

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Diocese of Yakima

A NOTE FROM BISHOP TYSON

Dear Friends,

Peace and blessings be upon you! Let me express my gratitude to each and every one of you—for your support of your parishes, and support of our priests, both those retired and those who continue to serve you, and for your support of our seminarians. Your financial gifts, and your gifts of prayer, carry these young men spiritually on the journey of their vocations to serve. In this first issue of the Annual Catholic Appeal, it highlights seminarian Eduardo Chávez, who will be ordained deacon early next year. This issue also highlights St. Kateri. I was blessed to be at the canonization of the first Native American Saint 8 years ago this October. The crowds were massive and although different languages were spoken, we came together in one faith.

With every best wish and blessings,

Yours in Christ,




Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Picture of Bishop Tyson posted with permission from Catholic Extension. Copyright 2015. www.catholicextension.org



Seminarian Eduardo Chávez during mass in Mexico.

Seminarian left his Worries in God's Hands

Seminarian Eduardo Chávez was supposed to be ordained deacon during the summer, but because of flight restrictions and border closures, he was unable to be ordained.

"...I want to serve the Church and the people," Chávez said. "First as a deacon, then as a priest."

He has been in formation for almost eight years; he spent his first four years of formation with the Archdiocese of New York, then transferred to the Diocese of Yakima.

Although he has spent almost a decade in formation, this is not the path he had

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He Left his Worries in God's Hands



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envisioned for himself. He originally wanted married life, because that was the “usual thing” to do.

It wasn't until his father was on the verge of dying that he was able to get close to the church.

“When I was approached about the idea of becoming a priest, my thought was no!” Chávez said. “I didn't feel adequate of becoming a priest.”

When he attended a discernment retreat, he felt that he could be involved in church, but still hadn't thought about becoming a priest.

He worked with a group of people who preached and held bible studies. It was during this time that the spark to the priesthood was lighted.

“A woman was crying because she wanted to confess and thought that a priest was amongst our group, but he was unavailable,” Chávez said. “I had always thought about being a religious brother, but I got the sudden urge to become a priest and bring peace to this woman who sought reconciliation.”

Chávez began his journey to the priesthood with the Archdiocese of New York, and found that his journey would perhaps be more difficult than other seminarians. He dropped out of school at the young age of 13 but was able to receive his GED.

“The first three years of

philosophy were difficult, I felt like I couldn't keep up with the work and the level of work they wanted from me,” Chávez said. “I had doubts about not being good enough to become a priest, but I laid my doubts and worries in His hands.”

He studies at Seminario Hispano, a seminary in Mexico City. He has eight to ten classes a semester, and is involved in mass and various other religious events.

“Being with people and having a strong human connection, especially during this difficult time with the pandemic, has confirmed to me that this is what I'm meant to do,” Chávez said. “I'll become a deacon and then a priest in His time, everything I've ever done has been in His time.”

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha: Canonization Anniversary

Since 2012, October 21 has been a significant day to Native Americans—especially those in the Yakama Reservation Kateri Circle within the Diocese of Yakima. This year, the day will mark the 8th anniversary of the canonization of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American to be recognized as a saint by the Catholic Church.

“We had always prayed for her canonization and recognition as a saint,” said Dorothy McDonald, one of about 30 members of the Kateri Circle.

McDonald joined the Cir-

cle over 10 years ago when a religious sister invited her to a meeting. She states that although she is not a Native American, her husband is, and honoring Saint Kateri is important.

Kateri (Tekakwitha), the name she took at baptism in honor of St. Catherine Sienna, was born in 1656 in a Mohawk village near present-day Auriesville, New York.

The Mohawk suffered from the small pox epidemic that left her parents and brother dead, and she was left with scars and impaired eyesight. She was then

adopted by her uncle, chief of a tribe. Later in life, the Mohawks were forced into a peace treaty when they were defeated by French forces; the treaty required them to accept Jesuit missionaries in their villages.

Tekakwitha's uncle was against having any contact with them because he did not want her to convert to Christianity but at age 18, Kateri met the Jesuit Father Jacques de Lamberville and studied catechism with him.

She was later baptized and joined the Jesuit mission of Kahnawake, *Continued on page 3*

DIOCESE OF YAKIMA 2020

Sunday to Sunday

Here's what a year in the life of our 40 parishes looks like and how your gift makes it happen

1

Diocese of Yakima with a mission to serve its 40 parishes and local communities.

100%

Amount collected supports vocations, ministries, catholic schools, parish needs, and catechesis and lay formation.

45

Priests serving our parishes.

11

Seminarians studying for the priesthood in the fall.

188,256

Number of Catholics within our diocese.

40

Years and counting of the Annual Catholic Appeal



Serving 40 parishes in Central Washington

DIOCESE OF YAKIMA 2020

Sunday to Sunday

700

Migrants served (and counting) during the Migrant Ministry Program.

\$243,000

Collected for the seminarian's education.

1,030

Students served in our Catholic Schools

46

Deacons serving our parishes.

6,146

Annual Catholic Appeal donors

30

Children served during the Literacy Wagon Program

\$1,980,200

Collected for the 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal as of August

There are many ways to donate: online, complete a pledge card, or scan the QR code found on the front cover of the newsletter.

“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out on to you.” Luke 6:38

One Diocese ~ One Community ~ One Faith

www.yakimadiocese.org

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

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Statue of St. Kateri in St. Paul's Cathedral Chapel, Yakima.

where other native converts had gathered. She lived at Kahnawake for the remaining years of her life.

When Tekakwitha's health was failing, and when she had but hours left, she was given the last rites. After her death, Father Cholenec noted, "This face, so marked and swarthy, suddenly changed about a quarter of an hour after her death, and became in a moment so beautiful..."

Tekakwitha is also said to have appeared to: Anastasia Tegonhatsiongo (her mentor), Marie-Therese Te-gaiauenta (her companion) and Father Chauchetiere. Father

Chauchetiere had a chapel built near her gravesite.

By 1684, pilgrimages had begun to honor her. The Jesuits turned most of her bones to dust and set the ashes within the chapel to signify her presence on earth. Her physical remains were sometimes used as relics for healing.

It was one such relic that was used on second miracle, Jake Finkbonner, who is of the Lummi Nation Tribal descent, leading up to the canonization of Saint Kateri.

In 2006, Finkbonner, a Washington State boy, who, while playing basketball cut his lip, and became infected with a deadly flesh-eating bacteria, was hospitalized at trauma unit Children's Hospital in Seattle, underwent surgeries, and fought for his life.

His family offered prayers to God through Kateri's intercession. It wasn't until the day that a relic of then-Blessed Kateri was placed on his bed by Sister Kateri Mitchell, executive director of the Tekakwitha Conference, that he showed signs of improvement.

Dr. Richard Hopper, chief of plastic surgery at Seattle Children's Hospital, had never seen a case so dire.

He told National Public Radio, "All of a sudden to have this infection stop ... every-

one's stunned by it being over."

Bishop Joseph Tyson, along with two other members were part of a board to investigate the miracle—it lasted five years.

Over 1,000 pages of testimony from family, friends, classmates, parishioners, physicians, and other medical personnel was collected for review. It was concluded that science could not explain the miraculous recovery of Finkbonner.

Finkbonner and his family, as well as hundreds of members of his own Lummi tribe and indigenous communities across the United States and Canada, members of the Kateri Circle, Bishop Joseph Tyson and 29 other parishioners attended the canonization on October 21, 2012 at St. Peter Basilica in Rome by Pope Benedict XVI.

The informal Kateri meetings

***"She's the saint of
the native people."***

~ McDonald

are held once a month, and a majority of the time, meetings are at St. Mary, Parish in White Swan or St. Peter Claver Parish, in Wapato.

The Yakama Reservation Kateri Circle, which has existed for 40 years, came together because of their love of Kateri and their desire to pray for her canonization. Members are from different parishes, enrolled in different tribes, and some are non-natives.

"It's the love for Kateri that

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Saint Kateri Tekakwitha: Canonization Anniversary

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brings us together,” McDonald said.

She stated that core members of the group have deceased and it’s been difficult to recover and come together, especially in the time of COVID-19.

Group members have not been able to meet since restrictions were placed due to COVID-19.

“We’re not going to meet together on the computer because technology is hard to maneuver,” McDonald said. “Before COVID-19, during our meetings we talked, singed, and prayed to St. Kateri. “The October celebration of canonization will be cancelled and it’s so sad that it’s come to this.”

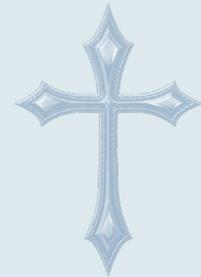
Normally, every year in October, the “canonization mass and dinner” is held at St. Peter Claver Parish in Wapato. It is put together by a group of people from both the Kateri Circle and Native American Ministry.

Arlene DeRuyter, member of the Kateri Circle, always participates and helps put together the canonization mass and dinner. DeRuyter has been a long-time member of the Kateri Circle and Native American Ministry since the 1980s.

“I was invited by the founders of the ministry and the group who were trying to get Kateri beatified,” DeRuyter said. “I wanted to see what it was all about, and I have been involved ever since.”

She continued to say that the day that St. Kateri was canonized she and the Native Americans were thrilled. She was also one of people that attended the canonization of St. Kateri at the Vatican.

“We made reservations to be there,” DeRuyter said. “...It meant everything to the Native American people to see St. Kateri, to have her acknowledged. They saw themselves in her, and in the Church.”



DIOCESE OF YAKIMA

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