



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

El Católico de Washington Central

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

JUNE 2015 *Newsletter*

Three Diocese of Yakima Priests Celebrate 55th Anniversaries

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Officially, they may be “retired.” However, three priests of the Diocese of Yakima who are celebrating their 55th anniversaries in the priesthood this year have continued to remain active in reaching out to the people of God.

Fathers Alberto Cerezo, Seamus Kerr and John O’Shea all say that theirs is a blessed life, “inspiring” and “rewarding” in many ways.

Father Cerezo currently lives about half of the year in Kirkland and the other half in Miami, Florida, and spends much of his time working with Food for the Poor.

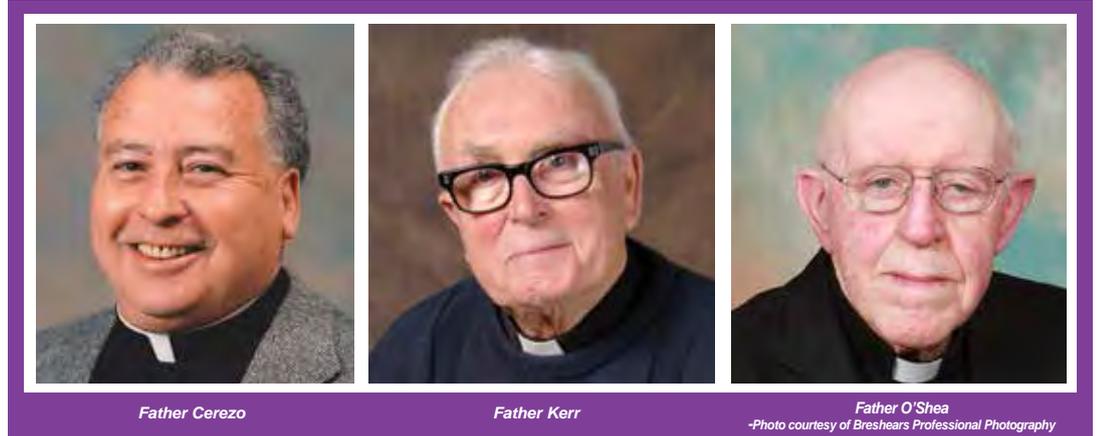
“I’m very active in my ministry,” he said. “I’ve been traveling almost every weekend.” Although health issues have slowed him down a bit, he still travels across the continental United States, giving presentations on behalf of the organization.

“I am a very happy priest,” he noted. “If I had to start all over, I would be a priest....I take it day by day. In July, I’m going to be 80. It’s a gift from the Lord to be alive!”

Father Cerezo was born July 20, 1935 in Madrid, Spain, where he also was ordained on January 3, 1960. After time as a pastor and/or associate pastor in Madrid; Monterey, California; Austin Texas; and Rockville Center, New York; plus completing post-graduate studies in Santa Clara, California, he came to the Yakima Diocese in 1979.

Here, he served as pastor, associate pastor or assisted in parishes including St. Joseph, Sunnyside; Our Lady of Fatima, Moses Lake; St. Aloysius, Toppenish; Saint Joseph, Waterville; Sacred Heart, Prosser; St. Francis Xavier, Cashmere; and Our Lady of the Snows, Leavenworth. He also assisted with Hispanic ministry in the Archdiocese of Seattle, before “retirement” in 2002.

Both Father Kerr and Father O’Shea were ordained on June 19, 1960 at All



Father Cerezo

Father Kerr

Father O'Shea

-Photo courtesy of Breshears Professional Photography

Hallows College in Dublin where they had completed their seminary training.

Since he “retired” in 2006, “people probably think that you have nothing to do,” chuckled Father Kerr. In fact, he maintains a full schedule, doing ministry “supply” work for neighboring parishes, and officiating at funerals, weddings and a monthly Latin Mass in Yakima, for example.

“I’ve enjoyed every parish I’ve been in. Every one has been different,” Father Kerr observed. “I love the people here in this Diocese....It’s very rewarding to meet people, especially from former parishes....People are so nice, so respectful of the priesthood, so appreciative for anything you do...I’m very happy with what I’m doing.”

Born May 28, 1929, Father Kerr is a native of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Following ordination, he served as pastor and/or associate pastor in parishes ranging from Holy Family, Yakima; to St. Andrew, Ellensburg; St. Joseph, Waterville; Holy Trinity, Goldendale; St. Joseph, White Swan; Holy Apostles, East Wenatchee; St. Mary, Mansfield; and St. Rose of Lima, Ephrata.

Since 2006, he has been in residence in Ephrata, assisted with weekend sacramental ministry in Waterville, served as parish administrator in

Ephrata, and now is in residence in East Wenatchee.

For Father O’Shea, one of the most important aspects of being a priest is “the ministry of being present to people” in whatever situation they find themselves in life. This includes “caring for people, especially people who are sick and neglected,” he said, including ministry to the elderly.

Since his “retirement” in 2007, he has served as spiritual director for the English-speaking Cursillo for the Diocese and says Mass at retirement homes, among other duties.

Father noted that it’s “very inspiring” and “uplifting to your priesthood” to work with lay people who are committed to service to the Church. “The Catholics I have met have been very supportive of me and of priests in general.”

Father O’Shea was born on October 31, 1929 in Cork, Ireland. Following his ordination, he served the Diocese of Yakima as pastor or associate pastor of parishes including St. Joseph, Sunnyside; St. Patrick, Granger; St. Paul Cathedral, Yakima; Holy Family, Yakima; Christ the King, Richland; and Holy Spirit, Kennewick.

Happy anniversary to these three dedicated priests of the Diocese of Yakima!

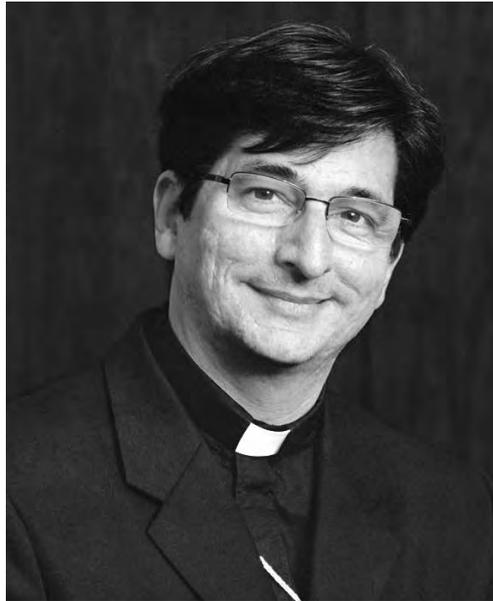
A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends,

Interiorly, I am still reverberating from the recent death of Father Tom Kuykendall on Pentecost Sunday as well as the beautiful funeral celebrations at his parish of St. Joseph in Wenatchee as well as at St. Paul Cathedral and Calvary Cemetery.

Fr. Tom was not only a pastor but an anchor for the Diocese of Yakima, leading the Yakima Diocese Executive Committee of the Council of Priests for many years as well as serving as our Catholic school superintendent. For this reason, Fr. Tom was actually the priest I knew the best prior to coming to the Diocese of Yakima because, like him, I was the school superintendent for the Archdiocese of Seattle. Along with Spokane Catholic schools superintendent Duane Schaffer, we'd be together on regular conference calls just to talk through issues of Catholic education with each other.

Yet, even as we mourn Fr. Tom's death, we need not go further than this issue's story on Quo Vadis – our seminarian-run program for vocational discernment for high-school-aged men – to remember



Bishop Joseph Tyson

that God keeps brimming over with generosity, calling for new vocations to the priesthood. Last issue featured Dan and Peter Steele – our newest transitional deacons – preparing for priesthood.

This issue, we're also reminded of long and fruitful ministry in the priesthood of Father John O'Shea, Father Alberto

Cerezo and Father Seamus Kerr; all three of whom came to us as missionaries, reminding us of the missionary nature of our Church. Our article on the Ahtanum mission points to the roots of our missionary diocese and our article on the Kateri Mass reminds us of powerful missionary saints who have shown us the way.

Pope Francis has issued a wonderful apostolic letter titled in English, "The Joy of the Gospel," which uplifts the missionary nature of the Church. Now, we are about to receive a new encyclical on the environment reminding us that the mission of Christ encompasses all of creation because creation itself is, to quote the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, "charged with the grandeur of God." May this issue inspire you to participate in God's ongoing Pentecost in our Church and among our people.

With my every best wish and blessing!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

St. Joseph Mission at Ahtanum: Fostering the Faith for 163 Years *Continued from page 4*

outdoor kitchen with electricity. There are swing sets and horseshoe pits. A volleyball court and baseball field. There's even space for R.V. parking.

Groups reserve space at the Mission for everything from baptisms to weddings and family reunions, Campbell noted.

"It's quiet and peaceful out here, an historical place not only for Catholics but for this whole area," she said.

To reach the St. Joseph Mission at Ahtanum, head West on Ahtanum Road from Yakima. About five miles before Tampico, you'll notice a wooden sign on the right side of the road that says, "Historic marker ahead." Then, just a short distance further, you'll see a brown wooden sign located next to a dirt driveway on the left side of the road that announces the Mission.

The park is open dawn to dusk in Spring through Fall, weather permitting. There is a \$1 per person entry fee to help defray costs of upkeep for the Mission. For more details or to make a reservation for a group of more than six people, call (509) 966-0865.



Father John Murtagh, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Moxee, began the Corpus Christi procession for the parish on Sunday, June 7. Following the 11 a.m. Mass, more than 100 parishioners walked from the church to Holy Rosary Cemetery, to mark the feast of Corpus Christi Sunday. The event concluded with a parish barbeque and picnic. -Photo courtesy of Michael Briggs

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

June 2015 • Volume 44 • Issue 6

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

Father Kuykendall Leaves Legacy of Service

A Funeral Mass was celebrated May 29 at St. Joseph Church in Wenatchee for Father Thomas Kuykendall, 78, who served as pastor of the parish since 1998. Bishop Joseph Tyson presided and a homily was given by Father Richard Keolker.

Father Kuykendall, who died May 24 due to complications from cancer, was buried May 30 at Calvary Cemetery in Yakima, near the graves of his parents. Bishop Emeritus Carlos Sevilla, S.J., presided. A Memorial Mass also was celebrated at Father Tom's home parish, St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima, June 6.

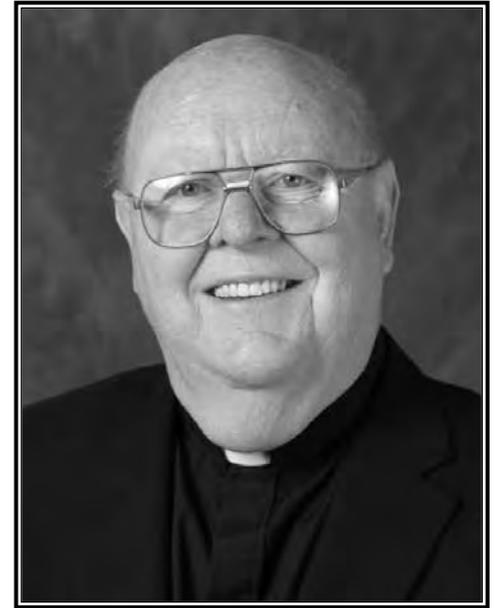
Born and raised in Yakima, Father Kuykendall graduated from St. Paul Cathedral School and Marquette High School. He entered the St. Francis Xavier novitiate of the Jesuits in Oregon, and moved to the Jesuit seminary at Mount Saint Michael in Spokane in 1958. Two years later, he left the seminary, graduating from Gonzaga University. He went on to a 30-year teaching career at East Valley and Eisenhower high schools in the Yakima Valley.

After retiring from teaching in 1991, he resumed his studies for the priesthood, going on to graduate from Sacred Heart School of Theology in Wisconsin. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Francis George in 1994. Before being appointed pastor in Wenatchee, Father Kuykendall served as parochial vicar at Christ the King Parish in Richland and as pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Yakima.

Father Tom was instrumental in bringing St. Joseph Parish in Wenatchee together for the building of a new church in 2004, followed by construction of a parish hall in 2009. Among his many other accomplishments was helping to introduce the KC Help program to the parish, working with the Knights of Columbus to provide medical equipment to those in need. He was chaplain to the Catholic Daughters of America chapter, chief liturgist for the Diocese of Yakima for many years and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Priests. He also served as a spiritual director for Cursillos, and as Superintendent of Catholic Schools and Vicar of Catholic Schools for the Diocese.

Carrying his love of teaching with him throughout his life, he was presented with the Central Washington Catholic Foundation's St. John Baptist de la Salle Award in 2014. The award honored him as a Champion of Catholic Education.

Donations may be made in the name of Father Kuykendall to the St. Joseph Parish Building Fund, Wenatchee. May he and all of our faithfully departed clergy and religious rest in peace.



Father Kuykendall

ABEYTA NELSON
Injury Law

800.927.2845 abeytanelson.com Yakima | Ellensburg | Sunnyside

William (Bill) Hays, LUTCF
Agent, New York Life Insurance Company
(509) 494-7825

- Investments* • Life Insurance
- Retirement Income Planning

*Registered Representative offering securities through NYLIFE Securities LLC, Member FINRA/SIPC, A Licensed Insurance Agency
Neither New York Life Insurance Company nor its agents provide tax, legal or accounting advice
1425 Lakeside Court, Yakima, WA 98902
509-494-7825

WE Honor All Funeral homes' prepaid Funeral Plans

Brookside
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY
Owners: Dick Knautz & Janet Roy-Knautz
Your locally owned and operated Crematory and funeral provider

500 W. Prospect Place • Moxee, WA 98936 • 509-457-1232
101 E. Second Ave. • Ellensburg, WA 98936 • 509-925-2902

Where Quality Services meet Affordable price.
www.brooksidefhc.com

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

BUILT Ford TOUGH

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.

KM KELLEHER MOTOR COMPANY
"Our family serving your family since 1911"

www.kellehermotors.com 602 N. Pearl Street | Ellensburg | 509-925-1911

NEWS

from Around the Diocese

Mass to Honor St. Kateri Tekakwitha —

All are invited to the 36th annual Mass in honor of the “Lily of the Mohawks,” Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, at 10 a.m., July 11, in St. Mary’s Church, White Swan.

Saint Kateri was canonized in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI, following a second miracle attributed to her: the healing of Jake Finkbonner, a Washington State boy. She is the first Native American, North American saint.

A lunch, hosted by the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Circle of the Yakama Indian Reservation, will be served following the Mass in St. Mary’s parish hall.

Quo Vadis Retreat Open to Young Men —

Young men of high school age are invited to join in summer fun and reflect upon God’s will for their lives at the Quo Vadis retreat, August 3-5, at Camp Koinonia in Cle Elum.

The program will include outdoor activities ranging from swimming to soccer and time for prayer, talks and discussion about finding direction for one’s life, whether that is a religious vocation or another path of life.

The cost is \$50 per person, with each additional brother attending for \$25. Scholarships are available to help defray fees.

For more information, call Jesus Alatorre at (509) 966-0830 or email jalatorresilva@gmail.com.

CCHD Collection Set

The annual collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) will be taken up in parishes in the Diocese of Yakima the weekend of July 18-19. The programs funded by CCHD change lives for the 46.2 million people living in poverty here in the United States.

Donations empower local communities and strengthen families who are on the margins. People with disabilities will find affordable and supportive housing, men and women reentering society after incarceration will have the opportunity to learn new skills, and community agriculture projects will receive grants to become sustainable.

“This collection is the primary source of funding for CCHD’s anti-poverty grants and education programs,” noted Bishop Joseph Tyson. The three dioceses in the state of Washington are benefiting from a \$250,000 CCHD grant to help fund Prepares, a program that assists women, their children, and their families, from conception through the first five years of a child’s life.

“Funding from the collection offers new hope every year to those living in poverty throughout the United States,” said Bishop Tyson. “And remember, 25 percent of the collection’s proceeds stay here in our Diocese to fight poverty in our community and defend the dignity of our neighbors. Help us defend human dignity and show Christ’s charity to those in need.”

St. Joseph Mission at Ahtanum: Fostering the Faith for 163 Years

In a tranquil setting west of Yakima, the St. Joseph Mission at Ahtanum evokes the rich history of the Catholic Church in Central Washington, while offering current-day opportunities to attend Mass and enjoy outdoor activities.

Located on Ahtanum Road, about a 20-minute drive from Yakima, this 13-acre site traces its history to 1852. That’s when the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, who had journeyed from France, established a mission here, the last of six missions they would build in Central Washington.

“It’s where the Diocese of Yakima began. It’s holy land,” observed Cary Campbell, who has served as director of the Mission for 15 years. “We’re so lucky to have it.”

Although the original mission church burned in 1855, during warfare between the United States Army and local Indian tribes, a “new” wooden church was built in 1867 and remains today.

“It’s the oldest functioning church in the state of Washington,” Campbell said of the simple wooden structure which can accommodate about 68 people. From April through November, Mass is offered here at 9:30 a.m. on the first

Sunday of the month. The chaplain for the Mission is Father Michael Ibach, who also serves as judicial vicar for the Diocese.

Other special events during the year include the Diocese of Yakima picnic, which follows an 11 a.m. Mass the last Sunday of June, and features hamburgers prepared by the Knights of Columbus. There’s also the serving

of “Mission Apple Pie” (made from the Mission’s own orchard planted in 1867) following Mass on the first Sunday of October! Each April, the Boy Scouts and Knights of Columbus spearhead a clean-up effort for the Mission grounds to prepare for the coming season.

Just walking around the grounds of the Mission is a history lesson. You can look through the window of the log-cabin rectory built in 1867 and used by early priests at the site. The Mission museum, which is open by appointment, displays

old articles and photos, clerical robes and even a bit of ceremonial clothing worn by the Yakama Indians.

There is a memorial commissioned by Bishop Emeritus Carlos Sevilla, S.J., honoring both the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and other priests, including Jesuits, who served here over the years; and the Yakama Indians who were among the earliest Catholic lay people. A large wooden cross further honors the role of Jesuit priests who served here.

The original apple orchard, which still includes 13 trees – plus gardens once planted by the priests to be self-sufficient – had the distinction of being watered by the first irrigation system in the state, planned by the priests, Campbell said.

And the Mission also offers an opportunity for individuals and groups to relax and enjoy a variety of outdoor amenities such as picnic tables and an



A teepee representing Yakama Indian life in the 1800s stands on the grounds of the St. Joseph Mission at Ahtanum. In the background, the mission church is visible.



Catholic Boy Scouts stopped for lunch in the midst of a Spring cleanup on the mission grounds.