CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

El Católico de Washington Central

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

AUGUST 2012 Newsletter

Celebration of Faith Event Draws Prominent Speaker

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Father Robert Spitzer will visit Yakima, September 15.

Father Robert Spitzer, S.J., will bring a timely message to Central Washington on September 15 as the featured speaker at the first Celebration of Faith sponsored by the Central Washington Catholic Foundation. In his talk at the Yakima Convention Center, he will highlight the importance of Catholic education in today's uncertain times.

"We're living in an increasingly secular society," noted Spitzer in a recent telephone interview from his offices in Irvine, California, where he serves as President of the Magis Center of Reason and Faith and the Spitzer Center for Ethical Leadership. Even in the early elementary and middle school years, it is vital to "get those faith connections down" and to help young people understand that faith, science and reason can blend together in perfect harmony, he suggested.

Spitzer said that he looks forward to "seeing a lot of good friends" when he comes to Central Washington, many of whom he met during his tenure as President of Gonzaga University in Spokane from 1998 to 2009.

Bishop Joseph Tyson is included among those friends, having worked with Spitzer on numerous educational projects in the Archdiocese of Seattle prior to coming to Yakima. Bishop Tyson noted that Father Spitzer "stands in a great tradition of Catholic educators who see faith as a light to reason and the sciences as a way to explore the wonders of God's creation."

More than 350 people have already made reservations for the Celebration of Faith dinner and program which will also honor the 22 recipients of the Francis Cardinal George Medallions. These award winners, from throughout Central Washington, will be recognized for their contributions of time, talent and treasure to their parishes and to the Diocese of Yakima.

Proceeds from the Celebration of Faith event will go to tuition assistance for new enrollees in Catholic schools and to parish religious education programs in Central Washington – a key focus of the Central Washington Catholic Foundation.

Some tickets are still available. Call (509) 972-3732 or visit www.cwcatholicfoundation.org. The ticket price is $100 for a dinner of steak or salmon and the program, preceded by a no-host social hour.

Food for the Poor: Diocesan Priest Feeds Souls and Bodies

In America, most of us think nothing of spending several dollars for a hamburger, paying for a movie ticket or buying a new pair of shoes. Yet, for hundreds of thousands of less fortunate people in the world, that money could literally mean the difference between life and death, says Father Gary Norman, a retired priest in residence at St. Joseph Church in Waterville and spokesman for Food for the Poor.

"When you visit countries such as Haiti or Jamaica, you realize that these are my brothers, these are my sisters and they're in trouble. You realize the oneness of humanity and how we're all in this together," observed Norman, who has served with Food for the Poor since 2009.

Norman spends one or two weekends per month traveling to spots around Washington State and to other locales ranging from New Jersey to Texas, California, Oregon and North Dakota, to speak of the tremendous needs of the poor and of how even the smallest contribution can make a huge difference. He also has journeyed to Haiti and Jamaica to learn first-hand about the work of Food for the Poor, an organization which was formed in 1982 "with a few bags of rice and a desire to feed people in Latin America and the Caribbean."

Today, Food for the Poor serves some 17 countries, providing not just food but also clean water, education, housing, clinics and hospitals. Already, some 70,000 homes have been built in Latin America, at an

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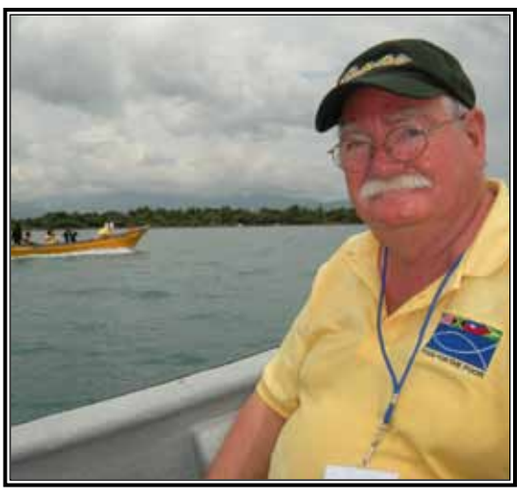

Father Gary Norman sailed to the opening of a new housing development built by Food for the Poor in Haiti.

A Message from Bishop Tyson…

Dear Friends,

As I write this I am seeing the "Back to School" advertisements on TV and in the newspapers. There's already an edge of excitement as children prepare to head back to school. Excitement for Catholic education is precisely what you'll read about in this issue of the Central Washington Catholic.

As Bishop of Yakima, I have two unbending intents for the future of our faith instruction. First, every child who wants a Catholic education should receive a Catholic education regardless of ability to pay. Second, all children should have the opportunity to learn about Jesus regardless of the parish their family attends.

With regards to Catholic schools, we are blessed to have six grade schools and two high schools serving the Diocese of Yakima: St. Joseph, Wenatchee; St. Rose of Lima, Ephrata; St. Joseph, Yakima; St. Paul Cathedral School, Yakima; Christ the King, Richland; and St. Joseph, Kennewick are the grade schools. La Salle High School serves the Yakima area and – even though Tri-Cities Prep, Pasco is in the Spokane Diocese, we consider this high school like one of our own since it also serves the Kennewick and Richland areas, which are in the Diocese of Yakima. For all of these schools we want to begin to build a future where every child in these geographical areas who wants an education gets one.

Bishop Joseph Tyson

The vast majority of our 44 parishes and missions, however, have no local schools. Though all provide some sacramental preparation, about a third of our parishes in the Diocese of Yakima do not have regular religious education classes. Some provide occasional religious education tied to child enrollment. Almost all depend solely on volunteers with little professional support. All are struggling with finances. For all these parishes we want to begin to build a future where all children learn about Jesus regardless of their local parish's size or financial resources.

To this end, I am grateful to Dan Fortier and the board of the Central Washington Catholic Foundation for their new focus on passing on the gift of faith. On September 15 Father Robert Spitzer, S.J. will be joining me in supporting the Catholic Foundation's efforts to fund student scholarships and parish grants that support instruction of the faith for our youth. Titled "Celebration of Faith," the event will also uplift those key benefactors, staff and volunteers who've been so faithful in working to share the faith of the Church.

Read through the lens of our faith, you'll detect in every article of this issue a flourishing of the faith of the Church across Central Washington. Ours is but one of many efforts world-wide to celebrate the Church's faith during this "Year of Faith" that our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI will begin this coming October. Taken together, I hope this issue will inspire you to renew your own faith and to volunteer in your own parish's efforts to teach the ageless faith of this "... one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church." And, of course, my thanks to all of you who are currently volunteering in schools, parishes and agency programs that pass on our faith!

Peace be with you!

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Food for the Poor: Diocesan Priest Feeds Souls and Bodies *continued from page 1*

average cost of about $3,200 per home.

"Whenever I speak, I ask people to contribute $10 per month per family," Norman said. "That's not a whole lot of money. However, multiply that by hundreds of families. Together, it's significant. I also always say to groups, 'I know that someone out there can afford to buy a home for a needy family.'"

Norman says that his interest in missions goes back to his childhood. He recalls sitting in an elementary school classroom, listening to a visiting priest from the Extension Society talking about the mission field.

"I liked the idea of going somewhere and I still do," he said. "The idea of mission kind of stayed with me. I have a tendency to a restless spirit."

Norman had his first taste of the mission field while he was a seminarian at Sacred Heart School of Theology in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He traveled to Mexico twice, attending language school and teaching music at a boys' home. As a priest, he also spent numerous years working in rural parishes from Juneau, Alaska to Scobey, Montana, learning to be a "jack of all trades."

Then, when on his last weekend as pastor at St. Rose of Lima Church in Ephrata, he invited a speaker from Food for the Poor to visit the church, he was asked, "Why don't you consider becoming a speaker for Food for the Poor?" The rest, as they say, is history.

If you would like to help make a difference for the less fortunate, Norman suggests prayer, along with visiting the web site www.foodforthepoor.com or sending a contribution to Food for the Poor, 6401 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL 33073.

"Also consider what you can do within your parish," he said. "If parish ministries such as the Knights of Columbus and Altar Society, for example, join together to build a house, it can cost each group less than $100 per month."

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 is Cursillo?

By Father John O' Shea, Spiritual Director, Diocesan Cursillo

Many Catholics have heard of the Cursillo Movement but are not familiar with its origin and purpose. I'd like to tell you about the purpose of the Cursillo Movement and how it can be an instrument of renewal in this post-Vatican II era in the Church.

The movement was founded by Eduardo Bonnin and a group of priests and laymen supported by Bishop Juan Hervas in Majorca, Spain. Between 1943 and 1952, they studied contemporary theologians and examined the condition of the Church. During those nine years, they formulated the Cursillo method of renewal within the Church.

The movement was introduced in the United States by two Spanish Air Force cadets in 1959. It is now found in more than 120 dioceses throughout this country and on all continents. The Cursillo movement was introduced to the Diocese of Yakima 45 years ago – in the Spanish community in 1967, and the English-speaking community in 1969-70. During these 45 years, several thousand parishioners have experienced a Cursillo weekend. A team of priests, deacons, and lay men and women lead the three-day weekend. The official designation of the movement is "Cursillos de Cristiandad," meaning a short course or experience in Christian living.

In all areas of human activity, people live and interact with each other. By this process, they contribute for good or bad to their particular environment. The Cursillo is a movement of the Church to help Catholics to Christianize our world through Christianizing our individual environments. When we speak of environments in the Cursillo we do not do so in the ecological sense, but in the Cursillo sense of a people situation.

People live and interact with each other as in one's family, school, neighborhood, church, place of business, etc. The goal of the movement is that Christ and Gospel values be the prime influence in various environments. If we want to change our society, we must begin the process of personal conversion of heart. *"So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect"* (Matthew 5:48). The Cursillo weekend helps in that ongoing process of personal conversion.

The weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. During the three days, those attending live and work together, listening to talks given by priests, deacons and laity. They also share the Eucharist and pray together. The talks explain various aspects of Catholic Christian living, such as personal ideals, faith development, prayer life, the Sacraments, reflecting Jesus to our neighbors, and techniques for persevering in our walk with Christ. Each talk is followed by a discussion period.

After the Cursillo weekend, attendees meet regularly with new friends from the weekend, and monthly, the entire Cursillo community reunites at an "Ultreya."

For more information on upcoming Cursillos, please call:

East Wenatchee	Trish Wilmoth	(509) 670-2224	Wenatchee	Flora Matt	(509) 667-1474
Yakima	Stephanie Walsh	(509) 949-5457	Richland	Dan Sisk	(509) 946-2264
Kennewick	Fr. John O'Shea	(509) 735-1478	Spanish	Kathy Legg	(509) 349-8028
Spanish	Theodore	(509) 885-0630	Spanish	José González	(509) 884-6009

NEWS

from Around the Diocese

Nativity Set Display Raises Funds

A collection of some 300 Nativity sets owned by Father Richard House, pastor of St. John Catholic Church in Naches, was on display at St. Paul Cathedral School in Yakima, July 15-17.

Many of the Nativity sets were purchased in Europe on Father's travels.

The event raised more than $1,700 for the Diocesan Priest Retirement and Health Trust and Seminarian Education Trust.

YLI Schedules Annual Dinner

The Young Ladies Institute (YLI) of Yakima will hold its 60th annual fundraising dinner benefiting seminarians of the Diocese of Yakima, from noon to 4 p.m., October 7, in the Father Murtagh Gathering Hall of Holy Family Church in Yakima.

Tickets for this salmon and ham dinner with all of the trimmings and dessert cost $15 each, with children aged six and under free. Tickets may be purchased in some parish offices (see your parish bulletin), or by calling Pat Kramper at 945-5436, Robyn Klingele at 248-4068, Dolores LaCoursiere at 452-9960, or the Holy Family parish office at 966-0830. A limited number of tickets also will be available for purchase at the door.

Pro-Life Volunteers Are Needed

Volunteers are needed to join pro-life prayer vigils held each week at Planned Parenthood, 1117 Tieton Drive, in Yakima.

Come at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday or 9 a.m. Wednesday and pray for one hour with other Christians who support respect for life from conception to natural death.

Pro-life supporters in other areas of the Diocese are encouraged to contact your local parish to learn of activities scheduled there.

Grant to Catholic Charities Helps Homeless Veterans and Families

A federal housing grant for $107,000 was awarded in July to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Yakima to assist homeless veterans and their families. The grant is renewable yearly.

Some 20 veterans and their families will receive services such as rental assistance, child care, transportation and financial planning through this grant, said Robin Callow, housing case manager liaison for Catholic Family & Child Service, Pasco.

Christ the King Church: A Long, Proud Catholic Tradition

Since the mid-1800s, the teaching and practice of the Catholic Faith has been a priority in the area now known as Richland, Washington.

First, there were the Oblates of Mary Immaculate who baptized members of the Pish Wanapum tribe at the St. Rose of Chamma Mission. Fast forward about 100 years to the "long, low, white tent" set up to allow Catholic workers at the new Hanford Project to attend Mass said by Monsignor William Sweeney. This was quickly followed by the building of a Catholic chapel by the federal government. And today, on the same site as that chapel, Christ the King Church claims some 2,500 active parish families, with about 500 preschool to eighth grade students in its parish school and another 500 students in religious education.

Father Tom Champoux celebrated Mass at Christ the King Church.

"This is a very big parish," observed Father Tom Champoux, who has served as pastor for 15 years. "The people are extremely generous and very willing to help."

Other pastors who helped to build the parish through the years, following Monsignor Sweeney, included: Fathers John Heneghan, Peter Hagel, John Murtagh and Richard Wuertz. The present church building was completed in 1980.

Today, due to the large number of specialized government and contractor employees on the Hanford Project, Christ the King Church welcomes transplants from across the United States and as far away as the Philippines, India and Africa. "(No matter where they come from) people are looking for a home, a family, companionship with others," Champoux noted.

And that's what Christ the King offers. With its list of organizations and services, there seems to be something for everyone: the Young Ladies Institute, Knights of Columbus, lay Carmelites and Benedictines, Couples for Christ ministry, Cursillo, Retrouvaille, Serra Club, Jesuit spiritual exercises, jail and prison ministry, adult education, a gift shop and lending library – and the list goes on. There is also the 35-year tradition of the Sausage Fest in which people from across the parish take part, benefiting Christ the King School.

Christ the King Church is home to some 2,500 active parish families.

"We have been very impressed with the activities in the parish," noted Florence Kraemer, 87, who with her husband, Phil, 89, has been a member of Christ the King since 1952 and lives right across the street from the church. "We have lived through a lot of it (church history), from the old church that was first built."

From leading the music program in the old church to joining in neighborhood women's meetings and shepherding their six children through Christ the King School, Florence observed that there have "always been a lot of people involved" in church programs.

Nancy Murray, a parishioner since 2003, also expressed appreciation that the parish is currently blessed with two associate pastors (Fathers Teodulo Taneo and Van Nguyen), plus seven deacons (LeRoi Rice, Robert DaValle, Mikhail Alnajjar, Doroteo Collado, Thomas Huntington, Alfredo Jocson, and Ross Ronish).

"They're able to cover the visitations and all of the ministries," she said, noting that Father Tom Champoux "runs a good ship."

Murray also credits the "wonderful pro-life people" she encountered in Christ the King with helping to inspire her years of work in the field.

Echoing the words of Father Champoux, "Christ the King is home," said Dan Sisk, lay director of the English-speaking Cursillo for the Diocese and parish member for all 50 years of his life. "It's where my parents were married, where my childhood was, where my (two) children went to school."

One of Sisk's more colorful memories of growing up in the parish involves joining together with some buddies when he was in seventh grade and trying to catch a skunk, at the request of the Holy Names Sisters who taught at Christ the King School. The skunk had burrowed under a sidewalk. The nuns supplied popcorn to the boys as they waited at night for the skunk to emerge, a garbage can at hand to carry the creature to the river and release it.

"It never did come out," he recalled. However, the popcorn was very enjoyable!

"People at Christ the King have seen me grow up over the years," he observed. "There's a connection here to other people's histories, to my own history."