



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*  
Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

MAY 2017 Newsletter

## Father Thomas Champoux: Newest Monsignor Celebrates 50 Years as a Priest

By Christine Corbett Conklin

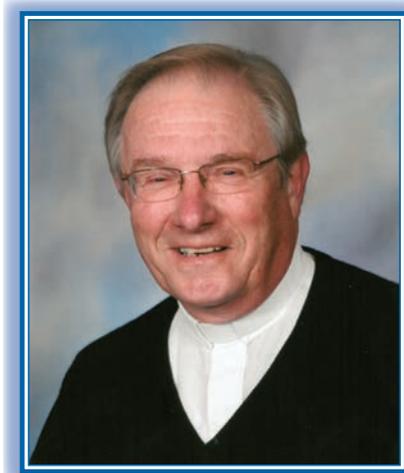
As Father Thomas Champoux, the newest Monsignor of the Diocese of Yakima, looks back over the first 50 years of his priesthood, his strongest impression is of the many wonderful people he has encountered.

Father Champoux, who was just appointed by Pope Francis as a chaplain to His Holiness (a Monsignor), said that, throughout parish assignments, teaching and in more than 20 years heading Catholic Charities for the Diocese, "I just feel grateful for the people who have been a part of my life."

As a priest, "you start out thinking you can do some good," noted Monsignor Champoux, who has served as pastor of Christ the King Parish in Richland since 1996. Yet, along the way, following his 1967 ordination by Bishop Joseph Dougherty, he has been impressed by the good which so many lay people do: volunteers and staff members throughout the Diocese who give their all to help care for and encourage each other.

His family members, including a brother and three sisters (one of whom is now deceased) have also been very supportive, he noted. For example, his sister, Joan, who died a number of years ago, was instrumental in beginning Sausage Fest, a fundraiser to support Christ the King School, plus a dinner dance to benefit Catholic Charities – both of which have continued for some 30 years.

However, Monsignor has managed to accomplish quite a bit himself through the years, accomplishments which were honored recently in anniversary celebrations at both



*Monsignor Tom Champoux*

Christ the King Church and St. Paul Cathedral.

A native of Yakima who graduated from St. Paul Cathedral School, he attended St. Edward and St. Thomas seminaries, both in Kenmore, Washington. Following ordination, he was assistant pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Wenatchee, where he also taught everything from mechanical drawing to religion, physical education and history at the parish school.

Bishop Cornelius Power sent Monsignor to graduate school in Michigan to help to fill a need for counselors in the Diocese. Soon after completing his studies, and teaching for a time at Carroll High School in Yakima, he was asked to take the helm of Catholic Charities. The agency represented a "totally

different world" from the life of the parish priest, he observed. However, with his specialized training, Catholic Charities was a good fit from 1975 until the early 90s. Then, Bishop Francis George said that he needed him for parish work.

Monsignor Champoux served as pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Yakima for his final three years of heading Catholic Charities, going on to become pastor of Christ the King. For a time, he had also been in residence at Holy Rosary Church in Moxee.

In looking back to his early days in the priesthood, there were some definite differences from today, he recalled. He had trained to say Mass in Latin, although a little English was working its way into the Mass soon after he was ordained.

Also, "in those days, there were lots of us (priests)," he said. "Half of our clergy at the time was born in Ireland." And, when a priest reached the age of 65 or 70, he "could really retire," in contrast to today's priest shortage which requires some priests to extend their years of service.

Wherever he has been assigned, and whatever his duties have been through the years, Monsignor sees "the hand of God in the changes that have happened for me." He's still hard at work as a priest, "helping people see the light at the end of the tunnel and helping people find God in their lives."

Congratulations to Monsignor Champoux on this significant milestone in his priesthood!

## The Fathers Shaw Celebrate 60 Years as Priests

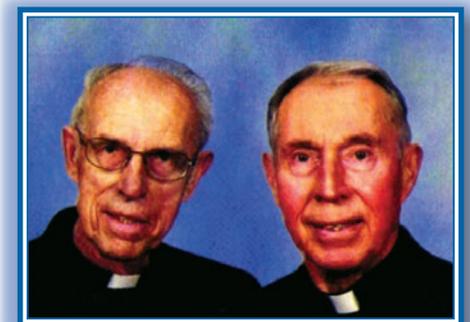
Fathers John and Bill Shaw of White Swan will be honored at two special celebrations marking their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the priesthood.

All are welcome to attend a Mass at 11 a.m., June 18, at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima with a reception following in the Gathering Hall. Then, on June 25, there will be an 11 a.m. Mass at St. Mary Church in White Swan, with a reception afterward in the church hall.

The brothers Shaw, who were ordained together in 1957, were special honorees last

October at the Celebration of Faith hosted by the Central Washington Catholic Foundation in Yakima. Between them, they have combined service in some 24 parishes within the Diocese. In addition, they have been active in pro-life ministry, often joining with others to pray at Planned Parenthood in Yakima.

Father Bill currently serves as pastor of St. Mary Church, while Father John heads the Native American ministry for the Diocese. Congratulations to these two dedicated servants of Christ!



*(Left to right) Fathers John and Bill Shaw*

# A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends,

Winter has finally broken here in Central Washington and the warmth of the summer heat has finally started to ripen our fruit trees and crops. Can we say the same about our interior life? Are we warming others with the light of our faith?

Before the conversion of her son St. Augustine, St. Monica often found herself in tears and once found herself before the famous St. Ambrose. St. Ambrose said to St. Monica that she should talk less to her son about God and she should talk more to God about her son. Up until that point it had been the other way around in the spiritual life of St. Monica.

Might that be the same for us, too? This issue of the *Central Washington Catholic* shares stories of people and events here in the Diocese of Yakima who bring warmth and light to our faith.

Father Tom Champoux stressed that his being named a Monsignor by the Holy Father was not an honor for himself but an honor for those who support the ministry of Catholic Charities here in the Diocese of Yakima as well as in his parish ministry at Christ the King in Richland. The 60th anniversary of ordination of Fathers John and Bill Shaw similarly remind us how faithful service casts light and warmth, showing us the way to Jesus. These two brothers have done this so faithfully for all of us. They have done so with special and particular care for our Yakama Nation people.

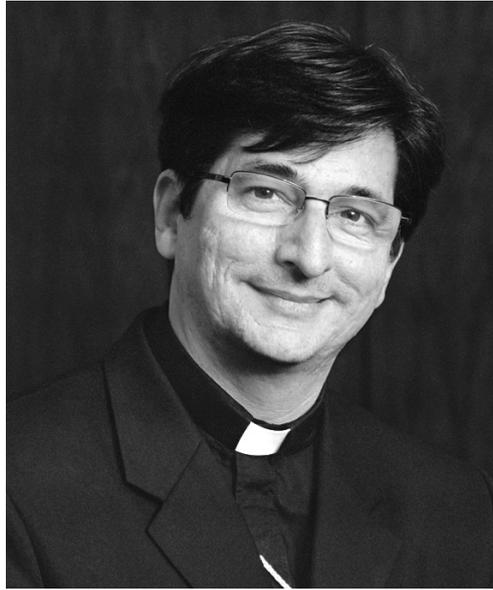
Yet light still needs to be cast. Hence our reminder about the upcoming Cornerstone Conference this October 20-21 in Tacoma. Please read it to review the very fine speakers who are coming to help deepen our understanding of Church teachings on the life issues.

In order to help prepare for this event, this last winter I went to each of the deaneries across the seven counties in our Diocese for what I termed as "Cornerstone Consultations." I reminded those who attended that our Church's teachings on life issues such as abortion anchor all other issues of justice – such as immigration. I also spoke of the importance of better forming our consciences.

How might we cast the warmth of our light in that regard? Our teaching document from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Conscience Formation for Faithful Citizenship," captures the challenge we face in casting forth the light of our faith (paragraphs noted for easy reference):

"27. Two temptations in public life can distort the Church's defense of human life and dignity:

"28. The first is a moral equivalence that makes no ethical distinctions between different kinds of issues involving human life and dignity. The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed.

"29. The second is the misuse of these necessary moral distinctions as a way of dismissing or ignoring other serious threats to human life and dignity. The current and projected extent of environmental degradation has become a moral crisis especially because it poses a risk to humanity in the future and threatens the lives of poor and vulnerable human persons here and now. Racism and other unjust discrimination, the use of the death penalty, resorting to unjust war, the use of torture, war crimes, the failure to respond to those who are suffering from hunger or a lack of health care, pornography, redefining civil marriage, compromising religious liberty, or an unjust immigration policy are all serious moral issues that challenge our consciences and require us to act. These are not optional concerns which can be dismissed."

Indeed the document likens our work to "building a civilization of love," noting that "attacks against human dignity such as abortion and euthanasia strike at the house's foundation." This is why I have often repeatedly stated that if we want to save the unborn we have to walk through the doors of the undocumented.

Yet if you are like me and have long roots here in Washington State you are painfully aware that this "door" to life has been broken for a very long time. Many have forgotten that when we sent an army to Europe in World War II, Mexico sent an army to help harvest our crops here in Central Washington – the "braceros" – and that this extra set of "arms" has been helping ever since through a complex maze of ever changing laws, rules and regulations that have little bearing on job demands or economic need. Indeed, it's not unusual to find among the "undocumented" the children and grandchildren of the "braceros" coming from

the same rural areas of Mexico today as they did 60 years ago.

Even more, as bishop of a Diocese that is nearly three-fourths Hispanic and where most people go to Mass in Spanish, I am keenly aware of so many living in the shadows of fear and darkness. They fear a government willing to conduct the most grave injustice of separating parents and children through deportation. They live under the shadow of an unjust deportation policy inconsistent with most basic premises of Catholic social teaching that allow deportations to occur – not on the basis of a criminal offense – but on the basis of an allegation. This environment runs the risk of poisoning the necessary trust we need to foster if we are to reach the actual families of the unborn.

How might we fix this "door" in our house of life? One way is through better information. To that end, the *Central Washington Catholic* will be launching a monthly column focusing on the actual facts of immigration law, policy and practice. We do this because immigration is the door and the pathway if we are to better protect the unborn and uplift the dignity of women and their families. I hope you will read it carefully and attentively.

Ultimately, and most importantly, we all need to follow the sage advice that St. Ambrose gave to St. Monica. If we are to foster conversion as St. Monica did in the life of her son, St. Augustine, then it requires us to talk more to God about the St. Augustines of our own time and era.

Spiritual winter may be over thanks to you! Thanks for the many ways you bring light and warmth to those around you. Let's bear that light to those who live in the shadows of darkness. See you at Cornerstone 2017!

With my every best wish and blessing,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

## Central Washington Catholic

**MAY 2017 • Volume 57 • Issue 5**

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*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.*

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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

# Raising Catholic Children: Mothers of the Diocese Speak Out *Continued from page 4*

raments in migrant labor camps and had pictures of Jesus and Mary in their home – which all helped to “plant the seeds” of Faith.

As an adult, Elvia became a religious education teacher in her parish.

“I also learned while the kids were in class,” she said, noting that if a mother will just ask at her parish office, she can find resources to help both herself and her children to learn.

Carol Bergstrom of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Selah, who has seven grown children with her husband, Vernon, recommends being a “home mother” if at all possible, “to instill in them your own values and the true Catholic Faith.”

Acknowledging, however, that this



*Carol Bergstrom and her daughter, Elizabeth.*

may not be possible for every mother, she suggests, “spend dinner together at the end of each day, with genuine interest in each child...” Take time for other teaching moments, too, such as reading to younger children, making a visit to church and explaining to children what they see there, and weaving in religious notes at Christmas and other special times of the year, she says.

Your own example is very important, Bergstrom adds, so “hold back an uncharitable word,” be patient with others and “lend a helping hand” to those in need.

On a final note of encouragement, Roberta Guzek suggests that all mothers “take care of your relationship with Christ. If you can maintain that spiritual happiness, it will radiate to your children.”

## Undocumented Immigration Questions Explored

*By Ann Dibble - Associate, Sisters of the Holy Names*

Undocumented immigration is a hot topic, and especially important in the Yakima Diocese, where many undocumented workers reside. We are taking a look at some of the questions people have about this subject. First, we’ll look at immigration law and our economy.

Why don’t would-be immigrants get visas before coming to the United States?

**There aren’t enough visas allocated for low-skilled jobs.**

Out of about one million green cards issued annually, only 5,000 are allotted for low-skilled workers and their families each year. Low-skilled immigrants have virtually no chance at receiving a green card. But, the dynamic American economy needs them, given the huge demand for their labor.

**Our economy demands high numbers of low-skilled workers.**

It’s not just that Americans won’t do the work, the reality is that there are not

enough of us. Foreign Policy Magazine reports that “According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the United States will need 3 million additional workers over the next decade to fill the least-skilled jobs — jobs that do not require a high school degree — in order to achieve

projected economic growth. These include jobs in home health, food preparation, freight, child care, cleaning, landscaping, and construction. Over the same period, the total number of U.S. workers entering the labor force at all skill levels, between the ages of 25 and 54, will be 1.7 million.”

**Skilled workers create more unskilled jobs.**

The fact that we have this problem is actually an indication that most U.S. workers are highly skilled and very productive. Record numbers of Americans are educated. The Pew Research Center reports that fully a third of 25-29 year olds have completed a Bachelor’s degree. These skilled workers create more jobs, both skilled and unskilled. Imagine a high-tech startup putting together a staff; It needs marketers and programmers, but it also needs people to take out the trash, take care of grandma, make the pizza, and cut the grass.

As our economy prospers, more low-skilled jobs will be created. These jobs will either be filled by immigrants, or they won’t be filled at all, stunting our economy and slowing our growth.

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

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# NEWS

## *from Around the Diocese*

### **New Deacon To Be Ordained**

Jesús Alatorre was ordained a transitional deacon on May 26 at St. Joseph Church in Wenatchee.

Alatorre, who is completing his third year of theology studies at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago, hopes to be ordained a priest of the Diocese of Yakima next year.

Congratulations to Jesús! Please pray for him, our seminarians for the Diocese and for an increase in vocations.

### **St. Benedict Festival Slated**

The annual St. Benedict Festival is scheduled for Saturday, July 8, at Mount Angel Abbey in St. Benedict, Oregon.

The event, which is open to those 21 and older, will feature noon prayer and vespers, Swiss-style cuisine, tours, beer and wine tasting and sale of religious items.

Tickets are \$50 each, with more information available at (503) 845-3064, or from Carol at (509) 457-5935 or Connie at (509) 966-6386.

### **Rosary Crusade Has Begun**

Parishioners in the Diocese of Yakima have been invited to participate in the spiritual preparation for an Evening of Eucharistic Adoration and Living Scriptural Rosary, Sunday, July 23, 7 p.m. at the Avista Stadium in Spokane.

The Diocese of Spokane launched a Family Rosary Crusade February 23 to prepare for the July 23 event. Parishes in both dioceses, at the discretion of the pastor, will be encouraging the praying of the Rosary and praying before the Blessed Sacrament, to prepare for the event.

In the Yakima Diocese, the Knights of Columbus council in Moses Lake has been helping to distribute miraculous medals and pledge cards for families to use to commit to praying all or part of the Rosary together.

"I thank you in advance for your support of this important effort to deepen our love for the Eucharist as well as our devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary," said Yakima Bishop Joseph Tyson, in a letter to priests encouraging participation in the crusade.

### **Have You Registered for Cornerstone?**

There's still time to register for the Cornerstone Catholic Conference, scheduled for October 20-21 at the Tacoma Convention Center. The theme will be "Together for Life & Justice".

The forum will include keynotes by Washington State Bishops, plus talks by Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles, Robert McCloud with Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and Helen Alvarez, a former director with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

To register, visit [www.cornerstonecatholic.org](http://www.cornerstonecatholic.org) or call Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006.

## **Raising Catholic Children: Mothers of the Diocese Speak Out**

*By Christine Corbett Conklin*

In raising Catholic children, the most valuable gift you can give isn't the latest electronic gadget or top-of-the-line athletic shoes, say veteran mothers of the Diocese of Yakima. Instead, it's the gift of your time that really counts, they suggest.

In this special month of honoring mothers, numerous women from Wenatchee to the Tri-Cities, Moxee, White Swan and Selah shared their personal experiences and recommendations for passing along the Catholic Faith to a new generation.

To begin, take advantage of small, everyday opportunities to reach out to your children, recommends Emily Floyd of St. Joseph Parish in Wenatchee. Emily, with her husband, Ben, has four children between the ages of 8 and 1-1/2, with an adopted daughter from China expected to arrive in the fall.



*Emily Floyd and son Gideon with daughter Gwen in background.*

"Find new and different ways to relate to them, show them you love them," she suggests. "It allows them to blossom when you look at them and see (each) as a unique child of God."

This might mean something as simple as bringing just one child with you to run an errand, and talking to the child along the way. In addition, the Floyd family attends Mass together, prays before meals, talks "a lot about different saints" and even uses time traveling to the grocery store to say the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

In this hectic world, with many daily activities and a constant barrage of messages and music from electronic devices,



*From left, Joseph, Leah, Roberta and Rachel Guzek.*

Roberta Guzek of St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick also emphasizes the importance of taking time periodically just "to be home and to be quiet" with your children. In her home, the TV is almost never on, the radio only occasionally.

"Most people don't even talk to each other," added Guzek, who with her husband, Jim, has an adult son and three adopted 14-year-olds -- twin daughters and a son. Electronic devices eat up time and often transmit negative messages to our children, she observed.



*Denise Draper read to two of her children, Isabella and Brady.*

"We are so busy in our culture, in general...we forget to just stop and enjoy each moment," agreed Denise Draper of Holy Rosary Parish in Moxee who, with her husband, Nathan, has seven children, with another baby son due soon.

"Our obligation is to hand on the Catholic Faith to our kids," she added. The Draper family home schools, reads to their children about the saints and attends Mass and Tuesday adoration as a family, for example, to help teach the Faith.



*Elvia Gonzalez with son Andy and daughter Terrie.*

Elvia Gonzalez of St. Mary Parish in White Swan, who has three grown children with her husband, Andy, acknowledges that not all families can home school, however, everyone can find teaching moments in daily life.

"I came from a migrant family," she explained, yet her family still took advantage of every opportunity they could to grow in the Faith. They received sac-

*Continued on page 3*