Celebration of Faith Features Msgr. Perron Auve, Father Robert Spitzer

Two noted priests, both dedicated to Catholic education, will be highlighted at the annual Celebration of Faith scheduled for October 12 at the Yakima Convention Center.

Monsignor Perron Auve, who served as Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Kennewick since 2007, will be the 2019 Champion of Catholic Education – Special Honoree.

Father Robert Spitzer, founder and president of the Magis Center in Garden Grove, California, will be the keynote speaker.

Msgr. Auve, who recently transitioned to Senior Priest status following a serious fall in May, has been undergoing physical rehabilitation. He reportedly is looking forward to returning to live at Holy Spirit and to coming to the Celebration of Faith. He will be honored for his years of dedication to faith education.

A native of Yakima, Msgr. Auve was ordained in 1962 by Bishop Joseph Dougherty. He went on to teach and then become Headmaster at Yakima's Central Catholic High School, later serving as Principal of Yakima's Carroll High School.

Through the years, he also was Co-Pastor of Holy Family Parish in Yakima; Chancellor of the Diocese of Yakima; Pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Ellensburg; and Spiritual Director at Mount Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Oregon. Special ministries in which he has been involved have included People of Praise; Marriage Encounter; REACH; the Charismatic Movement; and Clergy Continuing Education.

Previously serving as the President of Gonzaga University, Father Spitzer's mission, through the Magis Center, is to “restore, reconstruct and revitalize belief in God; the transcendent dignity of every human person; the significance of virtue; the higher levels of happiness, love and freedom; and the real presence of Jesus Christ.” He is quoted as saying, “Our hope is to turn the tide of millennial unbelief.”

An author, Father Spitzer is known for presenting the scientific evidence for the existence of God. Before assuming his current responsibilities with the Magis Center, he also served as a Professor at St. Louis University, Seattle University and Georgetown University.

The Celebration of Faith will begin with a 5:30 p.m. reception, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $110 per person and may be requested by calling (509) 972-3732 or visiting www.cwcatholicfoundation.org.

Missionary Daughters Named Champions of Catholic Education

The Missionary Daughters of the Most Pure Virgin Mary have been named Champions of Catholic Education for 2019 by the Central Washington Catholic Foundation. The St. John Baptist De La Salle Award is presented to those who have excelled as educators in our Catholic Schools. The sisters’ service to students and migrant families of Central Washington will be honored on October 12 at the annual Celebration of Faith at the Yakima Convention Center.

The order of the Missionary Daughters was founded in Mexico in 1903 and the sisters have been in service to our community since 1963. In that year, the sisters began teaching at St. Joseph School in Sunnyside. They stayed long after the school closed, teaching religious education and serving the migrant population. In the 1980s, a group of sisters was sent to St. Joseph School in Wenatchee, where they have resided. Sadly, the last of the sisters were scheduled to leave the Diocese in July, as the convent closed and the sisters moved to Mexico, Texas and the East Coast.

Due to their summer departure, the Champion of Catholic Education award was presented to the sisters on June 30 during a reception at St. Joseph Church in Wenatchee. Each of the sisters also received a monetary gift from the Central Washington Catholic Foundation Sisters of the Yakima Diocese Fund to aid with their relocation.

The Missionary Daughters received three nominations for the Champion of Catholic Education award. The nominators include Ann Sonn of Wenatchee, whose children were taught by the sisters; Betty Jo Murray of Naches, who was taught by the sisters at St. Joseph School in Sunnyside; and Rick Pinnell of Yakima, who is dedicated to honoring the vocation of the consecrated life.

Rick Pinnell says, “These sisters have devoted their lives to God and share that love through education. They are great role models for our children. They have worked hard... to be good teachers and supporters of our Faith. Our children have been blessed to have such a positive experience of faithful religious women. The Missionary Daughters have been a blessing to our Diocese, our schools, the students, and the parishes in which they have served. Their smiles and love of God’s blessing have enriched our lives and our Church. They will be missed.”
Dear Friends:

We are deep into the summer now, but this issue provides a peek at some of the key fall initiatives across the Diocese of Yakima.

One key initiative is our next “Cornerstone Conference” where we bring together Catholic teachings on human life with our Catholic social teaching. Ann Dibble’s interview with three volunteers highlights the way our statewide PREPARES program embodies all of the Church’s teachings on life and justice. PREPARES walks the journey of life from the moment of a child’s conception to age five. PREPARES volunteers provide wraparound material support, parenting support as well as friendship and love for the mom and the family, bringing together the many supports in our local parishes along with the various programs of support from our Catholic Charities agencies across the state. It is the single largest shared initiative of our Catholic bishops across Washington State.

Washington is quite unique among the 50 states when it comes to legalized abortion. We are the only state to have legalized abortion by popular ballot before Roe vs. Wade. A few other states had legalized abortion by legislation or lower court actions. But no state – except Washington State – had legalized abortion by popular ballot. I was a junior high student at St. Alphonsus in Seattle in 1970 when, through Referendum 20, abortion was legalized.

Why is this so important? It’s important because even if – God willing – the U.S. Supreme Court decision of Roe vs. Wade were reversed, the decision would return to the states. Many states are testing the limits now in terms of limiting abortion. But not Washington State. Legalized abortion is deeply embedded here. Our “Cornerstone Conference” which launched PREPARES some five years ago gives us a chance to network together and build a new culture of life in a positive, uplifting way given our very particular and local circumstances. This is going to be crucial in healing the culture and building up the gift of life.

“Healing the Culture” is one of the key books of Fr. Robert Spitzer. The work and ministry of his Magis Institute is a second key initiative this fall very specific to the Diocese of Yakima. Fr. Spitzer assisted me greatly with school pastor in-services, principal retreats as well as the opening of Pope John Paul II High School when I was superintendent of Catholic schools while serving also as auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Seattle. Very early on in my time here, he also came to our “Celebration of Faith.” He is coming back this fall to be our keynote speaker in the English language track of our Church Mission Congress this October. We will also be launching his five-month “Faith and Science” series in Wenatchee, Kennewick and Yakima tied to our Magnificat program for Catechists. I might add here a word of gratitude to Becky Cates, one of our parishioners in Ellensburg who has been a personal help in pulling off this new direction.

Ultimately, our initiatives this fall can be a pathway that highlights our Church’s teaching as not only moral but scientifically reasonable. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI so eloquently noted on so many occasions, faith enlightens human reason, especially scientific inquiry. St. John Paul II in his famous encyclical “Veritatis Splendor” provided the beautiful image of faith and reason being like two wings assisting us to ascend more steeply into the truth of the life and the world around us.

As Catholics, we have a rich intellectual tradition. I hope this issue of the Central Washington Catholic encourages you to engage in these upcoming opportunities so we can heal the culture and make a winsome testimony that convinces those around us of every faith, and even those of no faith at all, the reality of a natural moral law – a law available to all people of good will with the right use of reason. May we uplift the beauty of the Church’s proposal in favor of the gift of life at every stage, from womb to tomb.

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

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Bible School Offers Fun and Learning

“Roar: Life is Wild ~ God is Good” was the theme of Christ the King Church’s Vacation Bible School, June 17 – 21. The focus was on helping to discover a “wildly refreshing understanding” of how God is good. Some 26 preschoolers; 200 kindergarten – 5th graders; more than 60 high school crew leader volunteers; more than 60 middle school volunteers; and 40 additional adult volunteers joined in. A total of $535.50 was raised to help those in need of clean water, through Catholic Relief Services. Non-perishable food items were given to the Richland food bank.

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
PREPARES Service Benefits Diocesan Families – and Volunteers

By Ann Dibble, PREPARES Area Coordinator

PREPARES changes lives, not only for the families it serves, but for the volunteers who serve. The ministry is a Catholic initiative designed to help families who are pregnant or have young children under difficult circumstances. Recently, we asked three volunteers how PREPARES has changed their lives.

Etelmina Rodriguez, from Holy Rosary Parish in Moxee, is currently supporting five families. Dot Roy is part of Holy Family Parish in Yakima, and she also is assisting five families. Siri Fadich is the lead volunteer for St. Aloysius Parish and the entire mid-valley. She has been with PREPARES for four years, and is serving three families.

What have you learned from the families we serve?

Siri: Even if you have head knowledge of their struggles, meeting them face-to-face makes it real. I’ve become more compassionate.

Etelmina: Many of these families have so many needs, it is hard to know where to start, but just talking to us helps them.

Dot: One thing I have learned is that it isn’t always things they need, but connections with other people.

How has PREPARES influenced how you live out your baptismal promises?

Etelmina: It has given me a way to serve others. Before, I just went to church, and helped the people close to me. Now I can bring Christ to these families. Jesus wants us to be part of other people’s lives.

Dot: I pray for the families I serve, and I let them know that. Communication is how I give of myself, which is what we are called to do. Sometimes this brings them back to the Church.

Siri: PREPARES has definitely made me more prayerful. It’s also more hands on: instead of praying for people in general, I can be more specific. It’s given me a purpose, and a way to actually be the hands and feet of Jesus.

How do you feel about the ministry?

Siri: Sometimes I feel frustrated and in over my head. But I get energized when our volunteers get together, or when I meet with families.

Dot: I feel that the Holy Spirit is working through me, and I always say a prayer on the way, to ask for guidance. We are doing something so necessary.

Etelmina: I feel like we are doing a wonderful thing. PREPARES lets us serve families. And there are more out there that I want to find. God has put them in my way, and it fills my heart. I’m ready! I want to keep going!

These volunteers are only three of the more than 100 across the Diocese of Yakima who live out their faith through action. They perform works of mercy and support life, and in return, they receive the deep satisfaction that comes from making a difference in particular lives.

As Bishop Tyson says, “We want to make sure that no child -- born or unborn -- is ever abandoned or alone. We want to make sure that every mother, whether she is in a small rural town or a large city...has caring people around her walking those critical first five years of her child’s life.”

To get involved in this life-giving ministry, please contact your parish office or contact us in Richland at: (509) 946-4645; or in Yakima at: (509) 853-2768.

Photo Credit Due

We would like to give credit to the photographer who furnished us with a photo of Jake Finkbonner for the June Central Washington Catholic. The photographer is Janis Olson. Thank you, Janis, for your valuable contribution to the newsletter!
Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Set

Rachel’s Vineyard is for anyone who has experienced emotional/spiritual pain after an abortion ... women and men of all faiths are invited to begin the healing process. The next retreat is scheduled for September 27-29. Contact Lisa at (509) 421-7847 or email rvcentralwa@gmail.com. More information is available at www.rachelsvineyard.org. Rachel’s Vineyard is a confidential/safe place to connect with others and process your experience.

Space is limited. Need-based scholarships are available. The sponsor is the Cornerstone Ministry of the Diocese of Yakima.

“If the emotional and spiritual wounds of a past abortion have been sapping faith, love and joy from your life, I can promise, that if you enter this process for healing, your life will begin to change. A journey into Rachel’s Vineyard is a gift only you can open your heart to receive... A new chapter of your life awaits you. ... Take courage, God is calling you towards peace, love, hope, and freedom.” (Dr. Theresa Burke, Founder of Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries)

Cornerstone Registration Is Open

Have you registered yet for the 2019 Cornerstone Conference? “ Coming Together for Life and Justice” is the theme of this year’s Conference, scheduled for October 18-19 at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center. The event will feature speakers, workshops and opportunities to meet with Catholics from across our region.

Note: speakers will include Archbishop Paul Etienne, newly appointed as Coadjutor Archbishop of Seattle; Bishop Frank Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, a participant in multiple World Youth Day gatherings and the recent Synod on Young People at the Vatican; Sister Miriam James Heidland, a former athlete who experienced a “radical conversion”; and Sister Norma Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley.

The event is sponsored by the Washington State Catholic Conference. The registration fee is $100 per person or $65 per young adult (under age 30) before September 30. This includes Saturday lunch, refreshment breaks and access to all sessions. Scholarships are available, according to need. Email WSCC@WACatholics.org to request a scholarship.

Retrouvaille Weekend Scheduled

Would you like to improve communication and problem-solving in your marriage? Plan to attend one of two Inland Northwest Retrouvaille weekends scheduled for Eastern Washington!

“Retrouvaille,” which in French means reconciliation or homecoming, is designed to give married couples tools to rediscover the joy in their marriages. An English-language retreat will be held September 13-15 at the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center in Spokane. A Spanish-language weekend is planned for October 25-27 at the Best Western Plus in Richland.

For more details and confidential questions, call (509) 522-5480 or email lauraadroke@gmail.com.

A Catholic Quiz: How Many of These Saints Do You Know?

It’s interesting to read about the lives of the saints, those individuals who have gone before us and inspire us by their dedication to Our Lord. In checking the official Catholic calendar, here are 6 examples of the many saints whose feast days are celebrated in August.

First, read the anniversary date and a brief description of the saint’s life or special event. How many saints can you name? The saints’ names are listed at the bottom of the article.

1. August 4. This saint lived from 1170-1221 and formed the Order of Preachers (also known as the Dominicans). Known to dress in rough clothing, often to walk barefoot and to deny himself the luxury of a bed to sleep in, he advocated charity, humility and poverty. His preaching also helped to spread the popularity of the Rosary.

2. August 12. This Italian saint, the daughter of a wealthy family, lived from 1194-1253. She was a follower of St. Francis of Assisi who founded a religious order, originally called The Order of Poor Ladies. The order lived a simple life, in seclusion. It is said that, in 1224, when an army of Frederick II came to attack her Italian town, she met them, carrying the Blessed Sacrament. The army reportedly fled without doing any damage.

3. August 15. This Holy Day commemorates the assumption into Heaven of one of our most revered saints.

4. August 17. A Polish priest who lived from 1185-1257, this saint was the son of a noble family, born in a castle. He helped to establish branches of the Dominican Order. It is said that at the time of a Mongol attack on the city in which he was living, this saint ran to save the Blessed Sacrament. He then heard the voice of Blessed Mother, asking him to save her, too. So, the saint also hoisted a very heavy statue of Mary and carried it to safety.

5. August 27. Born in Algeria in 332, and dying in 387, this saint is perhaps best known for praying for the conversion of her wayward son over a period of many years. She was consoled by a bishop with the words that the son of her tears would “never perish.” Her son finally agreed to be baptized and he and his mother had a few months of calm before she died.

6. August 30. A native of Peru, this saint lived from 1586-1617, nicknamed because a servant reported seeing her face, in infancy, turn into a flower. She cared for the sick, hungry and poor in her community, joining the Third Order of St. Dominic. Among her sacrifices, she allowed herself very little sleep and wore a heavy crown with small spikes inside that caused her pain.

Assignments Announced for Priests

Bishop Joseph Tyson has announced the following assignments for priests of the Diocese of Yakima, effective in September:

• Father Michael Brzezowski, pastor of St. John Parish in Naches, will become pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Kennewick, succeeding Msgr. Perron J. Auve, who recently was granted Senior Priest status.

• Father Brooks Beaulaurier, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Waterville, St. Henry Parish in Grand Coulee and Holy Angels Mission in Coulee City, will become pastor of St. John Parish in Naches and St. Juan Diego Parish in Cowiche.

• Father Teodulo Taneo, parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Wenatchee, will become pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Waterville, St. Henry Parish in Grand Coulee and Holy Angels Mission in Coulee City.

• Father Peter Steele, parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Yakima, will become parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Wenatchee.

Please keep these men and the parish communities in which they serve especially in your prayers during this time of transition.

Bishop Tyson also is grateful for the work in our diocese this summer of our two priests studying in Rome. Fr. César Izquierdo arrived July 1 and is helping in parishes on weekends while also helping to oversee the Literacy Wagon summer reading program for children of migrant workers. He is visiting families and celebrating Mass at housing sites in the Yakima Valley. He will return to Rome in mid-September.

Fr. Jesús Mariscal arrived June 22 and helped in parishes on weekends while also helping with the summer migrant ministry, including the celebration of Mass for workers. He returned to Rome at the end of July to provide vacation coverage for the priest who oversees the main sacristy at St. Peter’s Basilica.

Both men will finish their studies in Rome next June and receive full-time assignments in our diocese.