Dear Friends:

The “Cornerstone Catholic Conference 2017” is fast approaching! It’s at the Tacoma Convention Center and runs from Friday evening, October 20, through Saturday evening, October 21. Visit www.cornerstonecatholic.org to register.

We already have posters up across the 40 parishes of the Diocese advertising this event with our great keynote lineup: Bishop Robert Barron, who serves as auxiliary bishop for the Santa Barbara region of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles; Helen Alvaré, a former Catholic University of America classmate of mine who served for many years as our USCCB representative on pro-life activities; and Ralph McCloud, director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, who was instrumental in our strategic grant for starting PREPARES – our outreach that walks the journey of life with women and their families through the child's fifth birthday.

But one person who has not been highlighted is one of our workshop presenters: Bishop Daniel Flores of the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas. It's actually one of the largest dioceses in the United States when counting actual numbers of Roman Catholics. He's strongly committed to the protection of the unborn but – being in a highly Hispanic diocese like Yakima – also grasps the front-door issue of immigration. If we want to save the unborn we have to walk through the doors of the undocumented. We need to find ways to get around the fear and the harsh anti-immigrant language so prominent in our political environment and – sadly – sometimes evident in the lives of Roman Catholic personalities prominent in the media and in public life.

I would also like to add this insight in encouraging all of you to come to Tacoma. As you know, I was auxiliary bishop in Seattle. It’s much easier to advocate for life here in Central Washington. Generally speaking, we are in a more “pro-life” environment. But those advocating for the rights of the unborn west of the Cascades are often alone and sometimes morally isolated. We want to support their witness in what are often more challenging circumstances. We also want to learn how we can embed our pro-life message in places that may readily grasp the importance of immigrant rights but may not intuitively grasp its foundational connection to the fundamental right to life of the unborn. So I hope you’ll consider making the effort to come to Tacoma — not only to learn more yourself — but to support the west side of the state, where the social environment can be a little more hardened and tough in absorbing the pro-life message. I hope we all can come away knowing that social justice issues are life issues and that the right to life of the unborn has a direct impact on all other rights — including the dignity of the immigrant and the undocumented who are in our midst.

Friends, allow me now to pivot over to our own signature event: the annual Church Mission Congress on Saturday, October 14, at Holy Family Parish in Yakima. Visit www.yakimadiocese.net to register. This is not only for our catechists and RCIA team members but for everyone in Church leadership.

This year's presenters might be especially germane for parish leaders in our pastoral and finance councils, our school commissions as well as our catechetical leadership, for they deal with the same question of evangelization.

Sherry Wedell is our keynote speaker in English. She's a nationally known speaker and writer. She's with the Catherine of Sienna Institute. Some of our parishes have already used her book: “Forming Intentional Disciples.” She also has two other books: "Becoming a Parish of Intentional Disciples" and “Fruitful Discipleship.” A few of our parishes have done the Institute’s “Called and Gifted” workshops – Holy Family here in Yakima and Our Lady of Fatima in Moses Lake, to name two. As pastor of St. Edward, St. Paul and St. George parishes in South Seattle, this was one of the first workshops I brought to the parishes as the new pastor and it did set a tone for my nine years there prior to becoming auxiliary bishop.

Sherry's keynotes are designed to be a launch pad for our local parishes here in the Archdiocese.

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the Diocese of Yakima to engage in this same leadership process. We want to bring more life and vigor to the English-speaking side of the Church, especially given the reality that an increasing number of our English-language Masses are highly Hispanic in terms of attendance. Similar to the Hebrews and Greeks coming together in the Acts of the Apostles, how do we respond to this new dynamic emerging in our English-language ministries? How do we call forth the gifts of all and become more intentional disciples of Jesus Christ?

Our keynote speakers in Spanish are Koren and Jessica Ruiz. Together, they oversee the ministry “Corresponsables de Dios” (Stewards of God). Koren focuses on stewardship and has actively been engaging the Spanish-speaking communities here in the Pacific Northwest in drawing the connections between discipleship, stewardship and ministry. Koren has already worked within the Archdiocese of Portland and the Archdiocese of Seattle. Last year, he spoke with the Executive Committee of the Yakima Council of Priests. As part of our planning to further develop stewardship in the Diocese, Koren came recently to address the clergy and laity involved in leading the Annual Catholic Appeal. He also is working closely with our Stewardship Director, Alma Benitez, in piloting a program in several of our parishes here in the Diocese of Yakima to increase their local stewardship.

His wife, Jessica, is a passionate musician and has been active in stewardship as well. She has been involved with musical publishers including the widely used Oregon Catholic Press. With her husband, they have uplifted bilingual music and worship as part of their ministry. This Spanish-language track will include both lecture and music.

Taken together, I hope we can convey to everyone that it does not matter how much or how little a person gives. What matters is we all give in such a way that we change our spending habits and our way of life. For when we do this through our sharing of time, treasure and talent, we become better disciples of Jesus Christ. The goal is not money. The goal is discipleship!

Mark your calendars! I hope to see you at these wonderful, faith-filled catechetical events!

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

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Our Lady of Fatima Celebration Planned for Wenatchee

By Julie Lekos

As World War I raged in Europe, three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, received monthly apparitions of Our Lady of the Rosary from May 13, 1917 through October 13, 1917. The children, Lucia dos Santos, and her two cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, stated that the beautiful lady told them, “Pray the rosary every day, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war.” Two of the children, Francisco and his sister, Jacinta, died in the global flu pandemic, which took the lives of millions at the close of World War I. The third visionary, Lucia, died in 2005, at the age of 97.

Come celebrate with us at Saint Joseph Catholic Parish in Wenatchee, 625 South Elliot, on Saturday, October 14 through Sunday, October 15 as we honor the final apparition of “Our Lady of Fatima.” It has been estimated that on October 13, 1917 upwards of 70,000 people had gathered at the Cova da Iria to witness the sixth and final appearance of Our Lady to the three visionaries.

Many thousands of those gathered reported seeing a solar phenomenon of miraculous proportions known today as “The Miracle of the Sun.”

Apparitions, such as these appearances of Our Lady of Fatima, are considered “private revelations.” Many find them helpful in living their Faith.

At Saint Joseph, we will pray the Angelus prayer and Rosary at noon, October 14, followed by a 2 p.m. educational event with information stations set up throughout Kuykendall Hall with historical information, and literature regarding Marian devotions and apparitions. The stations will remain until 6:30 p.m., October 15.

New Series of Magnificat Classes Set to Begin

As the season of Fall begins, there’s a new opportunity to deepen your understanding and love of the Catholic Faith.

The Magnificat series of classes, designed to help individuals grow in “knowledge of our Faith, creed and doctrine of the Church,” begins in October at several sites around the Diocese of Yakima. The series also is intended to help encourage leadership and lay ministry within the Church.

All classes are held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. There is no charge to attend, but a free-will offering is welcomed.

Classes begin October 7 at Holy Spirit Parish, 7409 West Clearwater Avenue in Kennewick. That day, Father Daniel Steele will discuss “Sacraments”; Father Michael Brzegowski will teach about “Truth of Faith, Dogma”; and Steve Wilmes will cover “Social Doctrine of the Church.” These same programs will be repeated October 28 at St. Joseph School, 600 St. Joseph Place in Wenatchee. They will again be offered November 4 at the St. Paul Cathedral Building, 1214 West Chestnut Avenue in Yakima.

The next classes in the series will be held November 11 at Holy Spirit Parish. Here, Father Jacob Davis will discuss the “Bible”; Father Peter Steele will talk about “Apologetics & Ecumenism”; and Father Ricardo Villarreal will teach about “The Mission of the Church.” These classes will be repeated November 18 at St. Joseph School in Wenatchee, and then again December 2 at the Saint Paul Cathedral Building in Yakima.

For more information, contact the diocesan office at (509) 965-7117 or email at magnificat@yakimadiocese.net.

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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 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
A Jesuit priest from Los Angeles who has done groundbreaking work in helping thousands of gang members find a new direction in life will be the featured speaker at the annual Celebration of Faith, October 7 at the Yakima Convention Center.

Father Greg Boyle, the founder and director of Homeboy Industries, a successful gang rehabilitation and re-entry program, will be the keynote speaker at the event, sponsored by the Central Washington Catholic Foundation.

“Even gang members envision a future that doesn’t include gangs,” observed Father Boyle, who has been working since the late 1980s to face the challenges and meet the needs of young people involved in gangs.

Homeboy Industries, which currently includes enterprises such as a bakery, café and silkscreen business, is “an alternative to kids who have found themselves, regretfully, in gangs and want to redirect their lives,” Father Boyle said.

In addition to Father Boyle’s presentation, the Celebration of Faith event will honor Father Seamus Kerr, a longtime priest of the Diocese of Yakima, who has done much to support Catholic schools and religious education programs in Central Washington.

There also will be awards presented to “champions of Catholic education” in the categories of Catholic school teacher, director of religious education or catechist, and benefactor or volunteer. Recipients will include: Russ and Dorothy Haffner of Holy Spirit Parish in Kennewick; Kim Helvy of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Moses Lake; Jake Jundt of Holy Family Parish in Yakima; Ted Kanelopoulos of St. Paul Cathedral Parish in Yakima; Sharon Rosell of St. Andrew Parish in Ellensburg; Joe and Sherry Schroeder of Holy Spirit Parish in Kennewick; and Marta Wilson of St. Joseph Parish in Yakima.

The Celebration of Faith will begin with a 6 p.m. reception, followed by 7 p.m. dinner.

Proceeds will benefit diocesan Catholic schools, parish religious education programs, Catholic college scholarships and religious education initiatives. For tickets or more information, contact the Central Washington Catholic Foundation at www.cwcatholicfoundation.org or (509) 972-3732.

**Send Us Your News**

Individual parishioners, clergy, religious and organizations within the Diocese of Yakima are welcome to send items of interest to the Central Washington Catholic for possible publication.

Have a parish fundraiser coming up? Has a member of your parish been honored for church-related work? Do you have a church outreach project that’s helping people in the community? Just email your information to robert.siler@yakimadiocese.net by noon on the first day of the month you’d like to have the item published.
La Salle High School Celebrates 20th Anniversary —

La Salle High School, the Yakima Valley’s only Catholic secondary school, is beginning the celebration of its 20th anniversary.

Growing from the vision of former Bishop Francis George and dedicated parents who pushed for the return of a Catholic high school to the Valley, La Salle now has 207 students in ninth through 12th grades and a staff of 23, including two PhDs.

“From day one, we have been committed to be accessible to all students regardless of their ability to pay and to reflect the diversity of the Valley,” said Ted Kanelopoulos, who is starting his seventh year as Principal. Currently, more than 60 percent of students receive some type of financial assistance, he noted.

The De La Salle Christian Brothers of the Napa, California, district helped launch the high school and remained as teachers and/or principals until 2015 when a lack of religious vocations required them to close their local community. La Salle helped to fill the void in Catholic secondary education caused when Yakima’s Carroll High School closed in the late 1980s.

After setting up in temporary quarters on the grounds of Holy Family Church, the school moved to its current location at 3000 Lightning Way in Union Gap, just outside of Yakima city limits, in September 2000.

The “new” campus has steadily grown through the years. Beginning with Roy Hall and the Gamache Chapel, the 40-acre campus now includes the Cardinal George Gymnasium, Lightning Hall, the Gamache Student Commons and several portable structures. The campus also boasts a student-run salmon hatchery where students learn first-hand how to restore Coho runs on the Ahtanum and Wide Hollow creeks. The master plan calls for both a visual performing arts center and a library to be built in coming years, Kanelopoulos said.

La Salle is particularly proud of its record of having every graduating senior accepted by at least one college or university since 2008. Accomplishments by sports teams through the years, including volleyball and basketball squads, have also earned bragging rights.

However, it is the central focus of “developing students in faith, integrity, scholarship and service” which La Salle contends is its primary focus. One key element of the La Salle approach is to encourage all students to participate in at least one “immersion” – a service opportunity in which they learn of the needs of a particular community and have the chance to help.

These immersion trips range from travel to Seattle to work in homeless shelters and food kitchens; to a journey to the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, Montana, to mentor young children and learn of the Native American culture; to trips to Rochester, New York, to work with religious sisters who run social service agencies; to visits to an orphanage in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico; and a drive to White Swan to assist elders with chore services such as painting and home repairs, Kanelopoulos said.

“Concern for the poor and social justice is a core value,” he pointed out.

This 20th anniversary year began with a Mass of the Holy Spirit, concelebrated by Bishop Tyson and numerous priests, in August. Other events will include alumni gatherings, including a September 2018 effort to bring back the students who attended La Salle in its first year; plus special additions to the annual St. Patrick’s Day dinner and Founders Week (in May), Kanelopoulos said.

Happy anniversary to the students, faculty and parents of La Salle High School!