The following, slightly abridged article is reprinted from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website, in honor of October, Respect Life Month. It underscores the importance of respecting life from conception:

Uniquely You

By 18 weeks in your mother’s womb, you could swim, somersault, suck your thumb, and even cover your ears if you heard loud music.

From your first moments of existence, you had all the DNA that would determine your sex, facial features, physique, and the color of your skin, hair, and eyes. At 24 days, your heart began beating. By 8 weeks, all your organs were present, and your unique fingerprints were forming. Ultrasounds show that by 18 weeks, you could swim, somersault, suck your thumb, and even cover your ears if you heard loud music. If you’d been born just 23 weeks after conception, your chance of survival would be 50-80 percent; by 25 weeks, it’s over 90 percent, and that’s still months before full-term birth.

Now, if someone takes an innocent person’s life after he or she is born, it’s against the law; just minutes before birth, it’s legal in most states and called abortion. The only real difference is a declaration by the United States Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade (1973).

Abortion Is Permitted Up to Full-Term Birth

Many people don’t realize how unrestricted legal abortion is, misled by Roe’s claim that states may ban abortions after viability “except when it is necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother.” (“Viability” is when the baby has a reasonable chance of survival outside the womb.) But in Roe’s companion case, Doe v. Bolton, the Court defined “health” to include “all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman’s age—relevant to the wellbeing” of the mother. That seems broad enough to permit virtually any abortion post-viability.

Effects of Abortion

Abortion results in the death of a child. For many mothers, abortion causes severe and long-lasting emotional, psychological, and spiritual trauma. Many women experience overwhelming guilt, shame, and grief.

Continued on page 3
A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

I am so sorry we are all going through another round of sexual abuse scandals. As I have written in various communications to you, to clergy and to lay leadership, I share with you the sadness and shock with the news of Archbishop Theodore McCarrick, the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report and the statement of Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, former papal nuncio to the United States.

I am so sorry for what you are all going through in terms of pain, confusion, rage and grief. I am keenly aware that the news undercuts your sense of trust in the bishops and even your sense of faith. Church is where we come to worship God. It is also the place where we share God. Trust is fundamental to the spiritual life. The erosion of trust undercuts the base attitude so necessary in the spiritual life.

So, again, please accept my apologies for our many failings as bishops in monitoring and holding each other accountable.

How do we even begin to move forward? Shortly after the news broke in August, I asked the deans — priests elected to represent their region of the Diocese — to work with the priests of their region. I asked all the priests to talk with parish leadership. During the upcoming October Diocese of Yakima Priest Convocation, I will be hearing from them what they are learning from their region. I asked one of the items I will be discussing with their parish leadership during the annual deanery visitations I do each year. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, who is president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), will be providing us with a series of proposals that involve better accountability of bishops and deeper lay involvement.

These proposals will be circulating back to the pastors of our parishes and they, in turn, will be able to share with them with local parish leadership. Similarly, the Diocesan Lay Advisory Board (DLAB), established as part of our implementation of the 2002 Dallas Charter and Essential Norms, will be reviewing the proposals from the USCCB as well as the information I receive from the parishes. They will consider any changes we need to make in our local efforts for the prevention of sexual abuse. I am grateful to the head of our review board, Russ Mazzola, as well as the cross-section of professionals who serve with him on the DLAB.

We all must remain vigilant. Any suspicion of sexual abuse by any Church personnel warrants contact with local law enforcement. In addition, anyone who has knowledge of sexual abuse or misconduct by a member of the clergy, an employee or a volunteer in any parish or ministry in the Diocese of Yakima is urged to call our hotline at (888) 276-4490. Our victim assistance coordinator, Dorothy Morales, monitors the hotline and does an excellent job to start the dual processes of investigation and healing that are needed when a complaint is made.

Most importantly, we must pray, drawing closer to Christ. There is no way to fully undo the damage done by the sexual abuse scandal. But we can draw close to Christ through reflection on his Word. We can be nourished by Christ through reception of the sacraments. We can make the purification and healing of the Church the focus of our prayer. I hope we can pray for each other and for our clergy and laity who serve the Church during this time of challenge. Be assured of my prayers for you.

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Magnificat Series Will Include Encuentro Dialogue

“formation school of faith for leadership and lay ministry.”

All classes will be offered at the St. Paul Cathedral Building (the former school) in Yakima, Saint Joseph School in Wenatchee, or Holy Spirit Church in Kennewick, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For questions, please contact the diocesan office at (509) 965-7117 or email magnificat@yakimadiocese.net.

Fall classes will kick off with an October 20 session at Holy Spirit Church, 7409 West Clearwater Avenue, Kennewick. That day, Father Daniel Steele will discuss “The Sacraments”; Father Michael Brzezowski will provide an overview of “Truth of Faith, Dogma”; and Steve Wilmes will review “The Social Doctrine of the Church.”

The same three classes will be repeated by the same presenters on October 27 at Saint Joseph School, 600 St. Joseph Place, Wenatchee. The classes also are scheduled for November 10 at the St. Paul Cathedral Building, 1214 West Chestnut Avenue, Yakima.

Other classes will continue from February through May, with certification for those who complete the entire series scheduled for June 1.

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
Family relationships may suffer as the aborted child's father, grandparents, or other family members experience their own guilt, grief, or loss. Even if the mother keeps her abortion secret, family members can be distressed by changes in the mother's behavior and mental or emotional health.3

What the Church Teaches

The Church has consistently taught that every human life is precious and worthy of protection. Every intentional abortion is gravely wrong.4 In April 2018, Pope Francis wrote: "Our defense of the innocent unborn … needs to be clear," the Pope said. "This is the moral obligation of every human person and of every State, which is called to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable of its members at every stage of their life, no matter how brief, was profoundly healing."7

Very rarely, continuing a pregnancy may put a mother's life at risk—for example, because of a tubal pregnancy or aggressive uterine cancer. It is morally licit to remove the threat to the mother's life by removing the cancerous uterus or the fallopian tube where the child implanted, even though it is foreseeable that the child will die as an indirect and unintended result of such surgery. But abortion—a direct and intentional taking of a child's life—is never morally permissible.

What Are We to Do?

Love them both! Support women who need help during and after difficult pregnancies through the work of your diocesan PREPARES program and local pregnancy care centers respectful of Catholic teachings.

Stay informed about key federal legislation and the voting records of your elected representatives by visiting www.humanlifeaction.org and www.usccb.org/profile. Stay updated on state issues...

Most importantly, pray daily for the end to abortion, that all mothers and children experience the loving support of the Church community, and that all who suffer after abortion find healing and peace.

Catholic Relief Services Spokesman Offers Food for Thought

If you find yourself discouraged by life, you really should spend a few minutes listening to Thomas Awiapo.

A spokesman for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) who visited Yakima earlier this month, Awiapo tells a heartbreaking story of his youth in Ghana, West Africa. Orphaned at an early age, he and his three brothers were “four little boys who were very miserable, hungry kids,” he recalled. Awiapo’s two younger brothers died from malnutrition while his older brother ran away.

Finally, in desperate hunger, Awiapo walked five miles to the village school built by Catholic Relief Services, just to get the food which they provided to local children. He didn’t like the idea of school at all, he noted, but he needed the food to survive.

“My whole life was turned around by Catholic Relief Services,” he said. Today, Awiapo is married with four children and holds a Master’s degree in Public Administration. He and his family still live in Ghana, with Awiapo spending 16 to 18 weeks each year traveling the United States on behalf of CRS.

Visiting La Salle High School; St. Joseph/Marquette and Christ the Teacher schools; and an Annual Catholic Appeal gathering at Holy Family Parish, Awiapo delivered a message of gratitude and a reminder of the serious needs that still exist in the world.

“CRS is bringing love into the world in which we live,” he observed in an interview. “CRS cannot do that without the American Catholic community.”

The agency has a history of “75 years of grace,” serving 150 countries around the world.

As he visits schools, it is still very difficult for Awiapo to see the amount of food which is thrown out after meals. Just a little of that food might have saved his two younger brothers from starvation, he realizes. He reminds students, “If you are ever tempted to be wasteful with food, remember my face and my two little brothers.” A student at one of his many talks, obviously moved by Awiapo’s words, observed, “I should never complain again about (something as trivial as) my internet speed.”

“Be grateful, know that you are blessed and be generous and kind,” is Awiapo’s advice.

“There are still hungry children in the world!”

To learn more about Catholic Relief Services programs and how you can help, visit crs.org. Also, please plan to join in the annual Rice Bowl campaign to benefit CRS next Lent in the Diocese of Yakima.

Magnificat Series Will Include Encuentro Dialogue

The Magnificat program of classes for 2018-19 will be combined with the Encuentro process so that English- and Spanish-speaking students can grow together in awareness of the Church’s shared mission of being “witnesses to God’s love.”

Students will spend the first two hours each Saturday of Magnificat studying topics in their own language group. For the last two hours, the groups will study together one of the five themes of the national Encuentro process: “1) Called to a loving encounter with Jesus. 2) With words and actions: Do it! 3) Walking together with Jesus. 4) Bearing fruits of new life. 5) Celebrating the joy of being missionary disciples.”

Encuentro is an ongoing series of national gatherings that began in 1972 and continued in 1977 and 1985 as a way to help reach the growing Hispanic community in the United States. The Fourth Encuentro in 2000 was a gathering of all language groups found in the U.S. Church.

Bishop Tyson and several other representatives of the Diocese of Yakima will take part September 20-24 in the Fifth Encuentro in Texas. The focus this year is on the role of Hispanic parishioners to be “missionary disciples” in the United States. The themes discussed nationally are those to be discussed locally the coming year.

Magnificat classes are designed to encourage growth in knowledge of our faith, creed and doctrine of the Church. Led by Bishop Tyson, the English-speaking Magnificat program is a

Mission Congress Set for Yakima

There is still time to register for the Yakima Diocese Church Mission Congress 2018.

The event, entitled, “Missionary Disciples – Witnesses of God’s Love,” is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, October 13 at Holy Family Church in Yakima.

The Congress will feature speakers and networking of volunteers who can offer mutual support in passing along the Catholic Faith and building up the Church.

The cost is $20 per person, registering by October 2, or $25 the day of the event. The fee is due at the time of registration. To sign up, visit the diocesan website at www.yakimadiocese.org.

Continued on page 2