



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

El Católico de Washington Central

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

OCTOBER 2021 *Newsletter*

ACA: We Are 'Stronger Together, United in the Body of Christ'

By Daisy Perez

Once a year, Bishop Tyson asks each of us to make a prayerful and sacrificial gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) which funds the programs and ministries offered by the Diocese of Yakima.

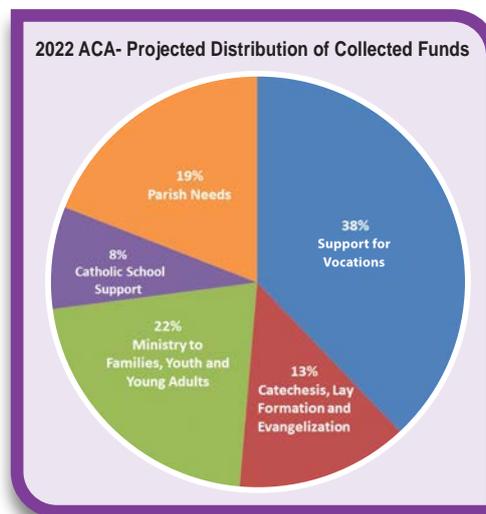
Keep an eye on your mailboxes this weekend for your pledge envelope for the 2022 ACA. The ACA campaign begins November 6 and 7. Envelopes can be picked up at your local parish. Another quick way to donate is to scan the QR code that will instantly redirect the user to the 2022 ACA donation page.

This year's theme is "*Stronger Together, United in the Body of Christ.*" Jesus prayed that believers would have complete unity. "I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one..." John 17:22. We

are stronger together. We are 40 parishes. One Faith. One Family.

Our 2022 ACA Diocesan goal is to raise \$1.5 million. By giving to the ACA, you are engaging in discipleship by bringing the love of Christ to thousands of our brothers and sisters across Central Washington.

Did you know? So far for the 2021 ACA year, \$369,142 has been rebated to



parishes. When you give to the Annual Catholic Appeal, you: educate future priests and deacons, bring Christ to students at Central Washington University, nurture the literacy growth of migrant children through Literacy Wagon, reach people who could not otherwise attend Mass and receive the sacraments through Migrant Ministry, help the Spanish and English communities grow closer

together through joint programs such as Magnificat, and provide the opportunity for your parish to receive a rebate to use locally.

A 'Change of Perspective' Can Help Us To Be More Thankful

By Christine Corbett Conklin

In our troubled world, sometimes it's difficult to be thankful. There are just too many things to worry about!

However, as we approach the celebration of Thanksgiving, it may be time for a change of perspective. The Bible gives us good

advice in this direction: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God," says Philippians, 4:6-7. "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ."

"All of life is a gift," observed Father Richard Sedlacek, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Selah. "In order



to be really thankful, understand Jesus Christ and what He's doing for us. God has given us the means to find happiness, to find meaning and purpose. He has not abandoned us."

Some of the hardships which the world is now facing can be attributed to turning away from God, to following our free will. However, if we look through the eyes of

faith, other hardships which we cannot control, such as sickness or death of a loved one, can still bring us grace.

"The pain and hardship we're going through can bring us closer to Jesus Christ," Father observed. "If our struggles bring us closer to Christ and His ultimate truth, then we can be thankful. When we find Jesus Christ, we find everything."

No matter how bleak life may

appear at times, if you stop and think, there is always at least one thing to be thankful for. Perhaps you are healthy. You have your Catholic Faith. You have enough food for you and your family. You can see a blue sky and feel the sunshine.

"God loves everybody," Father Sedlacek said. "He's given us the means to find the life we were created for." Rather than focus on the problems of the day, consider the wonderful, eternal life which is offered to us. "There is life after death, whether we believe it or not."

So, when you're feeling discouraged, focus on your faith, on building a relationship with Jesus Christ now and of building a culture of life in this world, he advises.

You may even find an unexpected benefit: that you're being better received by others close to you.

"A person who is grateful is so very pleasant to be around," Father suggested with a smile.

A Message from Bishop Tyson...

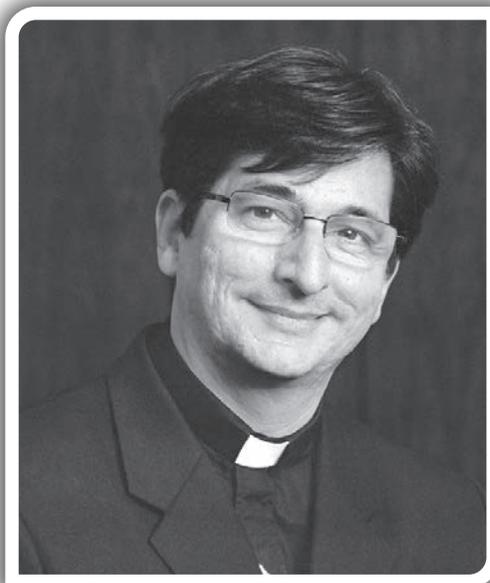
Dear Friends:

"Friends." That is how I start each of these columns. "Dear Friends." This salutation is biblical and comes straight from Jesus. "No longer do I call you servants for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I call you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you." (John 15:15)

It seems to me this time of November is a time of friendship. In November, we remember our friends on earth who are now deceased in the Feast of All Souls. Our Spanish speaking community often brings pictures and mementos of loved ones to Mass for the "Día de los Muertos." These kinds of celebrations became famous with the Disney film "Coco." "Coco" revolves around the tale of a young boy who wants to be like his deceased grandfather who was a famous singer.

Even before that we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. This feast reminds us of our friendships in Heaven with the saints canonized by the Church. In this regard, I cannot help but think back with gratitude to the canonization process of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Many years ago, I visited a parish on the land of the "Tohono O'odam" in Arizona not far from the Mexican border. The local "Kateri Circle" of women were selling rosaries and religious articles. I bought a rosary there. I still have it. Many years later, I had the privilege of heading the investigation into the second miracle that led to her canonization in Rome. It was a six-year process. But what a joy to celebrate with the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, at that canonization Mass in Rome. Friends in Heaven.

This is also why we always remember our deceased priests in November. They help us bridge Heaven and Earth. They invite us to friendship with Jesus Christ through the sacraments of the Church. They build bonds of friendship with our friends in Heaven and our friends on Earth. Celebrating Mass with our migrant communities in their worker dormitories and



Bishop Joseph Tyson

migrant camps provides a beautiful reminder that we are never separated by our loved ones either by death or by distance. I find it especially interesting that the most watched on-line Mass at St. Paul Cathedral is the 7 p.m. Mass from Fairbridge. Why? Because so many family and friends in Mexico want to tune in and pray with their loved ones working here in the North for months at a time.

In this context, I also want to uplift and mention the Annual Catholic Appeal because it seems to me this is about our bonds of friendship with each other here in Central Washington and across the Diocese of Yakima. When we celebrate Mass in our local parish, we do not do so alone. When we work in catechesis with our youth, hundreds of others are doing the same all across Central Washington. The Annual Catholic Appeal is that concrete expression of our friendship with each other and the many ways we build those bonds of friendship with the ministries and services that help our parishes and migrant communities. So, in advance, I thank you for participating in the Annual Catholic Appeal and for building up the bonds of friendship through your financial gifts.

Circling back to that key passage on

Annual Mass for Deceased Clergy Is Scheduled

The annual Mass to remember, raise up, celebrate and pray for our deceased clergy who have served the Diocese of Yakima since its foundation in 1951 will be offered on Tuesday, November 23. Bishop Joseph Tyson and attending priests will concelebrate the Mass, assisted by our

Diaconate Community, at 5:30 p.m. at St. Paul Cathedral. The Mass also will be livestreamed on the Cathedral website.

All are welcome to join in this Eucharistic celebration. For more information, contact parish@stpaulyakima.org or (509) 575-3713.

friendship from the Gospel of John, our English translation notes that Jesus tells his disciples that he no longer calls them "servants." But the original Greek text is much starker. The original Greek work is *doulos* and it was more frequently used for the word "slave." The bond is one of subjection or subserviency. Not friendship.

As you read this current issue of the *Central Washington Catholic*, I hope you find yourself noting the bonds of friendship that weave together the Diocese of Yakima. Those friendships span the status of H2A guest worker, migrant worker, parishioner, school parent, Catholic Charities client, youth who come on our Quo Vadis retreats, parents who participate in religious education. All are called friends by Jesus Christ Himself, because all are about listening and learning what Jesus Christ makes known from His Heavenly Father.

Friends on Earth and friends in Heaven! I hope you can deepen the bonds of friendship as you consider your gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal, as you consider ways to become friends with your fellow parishioners in our many ministries and as you remember those who have died, clergy and laity, who have helped us become friends with Jesus Christ and the way He shows us to the Father.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones, both living and deceased. Kindly do the same for me, too.

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

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PUBLISHER

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson

MODERATOR

Monsignor Robert M. Siler

EDITOR

Christine Corbett Conklin

TRANSLATIONS

Indiana Blandón

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Email: 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.

2021 Migrant Ministry a Success Despite Challenges *Continued from page 4*

"I felt a sensation of being at home (in the parish)," Morales said. "It felt beautiful, like a spiritual hug from God."

He then decided in order to provide for his child and be a good father he would need to have a relationship with God, and then educate his child about their faith. In order to do so, he needed a job to provide for her. He then had a friend tell him that he could apply to work in the United States picking fruit. Once accepted, he left his child with his sister and came to the United States.

"It was heartbreaking to say goodbye to my daughter, she's so young, and she didn't want me to go," Morales said. "I tried to find work in my country, but the pay is very little. I needed to do this – I had no option."

He was overjoyed when he arrived and saw seminarians speaking with other migrant workers and welcoming them to Mass and Bible study classes.

"God answered my prayers for work and then answered my prayers to have a closer



Bishop Tyson celebrated Mass for migrant men at the Fairbridge Hotel and Conference Center.

relationship with Him," Morales said. "Even though the work is hard and I'm tired, I make time and go to all the classes that are offered."

Morales continued to say that although the last few years have been the hardest years of his life, he is, in some way, happy that it happened.

"If these difficult experiences hadn't happened, then I wouldn't have felt the desire to be closer to Him," Morales said. "I feel grateful to the sisters, seminarians, Fr.

Jesús, and everyone involved to have given us their guidance and company – I'm happy I wasn't alone."

Morales was scheduled to go back to his hometown in late September of 2021. After that, he planned on making a small home for himself and his daughter, Esperanza – meaning hope.

"This ministry is a necessity," Fr. Mariscal said. "Our ministry is a constant reminder to everyone that migrant workers are not working machines, and that they are certainly not our enemies, but instead they are our brothers who have families back home like everyone else does. They can also feel safe about talking to us about anything without the fear of judgment or chastisement in regard to any topic in their lives... We are not only there to support them spiritually, but we also support them morally and psychologically."

NOTE: To read about the experiences of other workers who were helped by this ministry, please visit the Diocese of Yakima website. www.yakimadiocese.org.

Magnificat Classes Will Be Open To Parish Leadership

The Magnificat classes offered this fall will have a different focus. Usually, Magnificat is for catechists. However, this fall, inspired by the Church Mission Congress, we will offer workshops not limited to catechists but also including members of pastoral councils, finance councils, school commissions, and anyone else in a leadership position in the

parish. Our focus will continue to be on parish leadership, however, catechists and others not in a leadership position are welcome to participate. Regular Magnificat classes for catechists will resume in the spring.

The first workshop for Fall will be a **Magnificat Parish Leadership** session on *Safe Environment* via ZOOM from 6:30 p.m.

to 7:30 p.m., **Friday, November 19**, led by Monsignor Robert Siler and Diana Aparicio. No registration is required. The **Zoom link** is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89087235167>. **Meeting ID:** 890 8723 5167

For more information, contact Valeria Flores at (509) 965-7117 or via email at valeria.flores@yakimadiocese.org.



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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<https://cwcatholicfoundation.org>

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Supportive Peers Might Have Helped Prevent Her Abortion

By Carey Falter

In observance of Respect Life Month, the following is a guest editorial by Carey Falter of Yakima, a parishioner at Holy Family Church. Falter is a pro-life advocate, who has learned the hard way about the value of human life. She has spoken to groups such as the Gregory Sherman Chapter of Students for Life in Yakima and is currently working on a book about healing from abortion.



Carey Falter

"I grew up attending church every Sunday. I chose abortion when I was 20 years old. Looking back, I was walking a destructive path. It is no wonder I found myself in an abortion clinic. There is

real truth in the saying, 'prevention is worth a pound of cure.'

As a pro-life advocate, you might wonder what could have been done to prevent my abortion. I have identified three possibilities:

1. Faith-based Youth Group. My friends in high school were involved with sex, drinking and drugs. They were the people who loved me and gave me the attention I craved. The church I

attended was small and my family were the only ones with children. I now recognize the importance of being friends with peers who are building a positive future instead of destroying their bodies and minds.

2. Exposure to the Reality of Abortion. Sadly, I knew nothing of

abortion until I was pregnant. I only knew that I could have one. I had no idea what it would do to my body or how horribly it would end my pregnancy.

3. Involved Adult. It was my best friend's mom who encouraged me to abort my baby. I wasn't even thinking of an abortion until I spoke to her. When the relationship with the baby's father dissolved, I turned to her for answers and support. I wish I had had an adult who cherished life who could have provided other options.

Our children are our future. The best time to influence their choices is BEFORE they become pregnant. Please consider looking into Catholic Church youth groups and local Students for Life organizations that teach respect for life. Also, be available to talk to the young people in your life about making positive choices. You can help stop abortion before it becomes a 'choice.'"

2021 Migrant Ministry a Success Despite Challenges

By Daisy Perez

"God willing, after this health crisis, we will think no longer in terms of 'them' and 'those,' but only 'us.'" Pope Francis, 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2021.

In previous years, the Diocese of Yakima offered summer Migrant Ministry at various sites scattered across Central Washington. However, due to COVID-19 this year, some sites couldn't be served because of health and safety protocols that farm owners were required to follow

For the Diocese, that has meant the primary focus for migrant ministry has been at the Yakima site, Fairbridge Hotel and Conference Center. The ministry will wrap up in mid-November. Other sites included: Monitor, which held Mass every Wednesday and saw about 30 to 60 migrants, and Malaga, which saw about 270 migrants. Although the Diocese was not granted permission to be on-site, devotional kits, family activity kits, and staple Mexican goody bags were handed out to the workers weekly for two months.

Yakima Site

"If (a seminarian) wants to be worthy to lift the bread and the cup, (they're) going to know the weight that allowed that to happen," Bishop Joseph Tyson said.

For this reason, once the seminarians finished their school year, they were sent to live amongst the migrants at Fairbridge – at the time, the site held about 250 migrants, now there are about 1,000.

The seminarians' daily schedule was to wake up at 3:30 a.m., meet and greet workers (mostly men) and invite them to morning and afternoon Mass as well as weekly activities at 4:00 a.m. during breakfast with the migrants, and Mass in one of the conference rooms at 5:00 a.m. with the supervisor of the

ministry, Fr. Jesús Mariscal. In addition, three religious sisters, who are part of the U.S. Sisters Exchange Program, would travel from their parishes to join the workers for breakfast and Mass.

The rest of the day, the seminarians and sisters not only prepared the evening activities for the migrants according to the schedule, but also did some teaching: Catechesis offered on Mondays, ESL classes (with an ESL teacher from a local high school) on Tuesdays, Mass on Wednesdays, Adoration on Thursdays, Bible study on Fridays, ESL classes on Saturday, and Mass on Sunday. Each class had between 20 and 30 migrants attending, and about 50 for Mass.

After the migrants arrived from work, they were personally invited by a seminarian, religious sister, or Fr. Mariscal to join the day's events. First-time migrant worker Jorge Morales was delighted to join and participated each day.

Jorge Morales

Morales, a native of Michoacán, Mexico, is excited to work in the United States. He arrived in April and will return home after six months of picking apples. He was personally invited to Mass and activities, and encourages the other men to join in. He has attended every catechesis, Bible study, ESL class, Adoration, and Mass, and plans to continue to do so.

Morales recalled that all his life, he worked with his father and helped in his family's avocado business; Michoacán produces more avocados than other states in Mexico. But about seven years ago, he met a woman, fell in love with her within a couple of months, and then had a child.

"I didn't marry her because I didn't



Seminarian John Washington (left) talked to Jorge Morales.

think we needed God in our relationship," Morales said. "I had a great family, a beautiful girlfriend and a child; our avocado business was letting us live comfortably... I went to Mass on Sundays, but I didn't believe I really needed Him since I had everything I wanted."

What he hadn't realized was that his girlfriend was hiding her drug use. Matters worsened when his father passed away, and most of his siblings fought for ownership of the business.

"Everything I had was destroyed in such a short period of time," Morales said. "My girlfriend was using drugs, and I needed to find a way to get my child away from her and in a good environment, my father passed away, my mom was heartbroken and died soon after my father's death, most of my siblings had no compassion for one another... there is no family business because one of my siblings sold it... I suddenly had no income. I lost it all."

During this time, Morales felt mentally and physically fatigued. He then felt an urge to pray, and he walked two miles every day to attend daily Mass.

Continued on page 3