



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

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OCTOBER 2020 *Letter*

Young People's Faith - or Lack of Faith - May Reflect YOUR Example

By Christine Corbett Conklin

If the young people in your family are losing their Faith, “stop playing the blame game with the culture,” suggests Doug Tooke. “Spend a lot more time walking with, mentoring Catholics of all ages. It changes the culture.”

Tooke, who has spent many years in youth ministry, is currently Vice President of Mission for ODB (Outside the Box) Films, based in Helena, Montana. He was a featured speaker for the August 10 Diocese of Yakima virtual Church Mission Congress.

At a time when it is alleged that Catholic youth are leaving their Faith at a higher rate than almost any other church,* Tooke suggests that it's more important than ever for adults to “walk the walk.”

“If Mom and Dad are not practicing the Faith, young people follow in their footsteps,” he observed. The same can be true if church “just becomes a ritual.” On the other hand, we know that “young people respond extremely well to great mentorship,” that this can help to plant the “seeds of a healthy, lifelong faith.”

The positive effects can begin when adults develop “a personal relationship with Jesus ... a relationship with the incarnational God,” Tooke suggests. By understanding who Jesus is, through Scripture, it helps us to understand why we do what we do in our Catholic Faith, before we “expect to teach a bunch of things about the Church.”

Parents remain the primary teachers for their children, he said. We need to have that sincere relationship with Jesus to effectively teach. We can't expect that kids will just “magically have that happen in their lives.” If we have a deep, healthy faith of our own, we can share our beliefs with “a contagious, compelling enthusiasm” that will come across.

Only then can we begin to “unpack” the realities of our Faith with young people: “Why do we go to Mass? Why do we have candles? Do we still believe in the Ten Commandments?”

So how do we go about strengthening our Faith? Begin with your prayer life, Tooke recommends. Take 10 minutes each day for silent prayer and reflection. Or, you could even begin with just one quiet minute per day and say, “This minute is yours, Lord.” If you drive to work,

“make your commute a holy place,” perhaps inviting Blessed Mother into your thoughts and prayers. Another idea is to do some reading on a patron saint, exploring what that person's prayer life was like.

Remember that, in reality, the negative aspects of our culture, “all of these

other distractions,” only begin to substitute when there is no deep-rooted faith, Tooke suggested.

Even if your children have already left the Faith, be reassured that “the sacraments are forever,” that Baptism and Confirmation make indelible marks on the soul, and don't underestimate the power of God.

“Never stop witnessing,” Tooke adds. “Our advocacy can have an impact on the way our children

see us. Never stop inviting: ‘Would you pray with me?’ ‘Would you come with me to church?’ Make it very real and accessible. The Lord works on a system of eternity.”

**Brandon Vogt, author, in his article, “New Stats on Why Young People Leave the Church,” cites a 2016 survey released by PRRI which observes that “young Catholics are leaving their faith at rates higher than almost any other religious group.”*



Doug Tooke



Please Pray for Deceased Clergy

The annual Mass for Deceased Bishops, Priests, Deacons and Seminarians is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 17 at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance will be limited. The Mass will be livestreamed.

Please check your parish bulletins the weekend of November 14-15 for updated information about how to best participate spiritually in this Mass. This is an excellent opportunity to pray for the many clergy members who have served our Diocese over the past decades.

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

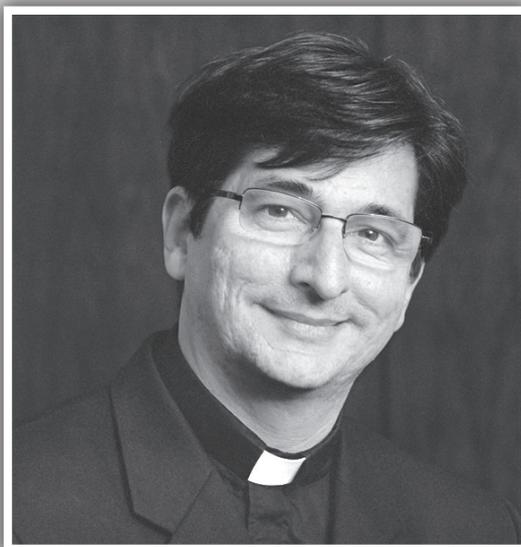
Dear Friends:

The Sunday scriptures toward the end of the year point to the end time. Stars will fall. The sun will dim. The world as we know it is passing away. In light of our sure and certain death, how do we want to live? How will our life point to eternal life with God?

The final Sunday of the liturgical year is the Feast of Christ the King. It is a rather late adoption into our liturgical calendar. When Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925, it was with an eye to revolutions sweeping the planet. Those of us whose ancestors are Germans from Russia who migrated from Southwest Germany to what is today the Ukraine may have family stories of the great hunger famine of 1920 where one person died every two seconds. The Russian Revolution was a catastrophic economic disaster.

Similarly, Mexico underwent the violence of revolution with churches closed and the Knights of Columbus banned. One of the largest fundraising efforts ever undertaken by the Knights of Columbus was for the persecuted church in Mexico. Indeed, nine of the 21 "Cristero" martyrs canonized by Pope Saint John Paul II in the year 2000 were members of the Knights of Columbus. Their cry as they were shot: "Viva Cristo Rey" – "Long Live Christ the King."

The unusual King who dies with thorns as a crown, the cross as a throne, and two criminals beside him as a royal court is meant to prepare us for the unusual king who comes at the close of Advent. This king comes, not in a royal palace, but in an animal stable. He holds royal court not with the rich and famous, but with the shepherds of the field, the outcasts of the first century. This king



Bishop Joseph Tyson

comes, not with a might army, but an "army" of angels – "strata" being the Greek word for army in the Gospel of Luke.

The images of our Sunday scriptures and even the history of how we close the liturgical year are not meant to frighten us but challenge us. In light of our sure and certain end, how will we live today? How deeply united will we be with this unusual king?

We have had many funerals in our parishes due to COVID-19. The protocols we now follow will most likely be in place to one degree or another through 2021 and perhaps well into 2022. This has not been an easy time. But I am so heartened by the many creative ways we have learned to be more missionary. If folks cannot come to Church, we go to them. This has occurred not just through Zoom and Facebook parish events, but in socially spaced gatherings with limited numbers of people on our parish campuses, sometimes outdoors and sometimes indoors.

What will happen this winter? One of the most beautiful memories of Our Lady of Guadalupe for me, as bishop, comes from several years ago. Father Ricardo Villareal was still pastor in Chelan and Bridgeport. I showed up for a late evening procession followed by a 10 p.m. vigil Mass on December 11, in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. As the parishioners processed with the image of the Blessed Mother on a pedestal through the streets of Bridgeport, more and more people came out bundled in coats to join in the procession. Up and down the streets we went for about two hours. Then we had a Mass in the church with dozens of people standing outside. It was cold. But we were warm. It was dark. But it was dazzling.

Germany has its open-air Christmas markets as well as its door-to-door Christmas caroling in the cold chill of night. Mexico has its outdoor processions, reminding us of our rich heritage of devotion and prayer. I am quite confident that most if not all of our parishes will find creative ways to uplift our devotion to Mary during this Advent season and welcome Christ at Christmas. Yes, we are limited due to COVID-19. But these limitations might also be pushing us to recover devotions and practices of previous generations in Europe and the Americas that can bring beauty and light to our neighborhoods and streets.

Be assured of my prayers for you during this time of endings and new beginnings.

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

PREPARES Provides Human Connection

"I can't believe that you are here with diapers like you said you would," said the sorrowful woman holding her baby, and she burst into tears. The single mother has a 12-year-old, and a three-month-old. A PREPARES volunteer from Basin City had asked for help for her sister in Kennewick, so an Area Coordinator called her right away, and put together a bag to make it look like a baby shower gift, with clothing, a book, a toy and a blanket as well as diapers.

This struggling mother lost her job due to the pandemic, does not have a car, and is fearful to go out, so she rarely sees anyone, and was as grateful for the friendly face as she was for the supplies. She introduced her baby, of whom she was obviously proud, and the two women talked at the doorstep of her apartment.

"Would you come back to visit me someday?" she asked, as the coordinator prepared to leave. We are all as thirsty for human connection as for water. The Church meets this need in part through PREPARES.



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

Central Washington Catholic

OCTOBER 2020 • Volume 61 • Issue 10

PUBLISHER

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The Central Washington Catholic (ISSN 0195-1831) is published monthly by the Diocese of Yakima, 5301-A Tieton Drive, Yakima, WA 98908-3493.

Submission schedule: Deadline for the submission of material is at noon on the first day of the month of publication.

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Look to Seniors for Guidance In Finding Thankfulness for Blessings

By Sister Constance Veit, LSP

An unexpected headline in the *New York Times* recently caught my eye: "A Disrupted Thanksgiving Leaves the Turkey Business Guessing."

The article that followed discussed a question that is, according to the author, on the tip of everyone's tongue – "Just how many whole turkeys will Americans cook this year for a holiday whose wings have been clipped by the pandemic?"

I don't know if there was any pun intended, but I found the question quite amusing. I can't say that this has been the big question on my mind lately, but I have been thinking ahead and wondering what Thanksgiving and Christmas will look like this year.

Throughout the summer, social distancing regulations were relaxed throughout much of the country, but we are now seeing worrying signs of a COVID second wave.

In the world of long-term care, we still live in a virtual bubble with our elderly residents and essential staff, almost completely cut off from the outside world. Families, volunteers and our devoted lay associates – who provide companionship, entertainment and the little extras that make life more pleasant for our frail seniors – have all been barred from our Homes since mid-March.

We try to take one day at a time, but we are always aware that even a single positive

COVID test would send our residents back into isolation. Recently, some of them told me that they expect the holidays to be quite difficult this year since it is unlikely they will be able to spend time in close proximity with their loved ones.

Despite having minimal contact with the outside world, we remain mindful of those who have passed away due to COVID-19 and the thousands of loved ones who mourn their loss, as well as those who have lost their jobs or homes, those who struggle everyday to provide for their families and those who are risking their own lives for others.

What will Thanksgiving mean this year, in the face of so many challenges and so much loss? What will we find to be grateful for? How can we celebrate while our lives are still so thoroughly disrupted, and our wings and spirits remain clipped?

I find answers to these questions in the faces and example of our elderly residents.

Throughout these last months, we have marveled at how resilient our residents are in the face of daily inconveniences, constantly changing routines and countless unknowns. Although in many cases their bodies are frail, their spirits – and their sense of humor – have remained strong.

What is the secret to their resilience?

As members of the greatest and silent generations, our residents experienced the Great Depression and World War II, as well



as tremendous social and technological changes during their long lives.

These two generations are known for their resilience in surviving hardship, their strong work ethic and their sense of personal responsibility and self-sacrifice. The men and women of the greatest and silent generations have held on to strong values, gratitude and an appreciation for the simpler things in life.

The wartime Thanksgivings of their youth were marked by rationing and shortages of common ingredients such as sugar, meat and butter. Turkeys were in short supply on the home front because they were shipped overseas so that every member of the U.S. military could have a hot Thanksgiving dinner, no matter where they were stationed.

Gasoline and tire rationing prevented people from traveling long

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Central Washington
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Annual Catholic Appeal Supports 700 Workers Through Migrant Ministry Program

By Daisy Perez

“Revive Your Hope” is the theme for the upcoming 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal – because where there is hope, there is peace; where there is peace there is love; where there is love, there is God. The Diocese of Yakima is scheduled to have the ACA pledge weekend on November 6 and 7, 2020. Our diocesan ACA goal is \$1,616,732.

Each year, the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) funds ministries to help those in need within Central Washington. The ministries are available to all – and it’s all because of generous donors who support the ACA. This summer, one ministry in particular provided Mass to migrant workers during the Migrant Ministry Program. And although the summer is over, the Diocese continues to provide Mass and spiritual support during times when hope is sometimes all one has.

This year marks the fourth year of Migrant Ministry. In previous years, seminarians, priests, sisters, and volunteers took part in bringing Mass to migrants and providing classes to those who wanted to receive any and all of their sacraments. At the end of each week, there always was a fiesta with piñatas, raffles of religious items, and a huge potluck dinner filled with laughter and chatter.

However, when the start date for migrant ministry drew near earlier this year, the Diocese was unsure if this ministry could be provided to migrants due to COVID-19. An important factor was the health and safety protocols farm owners were required to follow in order to limit the spread of infections, such as: limiting the number of visitors to the camp and limiting the number of gatherings (even if held outside).

Washington State Governor Jay Inslee eventually updated the Phase 1 Religious and Faith-based Organizations’ COVID-19 requirements, and the Diocese was able to hold outdoor services with up to 100 people, excluding staff.



The Diocese also was able to hold indoor Mass with up to 50 men, excluding staff. Ministry was offered primarily in Cashmere, as the Mattawa site was not available due to grower concerns. The Diocese in past years had served about 100 migrants each summer at the Mattawa site, and approximately 150 migrants have received one or all of the sacraments, including Confirmation and Matrimony, since the program started.

Yakima Site

At a local hotel, workers wearing masks line up within six feet of one another waiting to be screened by a religious sister, seminarian, or diocesan support staff, before they are allowed to take part in Mass. As the men are screened, their names are written down, they’re handed a bag with health guidelines, prayer cards and rosaries. They sit in chairs that are already spaced out at least six feet, and wait for Mass to begin.

The FairBridge Hotel and Conference Center is a new location for the Migrant Ministry Program and currently houses 700 migrants (at the beginning of the ministry, 920 migrants were housed there). Migrant Ministry began on August 11 and continues for the rest of this year. The Diocese has a presence twice a week, and has supported over 700 men. Mass is held in a conference room where doors are left open in order to have air flow, and chairs are spaced out six feet

or more.

Luis Martinez, Ambassador of WAFLA (a farm labor group), explained the migrants were housed at the Hotel because it is a location where additional migrants stay – the farm owners who didn’t have enough space for the men, but needed the men, housed them at the FairBridge Hotel. The migrants could be housed as long as seven months (April to November).

“This is the first year (the Diocese) is with us and I noticed a positive change in the men,” Martinez said. “Men approach me to ask about Mass... and they all look forward to (it). I also saw a positive impact on the men’s emotional behavior – they were less anxious, and more calm.”

One migrant who was less anxious was Juan Hernandez from Tabasco, Mexico. He arrived in May to the hotel and received a call in July that his brother had been diagnosed with COVID-19. At first, he and his family all thought he would heal quickly since he didn’t have any pre-existing medical conditions and his brother has a healthy diet and lifestyle.

“He got worse and worse and we couldn’t believe it,” Hernandez said. “... My brother has been in the hospital for two months and all my family has been pitching in to help with medical bills.”

Hernandez said that he began to feel depressed over his brother’s declining health. He finds comfort in the semi-weekly Mass offered to the men and tries to attend twice a week. “I feel lighter in Mass,” Hernandez said. “I feel God with me and talking to me – telling me to have faith and to continue to pray – I pray for all who are sick, and especially for my brother.”

At the end of each Mass, the priest tells the men to lift up the rosaries they were given so they can be blessed. Hernandez always carries his rosary with him. “I feel peace when I pray; I feel peace with my rosary,” Hernandez said. “I feel peace in Mass. Thank you for being here.”

Look to Seniors for Guidance In Finding Thankfulness for Blessings *Continued from page 3*

distances by car and military personnel were given priority on trains, so family gatherings were surely smaller.

The traditional Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade was cancelled as the famous giant balloons were shredded for scrap rubber, and even college and professional football were put on hold.

These were the youthful experiences of our seniors – surely, they will know how to find a silver lining and a way of thanking

God for his blessings on this “disrupted Thanksgiving.”

Surely, the words uttered by their president in 1943 will find an echo in their hearts: “May we on Thanksgiving Day and on every day express our gratitude and zealously devote ourselves to our duties as individuals and as a nation. May each of us dedicate his utmost efforts to ... bring[ing] new opportunities for peace and brotherhood among men.”

We Little Sisters are so blessed to share our lives with these elders of the greatest and silent generations!

If you are lucky enough to have members of these generations among your family or neighbors, take some time this “disrupted Thanksgiving” to learn from them and share in their gratitude for the little things in life.

Sister Constance Veit is the director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.