



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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A view of the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square, with pictures of the seven new saints visible in the foreground. -Photo by Kay Gamache



Pope Benedict XVI greeted the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square. -Photo by Dennis Houston



Pilgrims from the Yakima Diocese stood with Bishop Tyson on the steps of St. John Lateran Church in Rome.

Pilgrims Describe Sights, Emotions of Kateri Tekakwitha Canonization

By Christine Corbett Conklin

The sights, the sounds and the push of the crowd will long live in the memories of a group of pilgrims from the Yakima Diocese who attended the October 21 canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha in Rome.

Bishop Joseph Tyson and 29 other parishioners from the Diocese made the journey to attend the canonization of a total of seven new saints of the Catholic Church. On a sunny day in St. Peter's Square, they were immersed in a crowd of an estimated 100,000 people from throughout the world, all eager to be part of this historic event.

"I was really blessed to be there," observed Bishop Tyson, who was invited to join in celebrating the canonization Mass

due to his leading role in documenting the second miracle attributed to the new Saint Kateri: the healing of Jake Finkbonner, a Washington State boy afflicted with flesh-eating bacteria. "It was a huge moment. You really get a sense of tradition."

Others canonized that day included Sister Marianne Cope, a German-born nun raised in New York; Pedro Calungsod of the Philippines; French Jesuit Jacques Berthieu; Italian priest Giovanni Battista Piamarta; Spanish nun María Carmen Sálles y Barangueras; and German laywoman Anna Schäffer. A large picture of each new saint hung from the façade of St. Peter's Basilica.

Despite the huge crowd, and most of the

group not having chairs for the three-hour ceremony, "we were able to see," said Tom Tucker, a parishioner from St. Joseph Church in Wenatchee who attended with his 11-year-old son, Jax.

"We were close enough to see the Holy Father celebrating (the Mass), Bishop Tyson celebrating," he said. "You felt the spirit of the crowd, a sense of community with people from throughout the world. It was very reverent."

One moment particularly stands out in Tucker's mind.

"It was misty in the morning and then the sun came out," he recalled. "It made St.

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The Season Of Advent: How Will YOU Choose To Celebrate It?

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Ahh, the weeks before Christmas! The shopping. The decorating. Friends and family gathering. Parties. Great food. Oops. Remember something called "Advent?"

In the midst of the season's commercial rush to buy it all and do it all, it's important to remember the true reason for the season, suggests Father Juan Flores, pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Toppenish and Resurrection Parish in Zillah.

"Come to church," he urges. "It's a beautiful season for the Church and for families!"

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin "advenire," meaning "coming" or "arriving,"



said Flores, who also serves as Director of Liturgy & Worship for the Diocese of Yakima. "It's a time of preparing to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, and also to celebrate Jesus coming in

our time" (most notably in the Mass), he explained. "Advent also reminds up to prepare ourselves for the second coming (of Christ)."

This year, Advent begins the weekend of

December 2 and continues through Christmas Eve. The liturgical color of the season is predominantly purple, associated with penitence and fasting. However, on the third Sunday of Advent, called "Gaudete Sunday," the liturgical color is rose (not "pink"!), symbolizing rejoicing that the wait is almost over.

"In the past, Advent was like a mini-Lent, with time for penance and prayer," Flores observed. Now, the Catholic Church still emphasizes prayer, with many parishes distributing small booklets with a reading

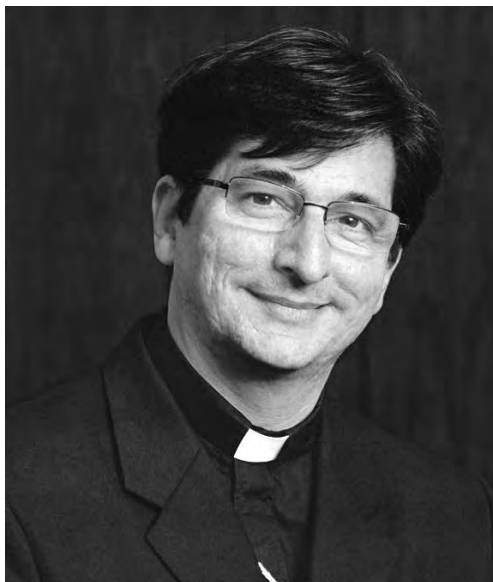
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A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends,

During the shortest days of the year, the Church points to the bright dawning of Christ. Indeed, Christmas lands for the Northern Hemisphere precisely as the days begin to inch forward in length with the full flowering of long days in the Easter season.

That's precisely what this month's Central Washington Catholic intends to do for each of you. Our main stories this month point to Christ's light shining in darkness. The Advent journey points to "advent" in its Latin-based meaning: "arrival." Our parish in White Swan – St. Mary – walks with so many on the journey of faith, reflecting the light of Christ for the Yakama people as it provides a place of gathering so that the faith of the Church can grow in the hearts of parishioners and become an invitation to the surrounding communities. Likewise, the canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha as the first woman Native American saint for the Church points to a kind of arrival – not only for the pilgrims who joined me in Rome – but for those who have been praying so long that she might be uplifted as one reflecting the



Bishop Joseph Tyson

light of Christ for our Pilgrim Church.

While visiting St. Mary in White Swan earlier this year, I shared with parishioners my joy at being invited to concelebrate the liturgy of her canonization in Rome. During the homily, our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI stressed that all seven saints canonized that day – Jacques Berthieu, Pedro Calungsod, Giovanni

Battista Piamarta, María Carmen Sallés y Barangueras, Marianne Cope, Kateri Tekakwitha, and Anna Schäffer – were saints for the "New Evangelization."

Why? Because they were examples of regular flesh-and-bone men and women who carried the Gospel message in situations of cultural change and even cultural challenge. Pope Benedict suggested that this might be the precise task that lies ahead for each of us as we uplift the Gospel of Jesus Christ in today's cultural settings, which are sometimes marked by indifference or even rejection.

I hope that you take courage and hope as you read these articles about your fellow Catholics here in Central Washington who are making a difference in their local communities precisely because they are not afraid to uplift the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the face of the tensions and challenges they face in daily life.

With every best wish and blessing,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Pilgrims Describe Sights, Emotions of Kateri Tekakwitha Canonization *continued from page 1*

Peter's glow in the sunshine. It was beautiful."

Jax Tucker, who is a fifth grader at St. Joseph School in Wenatchee, was impressed, too.

"It was very exciting to see the Pope," he said. "I got a lot of pictures of him."

For Lydia Johnson, 92, a parishioner of St. Peter Claver Church in Wapato, the day of canonization for the 17th century "Lily of the Mohawks," who was born in present day New York, was particularly significant.

"I was the only Indian in our group," she pointed out. "Kateri's canonization meant a great deal to all of us, but especially to the Indian people."

Johnson noted that it wasn't always easy to understand what was being said during the ceremony, since English was spoken only twice: when Kateri Tekakwitha and Sister Marianne Cope were mentioned. The Pope also spoke in Latin, Italian, French and German. Other members of the local contingent noted that this trip was a true pilgrimage in many ways: walking five to eight miles per day, experiencing delays, enduring the crowds and heat. However, the experience was well worth it, they all agree.

"This is the Year of Faith. The theme is New Evangelization," observed Ron Gamache, who made the pilgrimage along with his wife, Kay. Both are members of Holy Family Church, Yakima.

"I thought maybe this was a time for me to renew my faith," he said. "This was special to me. I can see Kateri being an inspiration to me that I need to keep my faith strong in spite of the secular growth of our nation."

It was also moving to see that several of the new saints are lay people, Kay Gamache added. "These are ordinary people whose lives have been brought forward by some of the things that we should emulate," she said.

In addition to the memories they will always have, the pilgrims brought home numerous souvenirs. For Jax Tucker, that included Kateri prayer cards, blessed rosaries and bookmarks and, oh yes, a few bobblehead dolls of Julius Caesar and gladiators! After all, "When in Rome..."

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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Convention Encourages Diocesan Youth to Live Their Faith

Nearly 200 youth from throughout the Diocese of Yakima recently accepted the challenge to “live out the Gospel,” attending the annual Diocesan Youth Convention November 2-4 at St. Joseph Parish in Wenatchee.

Bishop Joseph Tyson opened the weekend, urging all attendees to be a part of the “New Evangelization” by praying, studying the faith, living holy lives and sharing the richness of Catholicism with others. The weekend continued with activities led by the Blessed Virgin Mary Reach Team, who served as emcees for the entire weekend and encouraged fellowship between the teens who came from more than a dozen parishes. In addition, Dan Oberreuter, leader of Catholic band, The Thirsting, led praise and worship and shared personal testimony, with an emphasis on Blessed Mother and how she is a perfect model of a 24/7 follower of Christ.

Attendees went to sessions on topics ranging from music in the Mass, to using social media to spread the faith, and how Catholic youth can make a difference in the world. Speakers Karlo Broussard and Mandy Erskine offered lessons in catechesis as they spoke about Catholic apologetics and chastity, respectively. While there were many opportunities to learn, have fun and make new friends, the largest impact reportedly came when the teens spent time in front of the Blessed Sacrament during Adoration and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The weekend came to a close on Sunday after Mass at St. Joseph Parish and a final talk from Erik Mertens who reminded the teens that although the weekend was coming to an end, there’s still work to do. He urged attendees to take what they learned at the Diocesan Youth Convention home with them, break away any restraints they may have from living out their faith and depend on God to provide what they need to follow His will.



Youth gathered for a presentation at the convention in Wenatchee.

The Season Of Advent: How Will YOU Choose To Celebrate It? *continued from page 1*

for each day of Advent, he said. In addition, penance services are scheduled to help us “prepare our hearts” for Christmas.

In the Yakima Diocese, we also have an added dimension of spiritual beauty, through the customs of Hispanic parishioners, Flores noted. These customs, popular in many of our parishes, include the “Posadas,” a celebration nine days before Christmas in which Catholics gather to pray the Rosary and then visit three stops, which could be homes or areas set up on church grounds. Singing as they go, the participants knock on three doors or otherwise pause and ask if there is room at the “inn” to spend the night, reminiscent of the quest of Mary and Joseph. At the final stop, they will be welcomed and invited to join in refreshments such as sweet bread and hot chocolate. Other beautiful Advent celebrations include parish novenas to Our Lady of Guadalupe, often held between December 3 and December 12.

For more information on Advent observances in your parish, check your bulletin or contact the parish office.

“At this time of year, the media emphasize material things,” Flores said. “We see decorations, Christmas sales. All of us are going to receive a gift. What kind of gift are you going to bring to Jesus?”

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NEWS

From Around the Diocese

Funeral Mass Held For Father Shields —

A Mass of Christian Burial was held November 6 in St. Paul Cathedral for Father Robert Shields who served for many years in the Diocese of Yakima.



Father Robert Shields

Shields was ordained in 1964, also at St. Paul Cathedral, and served as associate pastor there from 1968-69. He later served as pastor of Resurrection Parish in Zillah, St. Henry Parish in Grand Coulee and St. Mary Parish in White Swan. He retired in 1997.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Diocese of Yakima Priest Retirement Fund, 5301-A Tieton Drive, Yakima, WA 98908.

Catholic Charities Appeal and Collection Benefit Many in Central Washington —

The annual Catholic Charities Christmas Letter Appeal fundraising campaign - benefiting the Catholic Family & Child Service Network, Catholic Charities Housing Services and St. Vincent Centers throughout Central Washington - will begin the first week of December in communities throughout Central Washington.

The campaign will culminate with the Diocese of Yakima 2012 Annual Parish Christmas Collection, which will be taken up in the 41 Catholic parishes throughout the Diocese during the Christmas Day and Christmas Eve Masses.

Funds from both the Annual Parish Christmas Collection and the Christmas Appeal will be used to support services and programs that provide food, shelter, clothing, counseling, child care, senior outreach, foster care, teen outreach, housing and advocacy support. The Christmas Collection is the only collection made each year solely for the social needs of the people within our own Diocese.

Catholic Daughters Schedule Meeting —

“Our Lady of Grace, Lead Us in Our Faith” will be the theme of a Washington State Conference of Catholic Daughters of America meeting scheduled for Spring.

The group will meet April 26 and 27 at the Red Lion Hotel, 607 East Yakima Avenue in Yakima.

Registration is required and may be made by contacting Charlene Dronen at (509) 264-4785 or muddero5@kashmircc.com.

You might say that family is sacred at St. Mary Parish in White Swan!

Parishioners observe that their small church of about 300 people, located on the Yakama Indian Reservation, warmly encompasses the traditions of Native American, Hispanic and Anglo cultures, as one parish family.

“They get along beautifully,” said Father Bill Shaw who has served as pastor there for 10 years. “They support each other.” Now, this family theme grows even stronger, as his own brother, Father John Shaw, who serves as Diocesan Native American Spiritual Director, has come to live in the parish.

Since the very birth of St. Mary Mission (originally called Our Lady of Sorrows), in July 1889, there has been a story of cooperation among peoples, notes Father John Shaw. The Yakama Indians were instrumental in building the first mission church so they would not need to travel all the way to Yakima to attend Sunday Mass, he explains.



St. Mary Church in White Swan began as a mission.



(Left to right) Father John Shaw, Bishop Joseph Tyson and Father Bill Shaw gathered for celebration of a Kateri Tekakwitha Mass.

When it was time to construct a new church, in 1930, the doors and windows donated for the original church by Katharine Drexel, an heiress, religious sister, educator and philanthropist canonized in 2000, were used.

Other pastors who have led the parish in more recent years have included: Monsignor Maurice Mulcahy and Fathers Larry Gosselin, Robert Shields, Lawrence Reilly and Kevin Minder.

As it stands today, St. Mary’s is “plain and simple, functional and devotional,” in the words of Father Bill Shaw. “It’s an old wooden and brick church that’s been stuccoed over.” Yet, if those walls could talk, they would speak of rich Native American customs including an annual Kateri Tekakwitha Mass and decor ranging from a “dream catcher,” to a colorful woolen blanket, wooden eagle and numerous images honoring our new saint, Kateri Tekakwitha. They would tell of an Hispanic ministry which began in 1996, and grew to include a “huge” weekly Spanish Mass, a devoted deacon and his wife (Andy and Elvia Gonzalez) and beautiful devotions and décor in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. And they would tell of the Anglo farm owners and business people who have worked hard to build up this special parish.

“Father (Bill) Shaw is truly our shepherd, a very patient man,” observed Yvonne Smith, a member of the Yakama Tribe and the Kateri Tekakwitha Circle who has been a parishioner for 53 years. “Father is open to ideas, accepting of Native American things,” she said.

Everyone at St. Mary’s is very aware of their fellow parishioners, to the point where, if someone’s missing from his or her standard pew, “We think, ‘uh-oh,’ what’s going on?,” Smith said.

“Everybody knows everybody. It’s just a great parish,” agreed Donna Stephenson, who has been a parishioner for 40 years, served on the parish council and taught catechism. “Father Shaw is a wonderful guy. He accepts everybody so much,” she added.

And this spirit of welcome is continuing to attract new parishioners.

“It’s a tight-knit, small community,” said Fred Fonseca, who, with his wife Shawna and children, joined the parish two years ago, moving from Fresno, California. “We came from a very large parish,” he said. During the first Mass they attended at St. Mary’s, the FONSECAS were impressed with the way that Deacon Andy Gonzalez spoke directly to the children in the congregation during the homily.

The FONSECAS have gone on to serve on the parish council and to teach catechism. And so it goes as a new generation finds a home in St. Mary Parish!