



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

SEPTEMBER 2021

## What Is The Meaning of 'All Saints Day' and 'All Souls Day'?

By Christine Corbett Conklin

In the weeks ahead, we will observe the Catholic feasts of All Saints Day (November 1) and All Souls Day (November 2). So, what is the difference between a "Saint" and a "Soul" and what exactly are we commemorating here?

On All Saints Day, we celebrate "Christians from the time of Christ to today, our Christian brothers and sisters who have died and gone to Heaven," explained Very Rev. Michael Ibach, judicial vicar of the Diocese of Yakima and parochial vicar of Holy Family Parish. This includes both "canonized" saints to whom miracles have been attributed and whom the Church has publicly declared to be good role models for our lives -- and ordinary individuals who led quiet, anonymous lives devoted to Christ.

All Saints Day (usually a Holy Day of Obligation, but with a dispensation this year because it falls on a Monday), is a "reminder that the Church consists of people here on earth and those who are with God in Heaven," Father said. Together, we form what is called the "Com-



munion of Saints."

This special day also is "a reminder to us that this is our destiny," he added. "One day we are meant to be with God in Heaven if we live the life Jesus calls us to."

Occasionally, there can be confusion among members of other churches concerning Catholics' regard for the saints. Some may think that we worship the saints themselves or even their statues.

"We never worship anyone but God," Father clarified. "We show our respect for the saints. The statues remind us of the lives they led. We do not pray to the statue itself." Rather, the saints are meant to be examples for us, an encouragement to respond to God's call through

penance, charitable works, scholarly works, or however we are called to follow Him. It's an old and honored custom to name children after saints, giving them a positive role model to follow.

So, what then is the purpose of All Souls Day?

"All Souls is more of a sad day, a day of mourning all of our ancestors (and others) who have died, but at the same time, a time of hope," Father Ibach said. It's a time to pray for our departed loved ones, so that if they are lacking any graces they need, God will show them mercy. Once a person has died, it is believed that he or she can no longer pray for personal salvation.

All Souls Day is also a loving reminder "that Christ is the Good Shepherd who leads us to life with the Father, that He died for us," Father Ibach said. This special day "helps to set the tone for the month of November, a time to pray for the departed."

May all of the souls of the faithful departed, including our loved ones, through the mercy of God rest in peace.

## Virtual Cornerstone Conference Coming Soon

There's still time to register for the virtual Cornerstone Catholic Conference, October 29-30, presented by the Bishops of Washington State. "Forming Disciples for Life and Justice" is the theme of this biennial event. Registration and attendance are free.

For information and schedule, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2y2mr2h3>. Parishes may wish to organize "watch parties" and small faith-sharing groups may want to gather together as well.

Friday, October 29, will include a virtual exhibition and meeting hub, welcome and virtual platform training and orientation (in both English and Spanish), plus Adoration in Spanish.

On Saturday, October 30, morning highlights will feature keynote speakers Father Robert Spitzer, S.J., who will discuss "A Case for the Inalienable Rights of the Pre-Born" and Brenda

Noriega, who will explore "Love Your Neighbor As Yourself! And Who Is My Neighbor?". Workshops will offer presentations by Father Agustino Torres on "Maintaining Christian Joy

in Times of Darkness"; Monsignor Ray East on "Catholic Social Teaching: The Foundation for Living Faithfully, Respecting Life, and Acting Justly";

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## New Flag Poles Dedicated at Ahtanum Mission

On September 5, two new flag poles were dedicated at the St. Joseph Mission at the Ahtanum. The dedication began with a Mass concelebrated by Bishop Joseph Tyson, Very Reverend Michael Ibach and Fathers John and Bill Shaw. This was followed by a ceremony which included members of the Knights of Columbus Assembly #1171 which sponsored the new additions.

The two new flag poles flank a pole bearing the American flag, near the Mission Chapel. To one side now stands a pole bearing the Papal flag, a reminder of the universality of the Catholic Church under the leadership of the Holy Father, explained Father Ibach. To the other side is a pole which will soon fly the flag of the Yakama Nation, whose ancestors were instrumental in inviting Catholic missionaries to the Valley and thus helping to bring the Gospel here, he said.



Bishop Joseph Tyson and Father John Shaw prayed with members of the Knights of Columbus at the flag pole dedication.

## A Message from Bishop Tyson...

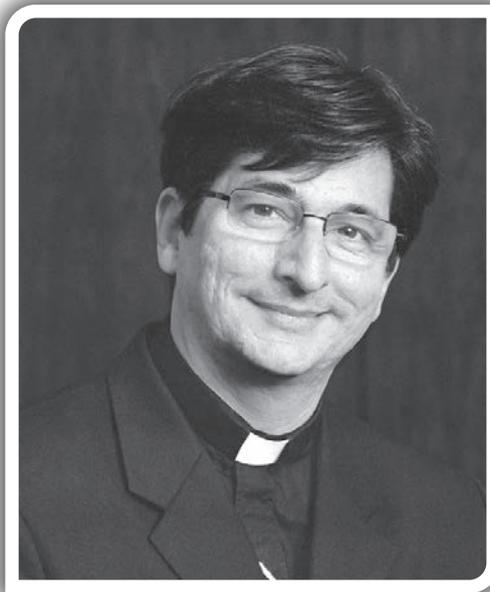
Dear Friends,

As we move into Autumn and anticipate the first snow, this month's *Central Washington Catholic* brings together a collection of news items and stories that point us to the "end times." We can see signs in nature. The falling of the leaves suggests the dying of creation. Statistically, our priests tend to celebrate more funerals at the same time as the leaves fall. There is a certain cycle and rhythm to life which we see reflected in all creation.

Yet, the Sunday scriptures at the end of October and through November highlight a different way of reading the "end times." In light of our sure and certain end, what gift will we make today? As we review the lives of the saints and celebrate their witness liturgically on the Feast of All Saints, how might we imitate them? Who is our favorite saint? Why?

The same is true in a parallel fashion on the Feast of All Souls. We remember our deceased loved ones. Often their lives pointed us to the way of Christ. When we think of our relatives, our friends and our deceased loved ones, how might we see them pointing to Christ?

Indeed, the direction on the Order



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

of Christian Burial suggests that comments at the Vigil homily for a deceased loved one ought to point to how our loved one's death was a Christian death. Similarly, comments at the funeral Mass homily ought to suggest how our loved one's life pointed to the life of Christ.

Our short piece on the stages of fetal development suggests that life, itself, is a miracle all on its own. In light of our death, how do we want to share the miracle we hold today – the miracle of life? How can

we protect the miracle of life for everyone, especially the unborn and the dying? How do we revere life at every stage of the life cycle? How do we become, in the words of Pope Francis, "Missionary Disciples," even supporting the overseas missionaries so dedicated to the Gospel of Life?

Yes, it is Autumn; and yes, the leaves are falling. We enter a season of change. We do so, confident of the way God shows us His face in his son Jesus through every step of our journey of faith. We live from death to new life precisely because we desire to walk as Jesus did, from death to new life.

My thanks to you for traveling the journey of faith in our Church, in and out of season, even in the midst of an ongoing pandemic. May we see the hope of the resurrection even as we watch the leaves fall and the green give way to brown and gold.

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

## Virtual Cornerstone Conference Coming Soon *Continued from page 1*

and Aleah Patulot on PREPARES (Pregnancy & Parenting Support). Bishop Joseph Tyson and a panel will discuss "COVID-19: Lessons Learned and Future Opportunities"; Camille Pauley will explore "Doing Pro-Life Education the EASY WAY!"; and a Faith In Action panel will review "Advocacy and Ministries."

Later, all Washington State bishops will present a panel discussion on a variety of topics, with questions and answers. Afternoon keynote speakers will be Gloria Purvis on "What Do the Racial Justice and Pro-Life Movements Have in Common?" (English with Spanish translation); and Father Agustino Torres on "Catholicism and Colonialism: The Truth and Teachings of the Church Against Slavery (Spanish)."

A mid-afternoon choice of workshops will include: Katherine Angulo on "Youth Ministry – Meeting the Realities of this Generation"; Monsignor Ray East on "Catholic Social Teaching: The Foundation For Living Faithfully, Respecting Life, And Acting Justly"; Aleah Patulot on PREPARES (Pregnancy & Parenting Support); Bishop Joseph Tyson and a panel on "COVID-19: Lessons Learned and Future Opportunities"; Camille Pauley on "Doing Pro-Life Education the EASY WAY!"; and a Faith In Action panel discussing "Advocacy and Ministries."

The conference will end with Mass, and virtual exhibitions and music performances will be interspersed in the schedule.

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.

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# Care and Respect for Life Includes Creation

By Sr. Constance Veit, I.S.P.

Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, *Laudato Si*, has generated a great buzz. I have to admit that I haven't always taken enough interest in ecological issues, assuming that doing so would somehow compromise my dedication to the frail seniors with whom we share our lives as Little Sisters of the Poor.

However, the pandemic opened my mind to ecological concerns in surprising ways. During periods of COVID lockdown, like the one we have been experiencing throughout September, it struck me that our home for the elderly and the people who live and work here is an ecosystem of our own.

But we are not a world unto ourselves! We are connected to many people and systems on whom we rely to sustain our daily lives. This realization has led me to broaden my horizons – and to care more about our “common home.”

Regardless of whether we believe that the COVID-19 virus originated in a lab or a wet market, at this point it seems obvious that the pandemic is the result of some form of human intrusion into the natural world. Whatever its origin, the pandemic has shown us very painfully that we mere humans do not have absolute control over the world.

I am reminded of Pope Francis'

homily of March 27, 2020, when he stood alone in an empty, rain-filled St. Peter's Square to pray for our sick world. “We have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything,” he said. “Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick.”

As I have become more aware of our mistaken notion of dominance over the entire created world, I realize more and more that care for the environment is closely tied to reverence for human life.

In October, the church observes Respect Life Month. It now seems fitting to me that the “Season of Creation,” this relatively new ecumenical effort that takes place each September, runs right into the month devoted to nurturing respect for human life.

Reflecting on our situation here at our home for the elderly, I realize that many of us are not in a position to engage in great works of activism on these issues.

But there is much we can do, and two of our greatest Catholic saints – both of whom we honor during the first week of October – can lead the way.

St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast day is October 4, often said, “Preach the Gospel at all times; use words if necessary.” The great saint of nature teaches us how much good we can do through our example and witness to the Gospel.

Even if we are financially strapped or physically frail, we can all give good example through charity to our neighbor and good stewardship of the created world!

St. Therese of Lisieux, whom we celebrate on October 1, believed that “God is our fulcrum: our lever, prayer; with that we can lift the world!”

So, no matter what material riches, influence or human strengths we lack, let's offer our prayers and sufferings for greater reverence for the dignity of human life at every stage, and for greater concern for our common home. We really can make a difference!

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



Due to the ongoing Covid pandemic, the in-person Celebration of Faith event has been cancelled. Your health and safety is our priority.

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## How Many of the 'Saints of Autumn' Can You Name?

With all of the turmoil in the world today, it helps to raise our focus to the many saints who have gone before us and to whom we can turn for prayer. Following are some of the saints whose feast days or solemnities we observe in the Autumn months. How many can you name? The answers follow:

**1. September 29.** These three spiritual beings are recognized as servants and messengers of God. The first is regarded as a warrior, the second announced to Mary that she was to be the Mother of Jesus, the third was known for protecting Tobias in a perilous journey recounted in the Bible and is the patron of engaged and married couples.

**2. October 1.** Born in France in 1873, this saint became a Carmelite nun. Dying at the age of 24, she promised to send a "shower of roses from the heavens" and spend her "heaven doing good upon earth." She has come to be known as the Little Flower.

**3. October 5.** This Polish nun, born in 1905, was a mystic who had visions of Jesus. She was entrusted with proclaiming the message of Divine Mercy: to ask for God's mercy, to trust in His mercy and to be a conduit for God's mercy to others.

**4. October 11.** A Catholic priest from Belgium, this saint was a missionary to Hawaiian people afflicted by leprosy. He helped to improve living conditions for the people and founded two orphanages before himself dying from leprosy.

**5. October 22.** This Polish saint served as Pope from 1978 to his death in 2005. He is best known for his efforts to end communism and to reach out to people of other nations and religions. His encyclicals dealt with everything from the dignity of women, to the importance of the family, and the Church's opposition to contraception and abortion.

**6. November 3.** This Dominican lay brother from Peru, born in 1579, is known for his work among the poor, which included establishing a children's hospital and orphanage. Many miracles were attributed to him, including bilocation, levitation, instant cures and a gift for communicating with animals.

**7. November 13.** This Italian-American nun was born in 1850. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and is known for her service to immigrants, establishing orphanages, schools and a hospital. She became the first U.S. citizen to be canonized a saint.

**8. December 6.** Regarded by some as the inspiration for Santa Claus, this saint was born circa 270 AD. A Greek bishop who gave to the poor and sick, he is believed to have been imprisoned for his faith.

**9. December 9.** This Mexican saint, born in 1474, was a convert to Christianity. He was honored with visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary. When questioned by his bishop, he revealed an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe that was miraculously imprinted on his cloak.

**10. December 13.** This young virgin martyr was born circa 304 AD in Italy. She died during a persecution of the Christians, dedicating herself to God and upholding her faith. It is maintained that her eyes were removed, earning her the designation of patroness of the blind.



ANSWERS 1.) The Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael; 2.) St. Therese of Lisieux; 3.) St. Faustina Kowalska; 4.) St. Damien of Molokai; 5.) St. Pope John Paul II; 6.) St. Martin de Porres; 7.) St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (Mother Cabrini); 8.) St. Nicholas; 9.) St. Juan Diego; 10.) St. Lucy.

## Here Are The Amazing Facts About Fetal Development

As we celebrate Respect Life Month in October, it's good to remember the amazing facts about the development of the unborn baby. The following are excerpts from information published by Heritage House and entitled, "Precious One":

**Week one.** From conception, the DNA "instructions" are present for all that this new person will become.

**Week two.** The baby burrows into the lining of the mother's womb.

**Week three.** Foundations of the brain, spinal cord and nervous system are laid.

**Week four.** The baby's heart is beating. Eyes, ears and lungs are forming.

**Week five.** Tiny arms and legs and the baby's face are developing. The little one's blood is now separate from his or her mother's.



**Week six.** Tiny fingers and toes are developing and the brain is dividing into three parts to serve various functions. (Studies have also shown that, even at this early date, the child can feel pain.)

**Week seven.** The vast majority of the muscles are forming and brain function can be detected.

**Week eight.** About the size of a thumb, the baby is moving and all developing organs are present.

**Week nine.** There are now visible signs of whether the child will be a boy or a girl.

**Week ten.** Fingerprints are forming and nerve and muscle connections are developing.

**Week eleven.** The baby "practices" breathing and may have facial expressions – even resembling a smile.

**Week twelve.** Now about three inches in length, the baby can swallow and respond to "skin stimulation."

All that the child needs for the duration of pregnancy is nourishment and protection, to be born. May God bless all mothers, fathers and their precious, unborn children.

### Care for God's Creation Prayer

God of all creation,

How splendid and majestic is the world you created!  
It reveals your glory; it teaches us about you.

When you made us in your image,  
you gave us this command:  
care for the world and for all the creatures in it,  
for this is our common home.

Yet your holy creation cries out,  
for our home is "burdened and laid waste,"  
scorched and scarred.

Come among us  
that we might remember our interdependence.  
Let us see the face of your Son in those who suffer  
from the destruction of our common home.

Help us to be stewards  
who honor you in the world you have made  
for the good of all creation  
and for future generations.

May your justice reign forever!

Amen.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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