As he prepares to celebrate his fiftieth anniversary as a Jesuit priest, Bishop Emeritus Carlos Sevilla is also preparing to move back to California. However, “this is not good-bye,” Bishop Sevilla stresses. Indeed, he plans to return to the Diocese of Yakima from time to time for Confirmation ceremonies and other special events at the invitation of Bishop Tyson.

An anniversary Mass honoring Bishop Sevilla is planned for 11 a.m., July 10 at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima. A reception will immediately follow in the cafeteria of St. Paul Cathedral School. Later in the month, he will depart for San Jose, California, where he will reside in a Jesuit community of the order’s California Province.

“I’ve been thinking about going home now for about five years,” said Bishop Sevilla, who came to Yakima from San Francisco where he grew up and was ordained an auxiliary bishop in 1989. One of his Jesuit associates suggested that he make the move back to California while he is still in good health, which is what he decided to do.

“It’s difficult to leave Yakima. I love it here, but I’m going to be responding to a new vocation, a new call relating to what it means to be emeritus bishop,” he said.

Bishop Sevilla, who has served 19 of his 27 years as a bishop in the Diocese of Yakima, vividly recalls preparing to come here in 1997.

When he told someone that he was going to a place called “Yakima,” he was asked why the Holy Father was sending him “to Japan.” Then, his scheduled arrival here, in late 1997, coincided with the “year of the big snow.” He remembers, “I couldn’t fly. There were no trains. I couldn’t drive.” At last, he was able to fly into a solid white setting, punctuated only by several Jesuits in black who had come to the airport to meet him.

His years as Bishop of the Diocese of Yakima had many highlights. He ordained 30 priests, many of them Latino. He visited Pope Saint John Paul II (and later, as emeritus bishop) Pope Benedict XVI in Rome. He also cites “the coming of age and greater self-awareness of the Hispanic, Catholic community” as a high point.

“Religious sisters have taught me a lot about being a religious,” he adds. “The priests have taught me what it means to be a priest. The lay people, what it means to live out our Baptism.”

Bishop Sevilla likes to paraphrase Pope John Paul II, saying, “To be Pope is an incredible grace. To be a bishop is a magnificent grace. To be a priest is a marvelous blessing. To be baptized is better than all.”

Since 2011, in his years as an emeritus bishop, he has continued to be active in ministry. He’s found it “very engaging, very fulfilling to visit the sick and anoint them.” He has officiated at Confirmation rites and said Mass in various parishes. He has given priest retreats in Yakima, Spokane, Seattle, Oregon and California. He also has preached on behalf of Cross Catholic Outreach at sites across the nation, appealing for prayers and financial support for this organization which serves the poor.

As he begins his new responsibilities in San Jose, he will be assisting the bishop with Hispanic ministry, Bishop Sevilla said.

“I’m told it will be good for the people to see a bishop wearing a miter who speaks Spanish,” he added.

Busy as these changes will keep him, Bishop Sevilla is certain he will return to Central Washington.

“Bishop Tyson has kindly invited me to come back to help with Confirmations next spring,” he said. “There may also be other special occasions.”

Please keep Bishop Emeritus Sevilla in your prayers as he begins this new chapter of his life! We thank him for his many years of service to our Diocese.
Dear Friends:

This issue of the Central Washington Catholic is one of “landmarks.” The main landmark I would like to highlight is Bishop Emeritus Carlos Sevilla’s 50th anniversary as a priest which we will celebrate at St. Paul Cathedral on July 10 at the 11 a.m. Mass. Later in July, Bishop Sevilla is moving back to California to be with his Jesuit brothers but we are not considering this a “despedida” where we are saying “good-bye,” but rather we are giving thanks for his ministry here as bishop even as he gives thanks to God for his 50 years of priestly ministry.

I am so very grateful for his great wisdom, his fraternity and his friendship my first five years here as Bishop of Yakima. Bishop Sevilla has been a gifted retreat master and spiritual guide. He’s become a bit of a “grandfather” for the Yakima priests and a steady compass visiting so many of our parishes. Although I will miss his more regular presence here, I also know we have booked him for some of our Confirmations next year so he will be back to visit us! We also wanted in this issue to note other milestones as well: our women religious including our very active Providence Sister Fe Sumalde, a chaplain at Yakima Regional Medical Center, who celebrates 25 years of religious profession, as well as a newly ordained Jesuit priest who hails from Quincy: Patrick Couture. Next month, we will be featuring some of the others whose vocations have grown out of the Diocese of Yakima and, as you can see, we have a short piece about our upcoming “Quo Vadis” retreat for young men ages 13-19 discerning possible vocations to priesthood, as well as a brief story about the annual Priest vs. Seminarian soccer match.

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Just as our fruit crops are maturing this time of year, it’s a consolation for all of us to know that vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life are maturing and growing thanks to your prayers, your financial support and your great gift of faith.

Devotedly yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Patrick Couture Ordained Jesuit Priest

Patrick N. Couture, a native of Wenatchee who grew up in Quincy, was ordained a Jesuit priest on June 11. The ordination took place at St. Aloysius Church in Spokane.

Father Couture, 34, graduated from Quincy High School and Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. He then went on to earn a B.A. in English literature from Carroll College in Helena, Montana. While applying for graduate school, he revisited his childhood idea of becoming a priest. He entered the Society of Jesus in 2007 and went on to receive a Diploma in Philosophical Studies at Regis College of the University of Toronto. He earned a Master of Divinity degree at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley, California, and now plans to earn his Licentiate in Sacred Theology.

Father Couture celebrated his first Mass as a Jesuit priest at St. Aloysius on the campus of Gonzaga University, and also celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at his home parish, St. Pius X Church in Quincy.

May he be richly blessed throughout his priesthood!

Sisters of Providence Celebrate Anniversaries Continued from page 3

75 years
Maryann Benoit, SP (Sister Valerie)

Sister Maryann Benoit was one of two last Sisters of Providence to leave ministry in Montana since the sisters first arrived there in 1864. Born in Yakima, she was influenced by the Sisters of Providence who taught her at St. Joseph Academy, and entered the religious community in 1940.

She taught third graders at Sacred Heart School in Tacoma; and later students at St. Catherine School, Seattle; Central Catholic High School, Great Falls, Montana.; and boarders at Providence Academy in Vancouver, Washington. She also was an English professor at the College of Great Falls and taught English in Japan.

Thank you to all of these dedicated religious women for their many years of service! Please keep them in your prayers.

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
Sisters of Providence Celebrate Anniversaries  
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a chaplain at Providence Yakima Medical Center (formerly St. Elizabeth Medical Center). She has been nominated for Yakima Valley’s One World, One Valley Award for “unsung heroes” and was nominated as employee of the month and of the year in 2003. Today, she is in her 19th year as a hospital chaplain, still providing emotional, spiritual and grief support to patients, families and staff at what is now Yakima Regional Medical and Cardiac Center.

50 years
Beatrice LaFramboise, SP

Sister Beatrice LaFramboise’s early childhood was spent in Ellensburg. She attended public school in Sunnyside and entered the Sisters of Providence in 1965. She taught preschool for a few years. Ministering at Providence Regina House, a food and clothing bank located at Providence Medical Center, Seattle, led to her becoming involved with the Catholic schools in her search for volunteers. Community Service Learning in schools, with students who needed experience and credit, became a good match. Together, they began a visiting program to the elderly and an Adopt a Family program for holidays. After her 25th anniversary in the community, Sister Bea served in vocation ministry, then social ministry. She worked with a team at Providence Hospitality House, a shelter for women and children. She later resumed vocation ministry, participated as a retreat mentor, and helped with Engaged Encounter. Now, she assists Catholic schools in Seattle.

Linda Jo Reynolds, SP

Sister Linda Jo Reynolds is general councilor-secretary of the international congregation of Sisters of Providence in Montreal. Born in Portland, Oregon, she graduated from Providence Academy in Vancouver, Washington and entered the Sisters of Providence in 1965. After nursing studies at Seattle University, Sister Linda Jo moved to Oakland, California, to minister at Providence Hospital there. She returned to the Northwest to St. Elizabeth Hospital in Yakima.

Sister later moved back to Seattle. She studied missiology at St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada. In 1977, she went as a nurse to Nigeria, where she was in charge of the inpatients at a small bush hospital. She returned to the U.S. in 1981. After study at Seattle University, she began ministry at Blessed Sacrament Parish with the elderly and shut-ins. Next, she was a member of the novitate formation team in Spokane. Later, she helped found the mission in the new Philippine Sector. Sister Linda Jo served in Asia for 25 years doing parish and formation work and in leadership roles within the Sector, which became Our Lady of Providence Vice-Province.

60 years
Joan Campbell, SP (Sister Joanne)

For more than 40 years, Sister Joan Campbell was a prison chaplain in Washington and northern California. She was the first female president of the American Catholic Correctional Chaplains Association. Born in Seattle, she graduated from Holy Angels High School and then entered the Sisters of Providence. For 21 years, she was a first-grade teacher or principal in Catholic schools in Seattle, Vancouver, Yakima, Seahurst and Longview, Washington; and in Burbank, California she helped to design the facility and curriculum at Apple Valley School in Yakima.

Sister Joan was introduced to prison ministry by assisting at the prison in Monroe and volunteering at the Seattle Youth

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Highlights of Diocesan Events

Among the many events occurring over the past weeks in the Diocese of Yakima, we bring you a few highlights:

Five Sisters of Providence with ties to the Diocese of Yakima will be celebrating special anniversaries of service next month. They will be honored at a 10:30 a.m. Mass, Saturday, July 30, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 15226 21st Avenue S.W., in Burien. A reception will follow in the parish hall. These sisters include:

- Fe V. Sumalde, SP

Sister Fe V. Sumalde tried to enter the convent of the Carmelites religious community in her native Philippines at the age of 19, but the mother superior sent her home, telling her to see the world first. She came to the U.S. alone in 1975 and became a nanny for two children in Seattle. She entered the Sisters of Providence as a candidate in 1990, but left the program and returned to the Philippines to visit her mother and her dying father. In 1991, she entered the novitiate, spending her canonical year in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The next year, as an apostolic novice, she volunteered as a patient representative at St. Vincent Hospital and Medical Center in Portland, Oregon. She trained to be a certified nursing assistant at Clackamas Community College and then worked at Providence Child Center.

After training for the chaplaincy at Providence Portland Medical Center, Sister Fe became