



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

APRIL 2021 *Letter*

## The 'Year of St. Joseph': A Time To Reflect Upon the Life of a Great Saint —

By Christine Corbett Conklin

A humble carpenter became one of the greatest human beings in history as he faithfully accepted the role of husband to Blessed Mother and earthly father to Jesus Christ. And now, 150 years after St. Joseph was proclaimed the patron of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis has dedicated an entire year to him.

Perhaps it's no coincidence that the "Year of St. Joseph," from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021, comes at a time when the earth is wracked by a pandemic and looking for the quiet and loving reassurance that St. Joseph offered.

If you'd like to learn more about this iconic saint, the Diocese of Yakima will offer virtual classes with Bishop Joseph Tyson from 9 to 11 a.m. in Spanish and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in English on Saturday, May 1, at this Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89703290674> – Meeting ID: 897 0329 0674. A link to view the recorded classes will be available on the Diocese of Yakima website, Facebook and YouTube pages.

In his Apostolic Letter entitled, "Patris Corde" (or "With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis stated that he wanted to share personal reflections on St. Joseph. "My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines ... yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of history ..." He cited those who work in medicine, retail, cleaning services, transportation, public safety, other essential services and clergy.

Bishop Joseph Tyson, in an interview with the *Central Washington Catholic*, underlined this observation. "St. Joseph never says a word, is never quoted in Scripture," he said, drawing a parallel to this time of pandemic when many people are going about the quiet business of life, "without saying a word, to keep us going."

The Bishop added, "I love the fact that the holiness of St. Joseph is akin to Mother Teresa, doing "a lot of little things, in quiet and in (a time of) darkness and doubt."



"Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," Pope Francis wrote.

St. Joseph's life also offers powerful lessons for us all, the Pope continued. "Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, His history and His plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that He can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses ... amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture ..."

The Pope traced some of the events in Joseph's life in which he demonstrated his faith: accepting Mary's pregnancy and shielding her, making a long and difficult journey to Bethlehem to register his family, and then fleeing those who sought to harm Jesus.

"Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand," Pope Francis noted. "Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion. Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them ..."

There are no guarantees that life will be easy, the Pope observed. "If at times God seems not to help us, surely this does not mean that we have been abandoned but instead are being trusted to plan, to be creative, and to find solutions ourselves," he said.

And, just as Joseph protected Jesus and Mary, we, too, have a responsibility, he continued.

"We should always consider whether we ourselves are protecting Jesus and Mary, for they are also mysteriously entrusted to our own responsibility, care and safekeeping ... St. Joseph could not be other than the Guardian of the Church, for the Church is the continuation of the Body of Christ in history, even as Mary's motherhood is reflected in the motherhood of the Church (a reference from the Catechism of the Catholic Church)... and we too, by our love for the Church, continue to love the child and His mother."

Pope Francis references Polish writer Jan Dobraczynski's writing, describing how "Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over Him and protected Him ..."

Bishop Tyson echoed this thought: "It reminds us that God is not at all distant from us. St. Joseph reflects the paternal aspect of God the Father, of walking with us."

"The aim of this Apostolic Letter is to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal," Pope Francis wrote.

"Spiritually, the message really is, 'Go to Joseph,'" Bishop Tyson agreed. The Bishop says he looks to his patron saint as a "good householder, a good steward." He wants the Catholic Church to be in that same model where people "can come to us in spiritual need, physical need, psychological need." During this special year, the Bishop plans outreach visits to St. Joseph churches in Yakima, Sunnyside, Kennewick and Wenatchee, plus some men's retreats.

Quoting a document from the Second Vatican Council, Pope Francis reminded us all that, "The saints help all of the faithful 'to strive for the holiness and the perfection of their particular state of life.' Their lives are concrete proof that it is possible to put the Gospel into practice."

May St. Joseph guide and watch over us through this challenging year and the years to come!

## A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

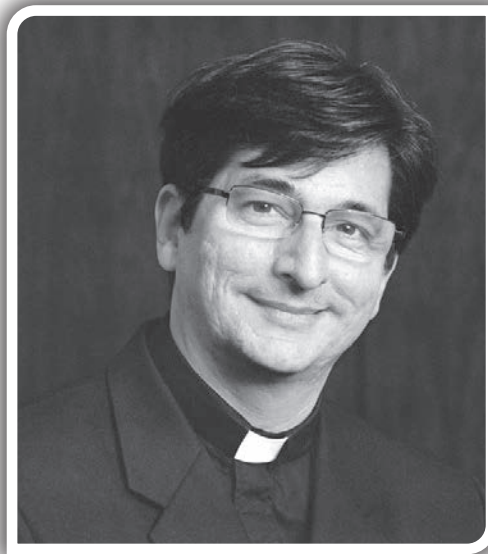
Friends, why the Year of St. Joseph? What might Pope Francis be suggesting in uplifting St. Joseph this particular year during the pandemic?

Father Jesus Mariscal and I are offering catechesis on this topic via Zoom on the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker May 1, from 9 to 11 a.m. in Spanish and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in English, but permit me to note one key point from Pope Francis that is part of that presentation.

Pope Francis is keenly aware that during the COVID-19 pandemic, ordinary people have quietly engaged in the day-to-day routines of service that are what have been keeping us going. Grocery clerks, nurses, mechanics, shopkeepers, restaurant take-out workers, workers at our fruit packing plants to get food from the warehouses to our tables – so many people have quietly been a part of the many logistics that help organize our daily activities.

Like St. Joseph, who in the Gospels is never reported ever saying a word, it is quiet, unreported heroes who silently go about their daily duties that allow all of us to keep going during the pandemic. This Year of St. Joseph is dedicated to all those who work without acclaim and out of the spotlight but without whose efforts we would not survive.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who is



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

now a saint, noted that “Not all of us can do great things. But all of us can do little things with great love.” That is the witness of St. Joseph. That is the witness of so many of you during the pandemic. That is the witness we see in the stories of this current issue of the *Central Washington Catholic*.

When we consider stewardship, for example, the amount of a gift we bring to the Church is not of the greatest importance. Jesus commended the widow in the Gospel who gave two small copper coins

because she gave everything. He invites us to consider making decisions that will change our habits of giving. By making these changes, we are drawn into a deeper relationship with Him. Indeed, St. Joseph was open to change in his life, becoming the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus.

Certainly, the ordinations in May of Gene Ockinga and Christian Melendez as deacons, and Deacons Eduardo Chávez and Michael Kelly as priests, will be important public moments to celebrate. And yet these vocations also have been nurtured over many years, through countless small actions that have slowly formed them pastoral, spiritually and theologically, as they have also grown as human persons.

Father Dan Dufner’s 25 years of priesthood are a testament to continued quiet growth. All these men, as did St. Joseph, continue to bring Jesus to us in many ways. Let us keep them in our prayers, as they continue to pray for all of us. And thank all of you for your witness of the little things that bring great love into our world.

With every best wish and blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

## PREPARES Program “Re-tools” For The Times



**Syndee Saucedo Cavazos**

It has been a long road for all of us. PREPARES Program Manager Syndee Saucedo Cavazos has had a close-up look at the suffering the most

vulnerable among us are enduring. “We saw the need skyrocket just as our ability to connect with families diminished,” she said. “Data shows that 2.3 million children fell into poverty in the last six months of 2020.”

It has been hard for our volunteers, too. Three volunteers died from COVID, and most of the others have had their lives seriously disrupted. “The emotional toll has been paralyzing. I know these volunteers. We have a close relationship, and to console them in their losses, and mourn with them has been personally heartbreaking.”

Saucedo Cavazos re-tooled the program to include more online elements, such as a monthly volunteer get together called Sacred Space (there is a second monthly meeting for those who prefer Spanish, called Espacio Sagrado). She organized “how-to” videos to teach smartphone users how to add the Zoom app. When almost every business was closed, she got diapers to food banks in order to meet the rising need. She encouraged family companions to continue to provide support by phone, or video chat.

“One of the things that made our response possible was an increase in donations from the diocesan community. More dollars allowed us to help more families. Those generous donors have made a huge impact on the lives of people struggling to get by,” she said.

“Right now, everyone wants to get back to normal,” she added. “Family companions are organizing outdoor visits as a step in that direction. As the vaccination rates rise, we will be able to re-start our play groups, and mother support groups will return to

meeting in person.

“I am hopeful that having gone through this hard time as a country, that more of us can now imagine what vulnerable families go through. I am inspired to do more, and at the same time I am so grateful to have been on this journey with our volunteers and families.”

### Central Washington Catholic

APRIL 2021 • Volume 62 • Issue 4

PUBLISHER

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson

MODERATOR

Monsignor Robert M. Siler

EDITOR

Christine Corbett Conklin

TRANSLATIONS

Indiana Blandón

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.

Email: [robert.siler@yakimadiocese.org](mailto:robert.siler@yakimadiocese.org)

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



# Ordinations Are Planned In May for New Priests and Deacons

On Friday, May 14, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Wenatchee, **Eugene Ockinga** will be ordained a permanent deacon and **Christian Melendez** will be ordained a transitional deacon by Bishop Joseph J. Tyson. And on Friday, May 28, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Yakima, the bishop will ordain **Deacons Eduardo Chávez** and **Michael Kelly** to the priesthood. Both ceremonies are at 6 p.m.



Initiation of Adults. Gene will join Deacons Greg Haberman, Robert Hulligan, Carlos Luna and Robert Turner in assisting the priests of the parish.

Melendez, 38, entered the priestly formation program for the Diocese in 2018 while working as a mental health therapist with the Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic. He is from Puerto Rico and has a year of studies remaining at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago prior to priestly ordination. He also is studying to be licensed in the State of Washington as a clinical psychologist.

Chávez, 33, was ordained a transitional deacon in Mexico January 16 after the coronavirus pandemic disrupted plans for his ordination last summer. His first four years of priestly formation were with the Archdiocese of New York. His four years of

formation in the Diocese of Yakima have included theological studies and pastoral work in Mexico and in Canada.

Kelly, 24, from Holy Spirit Parish in Kennewick, was ordained a transitional deacon on May 15, 2020 at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima. His studies have included work at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon, the Seminario Hispano in Mexico City, and four years of graduate studies in theology at Mundelein.

Both ordination Masses will be livestreamed, with limited attendance as well depending on state and local pandemic guidance in effect at the time. Check the diocesan and parish websites and social media pages for updated information.

Please pray for those to be ordained as they prepare for service in the Church as deacons and priests.

## Parish Stewardship Month Invites Us to Reflect on Our Gifts *Continued from page 4*

Christ the King parish not only supports the Church's needs domestically and around the world, but they also support parishes in need within the Diocese. At the end of every month, the parish sends a check to the Diocese, which makes the money available to parishes in need. Msgr. Champoux stated that they have been supporting parishes in need since the time of then-Bishop Emeritus Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J., predecessor of Bishop

Joseph J. Tyson.

"It started when a pastor of a struggling parish called to ask me for help," Msgr. Champoux said. "I checked our budget and with our finance council and we did have the ability to help them, and I thought, 'We can do this, we can help.'" Since then, his parish has not stopped giving to other parishes in need, even in the midst of the pandemic, and will continue its support.

Msgr. Champoux added that giving to other parishes reminded him of Saint Paul. Saint Paul had several new groups of Christians in the city of Jerusalem. One group was wealthy, and they would send money to Paul to give to the poorer communities.

"It's been done since the beginning," Msgr. Champoux said. "We have to continue to be good stewards and take the responsibility of caring for others."

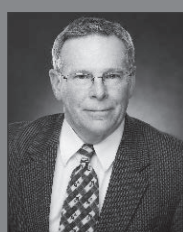


**Celebration of Faith 2021**  
Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

More information coming soon.

Check out our website for the Spring Newsletter and to learn more about upcoming events at:


<https://cwcatholicfoundation.org>



**William (Bill) Hays, MSFS, RICP®, LUTCF®**  
*Agent, New York Life Insurance Company*

**SPECIALIZING IN  
RETIREMENT PLANNING,  
ESTATE CONSERVATION  
WEALTH TRANSFER STRATEGIES**

1425 Lakeside Court | Yakima, WA 98902  
(509) 494-7825 | Office  
(509) 853-6525 | Cell  
[wthays@ft.newyorklife.com](mailto:wthays@ft.newyorklife.com)



**We take your injury personally.™**



**ABEYTA NELSON**  
INJURY LAW

Yakima  
Ellensburg  
Sunnyside

[abeytanelson.com](http://abeytanelson.com)  
509.575.1588



The more things change,  
the more they stay the same.



**BUILT Ford TOUGH**

Ford trucks have been getting the job done since 1911. Wearing out? Not an option. Overwhelmed? Not on our watch. Ford trucks have always been engineered and built so tough, you'd think it could outlast the next ice age. So that no matter what the job, it'll be there to get it done.

**KM KELLEHER MOTOR COMPANY**  
*"Our family serving your family since 1911"*

[www.kellehermotors.com](http://www.kellehermotors.com) 602 N. Pearl Street | Ellensburg | 509-925-1911



## Father Daniel Dufner: Celebrating 25 Years of Priesthood

With a Bachelor's degree in Microbiology and a Master's degree in Divinity, Father Daniel Dufner is uniquely qualified to share insights about how science and religion go hand in hand.

"True faith has nothing to fear about truth," proclaims this Wenatchee native and pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Moses Lake, who is preparing to mark his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood next month. "The scientific method is all about finding and discovering truth."

At a time when so many families "have members who don't believe or don't practice the faith anymore," discovery of the truth "is something the world is in need of," he contends.

And, indeed, since his ordination in May 1996 at the Wenatchee Convention Center, with Bishop Francis George officiating, Father Dufner says he has been honored to "be an instrument of God's peace" and to offer "the words that someone needed to hear." He cherishes opportunities to bring peace and comfort to people, especially through the sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick, he said.

With an uncle who was a Jesuit priest, Father Dufner said that he began thinking about the priesthood as early as third or fourth grade "as something that I wouldn't ever rule out."

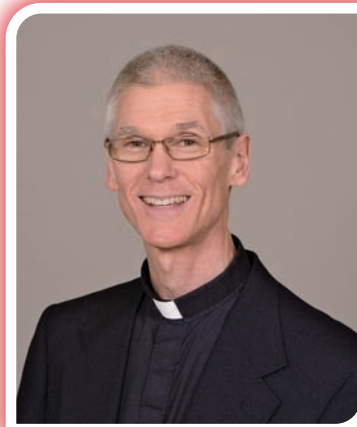
After attending Wenatchee Valley College, he went on to Washington State University and graduated with his B.S. degree in Microbiology in 1988. He also did

post-graduate work at Oregon State University in 1990-91.

Father Dufner has served in numerous parishes over the years. Shortly after his ordination, he became associate pastor at St. Joseph Church in Kennewick, then went on to become associate pastor, administrator and pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church in Chelan from 1998 to 2001, simultaneously serving as administrator and pastor of St. Anne Church in Bridgeport. For a few months, he also was an associate pastor at St. Joseph Church in Sunnyside.

From 1998 to 2007, Father Dufner was administrator of St. Mary Parish in Mansfield, then became pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church in Cashmere and Our Lady of the Snows Church in Leavenworth until 2011. Since 2011, he has served as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Moses Lake with additional responsibilities at Queen of All Saints Church in Warden until 2019.

Today, Father Dufner is busy with parish projects including replacing the Fatima Center, the parish hall at Our Lady of Fatima Church. When asked about the greatest hurdle thus far in his priesthood, he quickly mentions the COVID-19 pandemic and "the challenge of being able to continue serving the people in as safe a



Father Daniel Dufner

manner as we can."

In addition to his priestly duties, Father Dufner has a couple of personal goals. As a veteran runner, he would like to be able to break the "elusive two-hour mark" for a half marathon, having clocked just 38 seconds over that mark several years ago. He also would like to travel to the parish namesake city of Fatima, Portugal, and to the Holy Land.

Considering his upcoming anniversary, Father Dufner's first reaction is, "Gosh, it came fast!"

He still has vivid memories of his ordination day AND his first Mass the following day when he inadvertently gave himself some extra work. He spent two to three hours diligently polishing a homily, which he delivered. Later on, he discovered that, "normally, at a priest's first Mass, somebody else preaches for him." Oops. He did get a standing ovation for his remarks, he recalled, so it all worked out in the end.

Looking back over the years, he expresses "gratitude to the people and the parishes I've served who have helped to teach me to be a better priest ... and to (his) brother priests of the Diocese."

Plans for an anniversary celebration were uncertain at press time. Congratulations to Father Dufner on this special occasion!

## Parish Stewardship Month Invites Us to Reflect on Our Gifts

By Daisy Pérez

The month of May is Local Parish Stewardship month. Everyone has his or her own understanding of stewardship – some give their time, others their talents, and others their treasure. Stewardship is a combination of what one is given – time, talent, and treasure – to put the Gospel into action to help others.

This year, Saint Joseph Parish in Sunnyside has actively and fully responded to the needs of their parish. Fr. Rogelio Gutiérrez, pastor since October 2020, noticed that many of the facilities needed to be restored.

"The parish needs new pews, new carpet..." Fr. Gutiérrez said. "There are so many projects that need to be done, and I need our community's help with these projects because this church is theirs."

Fr. Gutiérrez encouraged parishioners to pledge and donate to the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) in order to receive a rebate and use that rebate to complete these projects. He made announcements every Sunday after Mass, and also asked for 20 people to wait for him after each Mass to further discuss the projects.

"I thanked them – whether it was the congregation or the 20 different people I spoke to after Mass," Fr. Gutiérrez said. "I thanked them because their ACA donations paid for my education – I give them, and the parish, my time, treasure, and talent. I then ask them to be honest with themselves, 'How much do you receive from the Lord? What can you give back to your community?'"

The response from the community has been strong – their ACA pledge has almost doubled last year's pledge and they have donated enough to reach their parish goal. So far, the parish is expected to receive a rebate of over \$10,000. If the parish reaches their pledge, they have the potential to receive a rebate of over \$34,000.

Fr. Gutiérrez is aware of his parish's ACA numbers and reports back to the congregation every Sunday, and they in turn continue to pledge and donate to the ACA. Fr. Gutiérrez is happy that his parishioners are good stewards and ensures to thank them by letters and phone calls.

"As people get more involved, they learn to appreciate the church more – and

begin to feel responsible for their parish," Fr. Gutiérrez said. "I pray for their faith to increase and for the Lord to give them generous hearts. We demonstrate our faith by being generous."

Another parish, Christ the King in Richland, not only usually has strong numbers for the ACA, but in 2020, they also had a 100 percent participation in the National Special Collections (supporting the Church's works of institutional development, social justice, evangelization, and catechesis – domestically and around the world).

Monsignor Thomas Champoux, pastor of Christ the King Parish, stated that he is blessed to have a parish filled with good stewards who are aware of their responsibility as Catholics to care for others and support the works of the Church.

"I'm aware that people are financially stressed (due to the pandemic)," Msgr. Champoux said. "We hear the needs of the people and the needs of the Church, and so it's my responsibility to inform them. It's their responsibility to ask themselves if they're able to give."

Continued on page 3