Walk for Life: Area Residents Step Out Against Abortion in Annual Event

Text and photos by Christine Corbett Conklin

Catholics from throughout Central Washington joined with other area residents to publicly show their opposition to abortion at the annual Walk for Life in Yakima on Saturday, January 16.

A crowd estimated at nearly 200 people gathered for this first of numerous pro-life activities planned within the Diocese of Yakima, marking the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion.

With temperatures in the lower 30s, the group processed along Yakima Avenue, from South Eighth Avenue to Millennium Plaza. Some carried balloons or signs, while others sounded cardboard horns which had been distributed. Speakers and music underlined the importance of defending life, both at Grace of Christ Church prior to the event and at the Plaza as the walk ended.

The youngest participant of the day appeared to be five-day-old Luke Arkills. His father, Jeff Arkills, who attends St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima and Grace of Christ Church, had made the walk several times in the past. However, this year’s event held special significance for him and his wife, Brooke, “knowing that we have a new life with us,” he said.

“He (Luke) is as important as all those other babies who unfortunately have not been given a chance,” Jeff said. Brooke quoted Proverbs 31:8 which urges us to “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.”

Ted Smith, a parishioner of Holy Family Church in Yakima who brought along his three-year-old son, Nolan, agreed.

“Action and representing a cause means a lot more than staying home and thinking about it,” he said. “It has more value than a Facebook post,” he added.

Among many other young people attending the event was Paula Heine, 15, who came with her parents and two siblings, all parishioners of Holy Rosary Church in Moxee.

“Young people are encouraged when there are young people being active,” she suggested. “It will be a sign for more people to speak out that abortion is wrong,” added Angelica O’Reilly, a parishioner of Holy Rosary Church, who attended with five of her eight children.

The public presence of a walk down Yakima Avenue is “a reminder” to others, said Mike Dale, a parishioner from Holy Family Church. “Most people don’t want to think about the subject,” he noted. “We’re here to witness that every person is made in the image of God,” concluded Christodoulos Molzan, a parishioner of Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Yakima. Although the circumstances were different and He had been born, it’s striking to remember that even Jesus Christ, as a baby, was in danger of death from King Herod and the political issues of that day, he said.

Other pro-life events also were scheduled within the Diocese of Yakima at press time. They included a Walk for Life on January 23 in Wenatchee. A Mass for Life, celebrated by Bishop Joseph Tyson at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima on January 24, was planned at the close of a national, nine-day Novena for Life.
A Message from Bishop Tyson…

Dear Friends:

Lent is upon us soon, so I hope this issue inspires you to reflect on your own life in the context of this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Father Felipe Pulido has some particularly reflective thoughts that might enhance Lent, pushing us to consider our “Lasts” in terms of our personal lives. This is the essential meaning of the gesture of receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday.

Catholic schools also represent an essential spark of conversion. I am grateful to the many parents who support our Catholic schools across Central Washington and I am keenly aware that sitting down with a checkbook and figuring out tuition is an act of conversion. Yet this act is really not about money. Indeed, when we must reevaluate our financial priorities to put Catholic education first, we become better disciples of Jesus.

As I visit our parishes and schools I also find myself grateful for all of you. I am grateful for the many ways, both hidden and visible, that you live the works of mercy in your care for your friends and family as well as your outreach to migrants, newcomers and those searching for God. Supporting Catholic Relief Services through our upcoming collection, or through Operation Rice Bowl, is a tangible way of sharing our “treasure” in a way that extends the works of mercy.

Fourth-century St. Hilary of Poitiers wrote these words of prayer that might be our very own this Lent:

“Impart to us, then, the meaning of the words of Scripture and the light to understand it, with reverence for the doctrine and confidence in the truth. Grant that we may express what we believe. Through the prophets and the apostles we know about You, the one Lord Jesus Christ.”

With my every best wish and blessing!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Cathedral Welcomes All With Holy Door

Catholics seeking to live out the spirit of pilgrimage called for by Pope Francis in this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy can do so by visiting St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima, 1206 W. Chestnut Avenue, and passing through the special Holy Door there.

Each Sunday, especially at the 11 a.m. English Mass and 1 p.m. Spanish Mass, a particular parish, its clergy and parishioners are remembered in prayer at the Cathedral. Parishes have been invited to send special delegations during the year, which ends on Sunday, November 20, the Feast of Christ the King.

The Holy Door at the Cathedral, decorated in English and Spanish, connects pilgrims with the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, along with Holy Doors at the other major basilicas there. Pope Francis dedicated them in December.

“The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a ‘visitor,’ a pilgrim traveling along the road, making his way to the desired destination,” Pope Francis said in announcing the jubilee year.

“Similarly, to reach the Holy Door in Rome or in any other place in the world, everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage. This will be a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God’s mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us,” the Holy Father said.

By passing through the Holy Door and offering prayers while in a state of grace, Catholics may receive an indulgence, that is the “remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven” (Catechism of the Catholic Church). The following brief guidelines are meant to assist in understanding the indulgence, which can be partial or full, depending on the spiritual disposition of the person receiving it.

1) For those who are able, by making a pilgrimage to the diocesan Cathedral where there is a Holy Door, and having celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by attending Mass, praying the Profession of Faith and praying for the Holy Father and his intentions.

2) For the sick, elderly, homebound and alone, by uniting their suffering with the crucified Christ, and receiving Holy Communion either brought to them in their home or by attending Mass or taking part in community prayer in their parish church.

3) For the incarcerated, by visit their prison chapel, reflecting on the mercy of God and directing their thoughts and prayers to Him as they pass through their cell door.

4) Through the performance of spiritual and corporal acts of mercy with the intent of showing the mercy of God.

5) The Jubilee Indulgence can be gained for the deceased by remembering and praying for them at Mass, seeking God’s mercy that He free them from every remnant of fault.

6) Priests universally have the faculty to forgive the sin of abortion in the Sacrament of Reconciliation for those who seek forgiveness.

Check with your local pastor, or visit the diocesan website, www.yakimadiocese.net, and search for ‘Parish Pilgrimages’ to learn when your parish is invited to visit St. Paul Cathedral.

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

Bishop Joseph Tyson

St. Paul Cathedral's Holy Door proclaims “King of Mercy” and “I Trust in You.”

Central Washington Catholic

January 2016 · Volume 51 · Issue 1

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.net
Catholic Schools Week Begins January 31

National Catholic Schools Week 2016 will be held January 31 - February 6. The theme is “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” The annual celebration is a project of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

The Diocese of Yakima has Catholic elementary schools in the following parishes: St. Paul Cathedral and St. Joseph Parish, Yakima; St. Rose of Lima Parish, Ephrata; St. Joseph Parish, Kennewick; Christ the King Parish, Richland; and St. Joseph Parish, Wenatchee. La Salle High School in Yakima is affiliated with the De La Salle Christian Brothers, while Tri-Cities Prep High School in Pasco is a school of the Diocese of Spokane.

Catholic schools benefit all year long from the religious guidance, prayers and support parishes provide. Many parishes will join in the National Catholic Schools Week celebration by devoting a Mass to Catholic education, while schools often start the week by inviting parishioners and community members to parish-centered events and school open houses that feature their outstanding academic programs, religious education and service opportunities.

A central aspect of Catholic education is learning the importance of service to others. When students take part in service activities – both local and beyond – they demonstrate the values and faith they gain through their Catholic education and learn how to make the world a better place.

Schools also celebrate students during National Catholic Schools Week by planning enjoyable and meaningful activities for them and recognizing their accomplishments.

On Wednesday, February 3, National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools, students, families, educators and other Catholic school supporters communicate the value of Catholic education to government leaders. They pray for the nation and recognize all those who serve it.

By focusing on faith, knowledge and service, Catholic schools also prepare children to use their God-given talents to the fullest later in life as they focus one day of the week on vocations. Schools also will honor teachers and principals as well as administrators and staff who support them in their important work and thank the parents, grandparents, alumni, parishioners and school board members who provide volunteer service.

Finally, parents, guardians and other family members play a vital role in Catholic education. Not only do they volunteer at the school, they instill values and expectations for academic excellence in their children at home. Schools acknowledge the role of families in Catholic education and celebrate their contributions to the success of our schools on the last day of National Catholic Schools Week, and all year long.

Catholic Relief Services Collection Is Planned

The Collection for Catholic Relief Services (CRS), to be taken up February 20-21 in our Diocese, works at home and abroad to give aid to struggling, poor and underrepresented families. The six worldwide organizations supported by the collection provide humanitarian aid, pastoral support and disaster relief to our suffering brothers and sisters around the globe. This collection offers an opportunity for each of us to help Jesus in disguise.

This collection is taken up once every three years, part of a twice-yearly cycle of six national collections supported by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. A donation is given from the Annual Catholic Appeal each of the other two years. Many parishes also collect funds for CRS using Operation Rice Bowl each year.

“Please give generously to the Catholic Relief Services Collection,” said Bishop Joseph Tyson. “Your support truly makes a difference.”

This collection is optional. If a collection is not taken up in your parish, you can make a check or money order payable to: “Catholic Relief Services Collection” and send directly to:

Catholic Relief Services Collection
Office of National Collections
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
P. O. Box 96278
Washington DC 20090-6278

Your generosity has helped over 100 children learn about Jesus in Catholic schools, untold numbers learn about Jesus in parish religious education programs and many students attend Catholic colleges. With your help more children and youth will learn about Jesus and our Catholic faith.

Donate online at www.cwcatholicfoundation.org.

Visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CWCF1

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Ford trucks have been getting the job done since 1911. Wearing out? Not an option. Overwhelmed? Not on our watch. Ford trucks have always been engineered and built so tough you’d think it could outlast the next ice age. So that no matter what the job, it’ll be there to get it done.

www.kellehermotors.com

Our family serving your family since 1917
St. Valentine’s Day: Celebrate Appreciation for Life, for Others

St. Valentine’s Day is just around the corner. It’s a classic time for people to mark “firsts” in their lives: a first kiss, a first “I love you,” baby’s first year with the family. Even that first, gigantic, heart-shaped box of chocolates!

However, as we live our lives from day to day, we are not able to make lists of “lasts,” points out Father Felipe Pulido, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Yakima. Since we do not know what the future holds for any one of us, we may miss many opportunities to make the most of each day.

“My own experience is that people sometimes video, sometimes they take a picture of the first time a child says ‘Papa’ or ‘Mama,’ the first steps, the first time the child loses a tooth… the first presentation in church, First Communion,” he said.

“They keep records of the Sacraments for example, who the priest was, what was the date.”

These “firsts” are important to us because “we are people who remember,” Father Pulido said. “We want to go back in time and look at our pictures or our videos. We’re family-oriented. We have people around us who matter.”

However, our lives seem to fly by, he observed.

“We go from one thing to another, one calendar to another, and we miss a lot of details….(Instead), we should live life as if each day was our last…It’s not the ‘be merry and have fun’ kind of ‘last.’ It’s more, appreciate your family and friends and tell them they’re important” in your life.

“When you’re playing with your son or daughter, what if it was the last time? (If you knew,) you wouldn’t care if it was cold, if you were tired. You’d see it in a different way,” he suggested.

Have you wanted to make peace with a family member or friend? Or, how about the elderly or sick neighbor whom you’ve been planning to help? Maybe you’ve been wanting to come back to the Catholic Church, or realized it’s been a long time since you’ve been to Confession. What are you waiting for?

As a priest, Father Pulido says that he recites a prayer before every Mass that reminds him, “You say your Mass as though it was your first Mass. You say your Mass as though it was your last Mass.”

Put that same spirit and enthusiasm into everything you do each day, he says. Take time to acknowledge those around you and “really enjoy every moment we have here on earth…in relation to our Lord Jesus Christ.”

When you’re sharing a meal, “How would you look at the people who were there” if you knew that it was the last time you would see one or more of them?, he asks.

Father Pulido says he has been so impressed by a priest who has come to lead the Novena of Grace at St. Joseph. “He’ll take every opportunity to say something to a parishioner: ‘I’m so glad you’re here! ‘You’re a big part of the church!’ Even to the kids he’ll say, ‘I like the way you receive Holy Communion!’”

Inspired by a YouTube video in which Father Joe Kempf, a Missouri pastor, encourages people to live each day as if it were their last, Father Pulido has preached this message to his congregation at St. Joseph.

“We do not know when the Lord is going to call us to Himself,” he observed in a phone interview. “We should be in right relationship with Him and with others. Receive the Sacraments, come to church and pray.”

And always, always show your love for those around you. As life goes on, these memories will hold much more value – and last a lot longer – than that calorie-laden, heart-shaped box of chocolates! (Of course, chocolate can always go along with the love and appreciation…)

Learn About Your Faith –

There are new opportunities to learn more about your Catholic Faith at several Magnificat classes scheduled for February. The ongoing Magnificat series is designed to be a “formation school” focused on Faith, leadership and lay ministry.

All classes are held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturdays, with a selection of topics from which to choose. There is no charge to attend, although free-will offerings will be accepted.

English classes for the month will begin February 13 at St. Pius Parish, 805 North Central Avenue in Quincy. On that day, Father Miguel Gonzalez will discuss Ministries. Bishop Joseph Tyson will speak on Ecclesiology (the study of the nature and structure of the Church). Stephanie Bafus will discuss Catechesis (the teaching of the Faith).

On February 20, Magnificat classes will be held at the diocesan pastoral center, 5301-A Tieton Drive in Yakima. Then, Father Miguel Gonzalez will again speak on Ministries. Bishop Tyson will address Ecclesiology. Stephanie Bafus will discuss Catechesis.

Closing out the month, classes will be held February 27 at Holy Spirit Parish, 7409 West Clearwater in Kennewick. On that day, Monsignor Perron Auve will speak on Liturgy. Jeff Thompson will address Spirituality. Very Reverend Osmar Aguirre will discuss the Mission Of The Church.

For more details on Magnificat classes, contact the Diocese of Yakima at (509) 965-7117 or email magnificat@yakimadiocese.net.

Ash Wednesday Reminder

Don’t forget that Wednesday, February 10, is Ash Wednesday, a special day of the Church year. On this day, Catholics who are 18 to 59 are required to fast between meals. Those aged 14 and above must abstain from meat. These rules also apply on Good Friday, March 25.

Fasting on these days means having only one full, meatless meal. Some food can be taken at the other regular meal times if necessary, but combined they should be less than a full meal. Liquids are allowed at any time, but no solid food should be consumed between meals.

Along with those excused because of their ages, others who do not need to fast or abstain from meat include the physically or mentally ill, including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.

Check your parish schedule for the distribution of blessed ashes on this day. The ashes are symbolic of the fact that life is transitory, and we are on our way to eternity. They remind us of the call to repentance for our sins. These ashes, which are made from burning the blessed palms of Easter, are distributed in conjunction with daily Mass. Some parishes also may hold Stations of the Cross or other special observances on Ash Wednesday.

Find more information on this and other upcoming events at the diocesan website, yakimadiocese.net.

Talk Features Encyclical on Environment

An overview of Pope Francis’ encyclical on the environment, Laudato Si, will be offered at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, February 14 at Christ the King Church in Richland. Jessie Dye, program and outreach director for Earth Ministry, will be the speaker.

Laudato Si emphasizes that care for the environment is central to our Catholic Faith. The encyclical -- or papal letter -- builds upon writings from Pope Saint John XXIII through Pope Benedict XVI.

All are welcome to attend this free event, which is scheduled to run until 3 p.m. Christ the King Church is at 1111 Stevens Drive.