



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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APRIL 2017 *Newsletter*

New Catholic Parish Is Formed for Leavenworth and Cashmere

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Our Lady of the Snows parish in Leavenworth and Saint Francis Xavier parish in Cashmere merged into a new parish as of April 1, with approval of Bishop Joseph Tyson. The two smaller congregations have become Our Lady of the Assumption Parish.



Our Lady of the Assumption, Leavenworth

The existing parish churches will continue to be used while plans are further developed and funds raised for construction of a single church located between the two cities, diocesan officials explained.

This decision comes after “years of consultation and planning.” The merger seeks to address issues associated with the

“smaller and inadequate” facilities of the two parishes. The new parish facilities will accommodate a large and growing congregation, officials said.

New construction will include building an adequate number of classrooms to provide religious education for children. It also will provide for a new parish center that can accommodate large conferences, receptions and meals.

Our Lady of the Snows Church, which has a congregation of 282 people, was built in 1991. Located on the edge of Leavenworth, this church replaced the St. Joseph Church building in downtown Leavenworth, said Father Miguel Gonzalez, who served as pastor of Our Lady of the Snows and is now pastor of the new Assumption parish. St. Joseph Church dated back to the late 1800s, with a “new” building built in 1903-04.

St. Francis Xavier Church, with a congregation of 436 people, dates back to an 1888, one-room mission building which was replaced in 1930 with the current church building.

Neither Our Lady of the Snows nor St. Francis has sufficient room for large gatherings such as weddings and funerals, Father Gonzalez said.

“At St. Francis, for the Mass in Span-



Our Lady of the Assumption, Cashmere.

ish, we have a lot of people standing and we have to open the doors,” he added.

“As I have been reflecting on the consolidation of our two parishes into one, it occurs to me that this action has a parallel with the sacraments – particularly the Sacrament of Baptism and the Sacrament of the Eucharist,” Father Gonzalez said, in an online posting.

“Baptism is the foundation of our sacramental relationship with God,” he said. “This parish merger of ours brings us into greater communion with one another. Our family will be larger and more united with a common vision and focus on the

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St. Paul Cathedral School Will Move to New Campus This Fall

Saint Paul Cathedral School will continue its 103-year tradition of Catholic education this fall at a new location, moving to the campus of Holy Family Parish at 56th and Chestnut Avenues for the 2017-2018 school year, Bishop Joseph Tyson announced earlier this month.

The present school building, fondly known as the “new school” by many alumni and parents, was constructed in 1950 at 1214 W. Chestnut Avenue. It replaced the “old school” which was at the site of the current St. Paul reception hall. The present school building will continue to be used for the cathedral parish’s religious education programs and some diocesan events. Part of the building may be leased to a suitable tenant to help defray the costs of maintenance



St. Paul Cathedral School's "new school" building was completed in 1950

and operations.

For Holy Family Parish, the move means welcoming a community that helped establish its own school in 1963, when Tacoma Dominican Sisters who had served St.

Paul since its founding also began to teach at Holy Family’s newly-constructed school. Holy Family School was forced to close in 1971, due to dwindling availability of religious sisters and lower enrollment.

However, the Holy Family school facility has continued to be used for parish religious education and diocesan events. The gymnasium also was used for many years by La Salle High School, until its own gym was built.

Bishop Tyson said that, in June 2016, he received a recommendation to move the school to the Holy Family campus, due to rising maintenance costs of the old building and changes in student demographics. The possible move was studied in more detail this past year and agreement was reached

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A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the Easter season and welcome into the deepest mystery of our faith: the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. With the birth of Jesus we see God's very face because Jesus is both fully human and fully divine. Jesus is God.

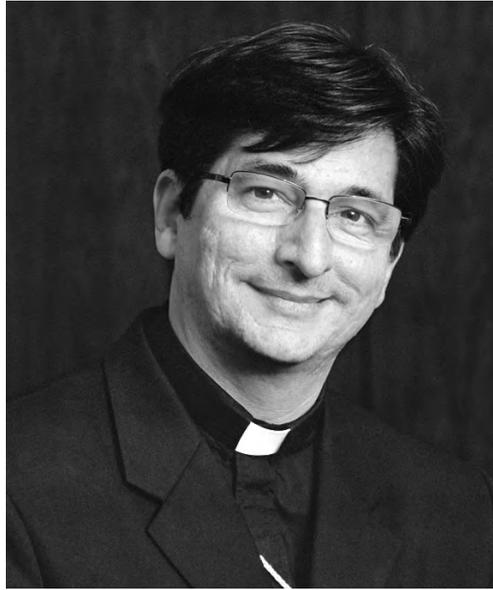
Even more, with the physical and human death of Jesus followed by his resurrection from the dead we see in Jesus that our final destination does not end with death. Rather death is a passageway to a new and mind-bending life in a resurrected body.

Note at Easter that Jesus in his resurrected body was not immediately recognizable even to those closest to him. The women mistook him for a gardener. The men thought He was a cook preparing breakfast on the seashore. The disciples on the road to Emmaus mistook him for a fellow traveler.

Yet the risen Jesus became recognizable in the breaking of the bread. St. Luke, the evangelist, echoes the phrase "breaking of the bread" from the Emmaus story in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles for the Second Sunday of Easter. For just as Jesus was recognized in the breaking of the bread on the road to Emmaus, so too Jesus became recognizable in the "breaking of the bread" for the early Christian community, whose members shared all things in common.

Our stories this month underscore the ongoing way in which we recognize the presence of the Risen Christ in the lives of so many disciples here in Central Washington. We celebrate 50 years of priesthood for Father Thomas Champoux and we celebrate the initiation into holy orders for Jesús Alatorre, who will be ordained to the transitional diaconate prior to his priestly ordination next year.

We recognize the risen presence of Christ in the recent death of our brother, Father Richard House, who had the good



Bishop Joseph Tyson

liturgical taste to die on the very weekend when we read about the raising up of Lazarus from the dead.

Dying and rising are linked together in the Easter gospels. So, too, in our lives as a Church. For over 100 years, St. Paul Cathedral School has served generations of students – including my own mother. The school that began in a farmhouse in 1914 thanks to the tough Tacoma Dominican Sisters is now migrating to the Holy Family Parish campus – where a school was first established with the help of those same Sisters in the early 1960s. It's a dying and a rising for St. Paul and Holy Family as they work together with other neighboring parishes on this project.

Likewise, the combining of our two parishes in Leavenworth and Cashmere represents a kind of dying and rising. Both parishes have served generations of Catholics. For many years, many pastors have considered this option. As the communities

of the upper valley grow and move closer together it only seems reasonable that combining the financial and pastoral resources of the two communities will be the best way to walk the journey of faith there.

I am keenly aware that so many find such changes hard and even wounding. Yet this is why we can look to Thomas. Thomas has the epithet of the "doubting Thomas." Yet Thomas was no different from the other women and men who encountered the risen Christ: he failed to recognize him.

What makes Thomas such a model disciple for us today is how he came to recognize the Risen Christ: through his wounds. The account we read on the Second Sunday of Easter is quite compelling. Thomas fails to recognize the presence of Christ and insists he will only believe when he places his hands in the side of the wounded Jesus. Jesus invites him to do precisely this. Note well: Thomas never touches the wounds. But when he sees the wounds he suddenly recognizes Jesus.

The same is true for me and for you. We need not even touch the wounds of Jesus. We can recognize him just by seeing the wounds. We can recognize Christ alive in each other as well – just by seeing the wounds. Change can be wounding. But such change can also propel us to recognize Christ anew, be that in a new building, a new location, or a new way of life.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ reminds us that by his wounds we are all healed. May this month's stories assist you in entering the dying and rising of Christ so real and present in the lives of our people across the Diocese of Yakima.

Happy Easter!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

New Catholic Parish Formed *Continued from page 1*

mission of the Church. That is exactly what Baptism gives to us – new life, deeper communion with God, and membership into a big family of faith. Just as we rely on our baptism for the grace we need to strengthen our Church family, so too we look for grace-filled moments during this time of transition which will lead and strengthen our family of faith here in central Washington."

This also ties into the name of the new parish, he suggested.

"When we celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we express our unity with one another here and now and also with the Church in Heaven where all the saints

enjoy the heavenly banquet," he explained. "The Eucharist points us to Heaven which is the very place to which Mary was assumed at the moment her life on this earth ended. The Assumption of the Blessed Mother is therefore an appropriate name for our new community. Through the Eucharist we are drawn closer to one another as we are fed along the way to Heaven. Where Mary went, we hope to follow. As we continue our process to make now our building let us continue striving for growth in the sacraments. By this all will know of our strong discipleship in the Lord and our desire to live forever in Heaven."

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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Father Richard House, Pastor of St. John Parish, Dies

A funeral Mass was held April 5 at St. Paul Cathedral for Father Richard House, pastor of St. John Parish in Naches, who died March 31 after a long battle with cancer.

Born in 1954 in La Jolla, Calif. to Melvin V. and Sydney (Stauffer) House, he was raised by his stepmother, Elizabeth House.

He attended elementary school in San Diego and was a 1972 graduate of Clairemont High School there.

After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was Honorably Discharged in 1987. He received a Bachelor's degree in liberal studies from Loyola University in New Orleans, then entered Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon. Upon graduation, he was ordained a priest by Bishop Francis George, O.M.I., in 1992 at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima.

Father House served as Associate Pas-



Father Richard House

tor at Christ the King Church in Richland, Pastor of St. Joseph Church in White Salmon and Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church in Ephrata. He returned to the U.S. Navy as a Chaplain from 2000 until 2011, serving at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and aboard the USS Ronald Reagan in Bahrain, Hawaii and Japan. After his Honorable Discharge, he became the Pastor of St. John Church.

Father House was noted for a lively preaching style, which he often attributed

to the influence of his faith-filled Pentecostal grandfather. He also owned an extensive collection of more than 300 nativity sets, which he delighted in putting on display in July 2015 at St. Paul Cathedral School.

Father House is survived by his sister, Gina Flower of Steilacoom, and brothers, Troy Dockins of Beaverton and Steven House of Lake Elsinore; nephews, a niece, great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Private family inurnment was at the Ephrata Cemetery in Ephrata, Washington. Memorials may be made to St. John Catholic Church, Naches, c/o Brookside Funeral Home & Crematory, P.O. Box 1267, Moxee, WA.

Please remember Father House and all of our departed clergy and religious in your prayers.

Saint Paul School Moving to New Campus This Fall *Continued from page 1*

this month with school and parish leadership from St. Paul and Holy Family. St. Paul presently enrolls 172 students from pre-K through eighth grade.

While many details remain to be worked out, the move is in the best interest of the school and its mission, Bishop Tyson said. "We know it won't be perfect, but as the next year goes along, we'll understand better what pinches, and what fits well," he said. Eventually, a capital campaign will

likely be needed to help the school continue its history of quality education. St. Joseph School, on Fourth Street in Yakima, which has a present enrollment of 373, also is studying its capital improvement needs.

"I have no doubt that enrollment will continue to increase in all our schools," Bishop Tyson said, pointing to ongoing help the schools receive from various groups that support Catholic education, including the Central Washington Catholic Foundation,

the Sister Rebecca Berghoff Foundation, and the Monsignor John Ecker Foundation.

The Diocese began studying three years ago how Catholic School education can best thrive in Yakima. "The message I announced two years ago to the four Yakima parishes, as well as those in Cowiche, Moxee, Naches and Selah, is the same: 'We are here for you,'" the Bishop said. "We don't educate children because they are Catholic, but because we are Catholic," he added.

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Send Us Your News!

Individual parishioners, clergy, religious and organizations within the Diocese of Yakima are welcome to send items of interest to the *Central Washington Catholic* for possible publication.

Have a parish fundraiser coming up? Has a member of your parish been honored for church-related work? Do you have a church outreach project that's helping people in the community?

Just email your information to robertsiler@yakimadiocese.net by noon on the first day of the month you'd like to have the item published.

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NEWS

from Around Eastern Washington



Events Mark Anniversary of Fatima

Special events to mark the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's six appearances at Fatima have been scheduled in two Eastern Washington cities.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Moses Lake is in the midst of a 100-day rosary novena which will conclude on May 13, the actual date of the first apparition. Parishioners are invited to join in saying the rosary, after the 7 a.m. Masses and 30 minutes before all other Masses.

This novena will conclude with a Grand Procession and Bilingual Mass at 5:30 p.m., May 13, with Bishop Joseph Tyson presiding. Events the following weekend include a Fun Run May 20 and Parish Festival May 21.

In Spokane, a Eucharistic Family Rosary Crusade is planned for 7 p.m., Sunday, July 23, at Avista Stadium. The event is sponsored by the Diocese of Spokane, with coordination by Father Jim Kelleher, SOLT, a native of Ellensburg who is now based in Texas with the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity.

Those who cannot attend one or both of these observances are also encouraged to pray the rosary. In the words of Our Lady of Fatima, at her July 13, 1917 appearance, "Pray the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary to obtain peace in the world . . . for she alone can save it."

Magnificat Program Sets Final Session

The final session of the 2016-17 diocesan Magnificat program, for both English- and Spanish-speaking participants, is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, May 20. It will be held at Holy Redeemer Parish, 1707 South Third Avenue in Yakima.

Entitled "Amoris Laetitia" (synthesis), the day will include a free workshop on "the basis of morality and Church practice". Certificates also will be presented to those individuals who have completed the full course of study.

For more information, contact Yesenia Andrade at (509) 965-7117 or email Yesenia.andrade@yakimadiocese.net.

Three Events to Honor Father Champoux

Three special events are planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood of Very Rev. Thomas Champoux, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Richland. A native of Yakima, Father Champoux has been very active in the Diocese, including time spent directing Catholic Charities.

A Mass of Thanksgiving is scheduled for 5 p.m., Saturday, May 20, at Christ the King Catholic Church, 1111 Stevens Drive, Richland, with Bishop Tyson present. Following the Mass, there will be a social hour and dinner, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Shilo Inn, 50 Comstock Street in Richland. A limited number of tickets



Father Thomas Champoux

for the dinner will go on sale on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning April 29 at the church or through reservations at (509) 946-1675 starting May 2.

Another special anniversary Mass is set for 11:30 a.m., Sunday, May 21 at Christ the King Church, celebrated by Father Champoux. Cake and punch will be served following Mass in the Gathering Space of the church.

Finally, a third Mass, to be offered by Father Champoux, is planned for 11 a.m., Sunday May 28, at St. Paul Cathedral, 15 South 12th Avenue in Yakima.

Why not plan to attend at least one of these celebrations in honor of this dedicated priest of the Diocese of Yakima?

Jesús Alatorre to Be Ordained Deacon

Jesús Clemente Alatorre Silva, a seminarian of the Diocese of Yakima since 2012, will be ordained a transitional deacon by Bishop Joseph Tyson at 7 p.m., Friday, May 26, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Wenatchee.

Alatorre, 32, is a native of Colima, Mexico who came to the Yakima Diocese in 2012 to learn English after several years of seminary formation in Mexico. He entered Mundelein Seminary in Chicago in January 2014 to complete his graduate formation.



Jesús Clemente Alatorre Silva

Following the ordination May 26, Alatorre will serve at St. Joseph's for the summer before returning to Mundelein for another year of studies prior to ordination to the priesthood.

The Diocese's two seminarians at the North American College in Rome, Jesús Mariscal and César Izquierdo, will be ordained transitional deacons in Rome Thursday, September 28, with ordination to the priesthood also planned

for 2018.

Let's continue to keep these men, and all those discerning vocations, in our prayers.

Conference to Feature Noted Speakers, Workshops

Several inspirational speakers have been announced for the Cornerstone Catholic Conference, scheduled for October 20-21 at the Tacoma Convention Center.

Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries and host of the popular "Catholicism" video series, will be there. A second speaker is **Helen Alvare**, a law professor at George Mason University, founder of WomenSpeakforThemselves.com and past official for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. And **Ralph McCloud**, director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and recipient of Catholic Charities' USA Martin Luther King "Keep the Dream Alive" Award will be featured.

The conference, which is designed to help build a "culture of life," is spon-



sored by the Bishops of Washington State (Washington State Catholic Conference). The event also will include talks by our bishops and a wide variety of workshops. Topics to be addressed include immigration; young adult pro-life ministry; Catholics and politics; a progress report on PREPARES; life and justice challenges; and end-of-life issues.

To learn more and/or register for the Cornerstone Catholic Conference, visit www.cornerstonecatholic.org, call (206) 301-0556, or email info@cornerstonecatholic.org.