hernández, David Jiménez, Juan Flores, Jorge Granados

and Gustavo Gómez.

The "first priest" to be ordained from among the parishioners of this parish is Father Lalo Barragán, who was ordained in 2014, noted Father Vega. Born in Mexico, Father Barragán was a parishioner here in his youth and went on to head the parish youth group.

The name of the parish was changed to St. Juan Diego about eight years ago, Father Vega explained. More recently, there was a remodel of the sanctuary, with pillars and a stucco-like wall finish emphasizing the focus on the large, wall-mounted crucifix.

Father Vega hopes that the former retreat center dormitory on parish property, which is now used for parish meetings, may one day be "recovered" for use in "Cursillos, Marriage Encounters," and other larger gatherings.

Meanwhile, parishioners are doing their part to nurture this parish they love.

"I've always thought that a person should support their local parish," observed Julie Allen, a parishioner since 1973, former choir member and head of the altar society, lector and Eucharistic Minister. "When you are involved, you want to see the parish become more successful, more spiritual, too, to help enrich people's lives."

"The parish is important to the people," she said.



Father Cesar Vega celebrated Easter Mass at St. Juan Diego, assisted by seminarians Sebastían Silva (left) and Antonio García-Osegueda.