



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

El Católico de Washington Central
Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

JULY 2021 *Letter*

Group of Area Catholics Assists Homeless With Food On Saturdays

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Many of us have been complaining about the heat this summer. However, just imagine how it would feel to be hot, homeless AND hungry! Instead of complaining, a group of Catholics in Yakima have taken to the streets to make life a little easier for the homeless. Here is an excerpt from one day of their experience, as told by Vic Kusske, a member of St. Vincent's Charity at St. Joseph Church in Yakima:

"Saturday, June 26, at 8 a.m., it was already nearly 80 degrees, and we were expecting temperatures to be over 100 degrees by the afternoon. Steve Menard (of St. Joseph Parish,

Yakima), John McKean and Donny Davina (both of Holy Family Parish) were at Mel's Diner on North First Street in Yakima picking up breakfast burritos.

Steve discovered about six years ago that there are places offering food for the homeless every day of the week in Yakima except Saturdays. Steve had 30 burritos wrapped individually and placed in a box and John and Donny had 40.

The men have been picking up burritos provided by Mel's Manager Fred Gomez, at his cost, for several years, taking them to Yakima's homeless on the streets and at Camp Hope. (The volunteers also distribute water bottles.)...

It is impossible to share how it feels when a homeless person asks God to bless us. You must be there looking into the eyes that reflect the troubled souls and hear them speak to God asking for a favor to be given to us..."

Kusske, who also participates in the ministry to the homeless, commented on the "emotional connection we get when we look deep into the windows of their souls. It is clear how much God loves them," he observed. "Who are we to not also love them?"

Kusske expressed thanks to "our generous community and to those who have donated to Saint Vincent's Charity, including Catholic Charities for funding the Saturday burritos to Camp Hope."



Homeless benefit from Saturday outreach.



John McKean, Fred Gomez and Donny Davina help out.

In addition to the current volunteers from Yakima and Saint Peter Claver Parish in Wapato, more volunteers are sought for this ministry, especially from parishes in Toppenish, Sunnyside, White Swan, Selah, Moxee, Naches, Tieton, Ellensburg or "any other area or parish that might be interested in responding to needy people in their communities or parishes," Kusske said.

Those who wish to donate to this ministry may send contributions to: St. Vincent's Charity, Saint Joseph Church, 212 North Fourth Street, Yakima, WA 98901.

"I was hungry and you gave me food: Matthew 25."

Online Schedule for October Cornerstone Conference is Set

The Bishops of Washington State invite you to attend the virtual Cornerstone Catholic Conference on October 30. The theme of this biennial conference is "Forming Disciples for Life and Justice." There is no cost to register and attend this virtual event.

For information, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2y2mr2h3>. Parishes may wish to organize "watch parties" and small faith sharing groups may find it helpful to gather together as well. The schedule below is the latest available (subject to change):

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

- 5:00 – 6:00 pm Virtual Exhibition & Meeting Hub Open
- 5:30 – 6:00 pm Welcome and OnAIR Virtual Platform Training and Orientation

6:00 – 6:30 pm Welcome/OnAir Training, Spanish

6:30 – 7:00 pm Adoration/worship, Spanish
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021

8:00 am – 4:00 pm Meeting Hub Open

8:00 am – 8:45 am Virtual Exhibition, Networking Break

8:45 am Opening Prayer and Announcements

9:00 am **Keynote Speakers**

Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J.: A Case for the Inalienable Rights of the Pre-Born
Brenda Noriega: Love Your Neighbor As Yourself! "And Who is My Neighbor?" (Spanish)

9:45 – 10:00 am Live Q and A, Spanish

10:00 – 10:30 am Virtual Exhibition, Networking Break, Martin Valverde or Pedro Rubalcava

Performance

10:30 – 11:30 am **Concurrent Workshops**

Fr. Agustino Torres: Maintaining Christian Joy in Times of Darkness

Msgr. Ray East: Catholic Social Teaching: The Foundation for Living Faithfully, Respecting Life, and Acting Justly

Aleah Patulot: PREPARES (Pregnancy & Parenting Support)

Bishop J. Tyson and Panel: COVID-19: Lessons Learned and Future Opportunities

Camille Pauley: Doing Pro-Life Education the EASY WAY!

Faith In Action Panel: Advocacy and Ministries

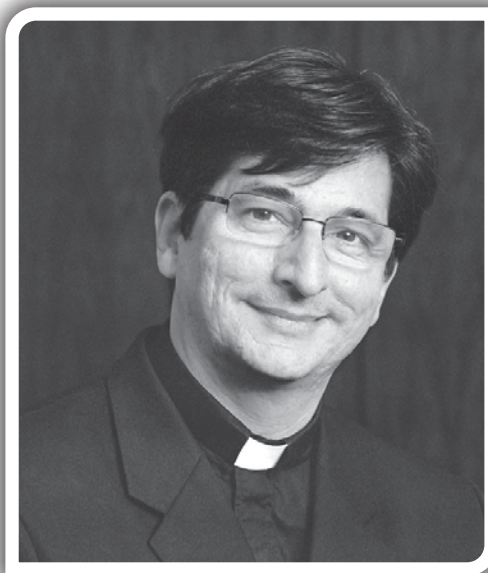
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A Message from Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends:

It has been a hard harvest year. *The Wenatchee World* recently featured a front-page photo of cherries that looked like raisins due to the heat wave. I know so many of you have joined me praying for our many orchardists, farmers and ranchers who have lost so much during the heat and the drought. The same is true of our many agricultural workers. I have gotten to know many of them this summer, especially through our sacraments and ministry outreach this summer both in the north at Monitor as well as here in Yakima. I am grateful to the many parishes who have leaned out to share their musicians and a few parish volunteers for our migrant Masses and outreach. It is not the same as before COVID-19, but it has been something to note.

This issue of the *Central Washington Catholic* features the plight of the homeless who have also faced particular challenges due to the heat wave across our region. Many of our parishes partner with volunteer groups in reaching out to this very vulnerable population. I am also acutely aware from our Catholic Charities personnel how homelessness sometimes can be fueled by behavioral and mental health issues. To all of you who lean out in so many ways to our vulnerable, please accept my thanks!



Bishop Joseph Tyson

The most vulnerable in our midst are the unborn. It was a walk down memory lane when I spoke with Christine Conklin about our Students for Life group. This was a group to which I belonged when I was in high school (then known as Human Life). As many of you know, Washington State was the only state to have legalized abortion by popular ballot before *Roe vs. Wade*. Even in those days, students were organizing on behalf of the unborn.

We know that women and families facing

unexpected pregnancies are vulnerable as well. I am grateful for the staff, volunteers and donors in our PREPARES ministry across the state for their continued outreach so that children can be welcomed and supported from conception up to age five.

Vulnerability. This is something we have all felt during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is something we can feel in our bodies due to the heat. I hope this issue of the *Central Washington Catholic* inspires you to be assisting the vulnerable so real and so present all around us.

A long-time parishioner from my first assignment as a pastor at St. Mary of the Valley in Monroe once wisely noted, "Parish is not a place where you come to get. It is a place where you get to give." This is what Jesus does for us in the Eucharist. It is what we can imitate for each other, in the fields, on the streets and especially for the unborn.

Be assured of my prayers and blessings for each of you even as you pray for the most vulnerable in our midst.

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Capital Campaign for Priest Retirement and Seminarian Education Meets Goal

Having finally met its goal of collecting \$5.25 million, the Capital Campaign for Priest Retirement and Seminarian Education that began 15 or so years ago has formally ended. With the help of a small transfer from the Parish Assistance Fund (also known as the Poor Parish Fund), all of our parishes were able to at least raise 20 percent of their original goals, thanks to the generosity of their parishioners.

The campaign was launched by then-Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J., who recognized that the Diocese did not have enough money in reserves to be able to pay for the pension and health care needs of senior priests, as they grew older. The need for more priests in the future also spurred the campaign, which distributed 80 percent of donations to the newly created Priest Retirement Trust (PRT), and 20 percent to the newly created Seminarian Education Trust (SET).

As of June 30, the balance in the PRT, which pays the pensions and health plan premiums for senior priests, stood at a little over \$13 million, which reflect income from the capital campaign, donations through the Bishop's Founders Circle (BFC), started by Bishop Joseph J. Tyson, and other directed gifts. The trust supports 17 priests at present.

The balance in the SET as of June 30 was over \$4.2 million. The Diocese is not withdrawing funds from this trust yet, hoping to grow it to \$20 million for future needs.

While the trusts are growing, the Diocese continues to raise money for the corresponding Priest Retirement Fund (PRF), which pays primarily for assisted living expenses and supplemental health needs for senior priests, and the Seminarian Education Fund (SEF), which provides for day-to-day operations.

A key component of this effort is the annual summer collection, which is beginning to wind down in the parishes. Last year, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, the Diocese raised over \$300,000, most of which went to support the education of our seminarians. Other income sources to assist senior priests include a monthly contribution of \$400 for each priest working in a parish or diocesan office; an additional contribution of \$85 a month for a self-funded long-term care program; and miscellaneous donations, including BFC contributions.

For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Diocese has budgeted \$461,100 in expenses for the PRF, against \$345,500 in projected revenues, for a deficit of \$116,100. The fund does have a

reserve of close to \$600,000 to absorb deficits for a few years. Most of the expense is to support the costs for the six priests now in assisted living residences. When the Diocese pays for assisted living, the priests contribute all but \$600 of their monthly pensions back to the Diocese to help pay for their living expenses.

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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.

'Rice Bowl' Benefits Many Across Diocese During Pandemic *Continued from page 4*

FISH (Friends in Service to Humanity), Ellensburg – \$1,000 to enable FISH to expand its Food4All Farm and increase the amount of fresh produce available to food bank clients.

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Peshastin – \$1,000 to support the parish's Angels of Mercy Fund. The fund helps individuals and families facing financial hardships.

Holy Trinity Parish, Goldendale – \$1,000 to help the parish purchase lunch and snacks for the Vacation Bible School and the weekly religious education classes which help keep costs down for low-income families.

St. Andrew Parish's Community Garden, Ellensburg – \$1,000 to assist the group in replacing several raised garden beds. At least 10% of the

garden is used to raise produce for the food bank.

Immaculate Conception/St. John the Baptist, Roslyn and Cle Elum – \$1,000 to make monthly donations to HopeSource. A portion of the grant would be reserved for the parish emergency fund which assists those who come to the churches for assistance with gas, food or temporary lodging.

Holy Family Parish St. Vincent Ministry, Yakima – \$1,000 to fund eight months of the group's distribution of breakfast burritos to the homeless. The burritos are distributed each Saturday in locations where the homeless gather.

Care and Share Food Bank, Grand Coulee – \$1,000 to purchase canned food and hygiene items for distribution at the food bank.

St. Joseph Parish, Wenatchee Migrant

Ministry - \$700 to purchase staples used to prepare traditional Mexican food for workers in the Sage Bluff Migrant Camp.

St. Aloysius Parish, Toppenish – \$1,000 to supplement the church's aid to the needy who come to the church for help paying bills or purchasing food or gas.

St. Peter Claver Parish, Wapato – \$1,000 to help the church purchase gas vouchers, pay utility bills, and purchase prescriptions for those who come to the church in need.

For information on the Rice Bowl Grant Program, contact Leanne LaBissoniere, parish outreach coordinator for Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington, at llabissoniere@catholiccharitiescw.org.

Online Schedule for October Cornerstone Conference is Set *Continued from page 1*

11:40 am – 12:20 pm Washington State Bishops

Panel:

All Washington State Bishops will be presenting on a variety of topics

12:20 – 12:40 pm Live Q and A with Bishops

12:40 – 1:10 pm Lunch Break, Virtual Exhibition, Networking Break

12:45 – 1:10 pm Martin Valverde or Pedro Rubalcava Performance

1:15– 2:10 pm Closing Keynote Speakers

Gloria Purvis: What Do the Racial Justice and Pro-Life Movements Have in Common? (English with Spanish translation)

Fr. Agustino Torres: Catholicism and

Colonialism: The Truth and Teachings of the Church Against Slavery (Spanish)

2:10 – 2:25 pm Live Q and A, English or Spanish

2:30 – 3:30 pm Concurrent Workshops

Katherine Angulo: Youth Ministry – Meeting the Realities of this Generation
 Msgr. Ray East: Catholic Social Teaching: The Foundation For Living Faithfully, Respecting Life, And Acting Justly
 Aleah Patulot: PREPARES (Pregnancy & Parenting Support)

Bishop Joseph Tyson and Panel: COVID-19: Lessons Learned and Future Opportunities
 Camille Pauley: Doing Pro-Life Education

the EASY WAY!

Faith In Action Panel: Advocacy and Ministries

3:30 – 4:00 pm Virtual Exhibition, Topic Discussion Groups

5:30 – 6:30 pm Mass

The Cornerstone Catholic Conference is organized by the Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC), the public policy voice of the five Bishops of Washington state. The web address is: www.wacatholics.org.



Celebration of Faith 2021
Saturday, October 9th, 2021

More information coming soon.

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

<https://cwatholicfoundation.org>

Capital Campaign for Priest Retirement and Seminarian Education Meets Goal

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For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Diocese has budgeted \$536,000 for the education and support of 10 seminarians, against \$599,700 in revenues, for a modest projected surplus of \$63,300. The biggest sources of revenue are the summer collection, projected to bring in \$200,000; \$143,000 in grants from Catholic Home Missions, a program of the U.S. Bishops; \$66,600 in scholarships from Catholic Extension, and many other grants and donations from the BFC, Knights of Columbus, Young Ladies Institute, and other generous donors.

Most important is our continued prayers for an increase of vocations, and in gratitude for the service of our senior priests. Many thanks to all in the Diocese for your prayers, and financial assistance. To make a donation, visit www.yakimadiocese.org, click on the "Donations" link, and find the collection page, or go directly to the page through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/rmtxzff6>.

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Bishop Joseph Tyson helped launch a proud tradition of Students for Life.



Students in Wenatchee, where the Chapter of the Divine Child was begun, listened to a pro-life presentation earlier this month.



The Edward and Catherine Carroll Chapter of Students for Life in the Tri-Cities did a service project for the Edith Bishel Center for the Blind.

Calling All Students: You Can Make A Difference In Your Community

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Young people from throughout Central Washington are making a difference in their communities through Students for Life. Even as we deal with the pandemic, youth from Yakima to the Tri-Cities, Ellensburg, Wenatchee and the Lower Yakima Valley have been showing enthusiasm for helping unborn babies and their mothers, the elderly, physically disabled and even victims of human trafficking.

Young men and women between the ages of 13 and college age are learning key lessons in self-respect, the realities of life issues ranging from abortion to euthanasia, and life-affirming options available to those in need.

“(Having been) a teen Mom myself, I know there is a way other than abortion. I want other women to know this and that is why I am part of Students for Life...,” observed Kimberly Barrera, president of the Gregory Sherman Chapter of Students for Life and a member of St. Joseph Parish, in Yakima.

Mayra Navarro Gomez, liaison for the Chapter of the Divine Child and member of the youth ministry team for Holy Apostles Church, Wenatchee, also praised the organization.

“Holy Apostles has been very blessed to start incorporating Students for Life in our

parish and community,” she said. “Students were able to learn more about the value of human dignity from conception to death...”

Our own Bishop Joseph Tyson was a member of Students for Life in the early 1970s (then known as Human Life). Bishop Tyson served as treasurer (“an easy job since we didn’t have any money”) for what may have been the first Students group in the nation, based at Seattle’s Blanchet High School.

Since that time, the organization has grown to include more than 1,250 chapters across the country, many based at schools, and others operating with independent groups including homeschoolers.

“We have to have Students for Life (groups) that provide pro-life moments, pro-life islands of thoughts and reflections in what is essentially a pro-choice culture,” observed Bishop Tyson.

“What was really great about Students for Life for me is that I really had a sense that life was a gift, not a given.”

Central Washington chapters, over the past few years since they were founded, have heard speakers ranging from women – and a father -- who lost children through abortion; women who chose to continue with unplanned pregnancies and give birth; a pharmacist

talking about abortifacients; a couple who adopted four children; representatives of pregnancy centers and PREPARES; and a spokesperson for a group which assists area victims of human trafficking.

Members have assisted in service projects that have included collecting items for pregnancy centers, delivering encouraging notes and treats to senior centers, and helping out at the Edith Bishel Center for the Blind in Kennewick. Currently, two groups are planning to collect items for an organization which reaches out to human trafficking victims in Central Washington.

Chloe Dawn Flory, a member of the Lower Yakima Valley’s developing chapter, said that participation in Students for Life “has helped me gain deeper understanding, knowledge and appreciation for what it means to advocate for life.”

If you, a son or daughter or grandchild would like more information on Students for Life in your community, including meeting dates and times, contact Christine at (509) 985-6248 or visit the Pro-Life Coalition website at www.prolifecw.org. New members are welcome across the region!

‘Rice Bowl’ Benefits Many Across Diocese During Pandemic

Thanks to your generosity, 20 ministries that serve the needy in central and eastern Washington are the recipients of up to \$1,000 grants from the local share of the Rice Bowl collection.

The Rice Bowl collection is taken in parishes nationwide each year during Lent to benefit the work of Catholic Relief Services, a non-profit relief agency commissioned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to assist the poor and vulnerable. Seventy-five percent of the collection goes to support CRS’ humanitarian and development programs overseas. The remaining 25 percent is returned to dioceses to support local hunger and poverty prevention programs.

The Diocese of Yakima awarded Rice Bowl Grants to the following ministries:

Kinship Navigation Program, Catholic Charities, Southeast Washington - \$1,000 to purchase school supplies for the program’s Back to School Event. The Kinship Program serves caregivers raising children not born to them and hosts an annual event to help caregivers prepare kids for the start of school.

St. Joseph Parish, White Salmon - \$1,000 to purchase food for funeral meals and snacks for

religious education students. Both programs serve a high percentage of low-income families.

PREPARES, Quincy – \$1,000 to aid PREPARES volunteers in serving expectant mothers and families in the Quincy area and to help purchase supplies for a PREPARES baby shower for expectant mothers.

Volunteer Services, Catholic Charities – \$1,000 to subsidize the budget to compensate for the rising cost of materials to build 1-2 wheelchair ramps. The ramps increase mobility for low-income seniors and disabled adults.

Our Lady of Fatima Soup Kitchen, Moses Lake – \$1,000 to help purchase a new refrigerator for storing food in the soup kitchen. The Fatima Center, which houses the soup kitchen, was recently demolished to make room for a new center. The funds will help equip the new kitchen.

Toppenish Community Chest Food Bank, Toppenish – \$1,000 to help stock the food bank and purchase the cleaning supplies and PPE the facility needs to continue to operate.

Union Gospel Mission, Yakima – \$1,000 to supplement the cost of the mission’s efforts to

provide 500-700 meals daily to the homeless and those living below the federal poverty line.

Generating Hope/Noah’s Ark Homeless Shelter, Wapato – \$1,000 to support the organization’s efforts to provide emergency shelter, meals, and a drop-in center which offers hygiene, mail, phone, clothing closet, laundry, support groups and recreational activities to the homeless.

St. Juan Diego Parish, Cowiche – \$1,000 to support the Highland Food Bank in Tieton.

PREPARES, Upper Yakima Valley (Yakima, Selah, Naches, Cowiche, Tieton) - \$1,000 to support families who choose life by meeting essential needs such as diapers, wipes, clothing, hygiene products and household items.

