



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*  
Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

MAY 2016  
*Newsletter*

## Daniel and Peter Steele: The Brothers Have Become 'Fathers'

By Christine Corbett Conklin

The brothers have become "Fathers!" In a beautiful rite held May 27 at St. Paul Cathedral, Deacons Daniel and Peter Steele were ordained as new priests of the Diocese of Yakima.

The ceremony, at which Bishop Joseph Tyson officiated, was the culmination of years of study and following God's call to serve His people, the brothers say. In attendance were their grandparents, parents, siblings, other relatives and friends, plus clergy and classmates they'd met through the years.

"The whole thing is just unreal," observed Father Dan Steele, 31, in an interview before the ordination. "We've been practicing saying Mass and hearing confessions. It's prayers you've heard your whole life, and now they'll be coming from me. It's so funny because it's still my voice and my hands."

Father Peter Steele, 28, agreed, as he awaited the ordination.

As a seminarian, practicing how to say the Mass, "you say the words, but nothing happens," he said. Attending ordinations of some of his classmates before his own ordination, he watched "as they made the transition first." Then, it was his turn.

To prepare for ordination, Father Dan studied at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon, then Mundelein Seminary near Chicago. Father Peter spent time at the Franciscan novitiate in Alabama, discerning life as a Franciscan Brother. He later pursued studies for the priesthood at Christ the King Seminary near Vancouver, B.C., and at Mundelein. The two brothers plan a fifth year of theology studies at Mundelein over the coming summers.

Going through training for the priesthood with your own brother "is an extra blessing," Father Peter said.

"It's great to have someone who really understands you and is in your corner," added Father Dan. "There's a sense of support and friendship."

After years of study and temporary summer assignments, Father Peter said that he is "looking forward to finally being in a place, getting to know people, being involved in their lives, growing into the community." He'd like to "be an instrument of bringing God to people and bringing people to God." As of August 13, he will assume the duties of parochial vicar for St. Joseph Church in Yakima.

Father Dan said that he is anticipating "celebrating the sacraments – saying Mass, leading people to God's mercy in confession, preaching, offering the last rites in the hospital – sharing the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith." He will assume the duties of parochial vicar for Christ the King Church in Richland on August 13.

The two brothers begin their priesthood with special gifts of chalices from their parents and vestments purchased with money from their grandparents. They also have inherited items such as stoles and bottles for sacred oils from the late Monsignor Desmond Dillon.

Neither of them looks at the priesthood as a vocation which requires great sacrifice.

"It's so unfair – all the blessings we receive and the things we get to do," observed Father Dan. "The life that God has planned for me is amazing!" Although the married life was always attractive to him, he said that he is being led by God to "the deeper desire" in his heart which will lead to "ultimate happiness."

Father Peter shares these thoughts.



Father Dan Steele (left) and Father Peter Steele with Bishop Tyson at their ordination as deacons last year.

"Any vocation you choose, you're always giving up something else that you can't do. There's a joy in doing it (the priesthood) if that's what God has designed you for."

It's a blessing for a smaller Diocese to have a pair of biological brothers who are priests. Yet, the Diocese of Yakima is doubly blessed to have TWO sets. The Steele brothers join longtime priests Father John Shaw and Father William Shaw who head the Diocese's Native American ministry and serve as pastor, respectively, at St. Mary's Church in White Swan.

One of the Shaw brothers is a little more extroverted than the other and it's the same with the Steele brothers, one of the new priests noted. (We're not mentioning any names.)

"Bishop Tyson is always joking, there's you guys in 30 years," Father Dan said.

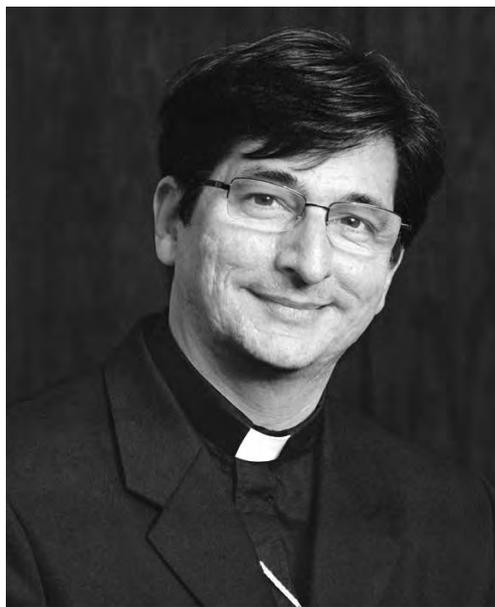
Please join in praying for the Fathers Steele and all of the clergy and religious of the Diocese!

## A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

Needless to say, the big moment in the month of May for our local Church is the ordination of our two new priests: Father Dan Steele and Father Peter Steele, for service to us here in the Diocese of Yakima. In the Church's ordination instruction, there's a wonderful line that's an optional part of the address to the man right before he is ordained a priest. It goes like this: "Meditate on the law of God, believe what you read, teach what you believe, and put into practice what you teach."

That might be a sage command for each of us as we move into summer mode. St. Paul often used sports as an analogy to talk about the "law." While we popularly think of the "law" as something that limits personal freedom, we also know that the rules by which we play in sports actually make the game possible and enjoyable. Watching an athlete like the basketball player Stephen Curry bring together the rules of the game and the rules of a disciplined practice routine can make us appreciate St. Paul's sports analogy. What's true of rules in sports is even more true with the law of



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

God. The law of God does not limit our freedom but rather is the very means by which we learn to excel in a life of moral and spiritual excellence. When we embrace God's law we become the very person God created us to be. Meditating on the law of God allows us to believe what we read,

teach what we believe and put into practice what we teach.

Through this lens of meditating on the law of God we can grasp the great gift we have in our upcoming "Fortnight for Freedom" promoted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and – as you will read in this issue – lived out by Catholics across the Diocese of Yakima.

As I mark my fifth anniversary as your bishop, I am so grateful for the many ways you meditate on the law of God and live out this law in your family, your parish and your local community. I hope these stories in this month's issue inspire you to deepen your appreciation for our Catholic community here in Central Washington. Who knows? Maybe as you watch me and my priests take on the seminarians in our annual soccer match, you'll remember that the rules of the soccer game are but a parable of the greatness that awaits us when we embrace the rules God gives us through His law.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

## New Assignments for Priests Announced for Diocese of Yakima

Bishop Joseph Tyson has announced the following new assignments for priests within the Diocese of Yakima, with effective dates beginning in June, as well as a change of residence for our emeritus bishop:

**Bishop Emeritus Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J.**, Bishop Emeritus since May 31, 2011, will move from Yakima to the Bellarmine Jesuits Community in San Jose, Calif., on July 19. We are deeply grateful for his many years of service in the Diocese of Yakima.

**Father Jorge Granados**, pastor of Our Lady of the Desert Parish in Mattawa, will become parochial vicar of Saint Aloysius Parish in Toppenish effective August 8.

**Father Alejandro Trejo**, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Cashmere and Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Leavenworth, will become pastor of Our Lady of the Desert Parish in Mattawa effective August 8.

**Father Miguel González**, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Ephrata, will become pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Cashmere and Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Leavenworth effective August 8. From June 6 to August 8, he will assist at St. Paul Cathedral and in other parishes.

**Father Mauricio Muñoz**, parochial vicar of St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima, will become pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Ephrata effective June 6.

**Father Juan Flores**, now on temporary assignment at St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick, will become parochial vicar of St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima effective July 1.

**Father Tomás Vásquez**, pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Ellensburg, will become pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick effective July 1.

**Father Richard Sedlacek**, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick, will become pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Selah effective July 1.

**Father David Jimenez**, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Selah, will become pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in Wapato effective July 1.

**Father Juan Godina**, pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in Wapato, will become pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Ellensburg effective July 1.

**Father Jacob Davis**, parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Grandview, will become parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick effective July 1.

**Father Roletto Amoy**, parochial vicar of Christ the King Parish in Richland, will become parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Grandview effective August 13.

**Father Dan Steele**, who was ordained to the priesthood May 27, will become parochial vicar of Christ the King Parish in Richland effective August 13, following summer studies at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois.

**Father Peter Steele**, who was ordained to the priesthood May 27, will become parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Yakima effective August 13, following summer studies at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois.

Please keep all of our diocesan clergy and religious in your prayers as they serve our communities.

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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# Finding Balance on Facebook

By Caitlin Bootsma, Consultant to the VIRTUS® Programs

Facebook gathers all sorts of data about its users, information that reveals some interesting insights. For example, does it surprise you that adults with kids spend 1.3 times more time on Facebook than their childless counterparts?

As an adult who spends time on this ubiquitous social media platform, the reasons they give for parents' presence online resonate with me. Part of this extra time online has to do with our role of caring for children. We post pictures of our children, arrange meet-ups with others' parents, and even pose parenting or education questions on our wall. Many of us find community with other caregivers in Facebook groups – an especially welcome haven for adults seeking particular guidance on everything from being a Catholic parent to nurturing children with disabilities.

While Facebook poses specific benefits to parents, it can pose particular challenges for adults who care for children. As most of us know, spending time on social media can be more time consuming than we realize. And, for adults whose time is spent juggling the varied needs of kids, work and home life, budgeting how much time we spend online is important. Additionally, with parenting opinions coming from every corner of Facebook, it can sometimes be challenging to navigate what you as an adult think is best for the children in your care, rather than what the latest trend is in the “mommy wars.”

Ultimately, we should see Facebook – or any other social media platform – as a tool to be used in moderation. Seek community, ask for advice, but turn off your phone or computer when the chatter gets cumbersome or prevents you from spending quality time with children – they definitely notice when our phones are our first priority.

*Note: The Diocese of Yakima is introducing Virtus safe environment training to all clergy, employees and volunteers who work with minors, over a three-year period.*



Don't let Facebook interfere with life.

# Peter's Pence Collection Offered

Through the Peter's Pence Collection June 18-19, Catholics in the Diocese of Yakima will stand in solidarity with Catholics all over the world to support the charitable works of Pope Francis. Contributions to this collection are used to support the Holy Father as he reaches out to those suffering the effects of war and violence, natural disasters, and religious persecution.

As Pope Francis has reminded us in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, “the time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters. Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, no. 10).

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Terry Sliger, Central Washington Catholic Foundation Trustee

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# NEWS

## From Around the Diocese

### Mount Angel Abbey Plans Festival

All adults are invited to attend the Saint Benedict Festival planned for the grounds of Mount Angel Abbey & Seminary in Mount Angel, Oregon, July 9. The afternoon event will begin with noon prayer and include catered food, beverages from the Abbey's own Benedictine Brewery, and live music. There will be lawn games with the monks, tours, an "Attic Sale" of mementos and other monks' items from the cloister, plus a marketplace with monastic crafts and silent auction offerings.

The festival also will offer the opportunity for chanted prayers with the monks and a glimpse into Benedictine spirituality. There is a \$50 per person charge to attend the event, which includes food, two beverages, and the full range of other activities. Space is limited, with tickets available at [www.mountangelabbey.org](http://www.mountangelabbey.org) or by calling (503) 845-3064.

For those interested in traveling by bus with a group, there may still be a few seats available. A charter bus will be leaving from St. Joseph Church in Yakima, for a cost of \$100 for the day, including transportation, admission, catered food and extras. For more information, contact Connie at 966-6386 or Carol at 457-5935.

Proceeds from the festival will go to benefit the works of Mount Angel Abbey.

### Quo Vadis Days Scheduled

Young Catholic men between the ages of 13 and 19 are invited to take a closer look at their vocation in life – and have fun with their peers – at the fourth annual Quo Vadis Days event.

This gathering is planned for August 1-3 at Camp Koinonia in Cle Elum. Registration is required. The cost is \$50, with scholarships available.

For more information, contact seminarian Jesus Alatorre at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima, (509) 575-3713.

### Priests and Seminarians Play Soccer

Will the priests show mercy to the seminarians in 2016? Will the seminarians make an exciting comeback, with a secret weapon of novenas? Come and find out as priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Yakima face off in their fifth annual soccer match, Sunday, August 7.

Admission is free for this family event which will begin at 6 p.m. at Marquette Stadium, 5400 West Chestnut Avenue in Yakima.

The gates will open at 5 p.m., with food, beverages and tee shirts available to buy. Proceeds from the sales will benefit the Seminarian Education Trust.

### Year of Mercy Pilgrimage Set

There's still time to make reservations for a Year of Mercy Jubilee Journey to the Czech Republic and Poland, October 31 – November 10.

Highlights of the pilgrimage will include visits to the Shrine of the Infant of Prague, the Nazi concentration camp where Sts. Edith Stein and Maximilian Kolbe gave their lives, the birthplace of Pope St. John Paul II, and the Divine Mercy shrine itself.

Spiritual directors for the journey will be Bishop Joseph Tyson; Father Daniel Dufner, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Moses Lake; and Father Felipe Pulido, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Yakima.

For more information, contact Jane Dickinson at (509) 750-8409 or email [jane.moseslake@yahoo.com](mailto:jane.moseslake@yahoo.com).

## Fortnight for Freedom: Taking a Stand for Religious Liberty

Catholics across the United States will have the chance to stand up for religious liberty during the national Fortnight for Freedom, scheduled for June 21 through July 4.

The dates were selected to run from the vigil of the feast day of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, who gave their lives for their faith, to Independence Day, according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

In Yakima, individuals from various parishes will hold an annual rally for religious liberty at the corner of 40th and Summitview avenues, from 10 a.m. to noon, July 2. Check with your local parish to see what else may be planned for your area.

The national Fortnight for Freedom observance began in 2012, following the writing of a 2011 letter by New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan, who expressed concern about U.S. Department of Justice actions against the Defense of Marriage Act, according to information from Wikipedia. Archbishop Dolan "predicted such actions on the part of the federal government would 'precipitate a national conflict between church and state of enormous proportions...,'" the information said, quoting a Catholic News Service report.

That same year, Pope Benedict XVI addressed American bishops in Rome. He "highlighted the need for the American government to respect the religious 'freedom of worship' and 'freedom of conscience' amidst 'radical secularism,'" Wikipedia related, citing information from the Holy See and the publication, Marriage Unique for a Reason.

In recent years, various events have been planned across the nation to observe Fortnight for Freedom. They have included everything from Eucharistic processions to Masses, a candlelight vigil, prayer service, interactive town hall meeting – and even a motorcycle ride and blessing of vehicles.

This year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has selected women and men to honor from around the world who "bear witness to authentic freedom in Christ." They include the Little Sisters of the Poor; Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher; the Coptic Martyrs; St. John the Baptist; Ven. Henriette Delille; Blessed Oscar Romero; the Martyrs of Compiegne; Father John Bapst, S.J.; Sts. Peter and Paul; Sts. Felicity and Perpetua; Blessed Miguel Pro; St. Maximilian Kolbe; St. Edith Stein and St. Kateri Tekakwitha. To learn more about the honorees, visit the USCCB website at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

In the words of Pope Francis, delivered on June 20, 2014, "Religious freedom is not only that of private thought or worship. It is the liberty to live, both privately and publicly, according to the ethical principles resulting from found truth."

Pope Francis also offered these words of encouragement to us all, on December 21, 2014: "Dear brothers and sisters who courageously bear witness to Jesus in the land blessed by the Lord, our consolation and our hope is Christ himself. I encourage you, then, to remain close to him, like branches on the vine, in the certainty that no tribulation, distress or persecution can separate us from him (cf. Rom 8:35). May the trials which you are presently enduring strengthen the faith and the fidelity of each and all of you!"



Area Catholics stood in front of Holy Family Catholic Church in Yakima in a previous observance of Fortnight for Freedom.

### Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty

*O God our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.*

*We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.*

*Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome—for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

*(Prayer courtesy of the USCCB)*