Changing the course of poverty is not an easy task. To motivate and inspire local groups and individuals to continue their worthwhile work toward this goal, Father Larry Snyder, national director of Catholic Charities (CCUSA), visited the Yakima Valley for a “Partners in Service” conference April 10.

Along with John Young, local director and president of Catholic Charities, Father Snyder offered insights on solutions presented at the third annual National Poverty Summit in Washington, D.C., which he and Young had attended just days earlier.

Our nation’s safety net for the poor is not completely effective, noted Father Snyder, in a special session with news media April 9. “It catches people, it doesn’t help them out of poverty,” he said. “We need to start by changing our paradigm. Our goal is not just to catch people, but to help them get out of poverty. So it could be a bridge, a ladder, even a trampoline.”

During his visit, Father Snyder sat down with local leaders, agency clients and media to talk about affordable housing options as a driving force in ending the cycle of poverty. Local clients shared their heart-touching stories of poverty and how they were able to end the cycle through Catholic Charities’ programs that helped them achieve self-sufficiency. In addition, the discussion covered a historical perspective on the War on Poverty and innovative initiatives from the non-profit sector.

While here, Father Snyder also attended meetings with the local Catholic Charities board of directors and other local leaders, and toured programs and agency offices, including affordable housing developments.

One first-time home owner who benefited from the Catholic Charities Housing Services single-family housing program told several stories of how the program had helped him. Father Snyder noted, “The work of Catholic Charities Housing Services is a great example of how people can actually move out of poverty by acquiring the largest single asset most Americans consider their greatest source of wealth and security ... a home of their own.”

All together, Father Snyder visited with more than 150 staff members of the various Charities agencies. The April 10 session included a commissioning prayer, with a “call to action,” led by Bishop Joseph Tyson.

This was Father Snyder’s second visit to Yakima since assuming the position of national director of Catholic Charities in 2005.

Locally, Catholic Charities has been working to abolish the cycle of poverty in our area since 1949, two years prior to the establishment of the Diocese of Yakima. The agency has touched tens of thousands of lives across Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Yakima, Klickitat and Benton counties, through professional and charitable outreach.

The Haven: A ‘Good Place Just To Be’ for Young Adults

It’s not your typical hangout for 20-somethings! No provocative rap. No smoking. Not a keg in sight. As a matter of fact, at The Haven, you’re more likely to walk in on an evening of Bible study!

This center, located at 816 South 16th Avenue in Yakima across the street from Yakima Valley Community College, is a refreshing alternative to the status quo social scene, say area young adults.

“It’s nice to know we have a place to go, to hang out, that’s not a bar,” observed Mary Berger, 24, who’s been visiting The Haven for a number of years. “I really like it because it is a community of people all striving for the same thing: holiness and bettering ourselves in Christ.”

The brainchild of Monsignor John Ecker, The Haven was opened in the early 1990s, as a ministry of St. Paul Cathedral. The Sisters of Providence and some private individuals also helped to launch the facility.

“It’s an outreach to young people of college age, from 18 to 30, a place where they can find a bit of peer fellowship,” Monsignor Ecker explained. “That age of a person is often overlooked in the Church.”

The Haven is also a temporary home. At any given time, there may be several clients there who are looking to move on and find a permanent home. That is the goal of the facility, according to Monsignor Ecker.

Special thanks to Monsignor John Ecker for his help in preparing this article.
Dear Friends,

Easter reminds us that the central belief we share as followers of Jesus is his bodily resurrection. That physical resurrection redefines all our relationships both human and divine: our friendship with the Triune God, our friendship with the saints in heaven and our friendships with each other in Church.

Behind each of the stories and news items in this issue of the Central Washington Catholic are key relationships that have grown through our friendship with Christ. The beautiful pictures of our Chrism Mass speak of the deep friendships each of our priests have – not only with you their parishioners, but each other as brothers – and most especially with Jesus Christ, the one high priest.

You will also note that I am preparing to ordain Deacon Lalo Barragan as a priest for the Diocese of Yakima. Although he hails from Cowiche where he served as youth minister prior to starting his studies for the priesthood, we are holding the ordination at Holy Family in Yakima because he has well over 200 relatives here in the area and additional family friends and parishioners. He will have his “First Mass” at San Juan Diego in Cowiche – several of them actually – to accommodate all of his friends and fellow parishioners. After that, I will be heading to Mexico for a “Misa Canta” – a kind of second “First Mass” in his family’s home town of Pajacuarañ where I will have the chance to thank his extended family for the great gift they have given us here for Central Washington.

Perhaps one of the most far-reaching bonds of community we extend is through the Catholic Charities agencies here in Central Washington: Catholic Family and Child Service, Catholic Family Housing Services and our St. Vincent Centers. Our story in this issue with Father Larry Snyder from Catholic Charities USA serves as a strong reminder of our mission as a Church to people of every faith and of no faith at all.

One of the key insights Father Snyder shared with us during his time with our Charities staff and volunteers is the fact that out of 162 Catholic Charities agencies across the country, our little diocese here in Central Washington is the 37th-largest agency. Our outreach to those in need through Catholic Charities is proportionally far great than most dioceses in the United States. Indeed, there is almost a one-to-one correlation between the number of Catholics and the number of interventions Catholic Charities has provided to those in need.

Thus I circle back to the story of the resurrection. When Jesus appears to the disciples behind locked doors, Thomas, who seemed skeptical of the bodily resurrection of Jesus, didn’t immediately recognize Him. Yet when Jesus pointed out his wounds, Thomas came to recognize the Risen Lord.

That is how we often recognize the Risen Christ in our midst, too. Through his wounds! The wounds of Jesus are often most visible in those we serve through our Catholic Charities agencies, through our service to those in need at our local parishes and through our generous support of the many second collections supporting various missionary and charitable needs of the Church around the world.

My thanks to all of you who – in so many ways – witness to the Risen Christ!

With every best wish and blessing,

Sincerely in Christ,
Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of 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

Central Washington Catholic
April 2014 · Volume 38 · Issue 4
PUBLISHER
Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
MODERATOR
Monsignor Robert M. Siler
EDITOR
Christine Corbett Conklin
TRANSLATIONS
Indiana Blandón

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.

Email: robert.siler@yakimadiocese.org
young men living there, including a manager and perhaps a couple of members of a REACH team who are between travels for retreats or college students attending classes at YVCC.

Jonathan Swager, 29, a former manager for the facility, suggested that The Haven is “a good place for college kids, single people, just to be. You can stop by, hang out, do homework,” he said. Occasionally, young marrieds come by, too.

“Depending upon the time of year, we have barbeques, a dance party, just good clean fun,” added Berger. Other popular events have ranged from praise and worship to ultimate frisbee and soccer games, Swager said. Thursday evenings, there’s often Bible study.

“Even if you’re just playing cards or ping pong, it’s still enriching friendships,” Berger concluded.

For more information on The Haven, visit their site on Facebook or call St. Paul Cathedral at (509) 575-3713.

St. Paul School Plans Academic Summer Camps

St. Paul Cathedral School will offer a second year of its Summer Camp Program, “Making Summer Even Brighter.” This program is open to all students ages 7 to 12. A participant does not need to be a current St. Paul student to attend. All are welcome.

Weekly camps will feature themes including Art, Geography, and Spanish Language. The academically based camps will focus on maximum student learning in a fun and creative environment.

Camps will run from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, June 23 to August 1. The cost is $100 per week. Please call St. Paul Cathedral School at (509) 575-5604 for more information.

Try ‘Engaged Encounter’

There’s still time to register for the Engaged Encounter weekend scheduled for June 27-29 at the Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center in Ellensburg.

The weekend event is designed to help couples preparing for marriage to learn useful communication tools and explore important issues.

For more information, contact Catholic Engaged Encounter of Central Washington at (509) 528-4653 or info@eecentralwa.org.
Barragan To Be Ordained

The Diocese of Yakima will have a new priest on May 23! That’s when Transitional Deacon Lalo Barragan is scheduled to be ordained at Holy Family Church.

All are welcome to come to the 7 p.m. ordination, with Bishop Joseph Tyson presiding.

Please keep all of the seminarians of the Diocese in your prayers, and pray for additional vocations to the priesthood.

Fathers Shaw Nominated

Father William Shaw and Father John Shaw of our Diocese have been nominated for the Catholic Extension’s 2014 Lumen Christi Award.

This award recognizes religious, priests and lay people whose service “builds faith, inspires hope and ignites change.” Both the nominating diocese and recipient(s) of the award receive a $25,000 grant, for a total of $50,000 to fund their ministries.

You can help support the Fathers Shaw by voting on the Catholic Extension Facebook page. Here’s how: “Like” the Facebook page to view all nominees. Click on the Fathers Shaw name. Click on the blue “Vote” button. Ask others to vote, too!

Memorial Day Mass Set

All are invited to the annual Memorial Day Mass at 10 a.m., Monday, May 26 at Calvary Cemetery, 1405 South 24th Avenue in Yakima.

Monsignor Robert Siler is scheduled to celebrate the Mass which is offered for the souls of all buried in Calvary Cemetery and other deceased loved ones. Those attending are welcome to bring folding chairs for use during the Mass since seating will not be provided.

Following the Mass, those who wish may proceed to the Memorial for the Unborn at the cemetery to offer prayers for babies lost through miscarriage.

The day also affords a good opportunity to bring flowers for the graves of loved ones buried at Calvary.

St. Joseph Church, Waterville: A ‘Steadfast’ Catholic Tradition

Nestled next to Highway 2 in the small town of Waterville, Washington, St. Joseph Church has gracefully witnessed almost a hundred years of history pass by.

The parish itself was founded in 1892, with the gray-brick church completed in 1918. Today, on a more modern note, an electronic bell system chimes out seasonal music from the bell tower each day at 8 a.m., noon and 6 p.m.

Although the altar rail and a couple of side altars were removed, and a new main altar installed after Vatican II, the church has “pretty much stayed the same” since his youth, observed Vince Burke, who was born in the parish 76 years ago.

“It’s my original church,” he said.

Burke has colorful memories of riding with then pastor, Monsignor Maurice Mulcahy, in the priest’s “little Chevrolet coupe” in the 1940s. They were headed to the town of Leahy where Burke would serve Latin Mass for the priest.

“He wasn’t the greatest driver,” Burke recalls. “I think we were going fairly fast!”

In more recent years, St. Joseph pastors have included Fathers Francis Smith, Joseph Graaff, John Shaw, Robert Bickford, Alberto Cerezol, William Byron, Seamus Kerr, Donald Dietz, Bonifacio Salvano, Robert Inman and John Vogl. Father Gary Norman has served as parish administrator since 2010. He is assisted by Deacon Gregory Haberman.

Now, St. Joseph Parish is “so much smaller than we were years ago,” but that still has advantages, said Burke, who has served on the parish council.

“You know everyone.”

A number of families have remained in the parish for decades, added Noreen Daling who, herself, has been a parishioner for more than 40 years, with family roots going back to the beginning of the parish. “It’s close-knit,” she said.

Events such as the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper; bread sales; a monthly Mass in which students assist with everything from the collection to readings; and a weekly Mass featuring a “round table discussion” during the sermon, followed by coffee and more discussion after Mass, help to foster this community spirit, suggested Daling, who has assisted with religious education and youth ministry in the parish.

“We’re like one big family. We’re all friends, all buddies,” agreed Florence Zanol.

Many give credit to Father Norman, a retired priest who serves at St. Joseph and also speaks from coast to coast on behalf of Food for the Poor, for being a good shepherd to some 65 families who make up the current congregation.

“Father Gary is special,” Zanol said. “He’s fun to be around and he’s very religious. He knows his stuff and he doesn’t let us get by with anything,” she joked.

Father Norman returned the compliment.

“I enjoy this town, the parish,” he said.

People of all ages come to St. Joseph, he added, from “families with babes in arms to the retired.” Since Waterville, with some 1,100 residents, is the Douglas County seat, a number of parishioners are county employees. Others are involved in the agricultural industry, with wheat being the principal local crop.

“The community has a quiet stability about it, a steadfastness that is genuine. The people here are very dedicated to their Faith and to their church,” Father Norman observed.