In the first-ever papal encyclical on the environment, issued last month by Pope Francis, there are many elements that strike a familiar chord with Central Washington Catholics.

Laudato Si’ (which is translated as “Praise be to You, my Lord,” a reference from Canticle of the Sun by St. Francis of Assisi) addresses concerns about our environment and focuses on cooperative care for the environment and also for the needs of human life and society.

This document, subtitled “On Care For Our Common Home,” contains more than 40,000 words in its English version and calls to mind the pastoral letter prepared by the Northwest bishops in 2001. Entitled, The Columbia River Watershed: Caring for Creation and the Common Good, the pastoral letter quoted Saint John Paul II who said, “Christians, in particular, realize that their responsibility within creation and their duty toward nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith.”

Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad of the Diocese of Spokane, the chair of the steering committee which drafted the bishops’ pastoral letter, noted the parallels between the two documents in a telephone interview with the Central Washington Catholic.

“In many ways, that pastoral letter was an exact model and paradigm of what Pope Francis is calling for,” he suggested. The letter set down basic principles such as respect for culture, the human being, the land including our own Columbia River watershed, and consideration for the generations to come.

“The Columbia River is a remarkable source for stewardship because it is so complex,” Bishop Skylstad said. It offers us everything from salmon to electricity, irrigation, recreation, scenic views and transport for barges and other craft.

“One of the geniuses of Pope Francis’ message is its theological, spiritual and practical way of approaching the world in which we live,” he noted. The new encyclical offers a “more detailed theological explanation of our responsibility for culture, the human being, the land including our own Columbia River watershed, and consideration for the generations to come.”

“The Columbia River is a legacy for generations to come.”

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If you’re looking for a way to revitalize your Catholic Faith, consider joining the 2016 World Youth Day pilgrimage to Poland.

There are still more than 20 spots available for young people and adults on this July 19 to August 4 journey of faith, said Father Lalo Barragan, parochial vicar for St. Joseph Church in Yakima who will serve as spiritual director for the pilgrimage.

Pilgrims will first spend several days in Czestochowa, Poland, where they will work with local youth, learning how these Polish citizens live and practice their faith. Then, it will be on to visiting shrines and sites where Saint John Paul II lived. Finally, the group will attend World Youth Day events in Krakow, highlighted by a Mass celebrated by Pope Francis.

For more information, contact Father Barragan at hijodelamor@hotmail.com or call (509) 248-1911.
Dear Friends,

Let me start by noting the latest encyclical of Pope Francis titled *Laudato Si’* – the Latin for the opening words of St. Francis’s famous “Canticle to Creation” in which the stanzas are tied together with the famous words, “Praise be you.”

There are a couple of items to note about this teaching encyclical from Pope Francis. The first is that in citing St. Francis, he uplifts the reality that, as humans, we are not so much “over” creation as we are “part” of creation. This is precisely why St. Francis refers to the sun as a “brother” and the moon as a “sister.” In a certain sense, we have a sibling relationship with all creation. The environment is something we all share. Thus, the importance of our seeking the “common good” when considering how to be good “stewards” of creation.

Second, this leads Pope Francis to call for an “integral ecology” grasping the reality that humans are not apart from creation but within creation. “Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God’s love for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God” (§84).

“Since everything is interrelated,” the Holy Father goes on to write in a later section, “concern for the protection of nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion. How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties?” Quoting Pope Benedict XVI, he adds, “If personal and social sensitivity towards the acceptance of the new life is lost, then other forms of acceptance that are valuable for society also wither away” (§97).

Ultimately, this leads to the Holy Father calling for an “integral ecology” where we, as humans, better learn how to take our proper place in the order of creation. The Holy Father notes that living with authenticity such an “integral ecology” requires dialogue that not only includes science and technology leaders as well as those in government, economics, politics and public policy, but also an interreligious dialogue that pulls in a variety of spiritual leaders.

Naturally for us – as Catholics – to engage in such a dialogue means that we begin, not by talking to ourselves, but dialoguing with Sacred Scripture as well as the Church teachings growing from Scripture. This is precisely why St. Francis is such a model of “integral ecology” for our own time and why he was so able to see the connections between treatment of the environment and treatment of the poor and vulnerable.

I suppose this is a rather long introduction to the wide spectrum of articles in this edition of the *Central Washington Catholic*. Yet what ties together our Catholic Housing Service’s Ride D’Vine, the upcoming Seminarian vs. Priest Soccer Match, our new principal at St. Paul Cathedral School as well as our jubilarian Sisters of Providence is that everyone engaged in these variety ministries engages in a deeper dialogue with our scriptures and our teaching. What we do as a Church, then, we do as a result of allowing Christ to speak to us in our ministry, day by day, year by year and decade by decade.

I hope that you are inspired by these stories to seek your place as part of creation and to become ever-better stewards of God’s gifts of creation, thus echoing the words of St. Francis: *Laudato Si’*!

With my every best wish and blessing!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

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**Papal Encyclical Echoes Bishops’ Message on Environment, Human Life**

for and to each other and for the world in which we live.”

This can encompass everything from taking a look at our lifestyles and seeing how we can conserve resources, to limiting pollution to the environment, looking to sustainability of resources, and being sensitive to the poor and other human beings who may be most seriously affected by harm to our land and water.

“We’re in this business together,” Bishop Skylstad observed.

It will take “years” to implement the *Laudato Si’* encyclical, he acknowledges. Yet, as we try to discover how we can “be better stewards of the world in which we live,” two obvious elements come to mind, he says. First, we must educate about our environment and our own responsibilities. Secondly, we must focus on the formation of spirituality which underscores everything we do.

“(Pope Francis) is very strong on a call for dialogue,” Bishop Skylstad said. “We need to talk about this and everyone should be involved. That’s kind of what the Columbia River pastoral did.”

In the rather poetic words of Pope Francis’ encyclical, “The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things.”

To read the text of *Laudato Si’*, visit http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/index.html. To read the text of the Columbia River pastoral, visit www.thewssc.org.
The tension is building as the priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Yakima prepare to face off on Sunday, August 2, for their fourth annual soccer match!

Will the seminarians even the score this year, praying their way to a second win in four years? Or will the priests smite the seminarians for a third time?

Gates open at 5 p.m. for this 6 p.m. event at Marquette Stadium, 5400 West Chestnut Avenue, in Yakima. Admission is free, with food, drinks and souvenir tee shirts for sale to help support education of 15 diocesan seminarians. The event helps supplement fund-raising efforts such as the annual collection for seminarian education (see related item).

Bring your family and friends and cheer on your favorite team!

Seven Sisters of Providence Mark Special Anniversaries

Montana, and served as religious education coordinator for families in north Idaho’s 120-mile panhandle. She also served as a member of the Sisters’ Senate in Idaho and Spokane and president of both; one of two vicars for religious in Idaho; and coordinator of the Neighborhood Parish Program for St. Mary’s Parish in the Spokane Valley, and the RCIA program. She has been provincial secretary for the former St. Ignatius Province and on the boards of four Providence hospitals. Since 2000, she has lived in Walla Walla, caring for her mother who died last March. Sister Helen does home visits for Assumption Parish and is writing the chronicles for 15 Providence facilities in Eastern Washington and Montana.

Maureen Newman, SP

Sister Maureen Newman was born at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane in 1945 and grew up in Sprague and Grandview, as part of a large Walla Walla pioneer family. She entered the Sisters of Providence in 1964 at Providence Heights in Issaquah, and joined the College of Sister Formation. She began her education ministry at St. Michael School in Olympia. She taught for 35 years, including schools in Vancouver and Seattle, Washington, and served as assistant principal in Seattle. She worked at a day care for migrant workers, tutored Hmong tribespeople, and volunteered in Central America.

Sister Maureen has worked on committees for the religious community’s 150th anniversary and for the 150th celebration of Catholic schools in the Seattle Archdiocese, and served as staff and interim administrator at St. Joseph Residence, Seattle. At the end of 2014, she completed a five-year term as a provincial councilor for Mother Joseph Province. She lives in Seattle.

Our thanks and congratulations to all of these Sisters of Providence who have served our communities for so many years!
Seven Sisters of Providence who have ties to Central Washington will celebrate 50, 60 and 70 years of religious life at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 1, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 7000 35th Avenue S.W., Seattle.

Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain, Archbishop of Seattle, will be the celebrant for the liturgy, which will be followed by a reception in Guadalupe Hall.

70 years

Georgette Bayless, SP (Sister Mary Joan)

Born in San Jose, Calif., Sister Georgette Bayless trained as a nurse before entering the religious community in 1944 as a 21-year-old. Her first ministry was as a nursing supervisor at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Yakima, Wash., followed by service in Providence hospitals in Washington, Alaska and Oregon, in nursing, pastoral care, outreach, hospice, mission effectiveness and other capacities.

This 93-year-old has organized people to start new programs, raise money for community needs and expand outreach to the forgotten. Her legacy includes a sexual assault center in Everett, and Hospice of Snohomish County. She lives in Seattle.

60 years

Anita Butler, SP (Sister Francesca)

Sister Anita Butler has been a sponsor of Providence Ministries, entrusted with ensuring that the ministries of Providence Health & Services remain Catholic and true to the sisters’ mission. Born in Los Angeles and raised in Burbank, California, she entered the Sisters of Providence in Seattle in 1954. She served in teaching and administration for 23 years in elementary and high schools in cities including Moxee.

Sister also served as provincial treasurer in the former Sacred Heart Province, taking responsibility for oversight of construction and development of its first low-income housing projects. She was treasurer of Mother Joseph Province. In addition, she ministered in long-term care and was superior/administrator of St. Joseph Residence in Seattle. She lives in Seattle.

Lenora Donovan, SP, (Sister Stephen)

Sister Lenora Donovan moved with her family from Nebraska to Yakima, in 1941 when she was nine years old. She graduated from St. Joseph Academy in Yakima in 1952, moved with her family to Portland, Oregon, and went to school to become an LPN at Multnomah County Hospital. She entered the Sisters of Providence in Seattle and made first profession in 1956. She was assigned to Mount St. Vincent Home for the Aged, and became a registered nurse, serving in Port Townsend and Portland.

Certified as a chaplain, she served at the parish in Medford, Oregon, and then was assigned to Providence ElderPlace in Portland, assisting the elderly to stay in their own homes by regularly assessing their ongoing health needs. Sister Lenora has been a longtime volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul Society in Portland and now in Seattle.

Mary Catherine McGuire, SP (Sister Mary Margaret)

Fresh out of the novitiate, Sister Mary Catherine McGuire taught second grade at St. Joseph Grade School in Yakima. Over the next 15 years she taught six different grades in nine places, including in Yakima’s consolidated Catholic schools: St. Joseph Academy, Carroll High School and Marquette High School.

Born in Everett, she grew up in rural Snohomish. She entered the novitiate after a postulancy at Mount St. Vincent, Seattle, and professed first vows in 1956. She also taught in Western Washington, Alaska, California and Oregon. Sister did parish work and was a receptionist at St. Peter’s Hospital in Olympia and in Providence corporate offices. She also ministered in pastoral services, volunteered with community college ESL classes, assisted in the Sisters of Providence library, and was part-time chaplain at Providence ElderPlace in Seattle. She continues a music ministry at St. Joseph Residence, Seattle.

50 years

Marilyn Charette, SP

Sister Marilyn Charette was born in New York, and moved with her family to Richland. She went to Holy Names College in Spokane, and studied biology and chemistry to become a medical technologist. After graduation, she worked in a hospital laboratory in Richland and then at a lab at St. Joseph Hospital in Burbank, California. She entered the Sisters of Providence, working in her postulant year in the laboratory at Providence Hospital, Seattle.

Her ministry for many years was in hospitals as a medical technologist, in the admissions office, patient transport, and finally as a chaplain. She served in Yakima, Everett and Portland. She also was a team member at Mount St. Joseph, a novitate team member and novitate director. Sister Marilyn was one of the five sisters who established the mission to El Salvador in 1995, remaining there for five years. Today, she is once again in El Salvador, having returned in 2012.

Helen Mason, SP

Sister Helen Mason lives in Walla Walla, where she was born in 1945. There she received all of her sacraments, professed final vows in 1973, and celebrated 25 years of religious life in 1990. She entered the religious community in 1964 at Providence Heights in Issaquah. She taught in

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