An ambitious new pregnancy and parenting support program, advanced as an initiative of the Catholic bishops of Washington State, will be highlighted at the Cornerstone Catholic Conference scheduled for October 24-25 at the Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center.

The upcoming event, sponsored by the Washington State Catholic Conference, will include presentations on a variety of topics focusing on the sanctity of human life. Bishop Joseph Tyson will discuss the new pregnancy and parenting support program, known as “Prepares” which began to take shape in 2013, with formation of a task force. The program has been in the process of hiring area coordinators in the three Washington dioceses, according to Lisa Green, program coordinator. Bishop Tyson has been appointed to oversee the program, in close coordination with John Young, president and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Yakima.

“The bishops had envisioned a life program to provide consistent pregnancy and parenting support services aligned with Catholic social teachings and best practices,” explained Green, who also serves as coordinator of the Childbirth and Parenting Assistance program of the Diocese of Spokane and who will be a presenter at the Tacoma conference. The support network would provide resources for everything from crisis pregnancy referrals through family services up to a child’s fifth birthday – even reaching out to young siblings of a new baby.

Ultimately, the area coordinators will review which pregnancy and support services are already available in parishes throughout their dioceses, Green said. They will do this through contacts with priests, deacons and other local representatives. Then, they plan to establish a referral system in which interested individuals may call and/or go online to seek the specific help they need within about 30 miles of their location.

This will take some time to accomplish, she noted, since there are more than 225 parishes throughout the state. It is hoped that an introductory website will be up and running by next month, and that more than 200 carefully screened volunteers across the state will swing into action to help in the information-gathering process by June 2015. The next goal is to make preliminary contacts in every parish in the state by July 30, 2015 and to have served more than 4,000 families in Washington in some way by that time.

“The network itself will be an ongoing growth process,” Green said, with resources being added as time goes on. Initial funding of $30,000 to support the Prepares program came from the Richland Council #3307 of the Knights of Columbus. A grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development provides an additional $247,500 in funding for the first year of the program.

“As a Catholic community, we ask families to make the choice of life,” Green observed. “We need to support that choice. We want to walk this journey with you and your children.”

The Cornerstone Catholic Conference also will feature keynote speakers ranging from Immaculee Ilibagiza, a Rwandan genocide survivor speaking on forgiveness and the value of life; to Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood director who now speaks out for an end to abortion; Bishop Robert McElroy who will discuss “Building a Church for the Poor”; and Annapatrice Clark who will highlight human trafficking.

To register for the conference, visit www.cornerstonecatholic.com or call (206) 301-0556. The cost is $75 for adults and $65 for young adults 18-28. The event begins at 5 p.m., Friday, October 24, in the convention center located at 1500 Broadway in Tacoma.
Dear Friends,

The Church in the United States always uplifts the month of October as Respect Life Month, beginning with Respect Life Sunday, October 5. This program began in 1972, following the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade that legalized abortion in this country.

Two years earlier, however, abortion on demand was legalized here in Washington State. I was in the 8th grade at St. Alphonsus School in the Ballard district of Seattle. Washington was the only state to legalize abortion by popular ballot before Roe vs. Wade. I raise this because it’s important to remember that even if we manage to overturn Roe vs. Wade someday, here in Washington State abortion would remain in place because of our particular local Washington State law.

This is why I am placing such stress on the upcoming Cornerstone Conference. In this issue of the Central Washington Catholic, you will see that we are having some of the most articulate speakers from across the United States who have vigorously debated the question of abortion in the public square. And you will see that we have world-known people who will help us anchor the cornerstone issues at the beginning and at the end of life in the wider spectrum of Catholic social teaching. Besides abortion, the Conference will include topics such as human trafficking, genocide, outreach to the poor, and hospice care – all part of helping to build a Culture of Life that cares for our brothers and sisters who are unborn, poor, marginalized or at the end of life.

It’s also why we are rolling out Prepares – a new initiative of the Washington State Catholic Bishops in conjunction with our Catholic Charities agencies. Prepares is our Church’s compassionate response for women in crisis pregnancies. It aims to serve women, men, children and their families.

Here in Yakima, I want to make sure that we walk the journey with every woman who faces a crisis and every child – born and unborn – for the first five years of life. No woman in any parish – large or small, rural or urban, Spanish- or English-speaking – should ever face caring for her child alone. No father should learn how to parent alone. No family should be forced to walk alone.

Taken together, the Cornerstone Conference and our Prepares initiative remind us that there’s more to saving a child’s life than stopping an abortion. I also want to note how grateful I am to the Knights of Columbus both for their consultation as well as their friendship as I’ve tilled the ground with my brother bishops for over a year on this initiative.

I am also grateful to you – our readers – not only for your attention to this issue and its articles, but for your support and for your prayerful consideration of how you will walk the journey with those on the margins facing life choices.

With my every best wish and blessing,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

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Wenatchee Event Calls For Remembrance of Aborted Children

In anticipation of October, which is designated Respect Life Month, Christians from the Wenatchee Valley gathered September 13 for prayer and song in remembrance of the millions of children who have been aborted in our nation. The event was held at the Memorial Garden at Holy Apostles Catholic Church in East Wenatchee.

The Memorial Garden was established in 1988 by the late Deacon Bill Loranger and his wife Esther in thanksgiving for the miraculous healing of their daughter, Sheri, from a brain tumor. The garden, with more than 100 rose bushes, is dedicated to the aborted children in the Wenatchee area. The central feature of the garden is a monument inscribed with the words, “The aborted little ones are very precious to Him and He does not take their deaths lightly. Mother of all the living, pray for us.”

Father Teodulo Taneo of Holy Apostles shared a beautiful reflection at the beginning and at the end of life. He encouraged each to name her lost child. A highlight of the ceremony was the placing of roses at the foot of the monument by local children.

The event was organized by Wenatchee Right to Life, assisted by the Holy Apostles Knights of Columbus.

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Following the Second Vatican Council, a restructured Mass celebrated in English became the norm throughout the United States and other English-speaking countries. In the 1990s, then-Bishop Francis George gave permission for the older Mass to again be celebrated in Latin in the Diocese of Yakima, provided that those who attended also continued to be active members in their own parishes.

In July 2007, Pope Benedict XVI issued his Summorum Pontificum apostolic letter, confirming the newer Mass, usually celebrated in the native language of each country, as the “ordinary form” of the Liturgy. The older Latin Mass is considered the “extraordinary form.”

“I am thankful to our priests who are able to offer the Latin Mass to the faithful in our Diocese,” said Bishop Joseph Tyson. “I am also grateful for the faith of those who attend, and I am confident that they continue to actively participate in the life of their parishes.”

The Traditional Latin Mass: ‘A Piece of Heaven’ — Continued from page 4

Celebration of Faith Honors Champions of Catholic Education

Ten outstanding individuals from throughout the Diocese of Yakima will be recognized as Champions of Catholic Education at the third annual Celebration of Faith, Saturday, October 11, at the Yakima Convention Center.

Jim McConnell from St. Joseph Parish, Kennewick, will receive the St. Thomas Aquinas Award, honoring him as a major benefactor of Catholic education in Central Washington.

Father Tom Kuykendall, pastor of St. Joseph Church, Wenatchee; Brother Jack Henderson, science teacher at La Salle High School, Yakima; and Sister Lucia Hinojosa, religion teacher at St. Joseph School, Wenatchee, will each receive the St. John Baptist De La Salle Award. This award recognizes those who have excelled as educators in our Catholic schools.

Pat Moore from Holy Spirit Parish, Kennewick; Amalia Del Pozo from St. Joseph Parish, Kennewick; Maria Rosales from Our Lady of the Desert Parish, Mattawa; Lori Wasner from Christ The King Parish, Richland; Elvia Gonzalez from St. Mary Parish, White Swan; and Rose Meyer from Holy Family Parish, Yakima, will each receive the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton award. This award honors individuals who have dedicated their “time, talent and treasure” to religious education, faith formation and RCIA programs in their parishes.

Reservations still are available for the gala Celebration of Faith dinner and program, which also will feature an address by Cardinal Francis George and a keynote talk by Sister Kathleen Ross. Call the Foundation at (509) 972-3732 or click on the reservation form link at cw catholicfoundation.org. The cost is $100 per person, with festivities beginning at 5:30 p.m.
The Traditional Latin Mass: ‘A Piece of Heaven’ for Those Who Come

Each weekend, somewhere in the Diocese of Yakima, the traditional Latin Mass is said in stillness and in splendor. It’s a Mass that many people don’t understand, and which may draw only 25 to 100 people on a given Sunday. Yet, the priests and parishioners who come say that, for them, it’s a glimpse of the celestial.


“I come just because I love it,” added Marie Wolfe of Prosser. “I’ve always loved it since I was a little child.”

For this Mass, the priest robes in Roman vestments, and facing the crucifix, prays in Latin, using English for only the Epistle, Gospel and the homily. The congregation can follow along with prayers, using a Latin/English missalette. The altar settings are more elaborate, including brass candlesticks, prayer cards and a chalice veil which add to the aura of majesty.

The altar server or servers, who are dressed more formally in black cassocks with white surplices, respond to the priest’s prayers while the congregation generally remains silent. The congregation kneels to receive Communion on the tongue. The music includes classic Latin hymns such as “Panis Angelicus” and “O Salutaris Hostia.”

Currently, three priests in the Diocese of Yakima: Fathers John and Bill Shaw from White Swan and Father Seamus Kerr from Ephrata offer the Mass. They travel to St. Joseph Church in Kennewick for Mass at 4 p.m. on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month; to Holy Family Church in Yakima to celebrate at 1:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month; and to Immaculate Conception Church in Mabton for Mass at 3 p.m. on the fourth Sunday.

“It’s a privilege to offer the Latin Mass,” observed Father Bill Shaw, pastor of St. Mary Parish in White Swan. “To me, it’s one of the treasures of the church. We’ve had it for 1,500 years and we should preserve it. The Church is available to all kinds of people – there should be different options for Mass. Here, a person has silence where they can concentrate on their prayer to God.”

During the Mass, with the priest turned toward the crucifix, “We’re all facing toward God, you might say,” he added, “all on the same journey, together spiritually.”

It’s a “very, very beautiful Mass in the mother language of the Church,” agreed Father Kerr, who noted that he grew up serving the Latin Mass and celebrating it during his first years in the priesthood. “People seem to get a lot out of it,” he added. “They really enjoy it and feel very fulfilled when they leave.”

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